

THE THEOLOGICAL AND PEDAGOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WRESTLING FOR ANCIENT GREEKS

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Purpose.

This paper attempts to investigate the role of wrestling or *pale*, in mythology and theology of the ancient Greeks.

To study the contribution of wrestling in ancient Greek society, and the impact in shaping the education system and what the ancients called Education or *Agogi*.

An important role also in the development of this work will play and record the popularity of the sport of wrestling in the higher social classes and the contribution of famous athletes in public life.



**Cup of tame Attic 500 BC
Vulci. Berlin, Staatliche museum**



**Hercules grabs Triton with "Maiandrios handle"
Angiography in 550 BC Archaeological Museum Tarkynia.**

The *Pale* for the Ancient Greeks is an event with divine origin as dominant deities such as Zeus and Hermes allegedly inventors of wrestling and leading heroic figures of mythology like Hercules Theseus Peleus Odysseus display as skilled wrestlers and game founders - *agonothetai*.

Wrestling related to religious art in ancient Greece because it is linked with the symbol of Meander, and encoding the right way to fighting *Ef Agonizesthe*, indicating that practices such as perseverance, respect to rules, control of animal instincts lead to the realization of labors and conquer *Benevolence and Immortality*.

Like many other events in prehistoric and ancient times wrestling competitions are part of ritual and are associated with funeral rites and worship the Deities - Heroes related to the sport of wrestling winners receive great prizes with a maximum of deification and worship throughout hint and prompt Priesthood era.



Table of Nick Panos

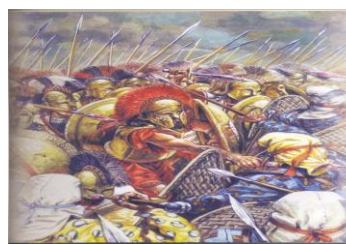


Table of Nick Panos

Method

Study of Bibliography

- Many ancient writers recognize the importance of the wrestling in the formation of the ideal citizen - soldier because of frequent wars, therefore the war was a readiness task Ancient Greeks. Because during the Archaic period, the battles are judged battles made melee wrestling became a key means of mental and physical preparation.

- Many great ancient writers such as Plutarch, Xenophon, Aristophanes, Philostratus with top Plato argued in various texts of the importance of the sport of wrestling and its contribution in military achievements.

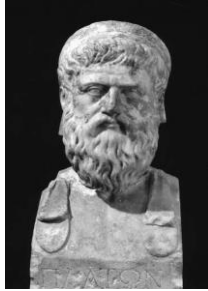


View of Palestra in Olympia

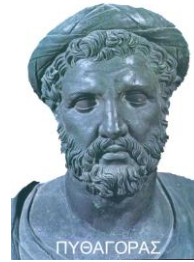


**Funerary kouros statue base, c. 510 BC
Athens National Archaeological Museum**

The Gymnasiums and the Palestras are places where young people can work and be educated, and while a Palestra can exist and provide full education but, a Gymnasium can not exist without the Palestra.



**Full frontal view of the Berkeley Plato.
Phoebe Apperson Hearst Museum of Anthropology
at Berkeley University of California.**



PYTHAGORAS

Leading Educator and philosophers of antiquity such as Pythagoras, Aristotle, will come in contact with the element of wrestlers while Plato himself was probably a high level wrestler. Scientific teaching and their career also, was built and has grown literally within Palestra and Gymnasiums.

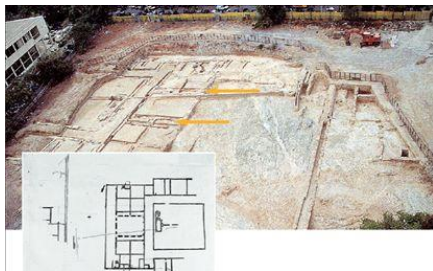
The *Palestra* in ancient Greece is an institution of the era, and serves as an educational institution.

The *Palestra* was mostly private but there were public which obviously served the public *Gymnasiums*.

The *Paidotribes* the first coaches organized drills from the 6th century are most often former wrestlers, or boxers, the main task of learning the wrestlers and the moral guidance of young people.

Aristotle's Lyceum and the Academy of Plato as campuses are substantive is Palestra, with auxiliary rooms for the other needs of students.

Architectural similarities to the archaeological sites of both the high school and the Academy of Plato, were the cause to develop the theory among archaeologists, the existence of specific sites within the sports facilities that served as libraries and reading rooms of students.



The archaeological site of the Lyceum of Aristotle which distinguished the two areas of the library (the label points) and development plan



View of the archaeological site of the Academy of Plato.

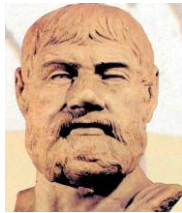
Is therefore understood that the Philosophical Reason of these great masters "Andronis" within the Palaestra which "influence" in society, forming the philosophical thought, the youth of the upper social strata and of the offspring of the aristocratic families of the city of Athens and beyond.

Great writers of archaic and Roman era as Pindar and Pausanias but younger writers based on archaeological findings preserved information about the social status and origin of the era's top fighting athletes and not only.

In the seventh chapter of the Laws Plato separates lessons in two basic categories of fitness that aids in body growth and Music which nurtures the soul.

Then divides into two branches Gymnastics, Dance and Wrestling.

Some dances in ancient Greece stood out from the sports and martial character in *Gymnopaides* of Sparta dancers imitated all the movements of *Pala* and the *Pyrrhic* dancers in full armour imitated aggressive and defensive movements of combatants during the battle.



**Pausanias, a Roman copy of a bust.
Capitoline Museum, Rome.**



**Bust Pindar marble Roman copy from Greek original
of the 5th c. Capitoline Museum, Rome**

CONCLUSIONS

- The Olympic victory in wrestling itself suffice to make a young man, as a public face, with a high reputation and great popularity, and through the descriptions of historical but also of lyric poetry we realize that the top athletes of wrestling either belonged or entered in upper classes.

- The Olympic and other *hieronikes* - sacred winners of wrestling are young with noble or aristocratic origin, are heroes of war assume administrative positions, associated with the priesthood, diplomacy, artistic and political elite of the time. Prominent figures that make up the pantheon these men are the deified *Ipposthenis from Sparta*, for which on the instructions of the oracle of Delphi was built church of *Milon of Croton* in Sicily perhaps the leading figure of the sport of antiquity, who apart from great athlete reportedly been priest of a temple Hera, was associated with the Pythagoreans and Pythagoras himself personally, and became involved in politics and led a war episode of encouraging his citizens to repel the army of Sybaris.

- Studying of the victory celebration hymns of *Pindar* and *Bacchylides* realize that refers to noble and obviously wealthy athletes of her time. Pindar is from the top writers of classical times, the readers and obviously customers, for whom he wrote the custom the hymns of all come from the upper classes and wealthy families.

- For Aristocracy of Athens direct participation in competitions was aligned with the political progress, however, although the period of democracy and imperial times the uniqueness of benevolence diversified remained politically strong among citizens. Studying the victory celebration of hymns of Pindar and Bacchylides referring to victories of wrestlers we understand how important was the role of the father and the family contribution to the success of the honored athlete. Through the verses, derive information on the families of the winners of the Noble heroic of origin, family wealth, of particular religious preferences in relation to the nationwide local deities, the social contribution of ancestors etc.



Bust of Pindar. Roman copy of a Greek prototype of the fifth example c. Capitoline Museum, Rome.

- In Roman times, the top wrestlers playing the leading sports associations, as many of the bearing lifetime office of *Xystarchi*, and obviously enjoyed the favor and privileges granted by the Emperor

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