

Sappho 1
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This is the largest work of Sappho's we have, one of perhaps three that are probably complete. It is widely known as the "Hymn to Aphrodite." The meter is the Sapphic stanza:

—υ—υ—υ—υ—
—υ—υ—υ—υ—
—υ—υ—υ—υ:—υ:—υ—

The third line is universally written with the last five positions as a fourth line. As a result words are often broken up at the end of the third line. When this happens I define the word in the third line of the stanza rather than the broken-off fourth.

ποικιλόθρον' ἄθανάτ' Ἀφρόδιτα,
παῖ Δίος δολόπλοκε, λίσσομαί σε,
μή μ' ἄσαισι μήδ' ὀνίαισι δάμνα,
4 πότνια, θῦμον
ἀλλὰ τυίδ' ἔλθ', αἶ ποτα κἄτέρωτα
τὰς ἔμας αὐδας αἰοῖσα πῆλοι
ἔκλυες, πάτρος δὲ δόμον λίποισα
8 χρύσιον ἦλθες

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¹ποικιλόθρονος *on having many-colored or well-decorated throne*; vocative. ἄθάνατος (ἠ) *on* (initial $\bar{\alpha}$) *immortal, deathless*. Ἀφροδίτη (ῑ) *Aphrodite*, here a short alpha -ᾶ vocative.

²παῖς παιδός ὀ,ῆ *son, daughter*; παῖ voc. Ζεὺς Διός ὀ *Zeus*. δολοπλόκος *on weaving-wiles*. λίσσομαι *beg, pray*.

³ᾄση ῆ *anguish, distress*; dat. of means. ὀνία = ἄνία ῆ *grief, trouble*. δαμνάω *overpower, subdue, bring low*; 2.sg. pres.imper.

⁴πότνια ῆ *title of goddesses and noblewomen lady, mistress*; voc. θυμός ὀ *spirit, soul, heart*.

⁵τυίδε = τῆδε *here*. ἔλθε 2.sg. imperative from ἦλθον. αἶ = εἶ. ποτα = ποτε *once κἄτέρωτα = καὶ ἀτέρωτα — ἀτέρωτα some other time*.

⁶αὐδή ῆ (*human*) *voice*. αἰώ *perceive; hear* + gen./acc.; αἰοῖσα is pres.act.part. nom.sg.fem. πῆλοι = τηλοῦ *from afar*.

⁷κλύω aor. ἔκλυον *hear, listen to*. πατήρ πατρός ὀ *father*. δόμος ὀ *house*. λείπω, λείψω, ἔλιπον *leave*; λίποισα is aor.act.part. nom.sg.fem.

⁸χρύσιος = χρύσεος ἠ *on golden*; agrees with 1.7 δόμον.

- ἄρμ' ὑπασδεύξαισα· κάλοι δέ σ' ἄγον
 ὤκεες στρουῖθοι περὶ γᾶς μελαίνας
 πύκνα δίννεντες πτέρ' ἀπ' ὠράνω αἴθε-
 12 ρος διὰ μέσσω,
 αἶψα δ' ἐξίκοντο· σὺ δ', ᾧ μάκαιρα,
 μειδιάσαισ' ἀθανάτω προσώπω
 ἦρε' ὅττι δηῖτε πέπονθα κῶττι
 16 δηῖτε κάλημι,
 κῶττι μοι μάλιστα θέλω γένεσθαι
 μαινόλα θυμῷ· τίνα δηῖτε †πειθῷ
 ἄψ σ' ἄγην† ἐς σάν φιλότατα; τίς σ', ᾧ
 20 Ψάφω', ἀδικήει;

⁹ ἄρμα ατος ὁ chariot. ὑπασδεύξαισα aor.part. nom.sg.fem. of ὑπο-ζεύγνυμι yoke under; put under the yoke. καλός ἢ ὄν good, noble; beautiful. ἄγον = ἦγον 3.pl.impf. of ἄγω lead, carry, bring.

¹⁰ ὠκύς εἶα ὠκύ quick, swift. στρουθός ὁ sparrow. περὶ is also used in Aeolic for ὑπέρ above. γᾶς = γῆς gen.sg. γῆ ἡ earth. μέλας μέλαινα μέλαν black, dark.

¹¹ πυκνός ἢ ὄν close, thick, compact; fast, strong; πυκνά adv. δινέω whorl, spin; Aeolic δίννημι; δίννεντες pres.part. nom.pl.masc. πτερόν τό feather; in pl. wings. ὠράνω = οὐρανοῦ, gen.sg. of οὐρανός ὁ heaven. αἰθήρ ἔρος ὁ ether, heaven; air.

¹² διά through. μεσ(σ)ός ἢ ὄν (in the) middle. Prose order: ἀπ' ὠράνω διὰ αἴθερος μέσσω.

¹³ αἶψα quickly, suddenly. ἐξ-ικνέομαι aor. ἐξικόμην reach, arrive. μάκαρ f. μάκαιρα blessed, happy, fortunate.

¹⁴ μειδιάω smile, aor.part. nom.sg.fem. πρόσωπον τό face.

¹⁵ ἦροο 2.sg.aor. ἔρομαι ask. ὅττι = ὅ τι what, for what. δηῖτε = δη αὐτε yet again. πάσχω πείσομαι ἔπαθον πέπονθα suffer. κῶττι = καὶ ὅττι.

¹⁶ κάλημι = καλέω call.

¹⁷ μάλιστα mostly, very, exceedingly. θέλω = ἐθέλω want. γίγνομαι γενήσομαι ἐγενόμην become; aor.inf.

¹⁸ μαινόλης ου ὁ (acting as adj.) raving, frenzied. θυμός ὁ spirit, soul, heart, mind; dat. of location. τίνα m./f.acc. τίς who; subject of indirect statement depending on πείθω. πείθω persuade.

¹⁹ ἄψ again, back again, in return. ἄγην = ἄγειν pres.inf. ἄγω lead, carry, bring. The text between cruces, πείθω ἄψ σ' ἄγην, has widely varying interpretations. The manuscript evidence is unclear. Some take πείθω to be Πείθω, the divinity Persuasion. The reading I give here also has supporters, but all readings are weak: “and who do I persuade – yet again – to bring you into your affection?” σάν = σήν your. φιλότης τητος ἢ affection, love, friendship.

²⁰ Ψάφω = Σάφω Sappho. The ω-declension vocative is -οι in Attic-Ionic, but is here evidently Ψάφω, with the omicron then elided. ἀδικήει = ἀδικεῖ from ἀδικέω wrong, do wrong, injure.

καὶ γὰρ αἶ φεύγει, ταχέως διώξει·
αἶ δὲ δῶρα μὴ δέκετ', ἀλλὰ δώσει·
αἶ δὲ μὴ φίλει, ταχέως φιλήσει
24 κωὺκ ἐθέλοισα.”

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

Sources: Hutchinson's 2001 *Greek Lyric Poetry* and Page's 1955 *Sappho and Alcaeus*.

²¹ αἶ = εἶ. φεύγω *flee*. ταχέως adv. of τᾶχύς εἶα ὕ *quick, swift; sudden*. διώκω *pursue*.
Note particularly the use of tenses in lines 21-24.

²² δέκετ' = δέχεται *accept, receive*. δίδωμι fut. δώσω *give*.

²³ φιλέω *love*.

²⁴ κωὺκ = καὶ οὺκ. ἐθέλοισα pres.act.part. nom.sg.fem. ἐθέλω *want*. “even unwilling(ly)”

²⁵ ἔλθε = ἐλθέ 2.sg.imper. ἦλθον *come, go* μοι *to me, for me*. καὶ νῦν “even now, right now.”
χαλεπός ἢ ὄν *difficult; cruel, harsh*; χαλέπᾶν fem.gen.pl.; goes with l.26 μερίμνᾶν. λῦσον
2.sg.aor.imper. λύω *loose; break, free*; implied object “me.”

²⁶ μερίμνα ἁ *care, thought; anxiety*; μερίμνᾶν gen.pl. ὅσσα adv. from ὅσος ἦ ὅν *how much, as
much as*. μοι dat. of interest. τελέω *fulfill, accomplish*, aor.inf., depending on l.27 ἰμέρρει.

²⁷ ἰμέρρει = ἰμείρει from ἰμείρω *desire*. τέλεσον 2.sg.aor.imper. of τελέω; think of it right
before ὅσσα for sense. αὐτα = αὐτή. “and you yourself”

²⁸ σύμμαχος ὄν *allied*; as noun *ally*. ἔσσο 2.sg.imper. of εἶμί *be*.