

Sappho, Fragment 1

ποικιλόθρον' ἀθανάτ' Ἀφρόδιτα,
παῖ Δίος δολόπλοκε, λίσσομαί σε,
μή μ' ἄσαισι μηδ' ὀνίαισι δάμνα,
4 πόντια, θῦμον,

ἀλλὰ τυιδ' ἔλθ', αἶ ποτα κατέρωτα
τὰς ἔμας αὔδας αἰοῖσα πήλοι
ἔκλυες, πάτρος δὲ δόμον λίποισα
8 χρύσιον ἦλθες

ἄρμ' ὑπασδεύξαισα· κάλοι δέ σ' ἄγον
ῶκεες στρουῦθοι περὶ γᾶς μελαίνας
πύκνα δίννεντες πτέρ' ἀπ' ὠράνωίθε-
12 ρος διὰ μέσσω·

αἶψα δ' ἐξίκοντο· σὺ δ', ὦ μάκαιρα,
μειδιαίσαισ' ἀθανάτω προσώπῳ
ἦρε' ὅττι δηῦτε πέπουθα κῶττι
16 δηῦτε κάλημμι

κῶττι μοι μάλιστα θέλω γένεσθαι
μαινόλα θυμῷ· τίνα δηῦτε πείθω
ἄψ σ' ἄγην ἐς φάν φιλότατα· τίς σ', ὦ
20 Ψάπφ', ἀδικήει;

καὶ γὰρ αἰ φεύγει, ταχέως διώξει,
αἰ δὲ δῶρα μὴ δέκετ', ἀλλὰ δώσει,
αἰ δὲ μὴ φίλει, ταχέως φιλήσει
24 κωῦκ ἐθέλοισα.

ἔλθε μοι καὶ νῦν, χαλέπαν δὲ λῦσον
ἐκ μερίμναν, ὅσσα δέ μοι τέλεσσαι
θῦμος ἰμέρρει, τέλεσον, σὺ δ' αὔτα
28 σύμμαχος ἔσσο.

Commentary

The Digital Sappho: <http://digitalsappho.org/fragments/fr1/>

- 1 *ποικιλόθρονος, ον ον* a many-colored throne (voc.). A variant in the manuscripts reads *ποικιλόφρον'* many-minded, though *ποικιλόθρον'* appears to be the commoner of the two readings. Winkler 1990, 166-76 discusses at length the merits of each reading.
ἀθάνατος, η, ον immortal (voc.)
Ἀφροδίτη Aphrodite (voc.)
- 2 *παῖς, παιδός (ῆ)* daughter (voc.)
Ζεύς, Διός (ὀ) Zeus
δολοπλόκος, ον wile weaving (voc.)
λίσσομαι to beg, pray
- 3 *μή* "Don't" (with *δάμνα*, negative imperative)
μ' = με acc. of *ἐγώ*
ἄση (ῆ) loathing, nausea, distress, vexation (dat. of means)
ὀνία = ἀνία (ῆ) grief, sorrow, distress, trouble (dat. of means)
δαμνάω = δαμάζω overpower, subdue, lay low (2nd sg. imper.)
- 4 *πότνια (ῆ)* mistress (voc.)
θυμός (ὀ) soul, spirit, heart
- 5 *τυίδε* (to) here, hither
ἔλθ' (2nd sg. aor. imper. of *ἔρχομαι*) come
αἴ = εἰ if
ποτα at any time, ever
κάτέρωτα = καὶ ἀτέρωτα and at some other time. Per Page 1955, "*ἀτέρωτα* is not, as LSJ and others have it, the Aeolic form of *ἐτέρωθι*, but a temporal adverb with the suffix [-τε]."
- 6 *ἐμός, ῆ, ὄν* my
αὐδή (ῆ) voice, speech
αἰώ to hear, listen to + gen. or acc. (nom. sg. fem. pres. act. partic.)
πήλοι = τηλοῦ from afar, long ago
- 7 *κλύω* to hear, give ear to, attend to (2nd sg. aor.)
πατήρ, πάτρος (ὀ) father
δόμος (ὀ) house
λείπω leave (nom. sg. fem. aor. act. partic.)
- 8 *χρύσιος = χρύσεος, η, ον* golden
ἦλθες (2nd sg. aor. indic. of *ἔρχομαι*) come

- 9 ἄρμα, ἄρματος (ὁ) chariot, *esp.* a war-chariot
ὑποξέγγυμι to yoke under (*nom. sg. fem. aor. act. partic.*)
καλός, ἡ, ὄν beautiful
ἄγω to lead, carry, bring (*3rd pl. imperf.*)
- 10 ὠκύς, ὠκεῖα, ὠκύ swift
στρουθός (ὁ) sparrow
περί over, above
γῆ (ἡ) earth (*γᾶς = γῆς, gen. sg.*)
μέλας, μέλαινα, μέλαν black, dark
- 11 πυκνός, ἡ, ὄν close, compact, fast (*with πτέρ'*, fast-beating)
δίννημι to whirl, spin round (*nom. pl. masc. pres. act. partic.*)
πτερόν (τό) wing
ὠράνωϊθερος = ὠράνω αἴθερος, *which elide and scan as one long syllable (-ωῖ-); ὠράνω = οὐρανοῦ, gen. sg. of οὐρανόσ* heaven; αἴθερος *is gen. sg. of αἰθήρ*, ether, heaven, air.
- 12 διὰ through
μέσ(σ)ος, η, ον the middle
- 13 αἶψα quickly, suddenly
ἐξικνέομαι to arrive (*3rd pl. aor.*)
μάκαρ, μάκαιρα (*f.*) blessed, happy, fortunate
- 14 μειδ(ι)άω to smile (*nom. sg. fem. aor. partic.*)
πρόσωπον (τό) face
- 15 ἔρομαι to ask (*2nd sg. aor.*)
ὅττι = ὅ τι what, why (*introduces an indirect question*)
δηῦτε = δὴ αὖτε yet again, this time
πάσχω to suffer (*1st sg. perf. act. indic.*)
κῶττι = καὶ ὅ τι and why?
- 16 κάλημι = καλέω to call (*1st sg. pres.*)
- 17 μοι *take with γένεσθαι*, "to happen for myself."
μάλιστα (*superl. of μάλα*) most of all
(ἐ)θέλω to wish, want, be willing
γένεσθαι (*aor. inf. of γίγνομαι*) to happen
- 18 μαινόλης, ον mad, raving (*related to μαίνομαι* to be in a Bacchic frenzy)
θύμῳ *dat. of place where*
πείθω to persuade

- 19 ἄψ back again
 ἄγην = ἄγειν, *pres. infin. of ἄγω*
 εἰς = εἰς to

ῥὰν = ἄν her. The manuscript here is unclear; see Page 1955, 9 and Annis 2005. Campbell follows Edmonds' ῥὰν; Lobel-Page and Voigt prefer σὰν (= σήν your). Raynor 2014, 98 helpfully suggests there may have been two different versions of the song, one that went "Whom do I persuade to lead back to your affection," and another that went "... to lead you back to her affection."
 φιλότης, -ητος (ἦ) friendship, love, affection
- 20 Ψάπφω Sappho (*voc.*)
 ἀδικέω (ἀδικήει = ἀδικεῖ) to wrong, do wrong, injure
- 21 αἰ = εἰ if, here and at lines 22-23
 φεύγω to flee, run away from [you]
 ταχέως soon (*per Page 1955*)
 διώκω to pursue, chase, run after [you] (*fut. act. indic.*)
- 22 δῶρον (τό) gift
 δέκετ' = δέχεται to accept, receive
 δίδωμι to give (*fut. act. indic.*)
- 23 φιλέω to love
- 24 κωῦκ = καὶ οὐκ
 ἐθέλοισα (*nom. sg. fem. pres. act. partic. of ἐθέλω*). Take with κωῦκ: "even unwilling."
- 25 ἔλθε μοι καὶ νῦν come to me even now
 χαλεπός, ἦ, ὄν difficult, painful (*gen. pl. with μερίμναν*)
 λύω to free, loosen [*sc. me*] (*2nd sg. aor. imper.*)
- 26 μέριμνα (ἦ) care, thought (*gen. pl.*)
 ὅσσα (*adv. of ὅσος*) how much, as much as
 τελέω to fulfill, accomplish (*aor. inf.*)
- 27 ἰμέρρει = ἰμείρει, from ἰμείρω to desire
 τέλεσον (*2nd sg. aor. imper. of τελέω*)
 αὐτα = αὐτή "and you yourself"
- 28 σύμμαχος, ον ally, commrade-in-arms
 ἔσσο = *2nd sg. imper. from εἰμί*, to be