

Charlotte Lennox, "A Hymn to Venus, in Imitation of Sappho"

Description

[CHARLOTTE LENNOX]

"A Hymn to Venus, in Imitation of Sappho"

Venus, Queen of tender Fires,
Pleasing pains and soft Desires;
Sweet Enslaver of the Heart,
Here thy gentle Aid impart;
To my mourning Soul give Ease, 5
And I bid my soft Complainings cease.

II.

Hither beauteous Goddess move,
Leave a while thy *Idalian* Grove;
Once more to my transported Breast,
Come a mild, a grateful Guest; 10
There confirm thy pleasing Reign,
Free from Cares, and free from Pain.

III.

Oh! if ever my artless Strains,
By Thee inspired, breathed thy Pains;
Propitious now thy Suppliant hear, 15
And grant a Lover's ardent Prayer?
Ah! let me not despairing mourn,
But meet a kind, a wished Return.

IV.

Make *Philander* feel my Power,
Fear my Scorn, my Smiles adore, 20
Let the dear Deceiver know,
All the Pains he can bestow:
To me that valued Heart resign,
And fix my lovely Wanderer mine.

NOTES:

Title *Venus* "The ancient Roman goddess of beauty and love" (*OED*); *Sappho* (c.610-570 BCE) A Greek lyric poet who was born on the island of Lesbos, famous for her writing style (*Encyclopedia*

Britannica).

8 *Idalian* *Idalian* Belonging or relating to the ancient town of Idalium in Cyprus, where, in the Roman tradition, Venus was worshipped (*OED*).

13 *Strains* Poetry.

15 *Propitious* Disposed to be favourable; gracious; merciful, lenient (*OED*); *Suppliant* A person who makes a humble or earnest plea to another, esp. to a person in power or authority (*OED*).

19 *Philander* Chiefly poetic, a male sweetheart (*OED*).

Source: *Poems on Several Occasions. Written by a Young Lady* (London, 1747), pp. 13-14. [Google Books]

Edited by Andrea Cruz