Symposium Reading 5, to end

212c Socrates concluded his speech (Love is the desire for Beauty and Good, and the desire to have it forever, therefore for immortality). The symposiasts applaud Socrates' speech.

Just as Aristophanes was about to respond to something Socrates had said about his (Aristophanes') speech, a loud, drunken group began rattling the gate.

212d-222b It was Alcibiades, crowned with violets, ivy and ribbon, so drunk he had to be carried by a flute girl and some others in his party. He stays for a drink, sharing Agathon and Socrates' couch, and he offers a speech in praise, not of Love, but of Socrates, whom he compares to the satyr Silenus.

What reminders of other speeches, particularly Socrates', do you see in Alcibiades’?

More drunken guests arrive and most of the sober party leaves. Morning finds Socrates, Agathon and Aristophanes the only ones still awake. Socrates is telling the tragedian and comedian that a good playwright composes both comedy and tragedy.