

# 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,   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   5  
And I bid my soft Complainings cease.

#### II.

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

#### III.

Oh! if eâ€™*er* my artless Strains,  
By Thee inspired, breathâ€™d thy Pains;  
Propitious now thy Suppliant hear,   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   15  
And grant a Loverâ€™s ardent Prayâ€™?  
Ah! let me not despairing mourn,  
But meet a kind, a wishâ€™d Return.

#### IV.

Make *Philander* feel my Powâ€™r,  
Fear my Scorn, my Smiles adore,   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   Â   20  
Let the dear Deceiver know,  
All the Pains he can bestow:  
To me that valued Heart resign,  
And fix my lovely Wandâ€™rer mine.

## NOTES:

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

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**8** *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*