

CATULLUS #51 / Ille me par esse deo videtur

after SAPPHO, fragment #2 / Phainetai moi kenos isos theoisin

to me that man is  
a god or greater  
than a god

as he faces you  
and listens to your  
sweet speech and laughter --


my heart beats in  
my breast for when I  
look at you I become

dumb, a fire skims along  
my skin, my eyes go  
blind, my ears no longer

hear, a cold sweat breaks  
out all over me and I know  
I am nowhere -- paler

than death, I feel myself  
still falling forwards  
towards you until there is

nothing under me, but  
I must suffer everything  
being poor



William Packard