

CLAS 205

Sappho 31, “phainetai moi”

Sappho poem number 31 is one of the most famous love poems from antiquity. Read through the poem’s English translation, glancing towards the Greek every now and then. Try to identify as many of the bolded bases as you can, using your book and the English translation as a guide. Keep in mind that in the original Greek C=K and (sometimes) Y=U.

<p>That man seems to me to be equal to the gods, he who sits across from you and hears you speaking sweetly</p> <p>and laughing charmingly. This makes my heart flutter in my chest and whenever I see you, even briefly, I can no longer speak</p> <p>my tongue seizes up, and a thin flame immediately runs under my skin, I can see nothing with my eyes, and my ears roar with sound.</p> <p>Sweat pours down me, trembling completely seizes me, I become paler than grass, and I seem to be nearly dying.</p>	<p>PHAinetai moi kēnos ISos THEoisin emmen’ ōnēr¹, ottis en-antios toi isdanei, kai plasion adu PHONei-sas upAKOUEi</p> <p>kai gelaisas imeroen, to m’ ē man KARDian en STETHesin eptoēsen; ōs gar eisidō brocheōs se, PHONas ouden et’ ikei</p> <p>alla kam men GLOSSa eage, LEPTon d’ autika chrō PUR hupadeDROMēken, OPpatessi d’ ouden orēm’, epirrom-beisi d’ AKOUsai.</p> <p>kad de m’ HIDROs kakcheetai, tromos de paisan argei, CHLORotera de poias emmi, tethnakēn d’ OLIGō ‘pideuēs PHAinomai < ... ></p>	<p>φαίνεται μοι κῆνος ἴσος θεοῖσιν ἔμμεν' ὄνηρ, ὅτις ἐναντίος τοι ἰσδάνει, καὶ πλάσιον ἄδου φωνεῖ - σας ὑπακούει</p> <p>καὶ γελαίσας ἡμέροεν, τό μ' ἦ μάν καρδίαν ἐν στήθεσιν ἐπτόησεν· ὥς γὰρ εἰσίδω βροχέως σε, φώνας οὐδὲν ἔτ' ἴκει·</p> <p>ἀλλὰ καμ μὲν γλῶσσα ἔαγε, λέπτον δ' αὐτικά χρῶ πῦρ ὑπαδεδρόμηκεν, ὀππάτεσσι δ' οὐδὲν ὄρημ', ἐπιρρόμβεισι δ' ἄκουσαι.</p> <p>καδ δέ μ' ἴδρωσ κακχέεται, τρόμος δέ παῖσαν ἄργει, χλωροτέρα δὲ ποίας ἔμμι, τεθνάκην δ' ὀλίγω 'πιδεύης φαίνομαι < ... >.</p>
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¹ ōnēr is a *crasis* (CRA-,) of ὁ ἀνῆρ (extended form = ANDR-,)