

Leokrates

Son of Antimachos

Leokrates was born in a time where both parents had to already hold citizenship in order for the child to have the rights of a citizen (MacDowell, 1978: 67). This means that Leokrates would have had political rights however, he did not choose to exercise them. This is in relation to the fact that he had seen “too much of the rich and powerful” in life. He lives with his partner Talkon, and Talkons younger sister, Markia.

Leokrates is employed as an expert helmsman and has now been contracted to captain a trireme. When the trierarch (sea-captain) was given his title he was given a ship which he would have to keep at sea and typically felt responsible for meeting monetary issues himself. It is suggested he would have had to look after a series of three groups being hoplites, officers and oarsmen (Morrison, Coats & Rankob, 2000: 109-110).

Athens had a large port, in came metics, slaves etc. Therefore, due to the continually fluctuating population Leokrates would have been constantly exposed to a diverse group of people and therefore being a captain would keep him up to date with worldly events. By being in such a high naval commanding position he would have had a high exposure to death and so this may impacted his personality.

Triremes were seen to be very important because they were partially funded by the government and therefore a democratic vote would have decided the future of the navy (Jones, 1986: 32). Jones (1986: 100) suggests trierarchs “seem to have taken pride in their ships” and so I can assume that Leokrates had a positive outlook on his job.

Bibliography:

J.S. Morrison, J.F. Coats, N.B Rankob (2000). The Athenian Trireme The history and reconstruction of an Ancient Greek warship, (2nd ed.) New York: Cambridge University Press. 109

Roisman, J & Yardley, J.C. (2011). Ancient Greece From Homer to Alexander The Evidence, Hoboken: Wiley.

MacDowell D. M. (1978). The Scope of the Law. London: Thames and Husdon.

Jones, A. H. M. (1986). Athenian Democracy. (2nd ed.) England: Basil Blackwell Ltd.

Article 1: <http://www.beazley.ox.ac.uk/CGPrograms/Cast/ASP/Cast.asp?CastNo=D081>



Article 1: Fragment of relief showing a trireme

Leokrates has a son who is suggested to be illegitimate. This suggests that the sons mother would have not held citizenship rather than them not being married (MacDowell, 1978: 67). All that had to be shown to gain citizenship in this case was proof that both parents were citizens.

Traditionally, a homoerotic couple was composed of two males of differing ages (Roisman & Yardley, 2011: 109). The “lover” or erastes, was “an adult man in his twenties” whilst his “beloved” or eromenos was at the adolescent of sixteen to eighteen (Roisman & Yardley, 2011: 109). This suggests Leokrates may be the erastes as he has a son who is ten years old and therefore he would most likely be in his late 20’s. It can therefore be assumed that he has a dominating personality which would help him with his work as a helmsman and captain.

As both he and Talkon worked they would not have been considered rich. In the ancient world, leisure meant wealth and working was a result of poverty. Therefore anyone who had to work at some point in their life was not considered rich and never could be. So even though Leokrates started his life with very little, he would still not be considered wealthy.

It is also stated that Leokrates has very little interest in politics as a result of his initial upbringing. Therefore he has political rights but does not choose to exercise them.