



THEANO

Date of birth : Theano was born in the 6th century BC, more specifically in the year 546.

Places of birth and living: Theano was born and lived in the ancient city of Croton, in the region of Magna Graecia, which is currently located in southern Italy. Croton was an important cultural and philosophical center in ancient times, and it was there that Theano rose to prominence as a prominent figure in the Pythagorean school along with her husband, Pythagoras.

Family, Husband(s) and/or romantic relationship: Theano was the wife of the philosopher and mathematician Pythagoras, according to some sources, they had two sons named Telauges and Arignote, and a daughter named Myia, but it's also believed that their daughter was the philosopher Damo.

Physical characteristics: Since the existence of Theano is difficult to prove, it is difficult to describe it. Based on the painting "THE SCHOOL OF ATHENS", Theano is depicted as a tall, light-haired, dark-eyed woman with masculine features (GIONA)

Personality: Theano is often depicted as a woman of intelligence, virtue, and philosophical insight. While there are no surviving writings directly attributed to her, ancient sources suggest that she was a respected figure within the Pythagorean community and contributed to its teachings. Theano is often portrayed as a devoted wife and scholar who shared her husband's interest in philosophy, mathematics, and ethics. Her personality is typically described as dignified, wise, and morally upright, reflecting the values of the Pythagorean way of life. Though much of her life remains shrouded in historical mystery, Theano's influence on ancient Greek philosophy and her role within the Pythagorean school are still acknowledged and appreciated.

Hobbies: Her main hobbies were the study of mathematics, philosophy and ethics, as well as teaching these topics to his disciples.

Experiences: Theano was an exceptionally intelligent and cultured woman, noted for her wisdom and virtue. Theano not only dedicated herself to the study of mathematics and philosophy, but also wrote several treatises on ethics,



education and politics. She is credited with the authorship of works such as "On the Virtue of Women" and "On Piety", in which she reflected on human nature and the role of women in society. In addition to her intellectual achievements, Theano was also an advocate for gender equality and women's education. It is said that in the Pythagorean school women had the same rights and opportunities as men, which was revolutionary for the time

Texts where she appears (Title, author, date): Theano is mentioned in various ancient texts and works. Here are a few:

- 1) Diogenes Laërtius' "Lives of Eminent Philosophers" - This ancient biography of philosophers contains information about Theano and her relationship with Pythagoras.
- 2) Aristotle's "Politics" - Aristotle references Theano when discussing the Pythagorean way of life and their communal practices.
- 3) Iamblichus' "On the Pythagorean Life" - This work provides insights into Pythagorean philosophy and mentions Theano as one of its practitioners.
- 4) Various fragments and references in later philosophical and historical writings also mention Theano, although the extent of her presence and contributions may vary.

While Theano's own writings have not survived, her influence and presence in the intellectual circles of ancient Greece are evident from these texts and references.

How did she change the life of ancient women?: Theano made significant contributions to the intellectual landscape of her time. As one of the few documented female philosophers from antiquity, Theano's work likely inspired other women to pursue intellectual endeavors despite societal barriers. Her writings and teachings may have offered a glimpse into a world where women could engage in philosophical discourse and contribute to knowledge alongside men. While the specifics of how she directly impacted the lives of other ancient women are not well-documented, her mere presence as a respected figure in the male-dominated realm of philosophy would have been a source of inspiration and empowerment for women seeking to expand their horizons in ancient society.

Aphorisms and quotes related to her (+ Sources): In one of the authentic letters she explains what number is, that is, a means and not an end to understanding the cosmos: "I heard that a large number of Greeks believed that Pythagoras had said that everything was born from number. But this statement leaves us doubtful as to how it is possible for things that are not to generate. He said not that everything was born from Number, but that everything was formed in accordance with Number, since the essential order resides in Number, through the communication of this order even those things that cannot be numbered are placed as first, second..." (taken from "Theano nella scuola italica" edited by Sr. R. G. M. of the Or. of Crotone)

Communication: Artworks where she appears (Title, artist, year): There aren't any specific artworks that depict Theano, the wife of Pythagoras, as she lived in ancient times and there are no surviving contemporary depictions of her. However, she might be referenced indirectly in some artworks that depict scenes from the life of Pythagoras or the Pythagorean school. These depictions often focus on Pythagoras himself or other prominent figures associated with him rather than his wife, Theano. So, while there may not be direct representations of Theano in artworks, her presence may be inferred or implied in depictions related to Pythagorean philosophy and teachings.

Sitography:

<https://culturasalentina.wordpress.com/2019/03/22/teano-filosofa-della-magna-grecia/>

<https://www.strill.it/rubriche/memorie/2015/02/memorie-teano-la-filosofa-di-crotone/>

Questions for a kahoot : (don't forget the suggested answers)

1- In approximately what century was Theano born?

- 5th century BC
- 6th century BC ☒
- 4th century BC
- 3rd century BC

2- In what region was the city of Croton, where Theano was born?

- mainland Greece
- Magna Graecia ☒
- Asia Minor
- Egypt

3- Who was Theano married to?

- no one, she never married
- it's unknown
- Pythagoras ☒
- Brontinus



The school of athens

