

The Spartan Woman (Amazon Women?)



The Spartan women in their earlier years were subjected to a course of training almost as rigorous as that of the men, and contended with each other in running, wrestling and boxing.

At the age of twenty a Spartan woman usually married, and she was no longer subjected to the public discipline.

Although she enjoyed little of her husband's society, she was treated by him with deep respect, and was allowed a greater degree of liberty than was tolerated in other Grecian states.

Hence she took a lively interest in the welfare and glory of her native land, and was animated by an earnest and lofty spirit of patriotism.

The Spartan mother had reason to be proud of herself and of her children.

When a woman of another country said to Gorgo, the wife of Leonidas, "The Spartan women alone rule the men," she replied, "The Spartan women alone bring forth men." Their husbands and their sons were fired by their sympathy to deeds of heroism. "Return either with your shield, or upon it," was their exhortation to their sons when going to battle.