

## Sappho Poem 31

### φαίνεται μοι κῆνος ἴσος θεοῖσιν

*He's equal with the Gods, that man  
Who sits across from you,  
Face to face, close enough, to sip  
Your voice's sweetness,*

*And what excites my mind,  
Your laughter, glittering. So,  
When I see you, for a moment,  
My voice goes,*

*My tongue freezes. Fire,  
Delicate fire, in the flesh.  
Blind, stunned, the sound  
Of thunder, in my ears.*

*Shivering with sweat, cold  
Tremors over the skin,  
I turn the colour of dead grass,  
And I'm an inch from dying'.*



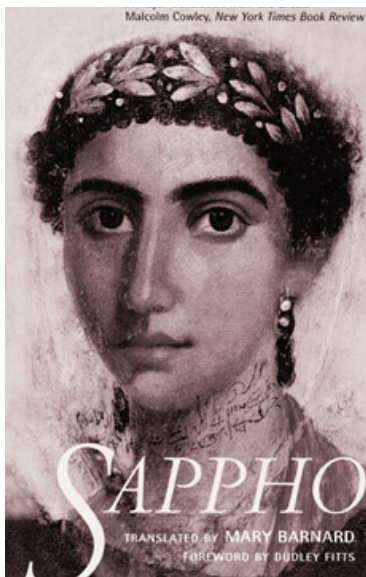
This a translation of a poem written by the Greek poet Sappho, who lived on the island of Lesbos from around 620-570 BCE.

Read the poem carefully. What do you think is the situation?

The language, imagery and emotional intensity of this poem inspired many later poets.

Sappho is by far the most highly regarded female poet from ancient Greece, both in antiquity and today.

She's my nomination for inspirational woman from the ancient world!



**Can you think of any inspirational, powerful or admirable women from the ancient world?**

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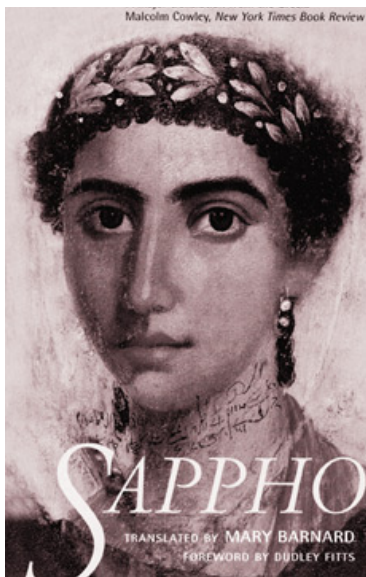
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