

Ψάπφω

SAPPHO

GREECE (AROUND 612–570 BCE)

LANGUAGE: AEOLIC GREEK

FRAGMENT 105A

οἶον τὸ γλυκύμαλον ἐρεῦθεται

oíon tó glykýmalon eréfhthetai

ἄκρω ἐπ' ὕσδω,

ákro ep' ýsdo,

ἄκρον ἐπ' ἀκροτάτῳ, λελάθοντο

ákron ep' akrotátó, leláthonto

δὲ μαλοδρόπης,

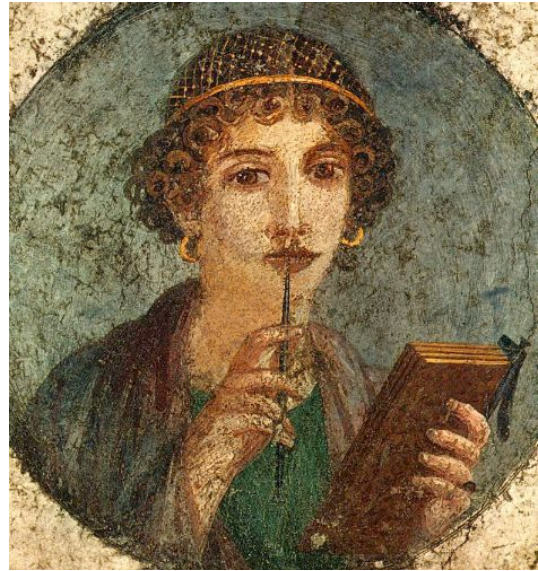
dé malodrópies,

οὐ μὰν ἐκλελάθοντ', ἀλλ' οὐκ

ou mán ekleláthont', all' ouk

ἐδύναντ' ἐπίκεσθαι

edýnant' epíkesthai



Sappho is considered the greatest lyric poet of classical Greece. Not much is known about her life, and her poems survive mainly as fragments discovered on strips of papyrus, a paper-like material that was used to wrap Egyptian mummies. Other fragments have been salvaged from excerpts copied down by ancient scholars, or else from etchings on broken shards of pottery. Sappho wrote her impassioned poems for friends and lovers of both genders. She composed several love poems for wedding celebrations, singing the verses as she strummed the strings of her lyre.

TRANSLATOR'S GLOSSARY			
WORD	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
ἄκρω	ákro (adj.)	far above ground	top, high, far up, raised, elevated, way up on
ἄκρον	ákron (n.)	that which is the farthest above ground	highest point, tip, topmost, peak, top, high point, summit
ἀκροτάτῳ	akrotáto (n.)	the part of the tree which is the farthest above ground	the very highest branch, the tallest branch, the topmost extremity, the treetop
ἀλλ'	all' (conj.)	used to introduce something contrasting to what was previously stated	but, rather, instead
δέ	dé (conj.)	in addition to	and, as well as, plus
ἐδύναντ'	edýnant' (v.)	have the ability to do something	they were able to, they could
ἐκλελάθοντ'	ekleláthont' (v.)	inadvertently neglect to attend to, do, or mention something	they forgot it, they overlooked it, they neglected it, they missed it, they ignored it
ἐπ'	ep' (prep.)	physically in contact with and supported by	on, atop, upon
ἐπίκεσθαι	epíkesthai (v.)	to stretch out an arm in order to touch or grasp	reach it, grab it, get it
ἐρεύθεται	eréfhetai (v.)	to become the color of fire or rubies	grows red, turns crimson, reddens, blushes, flushes
γλυκύμαλον	glykýmalon (n.)	the round, crisp fruit of a tree from the rose family	sweet apple, apple, fruit
λελάθοντο	leláthonto (v.)	failed to notice something	forgot it, overlooked it, have forgotten it, neglected it, missed it, ignored it
μαλοδρόπης	malodrópies (n.)	the people who pluck fruit from trees	apple pickers, fruit gatherers, harvesters, growers, sowers, gardeners, cultivators

WORD	ROMANIZED	DEFINITION	POSSIBLE SYNONYMS
μὰν	mán (adv.)	used to emphasize a statement	indeed, in fact, in truth, actually, if truth be told
οἷον	oíon (conj.)	in the same way that	just like, like, similar to, as, in such a way, thus
οὐ	ou (adv.)	used to form the negative	not, did not
οὐκ	ouk (adv.)	used to form the negative	not
τὸ	tó (art.)	indicates a person or thing already mentioned	the
ῥσδω	ýsdo (n.)	the part of a tree that grows out from the trunk	branch, limb, bough, arm, offshoot

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

PHRASE BY PHRASE

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REFLECTING AND FINDING MEANING

Group Member Names:

Date: _____

Pick a scribe for the group, and work together to answer the questions.

What are the best parts of this translation, and why do you think they are good?

What elements of the original poem did you lose in the translation? What did you manage to keep?

Did you achieve something new with your translation, and if so, does it make sense in the poem or not?
