

2022

## Sappho 31 and Catullus 51

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### Recommended Citation

Tympanick, Zachary (2022) "Sappho 31 and Catullus 51," *Parnassus: Classical Journal*: Vol. 8, Article 11.  
Available at: <https://crossworks.holycross.edu/parnassus-j/vol8/iss1/11>

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### **Sappho 31**

That man over there seems to be as lucky as the gods

To me, he whoever sits across from you,

And he sweetly listens close to you

Speaking

And laughing charmingly, truly this moment was

Making the heart in my breasts tremble

For me. For whenever I look at you briefly,

No words come out.

But my mouth has broken to pieces entirely, while

A thin flame immediately ran under my flesh, while

I see nothing with my eyes, while

My eyes whirl.

While sweat pours down down me,

While fear seizes me wholly,

While I am more green than a meadow,

While I seem to be little short of dying <...>.

But all can be dared...

### **Catullus 51**

That man seems to be equal to a god to me

That man, if it is divinely so, seems to surpass the gods,  
That man who sitting across [from you] gazes at you and hear you  
Again and again  
Laughing sweetly, which snatches every sense from  
Miserable me: for as soon as I look at you,  
Lesbia, there is no voice in  
My mouth,  
But tongue is numb, a thin flame runs  
Down my body, my ears ring with its own sound,  
My eyes are covered with  
Twin night.  
Idleness, Catullus, is annoying to you.  
Idleness is with which you rejoice for excessive exploits.  
Idleness destroyed both kings first and then their  
Fortunate cities.