

## SAPPHO

### FRAGMENT 1

Immortal Aphrodite, progeny  
Of Father Zeus, enchantress, hear my plea!  
Don't crush my soul with anguish and dismay!  
If you've once heard my voice from far away,  
Come from your father's golden home and ride,  
Brought by your winged creatures, to my side!  
They soon arrived and you, blessed goddess,  
Smiled brightly as you asked what new distress  
Afflicted me and what my frenzied heart  
Desired, who was she who lacked the dart                    10  
That Cupid sends. If she from you should flee  
She soon shall seek your company; if she  
Should spurn your gifts, she will nevertheless  
Offer to you *her* gifts herself. Ah yes,  
If she is ignorant of love, she soon  
Shall feel it, though reluctantly. This boon  
Grant me, surcease of misery, I pray!  
O goddess, I beseech you, drive away  
All care and sorrow! Give to me what I  
Desire of you and be my staunch ally!

### FRAGMENT 31

That man seems like a god who has a seat  
Near you and hears your laughing voice. How sweet  
It is! It makes me tremble! When I see

Your lovely face, though momentarily,  
I'm rendered mute. My tongue is split asunder,  
While there is in my ears the sound of thunder.  
My flesh must be on fire! I'm shivering  
With cold sweat and there is a shuddering  
Beneath my skin. Like dead grass, I surmise  
That I am but a inch from my demise.                    10