

Metrodorus project

Post by "Robert" of July 26, 2026 at 12:19 PM

[TauPhi](#) this is marvelous--does much to flesh out our picture of Metrodorus as a person and philosopher. Grateful for the work you have undertaken here--I'll be going back to it often, as I do with your Gassendi edition.

I was intrigued by Metrodorus's comment regarding "a kind of pleasure that is akin to sadness"--seems to prefigure 19th century Romanticism, Robert Schumann, Chopin, etc.

The extracts refer to Leontia as his "concubine," but later say that he married her, which is interesting. I don't know much about the societal dynamics of the time...whether it would have been considered unusual, given her status. Plutarch records that Metrodorus's mother and sister rejoiced at his nuptials, so they must have been ok with his choice. I assume Leontia was the mother of his children.

Curiously, a later fragment refers to someone named "Leonteus" and asserts that this person and Metrodorus looked after each other, as well as after Epicurus--but Leonteus looks to me like a masculine name.

The fragment from Plutarch's "Against Jovinianus" caught my attention because of some papers I read awhile back that debate the meaning of the Wise Man saying concerning marriage--depending on how the saying is translated, it declares either that the sage will marry and have children, or that the sage *may* marry in exceptional circumstances. The fragment you provided here suggests that the latter meaning was generally accepted at the time of Plutarch