

## **Greek Animal Sacrifice During Battle**

Animal sacrifice is an important aspect of Greek and Roman religion which allows us to have a better understanding of daily life. It has been well documented in literary, visual, and archaeological evidence. One type of sacrifice is called *sphagia*, otherwise known as battle-line sacrifice. Battle-line sacrifice occurs during war and is the final step before the fighting occurs. As important as it is, the information can be ambiguous in that it is not very detailed, so we are not completely sure of the exact involvement that happens. Since this information is vague, there is not much research done on the topic. This study researches the variables and steps leading up to *sphagia*. From this, my study analyzes the following questions: What was the role and significance of sacrifice in ancient Greek warfare? What determined if a sacrifice was to take place? What are the different contexts of sacrifice that occurred during a campaign? What are the differences and similarities between *sphagia* (blood rituals) and regular sacrifices? Through analyzing these questions, it gives a more conclusive rounded response to the importance of sacrifice during battle.