

Leonteus and Themista of Lampsacus - Main Biography

Post by “Cassius” of November 20, 2023 at 3:52 PM

[Leonteus of Lampsacus - Wikipedia](#)

Leonteus of [Lampsacus](#) (Greek: Λεοντεύς) was a pupil of [Epicurus](#) early in the 3rd century BCE. He was the husband of [Themista](#), who also attended Epicurus' school.^[1] Such was the esteem in which they held Epicurus that they named their son after him.^[1]

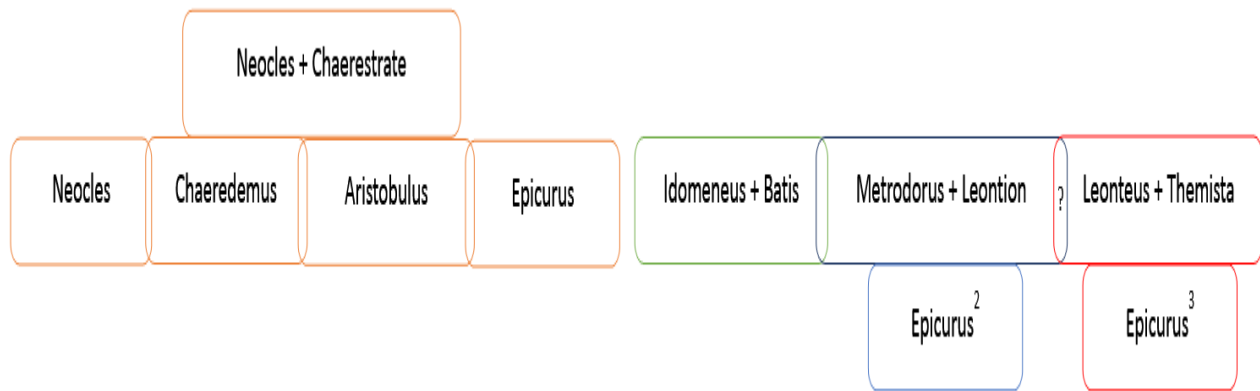
Leonteus is described by [Strabo](#), as one of "the ablest men in the city" of Lampsacus, along with [Idomeneus](#).^[2] [Plutarch](#) describes a letter, written by Leonteus, in which Leonteus describes how [Democritus](#) was honoured by Epicurus "for having anticipated him in getting hold of correct knowledge," and how Epicurus originally proclaimed himself a "Democritean."^[3]

[Themista of Lampsacus - Wikipedia](#)

Themista of [Lampsacus](#) (Greek: Θेमίστη), the wife of [Leonteus](#), was a student of [Epicurus](#), early in the 3rd century BC.^[1] Epicurus' school was unusual in the 3rd century, in that it allowed women to attend, and we also hear of [Leontion](#) attending Epicurus' school around the same time. [Cicero](#) ridicules Epicurus for writing "countless volumes in praise of Themista," instead of more worthy men such as [Miltiades](#), [Themistocles](#) or [Epaminondas](#).^[2] Themista and Leonteus named their son Epicurus.^[3]

Post by “Bryan” of May 19, 2024 at 7:56 PM

Do we know if Leonteus and Leontion were brother and sister? It makes sense they could be both named after their father, just as two of Epicurus' brothers took the names of his mother and father. If that is the case, then the two young Epicuruses of the next generation would have been cousins.



As a counter argument, we have Leontion called "Leontion of Athens" at DL 10.23.

Post by “Bryan” of May 22, 2024 at 1:15 PM

We may also have a connection between Leonteus and Mammarrion, (the full context is not yet clear to me, it is possible that Philodemus is just mentioning these as rumored relationships).

Philódēmos, Ad Contubernales, book 1, P.Herc. 1005, col. 5: ...Nikidion was Idomeneus' beloved, and Leonteus' Mammarrion, and Hermarchus' Demetria, and such was Pythocles' tutor Polyaeus...

Νικίδιον ἦν Ἰδομενέως ἐρωμένη, Λεοντέως δὲ Μαρμά[ρι]ον, Ἑρμάρχου δὲ Δημη[τρ]ία καὶ τοῖος ἦν Πυθο[κλ]έους παιδ[α]γωγὸς Πολύ[αινος]...