

Laodike, mother of Seleukos III

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Laodike II was a Seleukid queen in the second half of the third century BCE. She was the wife of SELEUKOS II KALLINIKOS (r. 246–226 BCE) and the mother of two kings. Almost nothing is known about her life. She was born into the family of Achaios the Elder, a branch of the Seleucid family closely connected with the royal house through marriage ties and holding great power in Asia Minor. Polybius (4.51.4 and 8.22.11) suggests that Laodike was the daughter of the elder Achaios, and thus a grandchild of SELEUKOS I NIKATOR. Some historians believe, however, that Achaios' son Andromachos was her father. Laodike married Seleukos II upon his

accession in 246. Four children issued from this marriage are known: a daughter, Antiochis, who married (and perhaps murdered) Xerxes, the king of Sophene ca. 212; a son, Alexander, the later King SELEUKOS III KERAUNOS (r. 226–223), who was perhaps her twin; a second son, who became King ANTIOCHOS III MEGAS (r. 223–187); and a second daughter, whose name is unknown.

SEE ALSO: Achaios; Asia Minor, Hellenistic; Seleucids.

REFERENCES AND SUGGESTED READINGS

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