The Gendered Perspective of Allusion in an Epigram of Leonidas of Tarentum

The "Homeric patina" of Leonidas of Tarentum distinguishes a poetic technique of Homeric allusion found in many of his epigrams.[1] This paper examines one such epigram, Leon. 2 G-P = *AP* 6.211, a dedication to Aphrodite, which provides "window allusion" to Homeric poetry through its allusion to Sappho fr. 44.[2] In Leonidas' epigram, Kallikleia, a hetaera, dedicates a list of tools before the porch of Kypris. This list of items alludes to those chronicled in Sapph. 44, which describes the dowry Andromache brings to Troy, with the diction and dialect of epithalamion and Homeric poetry. Through Leonidas' allusion, we observe that Kallikleia's dedication to Aphrodite likely confirms her transformation from hetaera to lawful wife.[3] The direct allusion to Sappho indicates Leonidas' innovative method of Homericizing a craftswoman, and making parallel his own poetic labor of Homeric and Sapphic layers, with the labor of Kallikleia, a hetaera in flux, on the threshold of marriage. With Sappho as a medium for admiration of a hetaera's Homeric symbolism, a lowly woman becomes the source of great poetic value through Leonidas' innovation in epigram. Through Leonidas' allusion, the genre of epigram presumes the same context of the Sapphic epithalamion, which becomes a poetic vehicle for reinventing and reexamining a Homeric context.

[1] C. De Stefani, "Posidippo e Leonida di Tarento, Spunti per un confronto" in M. Di Marco, B. M. Palumbo Stracca, E. Lelli, eds., *Posidippo e gli altri; il poeta, il genere, il contest culturale e letterario; atti dell'incontro di studio, Roma 14-15 maggio 2004*. (Pisa 2005) 147-190, 157.

[2] "Window allusion," as found in S. Hinds. (1998. *Allusion and Intertext: Dynamics of Appropriation in Roman Poetry*. Cambridge. 48), is a layering of allusion to various poets in the same poem.

[3] Natsina, Charikleia. 2012. "The Debt Towards Aphrodite: Female Dedicators and their Interrelations with the Goddess in Votive Epigrams of the *Greek Anthology*," in M.A. Harder, G.F. Retuit, G.C. Wakker, edd. *Gods and Religion in Hellenistic Poetry,* 249-79.