

Translation A W.G. Shepherd (Penguin Classics) 1985

If you're harsh, say no: and if you're not, then come!
What pleasure to take your words as meaning neither?
This one pain above all is sharp to a lover,
That she abruptly declines to come to his hopes.
What great sighs roll him now all over his bed,
When he has banned admittance to her who will not come!
He wearies his slaves by asking anew things heard before,
Whom he tells to find out the fate he fears to know.