**Sappho**

Standing by my bed

in house shoes

dawn that very

moment woke me

**Sappho**

I asked myself

what, Sappho, can

you give to one

who has everything,

like God?

**Sappho**

Though they are

just breath, words

which I command

are immortal

**Sappho**

This afternoon

girls ripe to marry

wove flower—

heads into necklaces

**Sappho**

It’s no use,

mother dear, I

can’t finish my

chores

Blame God

perfect as he is

He has almost

killed me with

love for a boy

**Sappho**

Twilight's first star

is the most

stunning

of all stars

**Sappho**

Without warning

As a whirlwind

Swoops on an oak

An idea shakes my heart

**Sappho**

If you will come

I will put out

new pillows for

you to rest on

**Sappho**

I was so happy

Believe me, I

Prayed that that

Night might be

Doubled for us

**Sappho**

She was dressed well:

Her feet were hidden

Under embroidered

Sandal straps—fine

Handwork from Asia.

**Sappho**

Afraid of losing you

I ran trembling

Like a little girl

After her mother

Sappho

It is clear now:

Neither honey nor

The honeybee is

To be mine again

**Sappho**

Day in, day out

I hunger and

I struggle

**Sappho**

You will say

See, I have come

Back to the soft

Arms I turned from

In the old days

**Sappho**

Tell me

Out of all

Mankind, whom

Do you love

Better than

You love me?

**Sappho**

I said, Sappho

Enough! Why

Try to change

Another’s heart?

**Sappho**

You may forget but

Let me tell you

This: someone in

Some future time

Will think of us

**Sappho**

Last night

I dreamed that

You and I had

Words: God

**Sappho**

Many times

I’ve wished I

Had luck like that

**Sappho**

That was different

My girlhood then

Was in full bloom

And you—

**Sappho**

This way, that way

I don’t know

What to do: I

Am of two minds

**Sappho**

I ask you, sir, to

Stand face to face

With me as a friend

Would: show me the

Favor of your eyes

**Sappho**

Sappho, when some asshole

Explodes rage

In your breast

Hold back

Your tongue!

**Sappho**

Experience shows us

Wealth unchaperoned

By Virtue is never

A harmless neighbor

**Sappho**

We know this much

Death is an evil;

We have the gods’

Word for it; they too

Would die if death

Were a good thing

**Sappho**

You remind me

Of a very gentle

Little girl I once

Watched picking flowers

**Sappho**

God bless you

May you sleep then

On some tender

Girlfriend’s breast

**Sappho**

Must I remind you, my daughter,

That sounds of grief

Are unbecoming in

A poet’s household?

And they are not

Suitable in ours?