

Translation C H.E. Butler (Loeb)

Say "No!" if thou art unkind; or, if kind thou art, then come! But why take delight in waste of random words? This grief alone of all doth rack the lover's heart, if his mistress fails his hopes and comes not to the tryst. What sighs shake his frame as he tosses o'er all his couch, when the thought that now some unknown lover is admitted torments him even to death! Again and again he wearies his slave by asking, what he has heard already, and bidding him seek news of the fate he dreads to learn.