Charlotte Lennox, â??A Hymn to Venus, in Imitation of Sapphoâ?•

Description

[CHARLOTTE LENNOX]

â??A Hymn to Venus, in Imitation of Sapphoâ?•

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,
And I bid my soft Complainings cease.

II.

Hither beauteous Goddess move,
Leave a while thâ?? *â??Idalian* Gâ??rove;
Once more to my transported Breast,
Come a mild, a grateful Guest;
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,
And grant a Loverâ??s ardent Prayâ??r?
Ah! let me not despairing mourn,
But meet a kind, a wishâ??d Return.

IV.

Make *Philanderâ??* feel my Powâ??r,
Fear my Scorn, my Smiles adore,
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 *Venusâ??* â??The ancient Roman goddess of beauty and loveâ?• (â??*OEDâ??*); â??*Sappho* â??(c.610-570 BCE) A Greek lyric poet who was born on the island of Lesbos, famous for her writing style (*Encyclopedia*

Britannica).

8 â??*Idalianâ??* â??Belonging or relating to the ancient town of Idalium in Cyprus,â?• where, in the Roman tradition, Venus was worshipped (â??*OEDâ??*).

13â?? *Strainsâ??* Poetry.

15 *â??Propitiousâ??* â??Disposed to be favourable; gracious; merciful, lenientâ?• (â??*OED*); *Suppliant* â??â?? A person who makes a humble or earnest plea to another, esp. to a person in power or authorityâ?• (â??*OED*).

19 ***â??****Philander* â??â?? Chiefly poetic,â?¦a male sweetheartâ?• (â??*OEDâ??*).

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

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