

## **The Festival of the dead in Sicily.**

2nd November is the date that Sicilian people dedicate to their dead.

It is told that during the night from 1st to 2nd November, the dead (grandparents, uncles, aunts) come from house to house and take sweets, candies and toys to the children of their family. They hide them in different places in the house and on 2nd November morning, children get up and begin to look for these presents.

This festival was born to give honour to the dead and to remember them.

Nowadays children receive toys, but in the past the dead took them, overall, some sweets like "marzipan fruit" and sugar "pupi": small puppets made of sugar with shapes of a noble lady, a knight or other typical Sicilian figures.

The origin and the meaning of this ceremony lies in the Greek and Roman cults about funerary banquets.

In some towns of Sicily (Catania- Palermo) there was a "dead fair" in the past, now in that day, schools are closed, and everywhere in the cake shops, you can find typical sweets like Marzipan fruit and sugar puppet.

Nowadays, with globalization, also here in Sicily, young people celebrate Halloween instead of Dead festival, but luckily, a lot of them celebrate the Dead festival, too.

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