

# Sappho Fragment 1 (Ode to Aphrodite)

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verse 1 line 1 ποικιλόθρον' ἄθανάτ' Ἀφροδίτα,  
ποικιλόθρον: Liddell & Scott ("LS"), Supplement, p. 253  
ποικιλόθρονος, *adorned with variegated flowers*; and  
LS, p. 1429 ποικιλεμῶν, *arrayed in spangled garb* "in reference to the stars"  
ἄθανάτ': LS, p. 30 *make immortal*  
perhaps ETERNAL APHRODITE WHO IS GARLANDED IN STARS,

verse 1 line 2 παῖ Δίος δολόπλοκε, λίσσομαί σε,  
παῖ: LS, p. 1286 *demonstrative particle*  
Δίος: LS, p. 434 διος, *of goddesses*  
δολόπλοκε: LS, p. 443 δολοπλοκος, *wile-weaving*  
λίσσομαί: LS, p. 1054 & *esp.* p. 1055, l. 6: "pray" (in an example)  
σε: LS, p. 1587 -σε, *adverbial suffix, "motion forward"*  
perhaps GODDESS WHO WEAVES ENCHANTMENTS, PLEASE:

verse 1 line 3 μή μ' ἄσαισι μηδ' ὀνίαισι δάμνα,  
μή: LS, p. 1123 *not*, "the negative of *will* and *thought*"  
μ': LS, p. 1070 "by elision, for μ'ε ; also for μοι  
με: Cunliffe ("C") via Wiktionary ("W"), Ancient Greek, *me*, first person singular, accusative  
μοι: C via W, enclitic dative of εγω (*ego*)  
ἄσαισι: Google Translate ("GT"), *nice*; also, W, ἄσαι, Ancient Greek, aorist active infinitive of ἄω  
ἄω: LS, p. 299, first-person singular present infinitive of *blow*, *sleep*, or *hurt*  
μηδ': W, Apocopic form of μηδέ  
μηδέ: LS, p. 1125, "negative participle"; W, "connecting two clauses", e.g., *but not*, *and not*, or *nor*  
ὀνίαισι: LS p. 1231, ονία, cites this passage, Aeolic for αν-  
αν-: W, 1. *alternative form of ανα* used before both nouns and verbs to indicate repetition, or to mean *above* or *upward*; 2. alternative form of ανα first declension *grief*, *sorrow*, *distress*, *trouble*; LS, p. 96, "modal particle used with verbs to indicate the action is limited by circumstances or defined by conditions" and "in simple sentences and the apodosis of compound sentences; here αν belongs to the verb and denotes that the assertion made by the verb is dependent on a

condition"

δάμνα: LS, p. 368, imperative of δάμναω

δάμναω: LS Supplement p. 368, = δαμαζω

δαμαζω: LS, p. 368, *of animals: tame, break in; of metals: work; of maidens: make subject to a husband; subdue; conquer*

something like DO NOT SNARE, DO NOT TORTURE ME,

verse 1 line 4 πότνια, θῦμον,

πότνια: W, *mistress, lady*; LS, *rev.* Jones, online at the Perseus site ("LSJ")

"*poet. title of honour, used chiefly in addressing females, whether goddesses or women*"

θῦμον:(thúmon) W, n (genitive θύμου); second declension thyme (plant of the genus Thymus); LSJ, *mixture of thyme with honey and vinegar, eaten by the poor of Attica*

so perhaps: MADAM, AS MIGHT SOURED, HONEYED THYME.

verse 2 line 1 ἄλλὰ τυῖδ' ἔλθ', αἶ ποτα κατέρωτα

ἄλλὰ: LSJ, *otherwise*

τυῖδ': LS, p. 1833 (cited), *hither* LSJ, τυῖδε, Aeol. Adv. *hither*, "τυῖδ' ἔλθ'" Sapph.1.5, cf. Supp.1.2, 25.2

ἔλθ': W, *second-person singular aorist active imperative of ἔρχομαι*

ἔρχομαι: W, *first-singular present indicative to go; to come*; LSJ, (*much more freq.*) *come or go (the latter esp. in Ep. and Lyr.)*, ἦλθες *thou art come*, Od.16.461, etc.; χαίροισ' ἔρχεο *go and fare thee well*, Sapph.Supp.23.7

αἶ: LSJ, Dor. and Aeol. for εἰ, *if only, so that, always c. subj., exc. in or. obliq.*

ποτα: W, n., *Nominative, accusative and vocative plural form of ποτό (potó)*

ποτό: W, modern: *beverage, drink*; From Ancient Greek ποτόν (potón), noun use of the neuter form of ποτός (potós, "drinkable")

κατέρωτα: LSJ, Aeol. crasis for καὶ ἀτέρωτα; καὶ ἄλλοτε, Sapph.1.5

καὶ: LSJ, *and, and now, and so, and indeed, and further*

ἄλλοτε: LSJ, *at another time*

ἀτέρωτα: LS, p. 269, ἀτέρθε *aloof, apart*