

In Another Time

Natalya Newman

Sappho, you used to recite with such brightness,
now we remember you only in fragments.
As the violets struggle in the cold stone ground,
we wait for your song.

Hear sweet Aphrodite mention you by name,
above the clouds they hear your crafted lyrics.
Goddess of love, hear our pleading and repent,
bring her back to us.

Hades may hear us and listen to our cries,
but still he will not release your perished soul
Don't despair, gentle Sappho, your memory
lives on in our hearts.

Your titles are varied and spread throughout time,
'The Mortal Muse', 'The Tenth Muse' during your life.
In today's world, I smile when they call you the
O.G Lesbian.

Your memory has thrived and inspired people
two-thousand five-hundred years in the future.
I wonder if you would be proud of how your
legacy flourished.

We have threads of a once divine tapestry,
unravelling moments never to be complete.
Time has eroded your works with merciless
hunger and focus.

Though you still contain mysteries aplenty,
(was Cleïs your young lover or your daughter?)
they are proud to discover pieces of who
you could have once been.

Our eyes will still shine under an open sky
in shades of washed-out rainbow watercolours.
Your gentle hands cradle our once broken hearts
and your love heals us.

Dearest Sappho, if only you could witness
what joy we find in your pieces years later.
I wish you could see what your love has become.
Immortal beauty.

I stop and watch the way your name is written.
In English you are curved but Greek presents grace.
Your name (Σαπφώ) sounds different in a language
that is not your own.

Tears of bright starlight will continue to fall,
down faded faces and worn-down defenses.
But your words have ensured that some tears live to
be constellations.

You have influenced many, dearest Sappho,
your name has helped to craft poetry today.
With our hands held together, we created
words that could survive.

Rejoice and rest for we shall remember you
and your crowns of violets and roses bright.