

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.
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Edited by Andrea Cruz