Lydia of Thyatira[[1]](#footnote-1)

Her trade in textiles a notorious success,

but to accepted gods she’d not acquiesce.

I, Ephaditus, was sold to her household.

My sinews and heart, from battle, were cold.

So I was suspicious and swayed by Jezebel,

*“Beware, Lydia’s customs are blasphemous,*

*as Lydia’s courier, you’re damned as well.”*

I’ll seize her letters, prove Lydia unrighteous!

All that I found in her heavy pouches

were offerings of silver, papyrus, and fish

to sustain a prisoner and his scribal torches.

He’d taught her love and repayment was lavish.

When I fell ill and feared for my end,

her words eased my heart, her faith- my fast friend.

1. Loosely derived from:

   **Acts 16:11-15, 16:40** Saint Paul sails from Troas to Philippi and meets Lydia from Thyatira

   **Revelation 2:18-29** Jezebel of Thyatira

   **Philippians 1:5-7** Some scholars believe Philippians is a letter from Paul in prison to Lydia, whose household is the Thyatira “conquerors” in the Revelation passage

   **Philippians 2:25-30, 4:15-18** Epaphroditus (a man named after Aphrodite)I’ve simplified to Aphaditus [↑](#footnote-ref-1)