

# “First-Generation” Epicureans

## The *Kathēgemōnes* (καθηγεμόνες, “Guides”) or “Co-Founders” (and their Partners)

**Epíkouros**<sup>1</sup> of Sámos (23-24 Jan. 341 - 269 BCE) - *Hēgemōn* and *Sophós* (σοφός) of the *Kēpos* (κῆπος)

**Hérmarkhos** of Mytilēnē (c. 325 - 250 BCE) - *Kathēgemōn* (καθηγεμών); *Philosophos* (DL; Plut.; etc.)

**Dēmétria** - Partner of Hérmarkhos; *Hetaíra* (*Pherc.* 1005, fr. 117, col. VI)

\***Metródōros** of Lampsakós (c. 330 - 277 BCE) - *Kathēgemōn*; *Philosophos* (DL X; Plut.; Ath.; etc.)

**Leóntion** of Athēna - “Lioness”; Partner of Metródōros; *Hetaíra* (DL X.4-7; Plut., *Non Posse* 1097e)

\***Polýainos** of Lampsakós (c. 340 – 290/280 BCE) - *Kathēgemōn*; *Philosophos* (DL X.18-19, 24; etc.)

**Hēdeía** of Kýzikos - “Delectable” or “Sweetie”; Partner of Polýainos (DL 7; *Pherc.* 1005; Plut., *NP*)

## Additional *Kathēgētaí* (καθηγηταί, “Teachers”) (per De Witt, *Epicurus and His Philosophy* 94)

**Aristóboulos** of Sámos - *Kathēgētēs* (καθηγητής); Brother of Epíkouros (DL X.3, 27)

**Khairédēmos** of Sámos - *Kathēgētēs*; Brother of Epíkouros; named for their mother (DL X.3, 27)

**Neoklés** of Sámos - *Kathēgētēs*; Eldest brother of Epíkouros; named for their father (DL X.3, 28)

## *Mathētaí* (μαθηταί, “Students”, “Disciples”) and *Gnōrimoi* (γνώριμοι, “Close Acquaintances”)²

\***Batís** of Lampsakós - Sister of Metródōros, Timokrátēs, and Mentor.; Wife of Idomeneús (DL X.23)

\***Idomeneús** of Lampsakós (c. 325 - 270 BCE) - Financier; Husband of Batís (DL X.22-23, 25; Plut.)

**Nikídion** - “Victress”, “Victorine”, or “Victorietta”; *Hetaíra* with Idomeneús (DL X.7; *Pherc.* 1005)

\***Mentoridēs** of Lampsakós - Eldest brother of Metródōros, Batís, and Timokrátēs (*Pherc.* 182)

\***Timokrátēs** of Lampsakós – Brother of Metród., Batís, and Mento.; left for Platonism (DL X.4-5)

\***Apollódōros** of Lampsakós - Attested in a fragment; Brother of Leonteús (U232)

\***Leonteús** of Lampsakós - Husband of Themísta; Brother of Apollódōros. (DL X.5, 25)

**Mammáριον** - “Tits” or “Helpful Mother”; Partner of Leonteús; *Hetaíra* (DL X.7; *Pherc.* 1005)

**Themísta** of Lampsakós - Wife of Leonteús; Named their son Epíkouros (DL X.5, 25, 28)

**Boíδιον** - “Calf-Eyes” or “Little Heifer”; *Hetaíra* (Plut., *Non Posse* 1097e; *SEG* XVI 300.12)

**Erótion** - “Lovey” or “Loveling”; *Hetaíra* (DL X.7)

\***Hēródotos** of Lampsakós – Recipient of the famous letter; left for Platonism (DL X.4-5)

\***Karneískos** of Lampsakós - From Cos or Rhodes; Wrote *Philista* and *Zópyros* (*Pherc.* 1027, 1089)

\***Kolótes** of Lampsakós (c. 320 - 268 BCE or later) - Popular ancient Greek satirist (DL X.25)

\***Krónios** of Lampsakós - Former student of *Eudoxos of Knidios* the Platonist (*Pherc.* 1289, 1418)

**Ktésippos** - Attested in a letter fragment by Epíkouros (U184)

\***Pythókles** of Lampsakós (c. 324 - 300 BCE) - Recipient of the famous letter (DL X.5-6, 29, 83, 116)

**Menoikeús** - Recipient of the famous letter from Epíkouros (DL X.29, 121)

**Mýs** - “Mouse”; Servant of Epíkouros; pursued philosophy after emancipation (DL X.3, 10, 21)

**Nikánor** - Older friend of Epíkouros mentioned in his *Last Will* (DL X.20)

## Other *Kataskeuazomēnoi* (κατασκευαζόμενοι) or “Pupils” of the Garden

**Anáxarkhos** - Recipient of a letter from Epíkouros (U116)

**Antídōros** - Wrote a work against Heraclides (DL V.93)

**Apélles** - Recipient of a letter from Epíkouros (U117; Athenaeus, *Deipnosophistae* 13.588A)

**Apollonídēs** - Recipient of a letter from Epíkouros (U118)

**Arkephón** - Received a letter from Epíkouros; Citizen of Lampsakós or Kýzikos (*PHerc.* 1289)

**Athénaios** - Recipient of a letter from Epíkouros (U115)

**Demelata** - *Hetaíra* (Philódēmos, according to the following authors: [I] Frischer, Bernard. *The Sculpted Word: Epicureanism and Philosophical Recruitment in Ancient Greece*. University of California Press, 2023, p. 62; [II] Gordon, Pamela. *Epicurus in Lycia: The Second-century World of Diogenes of Oenoanda*, p. 86; [III] Vrissimtzis, Nikolaos A. *Love, Sex & Marriage in Ancient Greece: A Guide to the Private Life of the Ancient Greeks*, 1995, p. 67)

**Dōsítheos** - Recipient of a letter from Epíkouros; Father of Hēgēsíanax and Pýrsōn (U120)

**Eúdemos** - Attested in a letter fragment by Epíkouros (U195)

**Hēgēsíanax** - Son of Dōsítheos; Brother of Pýrsōn; Died young (U46; DL X.28; Plut., *Non Posse* 20)

**Kharmídēs** - A friend of Arkesílaos the Academic Skeptic (U170)

**Kinéas** - Advised King Pýrros of Épeiros (Plutarch, *Parallel Lives: Life of Pyrrhus*)

**Lykóphrōn** - A correspondent of Leonteús (U234)

**Menéstratos** - Recipient from a letter by Metródōros (Clement of Alexandria, *Stomata*, V.14)

**Philainís** - *Hetaíra*; attested by Philódēmos (U414; Cleomedes, *Caelestia* 168)

**Philístas** - Inspired Karneískos to write a book called *Philístas* (*Pherc.* 1027)

**Pýrsōn** - Recipient of a letter from Epíkouros; Son of Dōsítheos; Brother of Hēgēsíanax (U126)

**Theophilia** - *Hetaíra* (Martial, *Epigrams*, Book VII, LXIX; may refer to a 1st-century CE figure)

**Timárkhos** - Recipient of a letter by Metródōros (Plutarch, *Against Colotes* 1117b)

**Zópyros** - Recipient of a letter; Karneískos dedicated a book to him (*PHerc.* 1027; col. 16.2)

## Ex-*Phíloi* (φίλοι) or Ex-“Friends” / Former Associates of Epíkouros

\***Hēródotos** of Lampsakós - Recipient of the famous letter; left for Platonism (DL X.4-5)

**Metródōros** of Stratoníkeia - A disciple of Epíkouros who “went over” to Karneádēs (DL X.9)

\***Timokrátēs** of Lampsakós - Brother of Metród., Batís, and Mento.; left for Platonism (DL X.4-5)

## 1st-to-2nd Generation Transitional Figures (may have met E)

**Hippokleídēs** (c. 300 - 218 BCE) - Alleged to have lived the same lifespan as Polýstratos (*Pherc.* 1418)

**Polýstratos** (c. 300 - 218 BCE) - Scholarch after Hérmarkhos until his death (DL X.25; *Pherc.* 1418)

**Theopheídēs** - Recipient of a letter from Hérmarkhos c. 267-266 BCE (*Pherc.* 1506)

*Hoí Ándres* (οἱ ἄνδρες, “The Men”)  
Direct Siblings of the *Kathēgemōnes*  
*Hetaíra* (“Companion” or “Courtesan”)

\*Citizen of Lampsakós<sup>3</sup>

## Other *Phíloi* (φίλοι) or “Friends” to the Garden (*who are not necessarily students*<sup>4</sup>)

**Amyνόmakhos** - Son of Philokrátēs of Bate; He temporarily inherits the Garden (DL X.16-21)

**Danáē** - Daughter of Leóntion, perhaps after Metródōros; *Hetaíra* (Ath., *Deipnosophists*. XIII.64)

**Demétrios of Potamós** - Father of Timokrátēs who temporarily inherits the Garden (DL X.16)

**Epíkouros** - Son of Leonteús and Themísta (DL X.26)

**Epíkouros** - Son of Metródōros, mentioned in Epíkouros' *Last Will* (DL X.19)

**[Unknown]** - Daughter of Metródōros and sister of Epíkouros (DL X.19-23)

**Epíkouros** - Son of Polýainos, mentioned in Epíkouros' *Last Will* (DL X.19)

**Lýkōn** - Servant of Epíkouros who was emancipated by Epíkouros at his death (DL X.21)

**Míthres** - Minister of Lysimakhos and refugee who sought asylum in the Garden (DL X.4, 28; U148)

**Nikías** - Servant of Epíkouros who was emancipated by Epíkouros at his death (DL X.21)

**Phaídriōn** - Servant of Epíkouros who was emancipated by Epíkouros at his death (DL X.21)

**Philokrátēs of Bate** - Father of Amyνόmakhos who temporarily inherits the Garden (DL X.16)

**Timokrátēs** - Son of Demétrios of Potamós; He temporarily inherits the Garden (DL X.16-21)

### KEY:

Ath. - Athenaeus, *Deipnosophists* (2nd-century CE)

DL - Diogenes Laërtius, *Lives of Eminent Philosophers*, Book X (3rd-century CE)

Pherc. - Herculaneum papyrus fragment by Philódēmos (1st-century BCE)

Plut. - Plutarch, either *Non Posse*, *Moralia*, or *Parallel Lives* where noted (1st-century CE)

SEG - The *Supplementum Epigraphicum Graecum* stone inscriptions

U - Fragment organized by Hermann Usener in *Epicurea* (1887)

### NOTES:

<sup>1</sup>Regarding the transliteration of ancient names, the Latinized “c” has been rendered as “k” as a reflection of the original letter *Kappa* (ex. *Epíkouros*). The Latinized “ae” has been rendered as “ai” according to the original letters *Alpha* and *Iota* (ex. *Polýainos*). All *Omicrons* are translated as “o” and not “u” (ex. *Metródōros*). The letter *Chi* is translated as “kh” and not “ch” (ex. *Hérmarkhos*).

Additionally, note the character ē (*Eta*) is pronounced /ɛ:/ like “fed” versus e (*Epsilon*) pronounced /e/ like “fade”. The character ō (*Omega*) is pronounced /ɔ:/ like “odd” versus o (*Omicron*) pronounced /o/ like “ode”. The accent mark [ ' ] denotes the syllable upon which the emphasis should be placed.

<sup>2</sup>The terms *kathēgētai* (καθηγηταί), *mathētai* (μαθηταί), *gnōrimoi* (γνώριμοι), *phíloi* (φίλοι), *synētheís* (συνήθεις), and *kataskueazoménoi* (κατασκευαζόμενοι) are not being used to indicate technical names of exclusive groups—all of Epíkouros' *synētheís* (συνήθεις) or “dearest familiars” and *gnōrimoi* (γνώριμοι) or “devotees”, all of his *kataskueazoménoi* (κατασκευαζόμενοι) or “those in course of preparation”, and all of his general correspondents were *phíloi* (φίλοι) or “friends”. Many of his closest *mathētai* (μαθηταί) or “disciples” were also *kathēgētai* (καθηγηταί) or “teachers” to other students. Everyone in the Epicurean community was a student of the *Hēgemōn* (the “Head Guide”).

<sup>3</sup>All listed residents of Sámos, Mytilénē, and Lampsakós met Epíkouros **before he was 35** by 306 BCE. Hérmarkhos *may only have been 14 years old* when Epíkouros taught in Mytilene. Those in Lampsakós ranged in age from Kolótes *who may have been as young as 10*, to Metródōros *who was about 20*, and Polýainos *who was about 30*. Many of these friends accompanied Epíkouros to Athens.

<sup>4</sup>As a rule, I am not assuming children and servants of Epíkouros to be Epicureans themselves.