



Sappho

Greek Lyric Poet | "Tenth Muse"

Home: Lesbos, Greece | 630-570 BCE

“May I write words
more naked than flesh,
stronger than bone,
more resilient than sinew,
more sensitive than nerve.”

“You came and I was longing for you.
You cooled a heart that burned
with desire.”



“Sweet mother, I cannot weave.
slender Aphrodite has overcome me
with longing for a young girl.”

“You may forget but let me tell you this:
Someone in some future time
will think of us”

“What cannot be said
will be wept.”

“Love is a cunning weaver
of fantasies and fables.”

“In the crooks of your body,
I find my religion.”

“You will have memories
Because of what we did back then
When we were new at this.
Yes, we did many things, then.
All beautiful.”

“Honestly, I wish I were dead.
Weeping many tears, she left me and said,
Alas, how terribly we suffer, Sappho.
I really leave you against my will.

And I answered:

Farewell, go and remember me.

You know how we cared for each other.

If not, I would remind you
of our wonderful times.

For by my side you put on

many wreaths of roses

and garlands of flowers

around your soft neck.

And with precious and royal perfume
you anointed yourself.

On soft beds you satisfied your passion.

And there was no dance, no holy place,
from which we were absent.”

“Now, I shall sing these songs
beautifully
for my companions.”

“Love shook my heart
Like the wind on the mountain
rushing over the oak trees.”



“I would much prefer to see
the lovely way she walks and
the radiant glance of her face
than the war-chariots of the Lydians
Or their foot soldiers in arms.”

“Virginity, virginity
Where will you go
when you’ve left me?”