

While the Gentlemen Were Busy

Scatter the graces in your eyes
- Sappho

While the gentlemen were busy
inventing western philosophy

she was calling on Aphrodite
to satisfy love's unending desire,

praising her for answering
that prayer when she did

praising her for bringing beauty
love and desire into the world

praising beauty love and desire
in their own right for being,

laughter-loving Aphrodite
sunlight in honey the drift of her hair

loved by and loving the dark god,
saddled with a lame spouse.