

Talkon

Talkon is a pottery workshop owner in the Athenian polis. He has a lover who is a naval captain. Talkon is also of the Metic Deme meaning that he is not a full citizen of Athens and may be a foreigner ex-slave or a low born Athenian. Talkon has a sister by the name of Markia who lives with him in his workshop.

Having a Male lover:

In Athenian culture it was not necessarily illegal to be a homosexual. For instance there is much evidence in the form of pottery that suggests that the Athenians often had homosexual relationships. In some cases it has been seen that the Athenians potentially valued love from a man more than that of a woman. "love from a woman, herself... was perhaps not felt to be worth as much as love from a male." (*The World of Athens*— project team of Dr P.V. Jones, DR K.C. Sidwell and Miss F.E. Corrie pg 150) This therefore tells us that the love between two men was potentially accepted in ancient Athens.



Being a Metic:

The metic (metoikoi) were the people of the Athenian Polis that were had no citizenship but were above slaves in the social hierarchy. The metics had a diversity of people in their class. For example the metics could range from ex-slaves to born Athenians to foreigners granted lives within the Athenian polis. The Deme system much like our modern day class system has 3 distinct classes of people the slaves the metics and the citizens. Metics are the class that we could consider to be working class to middle class with many metis being either the general working population to the high merchants.



Merchant life:

Talkon is a pottery workshop owner this means that he was not regarded as particularly wealthy as the rich poor divide within ancient Athens was more of work in comparison to leisure rather than a gap in earnings as is seen in the modern day. This means that he would have been regarded as a poor person this is furthered by the fact that he has the worth of half of his workshop in debt to Athendoros. Therefore the life of Talkon would have been more comparative to the life of the everyday person rather than one of the citizens who are able to have much more leisure time than those of the lower classes such as the majority if those in the metic.

Sources of information

Homosexuality and Merchantry—

The World of Athens— project team of Dr P.V. Jones, DR K.C. Sidwell and Miss F.E. Corrie—chapter 3 pg 150 and chapter 4

Metics —

The Demes of Attika—David Whitehead chapter 2 part D.

Image source—

<https://www.beazley.ox.ac.uk/tools/pottery/shapes/lebes.htm>

<https://brewminate.com/metics-and-immigration-in-ancient-athens/>