



Mujeres, Dones, Emakumeak, Mulleres de Grecia y Roma

Gynaikes, Mulieres: Mujeres, Dones, Emakumeak, Mulleres de Grecia y Roma (FCT-21-16887)	
Rome	Authorship: Oriol Morillas Samaniego
High Empire (1rst-2nd century AD)	
Field: prostitution	
<p>Source (in original language written sources: Greek, Latin):</p> <p>νόμου δὲ ὄντος ἐν Πέρσαις δωρεὰν αἰτεῖν τὸν ἀναδειχθέντα καὶ διδόναι τὸν ἀναδείξαντα πᾶν τὸ αἰτηθὲν, ἄνπερ ἧ δυνατὸν, ἤτησεν Ἀσπασίαν ὃ Δαρεῖος τὴν μάλιστα σπουδασθεῖσαν ὑπὸ Κύρου, τότε δὲ τῷ βασιλεῖ παλλακευομένην. ἦν δὲ Φωκαῖς τὸ γένος ἀπ' Ἰωνίας, ἐλευθέρων γονέων καὶ τεθραμμένη κοσμίως.</p> <p>ἐπεὶ δὲ Κύρου δειπνοῦντος εἰσήχθη μεθ' ἐτέρων γυναικῶν, αἱ μὲν ἄλλαι παρακαθεζόμεναι προσπαίζοντος αὐτοῦ καὶ ἀπτομένου καὶ σκώπτοντος οὐκ ἀηδῶς ἐνεδέχοντο τὰς φιλοφροσύνας, ἐκείνη δὲ παρὰ τὴν κλίνην εἰστήκει σιωπῇ καὶ Κύρου καλοῦντος οὐχ ὑπήκουε βουλομένων δὲ προσάγειν τῶν κατευναστῶν, 'οἰμώξεται μέντοι τούτων,' εἶπεν, 'ὅς ἂν ἐμοὶ προσάγῃ τὰς χεῖρας' ἔδοξεν οὖν ἄχαρις τοῖς παροῦσιν εἶναι καὶ ἄγροικος.</p> <p>ὃ δὲ Κύρος ἡσθεὶς ἐγέλασε, καὶ εἶπε πρὸς τὸν ἀγαγόντα τὰς γυναῖκας, 'ἄρα ἤδη συνορᾷς ὅτι μοι μόνην ταύτην ἐλευθέραν καὶ ἀδιάφθορον ἦκεις κομίζων ;' ἐκ δὲ τούτου προσεῖχεν ἀρξάμενος αὐτῇ, καὶ μάλιστα πασῶν ἔστερξε καὶ σοφὴν προσηγόρευσεν. ἐάλω δὲ Κύρου πεσόντος ἐν τῇ μάχῃ καὶ διαρπαζομένου τοῦ στρατοπέδου.</p> <p>ταύτην ὃ Δαρεῖος αἰτήσας ἠνίασε τὸν πατέρα: δύσζηλα γὰρ τὰ βαρβαρικὰ δεινῶς περὶ τὸ ἀκόλαστον, ὥστε μὴ μόνον τὸν προσελθόντα καὶ θιγόντα παλλακῆς βασιλέως, ἀλλὰ καὶ τὸν ἐν πορείᾳ προεξεληθόντα καὶ διεξελάσαντα τὰς</p>	<p>Translation:</p> <p>Now, there was a custom among the Persians that the one appointed to the royal succession should ask a boon, and that the one who appointed him should give whatever was asked, if it was within his power. Accordingly, Dareius asked for Aspasia, who had been the special favourite of Cyrus, and was then a concubine of the king. She was a native of Phocaea, in Ionia, born of free parents, and fittingly educated. Once when Cyrus was at supper she was led in to him along with other women. The rest of the women took the seats given them, and when Cyrus proceeded to sport and dally and jest with them, showed no displeasure at his friendly advances. But Aspasia stood by her couch in silence, and would not obey when Cyrus called her; and when his chamberlains would have led her to him, she said: 'Verily, whosoever lays his hands upon me shall rue the day.' The guests therefore thought her a graceless and rude creature. But Cyrus was delighted, and laughed, and said to the man who had brought the women: 'Dost thou not see at once that this is the only free and unperverted woman thou hast brought me?' From this time on he was devoted to her, and loved her above all women, and called her The Wise. She was taken prisoner when Cyrus fell in the battle at Cunaxa and his camp was plundered.</p> <p>This was the woman for whom Dareius asked, and he gave offence thereby to his father; for the Barbarian folk are terribly jealous in all that pertains to the pleasures of love, so that it is</p>



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ἀμάξας ἐφ' αἷς κομίζονται, θανάτῳ κολάζεσθαι.

καίτοι τὴν μὲν Ἄτοσσαν εἶχεν ἔρωτι ποιησάμενος γυναῖκα παρὰ τὸν νόμον, ἐξήκοντα δὲ καὶ τριακόσiai παρετρέφοντο κάλλει διαφέρουσαι παλλακίδες, οὐ μὴν ἀλλὰ καὶ αἰτηθεὶς ἐκείνην ἐλευθέραν ἔφησεν εἶναι καὶ λαμβάνειν ἐκέλευσε βουλομένην, ἄκουσαν δὲ μὴ βιάζεσθαι. μεταπεμφθείσης δὲ τῆς Ἀσπασίας καὶ παρ' ἐλπίδας τοῦ βασιλέως ἐλομένης τὸν Δαρεῖον, ἔδωκε μὲν ὑπ' ἀνάγκης τοῦ νόμου, δούς δὲ ὀλίγον ὕστερον ἀφείλετο. τῆς γὰρ Ἀρτέμιδος τῆς ἐν Ἐκβατάνοις, ἦν Ἀναῖτιν καλοῦσιν, ἰέρειαν ἀνέδειξε αὐτήν, ὅπως ἀγνή διάγη τὸν ἐπίλοιπον βίον, οἴομενος οὐ χαλεπήν, ἀλλὰ καὶ μετρίαν τινὰ καὶ παιδιᾶ μμιγμένην ταύτην λήψεσθαι δίκην παρὰ τοῦ παιδός, ὃ δ' ἠνεγκεν οὐ μετρίως, εἴτ' ἔρωτι τῆς Ἀσπασίας περιπαθῆς γεγονώς, εἴτε ὑβρίσθαι καὶ κεχλευάσθαι νομίζων ὑπὸ τοῦ πατρός.

(Plutarch, *Lives*, XI, B. Perrin, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1926)

death for a man, not only to come up and touch one of the royal concubines, but even in journeying to go along past the waggons on which they are conveyed. And yet there was Atossa, whom the king passionately loved and had made his wife contrary to the law, and he kept three hundred and sixty concubines also, who were of surpassing beauty. However, since he had been asked for Aspasia, he said that she was a free woman, and bade his son take her if she was willing, but not to constrain her against her wishes. So Aspasia was summoned, and contrary to the hopes of the king, chose Dareius. And the king gave her to Dareius under constraint of the custom that prevailed, but a little while after he had given her, he took her away again. That is, he appointed her a priestess of the Artemis of Ecbatana, who bears the name of Anaïtis, in order that she might remain chaste for the rest of her life, thinking that in this way he would inflict a punishment upon his son which was not grievous, but actually quite within bounds and tintured with pleasantry. The resentment of Dareius, however, knew no bounds, either because he was deeply stirred by his passion for Aspasia, or because he thought that he had been insulted and mocked by his father.

(Plutarch, *Artaxerxes*, 26, 3-5 y 27, 1-3. Translated by B. Perrin)

Didactic activity (if applicable):