



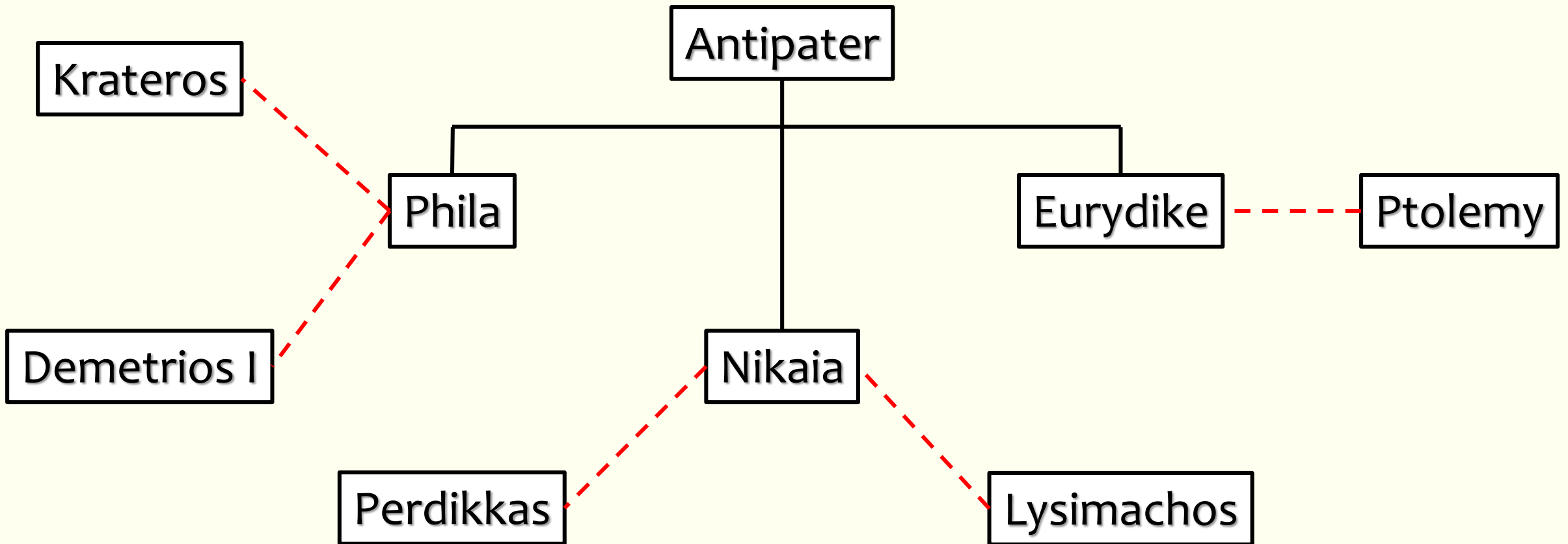
Bust of Ptolemy I,
Louvre Museum



Building a Dynasty: The Families of Ptolemy I Soter

Sheila Ager
University of Waterloo

Polythygatros Antipatros





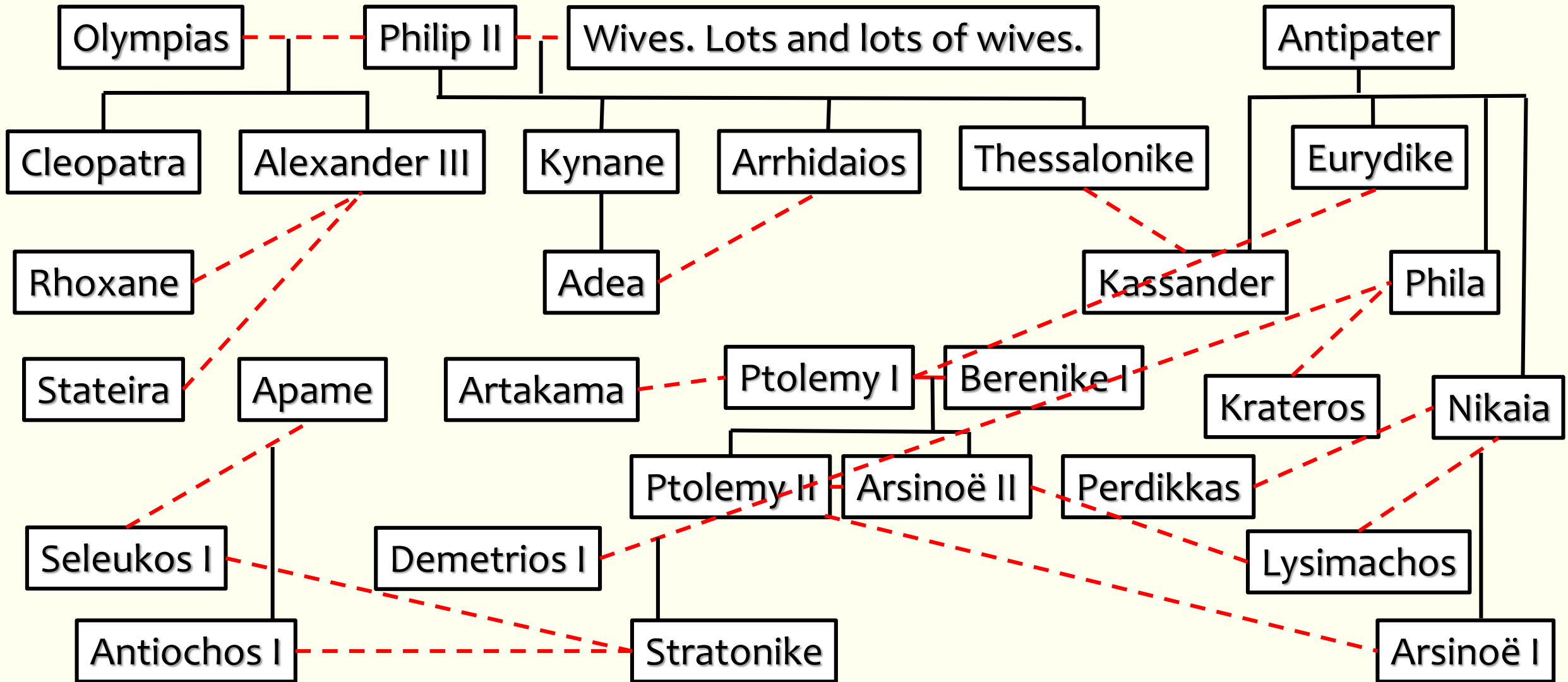
*No finer woman ever embraced her bridegroom
in his halls, loving with all her heart
her brother and husband. In like manner
was accomplished the holy marriage
of the immortals Queen Rhea bore
to rule Olympos. Ever-virgin Iris
strews with myrrh-washed hands a single bed
for the sleeping of Zeus and Hera.*

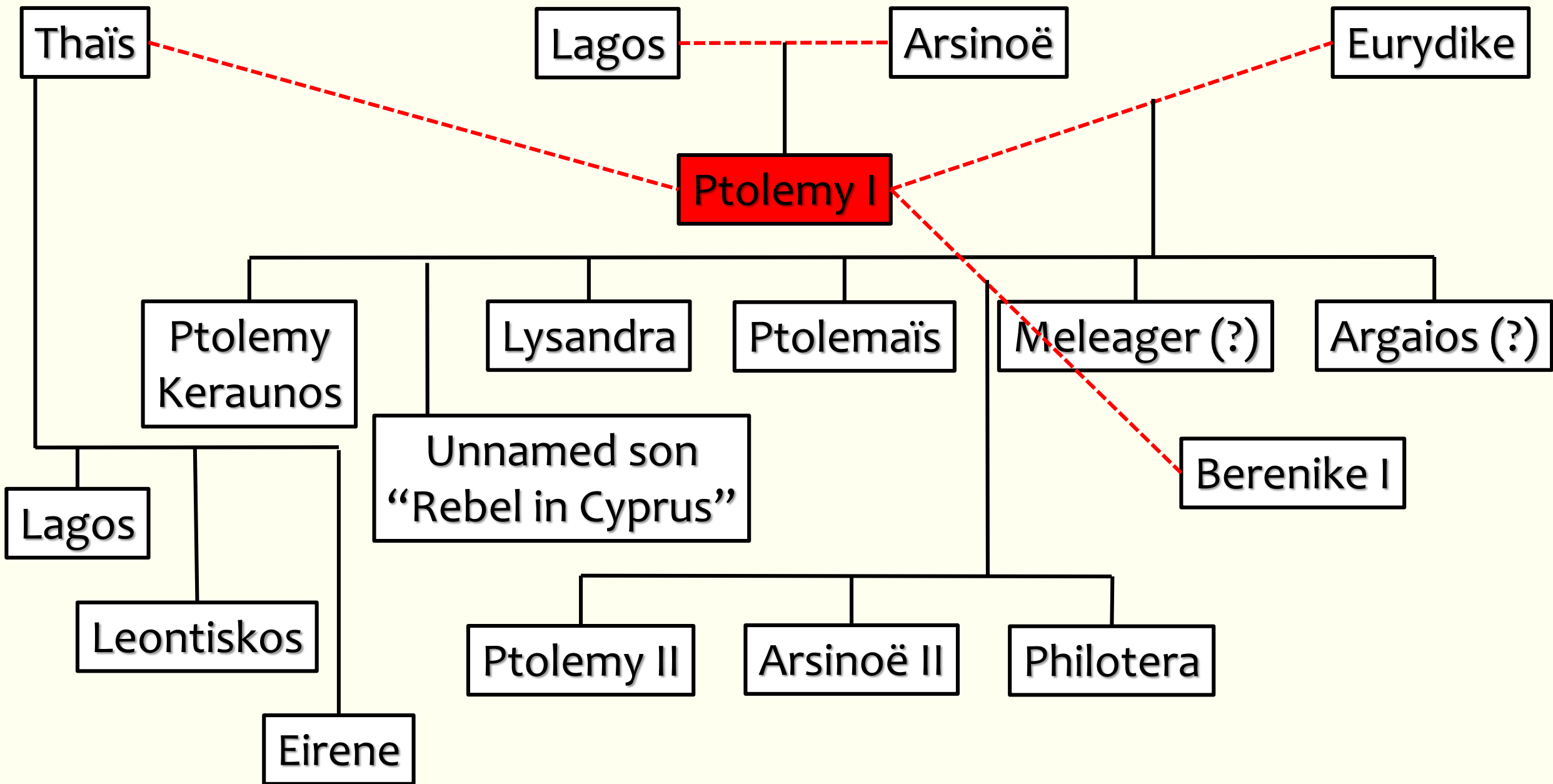
Theokritos Idyll 17



Coin portrait of Arsinoë II Philadelphos (obverse),
with double cornucopia (reverse).
Legend: ΑΡΣΙΝΟΗΣ ΦΙΛΑΔΕΛΦΟΥ
“Of Arsinoë Philadelphos”.

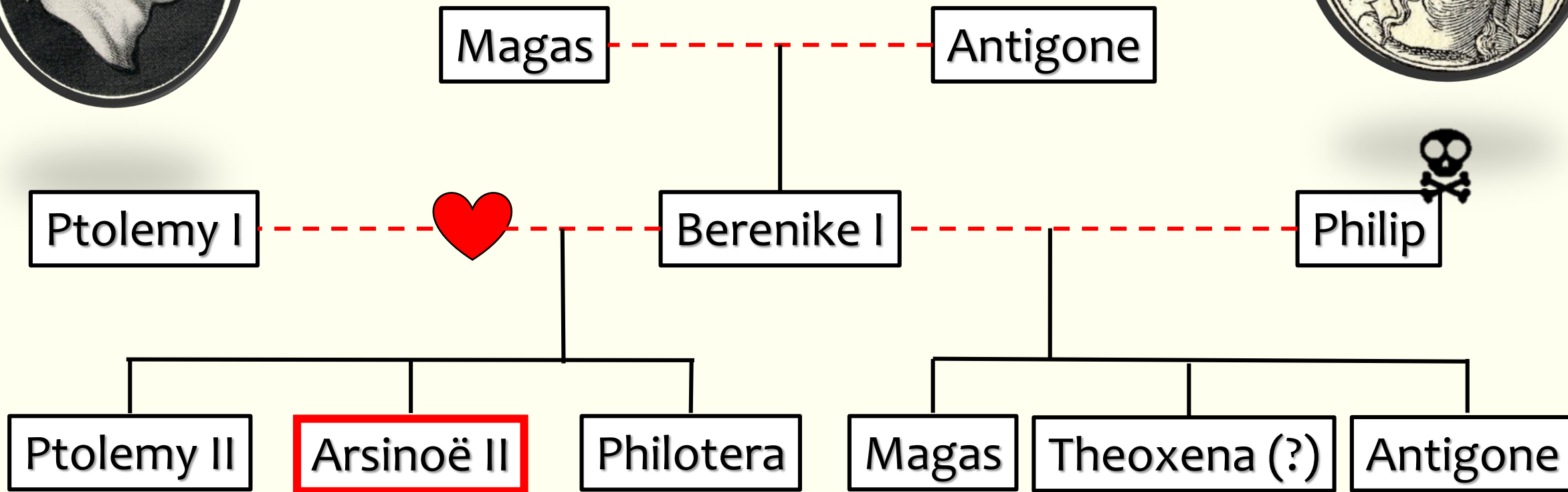
The Marriage-Alliance Game

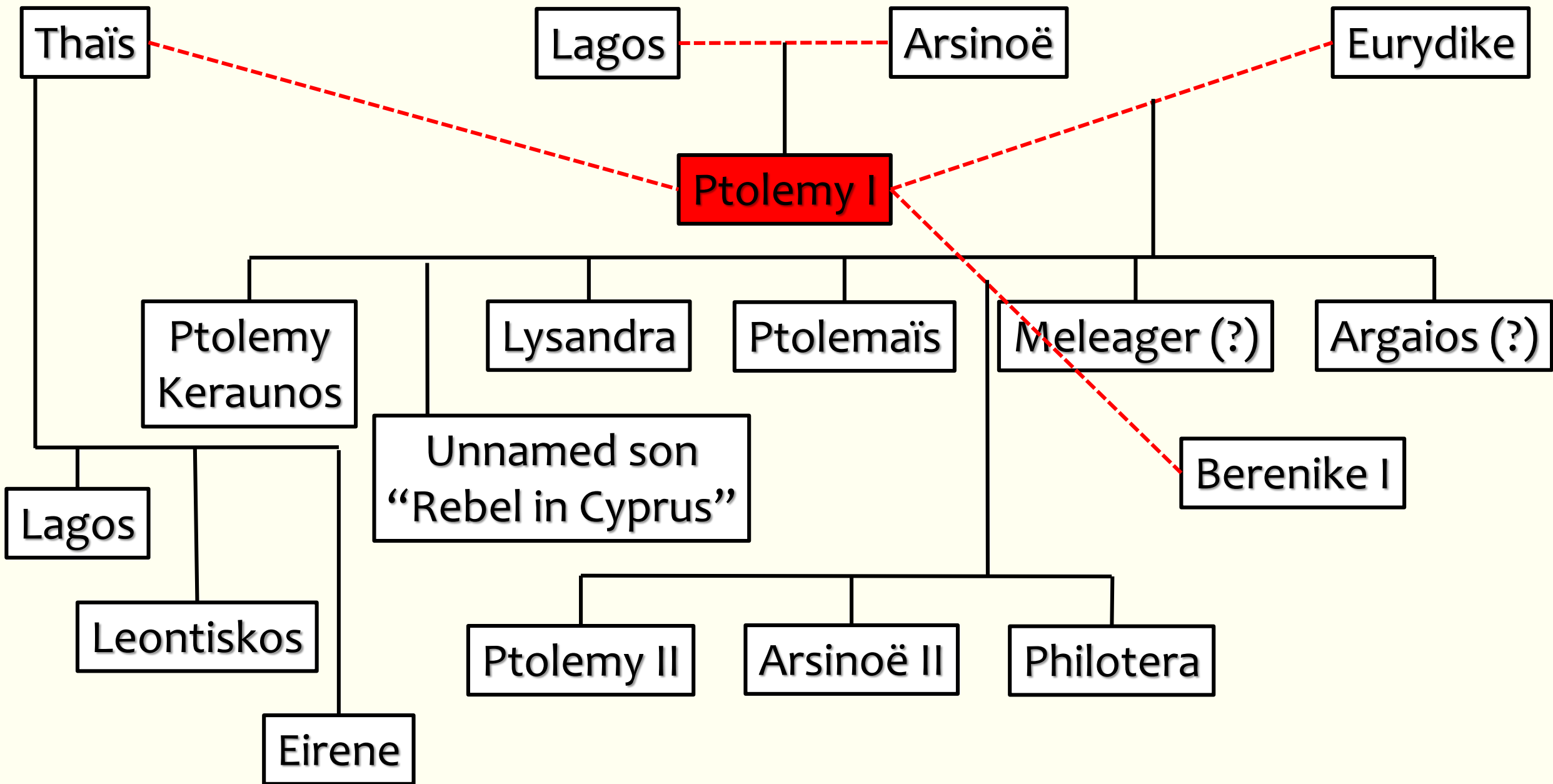






Ptolemy I and Berenike I



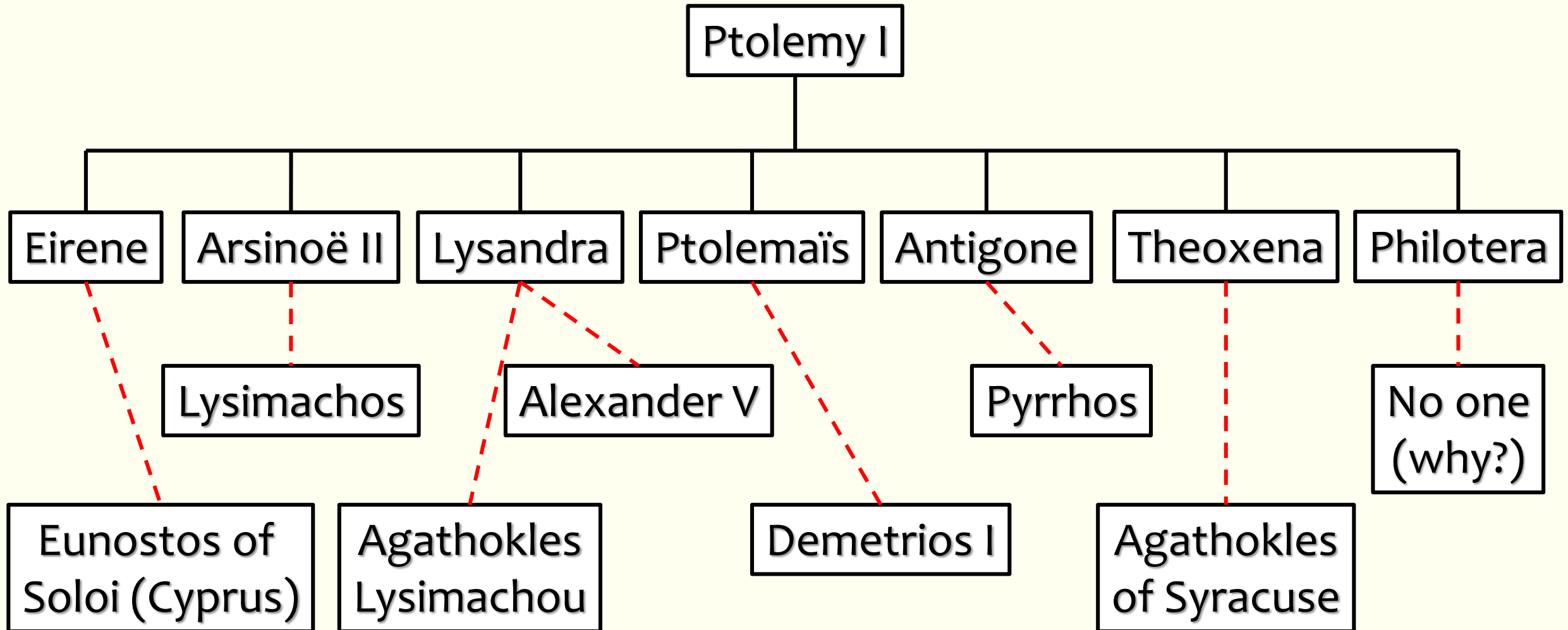


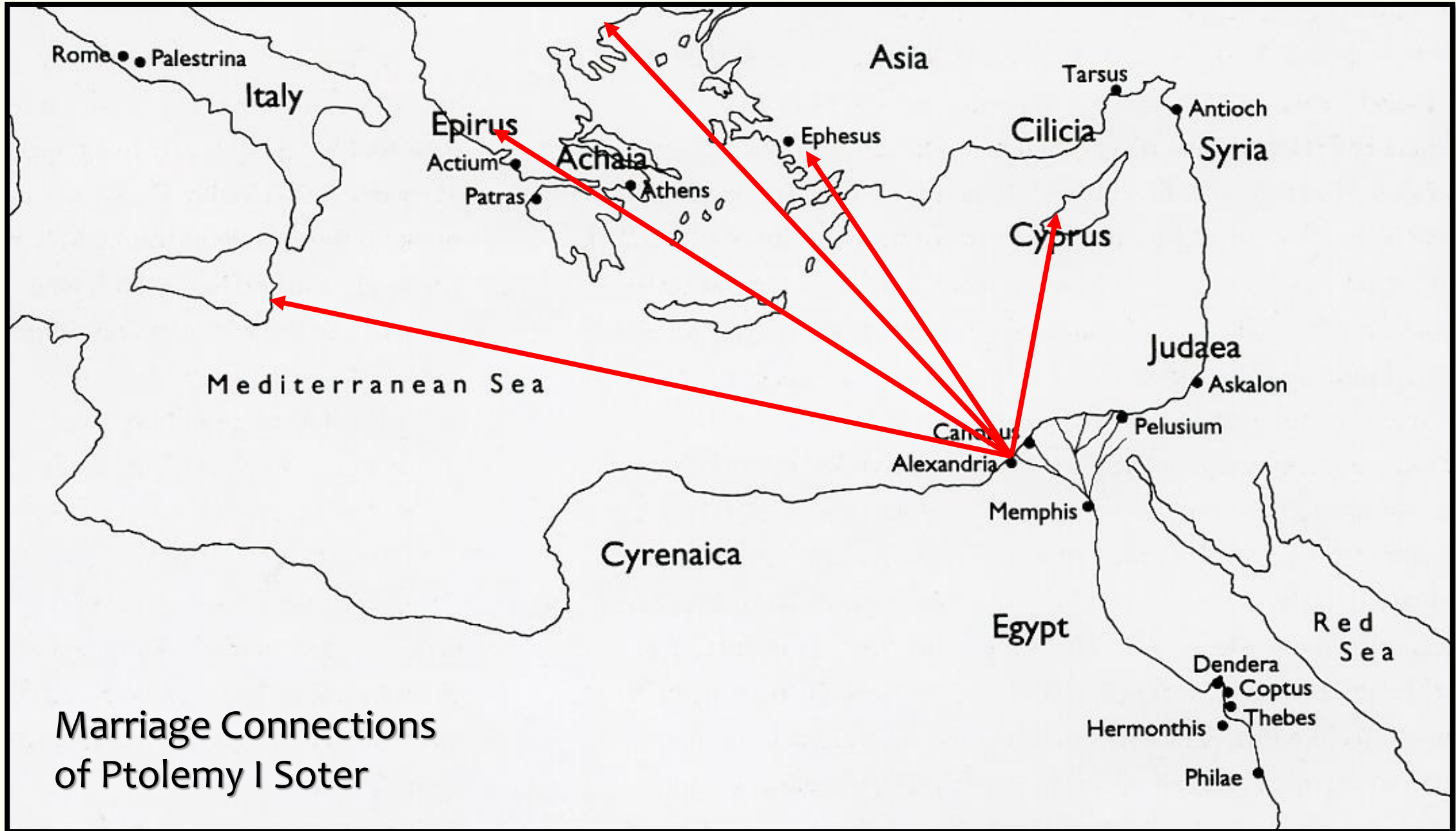
Meanwhile Kleopatra quarreled with Antigonos and, inclining to cast her lot with Ptolemy, she started from Sardis in order to cross over to him... Because of the distinction of her descent Kassander and Lysimachos, as well as Antigonos and Ptolemy and in general all the leaders who were most important after Alexander's death, sought her hand; for each of them, hoping that the Macedonians would follow the lead of this marriage, was seeking alliance with the royal house in order thus to gain supreme power for himself.

Diodoros 20.37.3-4



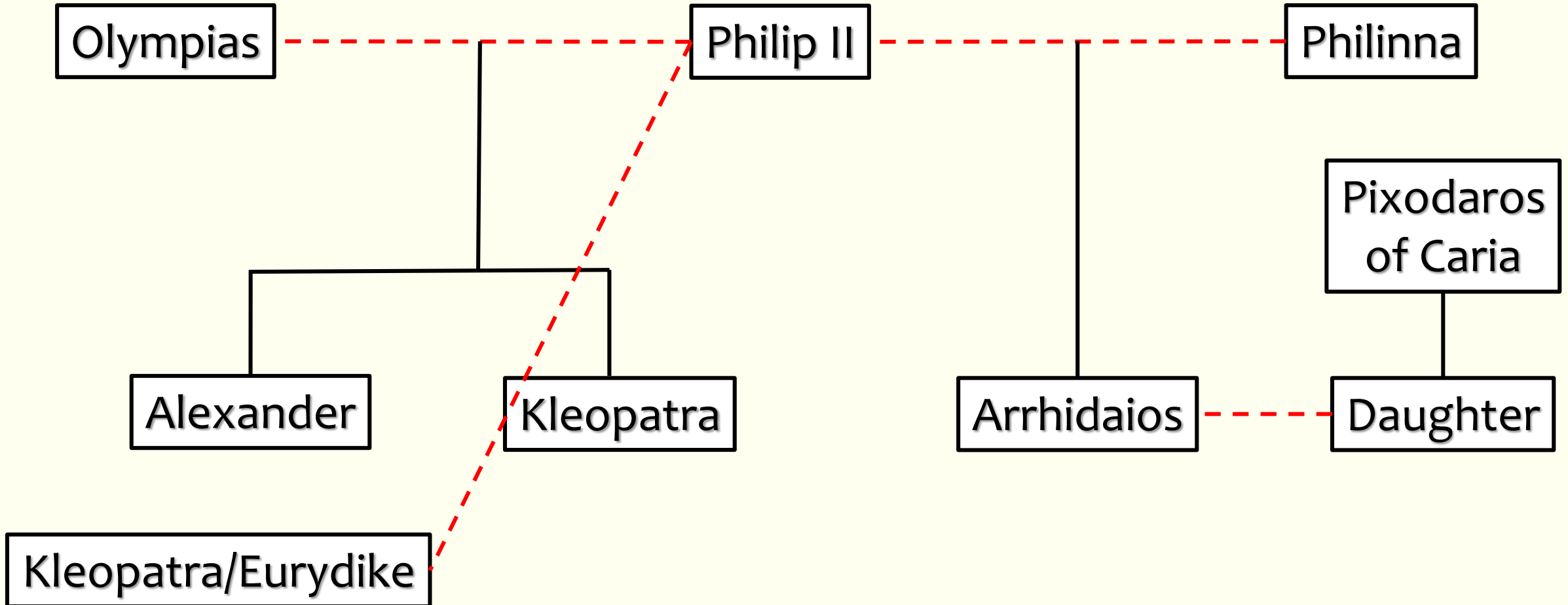
Being a daughter (or step-daughter) of Ptolemy I...

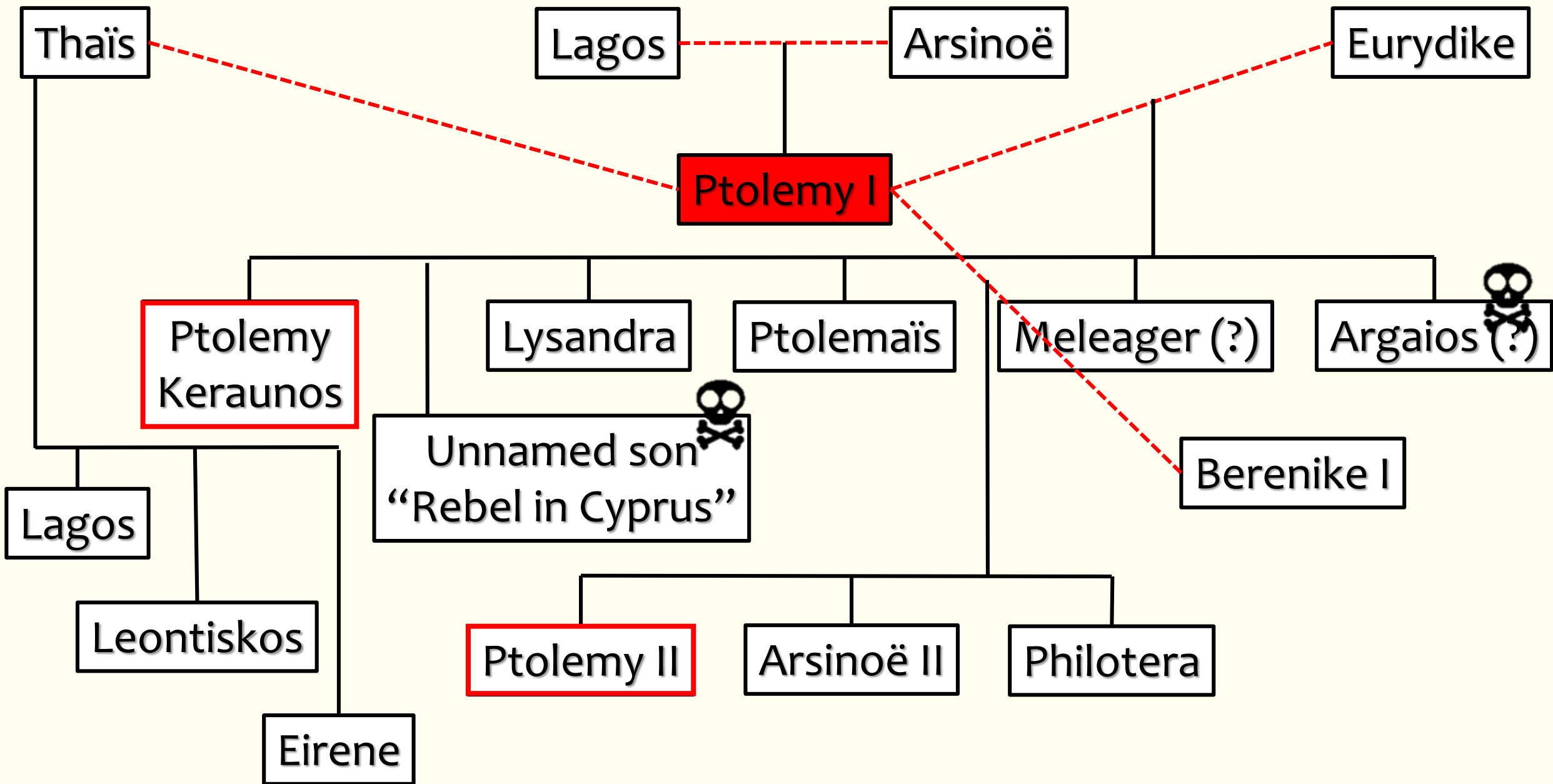




Marriage Connections
of Ptolemy I Soter

The Families of Philip II







Jugate coin portraits of Ptolemy I and Berenike I,
Ptolemy II and Arsinoë II.
Legend: ΘΕΩΝ ΑΔΕΛΦΩΝ
“Of the Sibling Gods”.



Questions and comments
welcome!