

Sappho, fr. 2

....

δεῦρό μ' ἐκ Κρήτας ἐπὶ τόνδε ναῦον
ἄγνον, ὅππα τοι χάριεν μὲν ἄλσος
μαλίαν, βῶμοι δὲ τεθυμιάμε-
νοι λιβανώτω.

ἐν δ' ὕδωρ ψῦχρον κελάδει δι' ὕσδων
μαλίνων, βρόδοισι δὲ παῖς ὁ χῶρος
ἐσκίαστ', αἰθυσσομένων δὲ φύλλων
κῶμα καταίρει.

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VOCABULARY

ἄγνος, -η, -ον (*Aeol.*) = ἄγνός, -ή, -όν: holy, sacred
αἰθύσσω: stir up, shake; (*pass.*) quiver
ἄλσος, τό: grove
βρόδον (*Aeol.*) = ῥόδον, τό: rose
βῶμος, ὁ: altar
δεῦρον (*Aeol.*) = δεῦρο: hither; (to) here
καταίρω (*intr.*): come down; descend
κελαδέω: make a sound; (*of water*) babble, chatter
κῶμα, τό: enchanted sleep / slumber
λιβάνωτος (*Aeol.*) = λιβανώτος, ὁ / ἡ: frankincense
μαλία (*Aeol.*) = μηλέα, ἡ: apple tree
μάλινος (*Aeol.*) = μήλινος, -η, -ον: of apple trees;
apple (*adj.*)

ναῦος (*Aeol.*) = ναός (*Dor.*) = νεώς, ὁ (*Att.*): shrine,
temple
ὅππα (*Aeol.*) = ὅπου: where
σκιαζω (*pf. pass. ἐσκίασμαι*): overshadow, shade;
(*pass.*) be shaded by (+ *dat.*)
τεθυμιάμενοι (*pf. pass. pt.*) < θυμιάω: burn
incense; burn so as to give off smoke; smoke
ὑσδος (*Aeol.*) = ὄζος, ὁ: branch, bough
φύλλον, τό: leaf
χαρῖεις, -εσσα, -εν: beautiful, graceful, lovely
ψῦχρος, -α, -ον: cold

COMMENTARY

TEXT: Page (1959)

METRE: Sapphic stanzas. Each stanza has 3 *vv.* of
hendecasyllables (- - - x - - - - -) followed
by an adonean (- - - - -).

1-2. Originally the poem began before the first
preserved line of our text; therefore, we must
supply a main verb in *vv.* 1-2, presumably an
imperative meaning 'come'.

1. μ' (*elision*) < μοι.

2. ὅππα...: the verb belonging to this clause has
been suppressed: supply ἐστὶ (*i.e.*, 'there is...').

3. μαλίαν: *Aeol. gen. pl.* < μαλία.

3-4. τεθυμιάμενοι: supply ἐστὶ (*i.e.*, 'are smoking
with...').

4. λιβανώτω: θυμιάω regularly takes a dative of
the substance that is being burned (*i.e.*, 'smoking
with...').

5. ἐν δέ...: 'In it...' or 'Here...' (*i.e.*, in the grove, *v.*
2).

6. παῖς (*Aeol.*) = πᾶς (*i.e.*, 'all').

7. αἰθυσσομένων... φύλλων: the genitive case
with κατά (κατ-αίρει in *v.* 8) regularly means
'down from.'

ἐν δὲ λείμων ἵππόβοτος τέθαλεν
ἠρίνοισιν ἄνθεσιν, αἰ δ' ἄηται
μέλλιχα πνέουσιν...

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...

ἐνθα δὴ σὺ... ἔλοισα Κύπρι
χρυσίαισιν ἐν κυλίκεσσιν ἄβρωσ
ὀμμεμείχμενον θαλίασι νέκταρ
οἶνοχόαισον.

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VOCABULARY

ἄβρωσ (*Aeol.*) = ἀβρῶς (*Att.*): delicately
ἄηται, αἰ (= ἀήτης, -ου, ὅ): breezes
ἄνθος, τό: flower
ἐνθα: there
ἠρινος, -η, -ον (*Aeol.*) = ἠρινός, -ή, -όν: spring
(*adj.*); of spring
θαλία, ή: merry-making; (*pl.*) festivities
ἵππόβοτος, -ον: 'horse-pasturing'; where horses
graze
κύλιξ, -ικος, ή: wine cup; chalice, goblet
Κύπρις (*voc.* Κύπρι): Cypris (*i.e.*, 'Goddess of
Cyprus'), a title of Aphrodite

λείμων (*Aeol.*) = λειμών, -ῶνος, ὅ: meadow
μέλλιχος, -ον (*Aeol.*) = μείλιχος, -ον: gentle; kind
νέκταρ, τό: nectar
οἶνοχόω: pour
ὀμμεμείχμενον (*Aeol.*) = ἀναμειγμένον (*pf.*
pass. pt.) < ἀναμείγνυμι: mix; (*pass.*) be mixed
with
πνέω: blow
τέθαλεν (*pf. with pres. sense*) < θάλλω: flourish,
bloom with (+ *dat.*)
χρῦσιος (*Aeol.*) = χρύσεος, -η, -ον (*Ion.*) =
χρυσσοῦς, -ῆ, -οῦν (*Att.*): golden

COMMENTARY

9. ἐν δέ...: 'In it...' or 'Here...' (*i.e.*, in the grove, *v.*
2).

11. μέλλιχα (*acc. n. pl.*): adverbial use of the
adjective (*i.e.*, 'gently').

πνέουσιν = πνέουσιν (*pres. act. indic. 3rd pl.*).

13-16. The main verb is the imperative
οἶνοχόαισον (*v.* 16), addressed to Aphrodite,
also known as Cypris (*v.* 13).

13. ἔλοισα: *perh.* = ἐλοῦσα (²*aor. act. pt.* < αἰρέω),
i.e. 'There, Cypris, may you, having taken [...],
pour...' *etc.*; but the text of this line is
fragmentary and the object of the participle
uncertain. The intermediate reader should
translate the beginning of the stanza as follows:

'There, Cypris, may you pour [for us]...'.
16. οἶνοχόαισον (*Aeol.*) = οἶνοχόησον (¹*aor.*
imperat. 2nd s.).