

Ἀπολλωνία

Apollonia

Aged: 13

Oikos:

- ◊ Grandfather: Zosimos
- ◊ Mother: Myrinna
- ◊ Brother: Zosimos, son of Apollonius (The Younger)

Apollonia has recently menstruated for the first time. In Ancient Athens, girls were married off during their early teenage years, particularly when they had begun their menstruation. Therefore, Apollonia is at the optimum age for marriage, something which would have been arranged by her father, but in his absence the role would fall to her Grandfather (as the male head of the Oikos). Apollonia would have no input in the marriage, as marriage was something which was arranged by the male heads of two Oikos and benefitted their needs and interests (there would be little interest in the grooms feelings towards the marriage and no regard for the bride) (<http://www.womenintheancientworld.com/marriageinancientathens.htm>).

An article written by William J O'Neal identifies that Apollonia's role within the Oikos she will marry into (and part of Athenian society as a whole) will be to provide sons for her husband (as it was sons who looked after parents when they were older, as daughters would join their husbands oikos when married) (<https://www.ancient.eu/article/447/the-status-of-women-in-ancient-athens/>). She has had her eye on Diocles, son of Dionysodorus and thinks he is the "handsomest" boy she has ever seen, however she will more likely be made to marry someone much older than her, as men marry at a later age than girls.



Picture showing Athenian wedding preparations, dated between 450 and 400 BC (from the Beazley Archives).

Apollonia's family is not considered to be wealthy (by Ancient Athenian standards), as they have to work and have little leisure time. Apollonia has skill as a weaver and will begin to assist her mother in the weaving, while her Grandfather and Brother also work for the family. The lack of money that the family have will also impact Apollonia's marriage options, as the family will not be able to provide a substantial dowry for her. This means she will marry someone of her own Oikos's status and will become another pair of working hands for that oikos.



Picture from the 5th Century BC, showing a woman weaving on a loom (<https://womeninancientty.wordpress.com/2017/04/02/spinning-and-weaving-in-ancient-greece/>)