LATIN SERIES · VOLUME 37

Catullus and Tibullus

CATULLUS · TIBULLUS

Catulli Veronensis Liber
Tibulli Aliorumque Carminum Libri Tres

Catullus and Tibullus

The Poems of Catullus,
with the Elegies of Tibullus and His Circle

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



CANES NOBILES · MMXXVI

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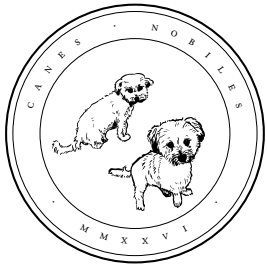

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The Latin text follows Merrill's text of Catullus,
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corpus, with corrections; Tibullus set from Postgate's printed text

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

Every section and English title is this press's. Both editors print u
for consonantal v; a dagger marks a place the editor holds corrupt, and ∗∗∗
a gap in the text. Postgate's third book holds the poems of Tibullus' circle:
Lygdamus, the Panegyric of Messalla, and the poems of and about Sulpicia.

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CATULLUS

Catulli Veronensis Liber

The Poems of Catullus

CATULLUS

1 · THE DEDICATION

Catullus gives his new little book, fresh-polished with pumice, to Cornelius, who already thought his trifles worth something when he dared to unfold all history in three learned scrolls. Let the book be his, such as it is, and may the patron maiden let it last more than one age.

Cui dono lepidum nouum libellum
To-whom do-I-give the-charming new little-book
arido modo pumice expolitum?
with-dry just-now pumice polished?
Corneli, tibi; namque tu solebas
Cornelius, to-you; for you used
meas esse aliquid putare nugas,
my to-be something to-think trifles,
iam tum cum ausus es unus Italorum
already then when dared you-have alone of-the-Italians
omne aeuum tribus explicare chartis,
all the-age in-three to-unfold scrolls,
doctis, Iuppiter, et laboriosis!
learned, Jupiter, and laborious!
quare habe tibi quidquid hoc libelli
therefore have for-yourself whatever this of-little-book
qualecumque, quod, o patrona uirgo,
of-whatever-sort, which, o patron maiden,
plus uno maneat perenne saeclo.
more-than one may-it-remain lasting age.

2 · THE SPARROW

Catullus addresses the sparrow his girl plays with, holds in her lap, and teases into biting, a small solace for her pain so that her heavy passion may rest, and wishes he could play with it as she does and lighten his own cares. After a gap, a fragment compares his pleasure to the golden apple that loosed the swift girl's long-tied girdle.

Passer, deliciae meae puellae,
Sparrow, delight of-my girl,
quicum ludere, quem in sinu tenere,
with-whom to-play, whom in her-lap to-hold,
cui primum digitum dare adpetenti
to-whom the-tip-of finger to-give seeking
et acris solet incitare morsus,
and sharp she-is-wont to-provoke bites,
cum desiderio meo nitenti
when to-the-longing my shining
carum nescio quid libet iocari
dear I-know-not what it-pleases to-jest
(et solaciolum sui doloris,
(and a-small-solace of-her pain,
credo, ut tum grauis adquiescat ardor),
I-believe, so-that then heavy may-rest passion),
tecum ludere sicut ipsa possem
with-you to-play as she-herself I-could
et tristis animi leuare curas!
and sad of-the-heart to-lighten cares!

* * *

(lacuna)

Tam gratum est mihi quam ferunt puellae
So welcome is to-me as they-say to-the-girl

pernici aureolum fuisse malum,
swift golden to-have-been the-apple,
quod zonam soluit diu ligatam.
which her-girdle loosed long tied.

3 · THE SPARROW'S DEATH

Catullus calls the Venuses and Cupids to mourn: his girl's sparrow is dead. It knew her as a girl knows her mother, never left her lap, and cheeped only to her; now it goes down the dark road from which none return. He curses the shadows of Orcus that devour all pretty things, for her eyes are red and swollen with weeping.

Lugete, o Veneres Cupidinesque
Mourn, o Venuses and-Cupids
et quantum est hominum uenustiorum!
and as-much-as is of-men more-graceful!
passer mortuus est meae puellae,
the-sparrow dead is of-my girl,
passer, deliciae meae puellae,
the-sparrow, delight of-my girl,
quem plus illa oculis suis amabat;
whom more she than-eyes her-own loved;
nam mellitus erat, suamque norat
for honey-sweet he-was, and-his-own he-knew
ipsa tam bene quam puella matrem,
herself so well as a-girl her-mother,
nec sese a gremio illius mouebat,
nor himself from the-lap of-her he-moved,
sed circumsiliens modo huc modo illuc
but hopping-around now here now there

ad solam dominam usque pipiabat.
to alone his-mistress constantly he-cheeped.
qui nunc it per iter tenebricosum
who now goes along the-road gloomy
illuc unde negant redire quemquam.
there whence they-deny to-return anyone.
at uobis male sit, malae tenebrae
but to-you badly may-it-be, evil shadows
Orci, quae omnia bella deuoratis;
of-Orcus, who all pretty-things devour;
tam bellum mihi passerem abstulistis.
so pretty to-me a-sparrow you-have-taken-away.
o factum male! io miselle passer!
o deed badly-done! io poor-little sparrow!
tua nunc opera meae puellae
by-your now doing of-my girl
flendo turgiduli rubent ocelli.
from-weeping swollen redden the-little-eyes.

4 · THE YACHT

The little boat that the strangers see claims it was the fastest of ships, under oar or sail, and calls the Adriatic, the Cyclades, Rhodes, Thrace, and the Black Sea to witness. It began as leafy forest on Cytorus, carried its master through every storm without a vow to the shore gods, and now, retired on a clear lake, grows old and dedicates itself to Castor and Pollux.

Phasellus ille, quem uidetis, hospites,
The-bean-boat that, which you-see, strangers,
ait fuisse nauium celerrimus,
says to-have-been of-ships the-swiftest,

neque ullius natantis impetum trabis
and-not of-any swimming the-onset timber
nequisse praeterire, siue palmulis
to-have-been-unable to-pass, whether with-oars
opus foret uolare siue linteo.
need were to-fly or with-sail.
et hoc negat minacis Hadriatici
and this denies of-the-threatening Adriatic
negare litus insulasue Cycladas
to-deny the-shore or-the-islands Cyclades
Rhodumque nobilem horridamque Thraciam
and-Rhodes noble and-bristling Thrace
Propontida trucemue Ponticum sinum,
the-Propontis or-the-savage Pontic gulf,
ubi iste post phasellus antea fuit
where that afterward bean-boat before was
comata silua: nam Cytorio in iugo
a-leafy wood: for Cytorian on ridge
loquente saepe sibilum edidit coma.
speaking often a-whistle sent-forth its-foliage.
Amastri Pontica et Cytore buxifer,
Amastris Pontic and Cytorus box-bearing,
tibi haec fuisse et esse cognitissima
to-you these-things to-have-been and to-be best-known
ait phasellus; ultima ex origine
says the-bean-boat; the-furthest from origin
tuo stetisse dicit in cacumine,
your to-have-stood it-says on summit,
tuo imbuisse palmulas in aequore,
your to-have-dipped its-oars in water,

et inde tot per impotentia freta
and thence so-many through uncontrollable straits
erum tulisse, laeua siue dextera
its-master to-have-carried, on-the-left or on-the-right
uocaret aura, siue utrumque Iuppiter
should-call the-breeze, or both Jupiter
simul secundus incidisset in pedem;
at-once favorable should-have-fallen upon the-sheet;
neque ulla uota litoralibus diis
and-not any vows to-the-shore gods
sibi esse facta, cum ueniret a mari
by-it to-have-been made, when it-came from the-sea
nouissimo hunc ad usque limpidum lacum.
most-distant this to all-the-way clear lake.
sed haec prius fuere: nunc recondita
but these-things before were: now laid-away
senet quiete seque dedicat tibi,
it-grows-old in-quiet and-itself dedicates to-you,
gemelle Castor et gemelle Castoris.
twin Castor and twin of-Castor.

5 · LET US LIVE

Let us live and love, Lesbia, and count the old men's gossip at a penny. Suns can set and rise again, but for us, when our brief light has set, one endless night must be slept. Give me a thousand kisses, then a hundred, and again, until we confound the count, so that no evil eye can envy us.

Viuamus, mea Lesbia, atque amemus,
Let-us-live, my Lesbia, and let-us-love,
rumoresque senum seueriorum
and-the-rumors of-old-men more-severe
omnes unius aestimemus assis.
all at-one let-us-value penny.
soles occidere et redire possunt:
suns to-set and to-return can:
nobis, cum semel occidit breuis lux,
for-us, when once has-set brief light,
nox est perpetua una dormienda.
night is perpetual one to-be-slept.
da mi basia mille, deinde centum,
give me kisses a-thousand, then a-hundred,
dein mille altera, dein secunda centum,
then a-thousand another, then a-second hundred,
deinde usque altera mille, deinde centum,
then even another thousand, then a-hundred,
dein, cum milia multa fecerimus,
then, when thousands many we-shall-have-made,
conturbabimus illa, ne sciamus,
we-shall-confound them, lest we-know,

aut ne quis malus inuidere possit,
or lest anyone evil to-envy be-able,
cum tantum sciat esse basiorum.
when so-many he-knows to-be of-kisses.

6 · FLAVIUS' GIRL

Flavius would tell Catullus about his darling if she were not some feverish tart he is ashamed to admit to: his bed, reeking of garlands and Syrian oil, its pillows worn on both sides and its creaking frame, cries out that he does not sleep alone. Let him confess, and Catullus will raise his loves to the sky in charming verse.

Flaui, delicias tuas Catullo,
Flavius, delights your to-Catullus,
ni sint inlepidae atque inelegantes,
unless they-were uncharming and inelegant,
uelles dicere, nec tacere posses.
you-would-wish to-tell, nor to-be-silent you-could.
uerum nescio quid febriculosi
but I-know-not what of-feverish
scorti diligis: hoc pudet fateri.
tart you-love: this you-are-ashamed to-confess.
nam te non uiduas iacere noctes
for you not widowed to-lie nights
nequiquam tacitum cubile clamat
in-vain silent the-bed cries
sertis ac Syrio fragrans oliuo,
with-garlands and with-Syrian fragrant olive-oil,
puluinusque peraeque et hic et ille
and-the-pillow equally both this and that

attritus, tremulique quassa lecti
worn, and-of-the-trembling shaken bed
argutatio inambulatioque.
the-creaking and-walking-about.
nam nil stupra ualet, nihil, tacere.
for nothing debaucheries avails, nothing, to-be-silent.
cur? non tam latera ecfututa pandas,
why? not so flanks fucked-out you-would-spread,
ni tu quid facias ineptiarum.
unless you something were-doing of-folly.
quare, quidquid habes boni malique,
therefore, whatever you-have of-good and-of-bad,
dic nobis: uolo te ac tuos amores
tell to-us: I-wish you and your loves
ad caelum lepido uocare uersu.
to the-sky with-charming to-call verse.

7 · HOW MANY KISSES

Lesbia asks how many kisses would be enough. As many as the sands of Libya between Jupiter's oracle and Battus' tomb, or the stars that watch men's stolen loves: so many kisses would satisfy mad Catullus, too many for the curious to count or an evil tongue to bewitch.

Quaeris quot mihi basiationes
You-ask how-many for-me kissings
tuae, Lesbia, sint satis superque.
your, Lesbia, are enough and-more.
quam magnus numerus Libyssae harenae
as great the-number of-Libyan sand

laserpiciferis iacet Cyrenis,
on-silphium-bearing lies Cyrene,
oraclum Iouis inter aestuosi
the-oracle of-Jupiter between sweltering
et Batti ueteris sacrum sepulcrum,
and of-Battus old the-sacred tomb,
aut quam sidera multa, cum tacet nox,
or as stars many, when is-silent night,
furtiuos hominum uident amores,
stolen of-men see loves,
tam te basia multa basiare
so you kisses many to-kiss
uesano satis et super Catullo est,
for-mad enough and more Catullus is,
quae nec pernumerare curiosi
which neither to-count-up the-curious
possint nec mala fascinare lingua.
could nor evil to-bewitch tongue.

8 · BE FIRM, CATULLUS

Catullus tells himself to stop playing the fool and count what is lost as lost. Once the sun shone on him, when he followed the girl he loved as no one will be loved; now she is unwilling, and so must he be. Farewell, girl: Catullus will not seek you; who will love you now, whose lips will you bite? But you, Catullus, be firm.

Miser Catulle, desinas ineptire,
Wretched Catullus, you-should-cease to-play-the-fool,
et quod uides perisse perditum ducas.
and what you-see to-have-perished lost consider.

fulsere quondam candidi tibi soles,
shone once bright for-you suns,
cum uentitabas quo puella ducebat
when you-kept-coming where the-girl was-leading
amata nobis quantum amabitur nulla.
loved by-us as-much-as will-be-loved none.
ibi illa multa tum iocosa fiebant,
there those many then playful things-were-done,
quae tu uolebas nec puella nolebat.
which you wanted nor the-girl was-unwilling.
fulsere uere candidi tibi soles.
shone truly bright for-you suns.
nunc iam illa non uult: tu quoque, impotens, noli,
now already she not wants: you too, powerless, be-unwilling,
nec quae fugit sectare, nec miser uiue,
nor her-who flees chase, nor wretched live,
sed obstinata mente perfer, obdura.
but with-obstinate mind endure, be-firm.
uale, puella! iam Catullus obdurat,
farewell, girl! now Catullus is-firm,
nec te requiret nec rogabit inuitam:
nor you he-will-seek nor he-will-ask unwilling:
at tu dolebis, cum rogaberis nulla.
but you will-grieve, when you-will-be-asked not-at-all.
scelesta, uae te! quae tibi manet uita!
wicked-one, woe to-you! what for-you remains life!
quis nunc te adibit? cui uideberis bella?
who now you will-approach? to-whom will-you-seem pretty?
quem nunc amabis? cuius esse diceris?
whom now will-you-love? whose to-be will-you-be-called?

quem basiabis? cui labella mordebis?
whom will-you-kiss? whose little-lips will-you-bite?
at tu, Catulle, destinatus obdura.
but you, Catullus, resolved be-firm.

9 · VERANIUS HOME

Veranius, the best of all his friends, has come home to his family. Catullus will see him safe, hear him tell of the places, deeds, and peoples of Spain, and kiss his face and eyes: of all happy men, who is happier than he?

Verani, omnibus e meis amicis
Veranius, all from my friends
antistans mihi milibus trecentis,
standing-before for-me by-thousands three-hundred,
uenistine domum ad tuos penates
have-you-come home to your household-gods
fratresque unanimos anumque matrem?
and-brothers like-minded and-old mother?
uenisti! o mihi nuntii beati!
you-have-come! o for-me news happy!
uisam te incolumem audiamque Hiberum
I-shall-see you unharmed and-I-shall-hear of-the-Spaniards
narrantem loca, facta, nationes,
telling the-places, deeds, nations,
ut mos est tuus, applicansque collum
as custom is yours, and-drawing-close your-neck
iucundum os oculosque sauiabor.
your-pleasant mouth and-eyes I-shall-kiss.

o, quantum est hominum beatiorum,
o, as-much-as is of-men happier,
quid me laetius est beatiusue?
what than-me gladder is or-happier?

10 · VARUS' GIRL

Varus takes Catullus to meet his girl, and the talk turns to how Bithynia went. Catullus admits the province paid no one, then boasts that he at least brought back eight litter-bearers. When she asks to borrow them to go to Sarapis, he confesses they are really his friend Cinna's, and calls her a tactless nuisance who will not let a man be careless.

Varus me meus ad suos amores
Varus me my to his loves
uisum duxerat e foro otiosum,
to-see had-led from the-forum idle,
scortillum, ut mihi tunc repente uisum est,
a-little-tart, as to-me then suddenly seemed it-has,
non sane inlepidum neque inuenustum.
not truly uncharming nor ungraceful.
huc ut uenimus, incidere nobis
here when we-came, fell-upon us
sermones uarii, in quibus, quid esset
conversations various, in which, what was
iam Bithynia, quo modo se haberet,
now Bithynia, in-what way itself it-held,
ecquonam mihi profuisset aere.
whether-with-any to-me it-had-profited money.
respondi id quod erat, nihil neque ipsis
I-replied that which was, nothing neither for-themselves

nec praetoribus esse nec cohorti,
nor for-the-praetors to-be nor for-the-staff,
cur quisquam caput unctius referret,
why anyone his-head sleeker should-bring-back,
praesertim quibus esset irrumator
especially for-whom was a-face-fucker
praetor nec faceret pili cohortem.
the-praetor nor did-make of-a-hair the-staff.
'at certe tamen,' inquiunt, 'quod illic
'but surely nevertheless,' they-say, 'what there
natum dicitur esse comparasti,
born is-said to-be you-procured,
ad lecticam homines.' ego, ut puellae
for the-litter men.' I, so-that to-the-girl
unum me facerem beatiorem,
alone myself I-might-make luckier,
'non,' inquam, 'mihi tam fuit maligne,
'not,' I-say, 'to-me so it-has-gone badly,
ut, prouincia quod mala incidisset,
that, the-province because bad had-befallen,
non possem octo homines parare rectos.'
not I-could eight men to-procure straight.'
at mi nullus erat neque hic neque illic
but to-me none was neither here nor there
fractum qui ueteris pedem grabati
the-broken who of-the-old foot cot
in collo sibi conlocare posset.
on his-neck for-himself to-place could.
hic illa, ut decuit cinaediorem,
here she, as befitted a-very-catamite,

‘quaeso,’ inquit, ‘mihi, mi Catulle, paulum
‘please,’ she-says, ‘to-me, my Catullus, a-little
istos commoda: nam uolo ad Sarapim
those lend: for I-wish to Sarapis
deferri.’ ‘mane,’ inquii puellae,
to-be-carried.’ ‘wait,’ I-said to-the-girl,
‘istud quod modo dixeram, me habere,
‘that which just-now I-had-said, me to-have,
fugit me ratio: meus sodalis
escaped me my-reason: my comrade
Cinna est Gaius; is sibi parauit.
Cinna is Gaius; he for-himself procured-them.
uerum, utrum illius an mei, quid ad me?
but, whether his or mine, what to me?
utor tam bene quam mihi pararim.
I-use-them as well as (if)-for-myself I-had-procured-them.
sed tu insulsa male et molesta uiuis,
but you tasteless badly and annoying live,
per quam non licet esse neglegentem.’
through whom not it-is-allowed to-be careless.’

11 · FURIUS AND AURELIUS

Catullus' companions, ready to go with him to India, Arabia, Parthia, the Nile, or the far Britons, are asked to take a short and unkind message to his girl: let her live with her three hundred adulterers, loving none of them truly, and not look for his love, which her fault has cut down like a flower at the meadow's edge touched by a passing plow.

Furi et Aureli, comites Catulli,
Furius and Aurelius, companions of-Catullus,
siue in extremos penetrabit Indos,
whether to the-furthest he-will-penetrate Indians,
litus ut longe resonante Eoa
the-shore where far-off with-resounding Eastern
tunditur unda,
is-beaten wave,

siue in Hyrcanos Arabasue molles,
or to the-Hyrcanians or-the-Arabs soft,
seu Sacas sagittiferosue Parthos,
or the-Sacae or-the-arrow-bearing Parthians,
siue quae septemgeminus colorat
or which seven-fold colors
aequora Nilus,
the-waters Nile,

siue trans altas gradietur Alpes
or across the-high he-will-march Alps
Caesaris uisens monimenta magni,
of-Caesar visiting the-monuments great,
Gallicum Rhenum, horribile aequor, ulti-
the-Gallic Rhine, the-dreadful sea, the-furthest-
mosque Britannos,
(-most)-and Britons,

omnia haec, quaecumque feret uoluntas
all these-things, whatever will-bring the-will
caelitum, temptare simul parati,
of-the-heaven-dwellers, to-attempt together ready,
pauca nuntiate meae puellae
few announce to-my girl
non bona dicta.
not good words.

cum suis uiuat ualeatque moechis,
with her let-her-live and-fare-well adulterers,
quos simul complexa tenet trecentos,
whom at-once embracing she-holds three-hundred,
nullum amans uere, sed identidem omnium
none loving truly, but again-and-again of-all
ilia rumpens;
the-groins bursting;

nec meum respectet, ut ante, amorem,
nor my let-her-look-back-at, as before, love,
qui illius culpa cecidit uelut prati
which by-her fault has-fallen like of-the-meadow
ultimi flos, praetereunte postquam
furthest the-flower, by-the-passing after
tactus aratro est.
touched plow it-has-been.

12 · THE NAPKIN THIEF

Asinius steals the napkins of careless guests at dinner and thinks it witty. His brother Pollio would pay a talent to undo the thefts. Catullus demands his napkin back or three hundred hendecasyllables, not for its value but because it is a keepsake sent from Spain by Fabullus and Veranius.

Marrucine Asini, manu sinistra
Marrucinian Asinius, the-hand left
non belle uteris in ioco atque uino:
not prettily you-use in jest and wine:
tollis lintea neglegentiorum.
you-take-up the-napkins of-the-more-careless.
hoc salsum esse putas? fugit te, inepte!
this witty to-be do-you-think? it-escapes you, silly-one!
quamuis sordida res et inuenusta est
however sordid a-thing and ungraceful it-is
non credis mihi? crede Pollioni
not you-believe me? believe Pollio
fratri, qui tua furta uel talento
your-brother, who your thefts even for-a-talent

mutari uelit; est enim leporum
to-be-undone would-wish; he-is for of-charms
disertus puer ac facetiarum.
a-skilled boy and of-wit.
quare aut hendecasyllabos trecentos
therefore either hendecasyllables three-hundred
exspecta, aut mihi linteum remitte,
expect, or to-me the-napkin send-back,
quod me non mouet aestimatione,
which me not moves by-its-value,
uerum est mnemosynum mei sodalis.
but is a-keepsake of-my comrade.
nam sudaria Saetaba ex Hiberis
for napkins Saetaban from the-Spaniards
miserunt mihi muneri Fabullus
sent to-me as-a-gift Fabullus
et Veranius: haec amem necesse est
and Veranius: these I-should-love necessary it-is
et Veraniolum meum et Fabullum.
both little-Veranius my and Fabullus.

Fabullus will dine well with Catullus in a few days if he brings the dinner, the girl, the wine, the wit, and the laughter, since Catullus' purse is full of cobwebs. In return Catullus will give pure love and a perfume the Venuses and Cupids gave his girl, which will make Fabullus pray to be all nose.

Cenabis bene, mi Fabulle, apud me
You-will-dine well, my Fabullus, at my-house
paucis, si tibi di fauent, diebus,
in-few, if to-you the-gods are-favorable, days,
si tecum attuleris bonam atque magnam
if with-you you-bring good and great
cenam, non sine candida puella
a-dinner, not without a-fair girl
et uino et sale et omnibus cachinnis.
and wine and wit and all laughter.
haec si, inquam, attuleris, uenuste noster
these-things if, I-say, you-bring, graceful our
cenabis bene; nam tui Catulli
you-will-dine well; for of-your Catullus
plenus sacculus est aranearum.
full the-little-purse is of-cobwebs.
sed contra accipies meros amores
but in-return you-will-receive pure loves
seu quid suauius elegantiusue est:
or what sweeter or-more-elegant is:
nam unguentum dabo, quod meae puellae
for perfume I-will-give, which to-my girl
donarunt Veneres Cupidinesque,
gave the-Venuses and-Cupids,

quod tu cum olfacies, deos rogabis
which you when you-smell, the-gods you-will-ask
totum ut te faciant, Fabulle, nasum.
whole that you they-make, Fabullus, a-nose.

14 · THE SATURNALIA GIFT

Calvus has sent Catullus, as a Saturnalia present, a book of the worst poets. Catullus would hate him for it if he did not love him; if, as he suspects, the schoolmaster Sulla gave it to Calvus, he is glad that Calvus' labors were not wasted. At dawn he will buy the booksellers' worst and send them back in revenge, and he bids the bad poets begone.

Ni te plus oculis meis amarem,
Unless you more than-eyes my I-loved,
iucundissime Calue, munere isto
most-pleasant Calvus, for-gift that
odissem te odio Vatiniano:
I-would-have-hated you with-hatred Vatinian:
nam quid feci ego quidue sum locutus,
for what have-done I or-what have-I spoken,
cur me tot male perderes poetis?
why me so-many badly you-should-destroy with-poets?
isti di mala multa dent clienti
to-that the-gods evils many may-give client
qui tantum tibi misit impiorum.
who so-much to-you sent of-the-impious.
quod si, ut suspicor, hoc nouum ac repertum
but if, as I-suspect, this new and found-out
munus dat tibi Sulla litterator,
gift gives to-you Sulla the-schoolmaster,

non est mi male, sed bene ac beate,
not it-is to-me bad, but well and happily,
quod non dispereunt tui labores.
because not perish your labors.
di magni, horribilem et sacrum libellum,
gods great, a-horrible and accursed little-book,
quem tu scilicet ad tuum Catullum
which you of-course to your Catullus
misti, continuo ut die periret,
sent, at-once so-that on-the-day he-might-perish,
Saturnalibus, optimo dierum!
on-the-Saturnalia, best of-days!
non, non hoc tibi, false, sic abibit:
no, not this for-you, false-one, so will-go-off:
nam, si luxerit, ad librariorum
for, if it-dawns, to of-the-booksellers
curram scrinia, Caesios, Aquinos,
I-shall-run the-cases, the-Caesii, the-Aquini,
Suffenum, omnia colligam uenena,
Suffenus, all I-shall-gather poisons,
ac te his suppliciis remunerabor.
and you with-these punishments I-shall-repay.
uos hinc interea ualete, abite
you hence meanwhile farewell, go-off
illuc unde malum pedem attulistis,
there whence an-evil foot you-brought,
saecli incommoda, pessimi poetae.
of-the-age nuisances, worst poets.

14B · TO THE READER

A fragment addresses any who may read his trifles and not shrink from laying hands on them.

Si qui forte mearum ineptiarum
If any perhaps of-my trifles
lectores eritis manusque uestras
readers you-will-be and-hands your
non horrebitis admouere nobis,
not you-will-shrink to-move-toward us,
* * *
(lacuna)

15 · AURELIUS AND THE BOY

Catullus entrusts his boy to Aurelius, asking only that he keep him chaste. He fears not the passers-by but Aurelius and his penis, a danger to all boys; if madness drives him to plot against Catullus, he will be dragged apart by the feet and run through with radishes and mullets.

Commendo tibi me ac meos amores,
I-commend to-you myself and my loves,
Aureli. ueniam peto pudentem,
Aurelius. a-pardon I-ask modest,
ut, si quicquam animo tuo cupisti
that, if anything in-mind your you-have-desired
quod castum expeteres et integellum,
which chaste you-might-seek and untouched,

conserues puerum mihi pudice,
you-should-keep the-boy for-me chastely,
non dico a populo: nihil ueremur
not I-say from the-people: nothing we-fear
istos qui in platea modo huc modo illuc
those who in the-street now here now there
in re praetereunt sua occupati;
on business pass-by their-own occupied;
uerum a te metuo tuoque pene
but of you I-am-afraid and-your penis
infesto pueris bonis malisque.
hostile to-boys good and-bad.
quem tu qua libet, ut libet moueto
which you where it-pleases, as it-pleases move
quantum uis, ubi erit foris paratum:
as-much-as you-wish, when it-will-be outside ready:
hunc unum excipio, ut puto, pudenter.
this one I-except, as I-think, modestly.
quod si te mala mens furorque uecors
but if you an-evil mind and-frenzy mad
in tantam impulerit, sceleste, culpam,
into such shall-have-driven, wicked-one, a-fault,
ut nostrum insidiis caput lacessas,
that our with-plots head you-provoke,
ah tum te miserum malique fati,
ah then you wretched and-of-evil fate,
quem attractis pedibus patente porta
whom with-dragged-apart feet with-the-open door
percurrent raphanique mugilesque.
will-run-through and-radishes and-mullets.

Catullus threatens Aurelius and Furius, who have judged him unmanly from his soft little verses: a poet himself must be chaste, but his verses need not be, and have salt only if they are a little indecent and can stir even hairy men who cannot move their stiff loins.

Pedicabo ego uos et irrumabo,
I-will-bugger I you and will-face-fuck,
Aureli pathice et cinaede Furi,
Aurelius bottom and catamite Furius,
qui me ex uersiculis meis putastis,
who me from little-verses my have-thought,
quod sunt molliculi, parum pudicum.
because they-are soft, too-little chaste.
nam castum esse decet pium poetam
for chaste to-be befits the-dutiful poet
ipsum, uersiculos nihil necesse est,
himself, his-little-verses not-at-all necessary it-is,
qui tum denique habent salem ac leporem,
which then at-last have wit and charm,
si sunt molliculi ac parum pudici
if they-are soft and too-little chaste
et quod pruriat incitare possunt,
and what may-itch to-provoke can,
non dico pueris, sed his pilosis,
not I-say in-boys, but in-these hairy-men,
qui duros nequeunt mouere lumbos.
who stiff are-unable to-move loins.
uos quod milia multa basiorum
you because thousands many of-kisses

legistis, male me marem putatis?
have-read, badly me male do-you-think?
pedicabo ego uos et irrumabo.
I-will-bugger I you and will-face-fuck.

17 · THE BRIDGE AT COLONIA

Colonia wants to dance on its rickety bridge and fears it will collapse into the marsh. Catullus prays for a sound new bridge in return for one gift: let it throw headlong into the deepest mud a townsman of his, a dullard who leaves his young and lovely wife untended and lies like a felled alder, in the hope that the shock will wake him.

O Colonia, quae cupis ponte ludere longo,
O Colonia, who desire on-a-bridge to-play long,
et salire paratum habes, sed uereris inepta
and to-dance ready you-have, but you-fear the-unfit
crura ponticuli assulis stantis in rediuiuis,
legs of-the-little-bridge planks standing on patched,
ne supinus eat cauaque in palude recumbat,
lest flat-on-its-back it-go and-the-hollow in marsh lie-down,
sic tibi bonus ex tua pons libidine fiat,
so for-you a-good from your bridge desire may-be-made,
in quo uel Salisubsili sacra suscipiantur,
on which even of-Salisubsulus rites may-be-undertaken,
munus hoc mihi maximi da, Colonia, risus.
gift this to-me of-the-greatest give, Colonia, laughter.
quendam municipem meum de tuo uolo ponte
a-certain townsman my from your I-wish bridge
ire praecipitem in lutum per caputque pedesque,
to-go headlong into the-mud over and-head and-feet,

uerum totius ut lacus putidaeque paludis
but of-the-whole where the-lake and-of-the-stinking marsh
liuidissima maximeque est profunda uorago.
most-livid and-most is deep the-abyss.
insulsissimus est homo, nec sapit pueri instar
most-witless is the-man, nor he-has-sense of-a-boy like
bimuli tremula patris dormientis in ulna:
two-year-old trembling of-his-father sleeping on arm:
cui cum sit uiridissimo nupta flore puella
to-whom though there-is in-the-greenest married flower a-girl
(et puella tenellulo delicatior haedo,
(and a-girl than-a-tender kid more-delicate,
adseruanda nigerrimis diligentius uuis),
to-be-guarded than-blackest more-carefully grapes),
ludere hanc sinit ut libet, nec pili facit uni,
to-play her he-lets as it-pleases, nor of-a-hair cares single,
nec se subleuat ex sua parte, sed uelut alnus
nor himself raises from his part, but like an-alder
in fossa Liguri iacet suppernata securi,
in a-ditch by-Ligurian lies hamstrung axe,
tantundem omnia sentiens quam si nulla sit usquam,
just-as-much all-things perceiving as if none she-were anywhere,
talis iste meus stupor nil uidet, nihil audit,
such that my blockhead nothing sees, nothing hears,
ipse qui sit, utrum sit an non sit, id quoque nescit.
he-himself who he-is, whether he-is or not is, that also does-not-know.
nunc eum uolo de tuo ponte mittere pronum,
now him I-wish from your bridge to-send headlong,
si pote stolidum repente excitare ueternum
if possible his-stupid suddenly to-rouse lethargy

et supinum animum in graui derelinquere caeno,
and his-supine mind in heavy to-leave mud,
ferream ut soleam tenaci in uoragine mula.
iron as a-shoe tenacious in bog a-mule.

21 · AURELIUS THE HUNGRY

Aurelius, father of all hungers, is trying to seduce Catullus' boy, clinging to him and joking with him. Catullus warns that he will strike first, and regrets most that the boy will learn hunger and thirst from him.

Aureli, pater esuritionum,
Aurelius, father of-hungers,
non harum modo, sed quot aut fuerunt
not of-these only, but as-many-as either have-been
aut sunt aut aliis erunt in annis,
or are or other will-be in years,
pedicare cupis meos amores.
to-bugger you-desire my loves.
nec clam: nam simul es, iocaris una,
nor secretly: for together you-are, you-joke with-him,
haerens ad latus omnia experiris.
clinging to his-side all-things you-try.
frustra: nam insidias mihi instruentem
in-vain: for plots against-me building
tangam te prior irrumatione.
I-shall-touch you first with-face-fucking.
atque id si faceres satur, tacerem:
and that if you-did-it full, I-would-be-silent:

nunc ipsum id doleo, quod esurire,
now this-very that I-grieve, that to-go-hungry,
ah me me, puer et sitire discet.
ah me me, my-boy and to-thirst will-learn.
quare desine, dum licet pudico,
therefore stop, while it-is-allowed to-the-modest,
ne finem facias, sed irrumatus.
lest an-end you-make, but face-fucked.

22 · SUFFENUS

Suffenus is charming, witty, and urbane, and writes more verses than anyone, on royal paper and new rolls; but read them and he turns into a goatherd. Yet no one is so happy as when he writes. We all have our Suffenus side: everyone has his fault, but we do not see the pack on our own back.

Suffenus iste, Vare, quem probe nosti,
Suffenus that, Varus, whom well you-know,
homo est uenustus et dicax et urbanus,
a-man is graceful and witty and urbane,
idemque longe plurimos facit uersus.
and-the-same by-far the-most makes verses.
puto esse ego illi milia aut decem aut plura
I-think to-be I by-him thousands either ten or more
perscripta, nec sic, ut fit, in palimpsesto
written-out, nor so, as happens, on palimpsest
relata: chartae regiae, noui libri,
set-down: sheets royal, new books,
noui umbilici, lora, rubra membrana,
new knobs, straps, red parchment,

derecta plumbo et pumice omnia aequata.
ruled with-lead and with-pumice all smoothed.
haec cum legas tu, bellus ille et urbanus
these-things when you-read you, pretty that and urbane
Suffenus unus caprimulgus aut fossor
Suffenus a goat-milker or a-ditch-digger
rursus uidetur: tantum abhorret ac mutat.
again seems: so-much he-shrinks and changes.
hoc quid putemus esse? qui modo scurra
this what are-we-to-think to-be? he-who just-now a-wit
aut si quid hac re tritius uidebatur,
or if anything than-this thing more-polished seemed,
idem infaceto est infacetior rure
the-same than-the-witless is more-witless countryside
simul poemata attigit, neque idem unquam
as-soon-as poems he-has-touched, nor the-same ever
aeque est beatus ac poema cum scribit:
equally is happy as a-poem when he-writes:
tam gaudet in se tamque se ipse miratur.
so he-rejoices in himself and-so himself he admires.
nimirum idem omnes fallimur, neque est quisquam
doubtless the-same all we-are-deceived, nor is there-anyone
quem non in aliqua re uidere Suffenum
whom not in some thing to-see as-a-Suffenus
possis. suus cuique attributus est error,
you-could. his-own to-each assigned is error,
sed non uidemus manticae quod in tergo est.
but not we-see of-the-knapsack what on the-back is.

23 · FURIUS' FORTUNE

Catullus mocks the poverty of Furius, who has no slave or strongbox, only a father and stepmother who could eat stone: he fears no fire, no fall, no theft, his body is drier than horn, and his habits are frugal to the point of comedy. He should be content, and stop praying for a hundred thousand sesterces.

Furi, cui neque seruus est neque arca
Furius, to-whom neither a-slave is nor a-strongbox
nec cimex neque araneus neque ignis,
nor a-bedbug nor a-spider nor a-fire,
uerum est et pater et nouerca, quorum
but there-is both a-father and a-stepmother, whose
dentes uel silicem comesse possunt,
teeth even flint to-eat-up can,
est pulchre tibi cum tuo parente
it-is finely for-you with your parent
et cum coniuge lignea parentis.
and with the-wife wooden of-your-parent.
nec mirum: bene nam ualetis omnes,
nor a-wonder: well for you-are-healthy all,
pulchre concoquitis, nihil timetis,
finely you-digest, nothing you-fear,
non incendia, non graues ruinas,
not fires, not heavy collapses,
non furta impia, non dolos ueneni,
not thefts impious, not tricks of-poison,
non casus alios periculorum.
not chances other of-dangers.
atqui corpora sicciora cornu
and-yet bodies drier than-horn

aut si quid magis aridum est habetis
or if anything more dry is you-have
sole et frigore et esuritione.
from-sun and cold and hunger.
quare non tibi sit bene ac beate?
why not for-you should-it-be well and happily?
a te sudor abest, abest saliua,
from you sweat is-absent, is-absent spittle,
mucusque et mala pituita nasi.
and-mucus and evil phlegm of-the-nose.
hanc ad munditiem adde mundiorem,
this to neatness add a-neater,
quod culus tibi purior salillo est,
that your-arse for-you purer than-a-saltcellar is,
nec toto decies cacas in anno;
nor whole ten-times you-shit in year;
atque id durius est faba et lapillis,
and that harder is than-a-bean and little-stones,
quod tu si manibus teras fricesque,
which you if with-hands you-should-rub and-crumble,
non unquam digitum inquinare possis.
not ever a-finger to-soil you-could.
haec tu commoda tam beata, Furi,
these you advantages so blessed, Furius,
noli spernere nec putare parui,
do-not spurn nor think of-little,
et sestertia quae soles precari
and the-sesterces which you-are-wont to-pray-for
centum desine: nam satis beatu's.
a-hundred cease: for enough blessed-you-are.

Catullus tells the flower of the Juventii that he would rather he had given Midas' wealth to that man who has neither slave nor strongbox than let himself be loved by him. He may be pretty, but he has no slave and no strongbox.

O qui flosculus es Iuuentiorum,
O who the-little-flower are of-the-Juventii,
non horum modo, sed quot aut fuerunt
not of-these only, but as-many-as either have-been
aut posthac aliis erunt in annis,
or hereafter other will-be in years,
mallem diuitias Midae dedisses
I-would-rather the-riches of-Midas you-had-given
isti cui neque seruus est neque arca,
to-that-man to-whom neither a-slave is nor a-strongbox,
quam sic te sineres ab illo amari.
than so yourself you-should-let by him to-be-loved.
'quid? non est homo bellus?' inquies. est:
'what? not is a-man pretty?' you-will-say. he-is:
sed bello huic neque seruus est neque arca.
but to-pretty this-man neither a-slave is nor a-strongbox.
hoc tu quam libet abice eleuaque:
this you as it-pleases throw-away and-make-light-of:
nec seruum tamen ille habet neque arcam.
nor a-slave yet he has nor a-strongbox.

Thallus, softer than rabbit's fur and greedier than a storm, is to return the cloak, napkin, and embroidered Bithynian pieces he stole, or the whip will write its marks on his soft flanks and he will toss like a little ship in a raging sea.

Cinaede Thalle, mollior cuniculi capillo
Catamite Thallus, softer than-a-rabbit's fur
uel anseris medullula uel imula auricilla
or than-a-goose's marrow or than-the-lowest ear-tip
uel pene languido senis situque araneoso,
or than-a-penis limp of-an-old-man and-mold cobwebby,
idemque Thalle turbida rapacior procella,
and-the-same Thallus than-a-turbulent more-rapacious storm,
cum † diua mulier aries ostendit oscitantes,
when (corrupt) goddess woman rams shows yawning,
remitte pallium mihi meum quod inuolasti
send-back the-cloak to-me my which you-pounced-on
sudariumque Saetabum catagraphosque Thynos,
and-the-napkin Saetaban and-the-embroidered Bithynian,
inepte, quae palam soles habere tanquam auita.
silly-one, which openly you-are-wont to-have as-if ancestral.
quae nunc tuis ab unguibus reglutina et remitte,
which now your from claws unglue and send-back,
ne laneum latusculum manusque mollicellas
lest the-woolly little-flank and-hands soft-little
inusta turpiter tibi flagella conscribillent,
branded shamefully on-you the-lashes scribble,

et insolenter aestues uelut minuta magno
and unaccustomedly you-toss like a-tiny great
deprensa nauis in mari uesaniente uento.
caught ship on sea with-raging wind.

26 · THE MORTGAGE

Furius' little villa is exposed not to the south, west, north, or east wind, but to a mortgage of fifteen thousand two hundred: a dreadful, pestilent wind.

Furi, uillula uestra non ad Austri
Furius, the-little-villa your not to of-the-South-wind
flatus opposita est neque ad Fauoni
the-blasts exposed is nor to of-the-West-wind
nec saeui Boreae aut Apeliotae,
nor of-savage Boreas or of-Apeliotes,
uerum ad milia quindecim et ducentos.
but to thousands fifteen and two-hundred.
o uentum horribilem atque pestilentem!
o wind dreadful and pestilent!

27 · STRONGER WINE

Catullus bids the boy pour stronger Falernian, as the mistress of the feast commands, and sends water away to the sober: here the wine is pure.

Minister uetuli puer Falerni
Server of-old boy Falernian
inger mi calices amariores,
pour-in for-me cups more-bitter,

ut lex Postumiae iubet magistrae,
as the-law of-Postumia bids the-mistress,
ebrioso acino ebriosioris.
than-the-drunken grape more-drunken.
at uos quo libet hinc abite, lymphae,
but you where it-pleases hence go-off, waters,
uini pernicies, et ad seueros
of-wine the-ruin, and to the-severe
migrate: hic merus est Thyonianus.
migrate: here undiluted is the-Thyonian.

28 · PISO'S STAFF

Catullus asks Veranius and Fabullus, of Piso's empty staff, whether they made any profit; he made none under Memmius, who abused him at length. They seem to have fared no better. Let them seek noble friends: may the gods curse those disgraces of Romulus and Remus.

Pisonis comites, cohors inanis
Of-Piso companions, a-staff empty
aptis sarcinulis et expeditis,
with-fitted little-packs and light,
Verani optime tuque mi Fabulle,
Veranius best and-you my Fabullus,
quid rerum geritis? satisne cum isto
what of-affairs do-you-carry-on? enough with that
uappa frigoraque et famem tulistis?
swill and-cold and hunger have-you-borne?
ecquidnam in tabulis patet lucelli
anything-at-all in the-accounts is-plain of-little-profit

expensum, ut mihi, qui meum secutus
spent, as for-me, who my having-followed
praetorem refero datum lucello,
praetor I-enter what-was-given as-profit,
'o Memmi, bene me ac diu supinum
'o Memmius, well me and long on-my-back
tota ista trabe lentus irrumasti.'
with-whole that beam slowly you-face-fucked.'
sed, quantum uideo, pari fuistis
but, as-much-as I-see, in-equal you-have-been
casu: nam nihilo minore uerpa
plight: for with-nothing smaller a-prick
farti estis. pete nobiles amicos.
stuffed you-have-been. seek noble friends.
at uobis mala multa di deaeque
but to-you evils many the-gods and-goddesses
dent, opprobria Romuli Remique.
may-give, disgraces of-Romulus and-Remus.

29 · MAMURRA

Who can bear to see Mamurra take the wealth of Gaul and Britain? Catullus asks the catamite Romulus and the unique commander whether he went to the furthest island so that Mamurra could squander it, as he has squandered his inheritance, the Pontic spoils, and the Spanish gold; for this, father-in-law and son-in-law, you have ruined everything.

Quis hoc potest uidere, quis potest pati,
Who this can to-see, who can to-endure,
nisi impudicus et uorax et aleo,
unless shameless and greedy and a-gambler,

Mamurram habere quod comata Gallia
Mamurra to-have what long-haired Gaul
habebat ante et ultima Britannia?
had before and furthest Britain?
cinaede Romule, haec uidebis et feres?
catamite Romulus, these-things will-you-see and will-you-bear?
et ille nunc superbus et superfluens
and he now proud and overflowing
perambulabit omnium cubilia
will-stroll-through of-all the-bedrooms
ut albulus columbus aut Adoneus?
like a-white dove or Adonis?
cinaede Romule, haec uidebis et feres?
catamite Romulus, these-things will-you-see and will-you-bear?
es impudicus et uorax et aleo.
you-are shameless and greedy and a-gambler.
eone nomine, imperator unice,
was-it-on-that account, commander unique,
fuisti in ultima occidentis insula,
you-were on the-furthest of-the-west island,
ut ista uestra diffututa mentula
that that your fucked-out prick
ducenties comesset aut trecenties?
two-hundred-times should-eat-up or three-hundred-times?
quid est alid sinistra liberalitas?
what is else misplaced generosity?
parum expatrauit an parum elluatus est?
too-little did-he-squander or too-little gorged has-he?
paterna prima lancinata sunt bona;
paternal first torn-to-pieces were the-goods;

secunda praeda Pontica; inde tertia
second the-plunder Pontic; then third
Hibera, quam scit amnis aurifer Tagus.
the-Spanish, which knows the-river gold-bearing Tagus.
nunc Galliae timetur et Britanniae.
now for-Gaul there-is-fear and for-Britain.
quid hunc malum fouetis? aut quid hic potest
why this-man evil-thing do-you-cherish? or what this-man can
nisi uncta deuorare patrimonia?
unless greasy to-devour patrimonies?
eone nomine † urbis opulentissime
was-it-on-that account (corrupt) of-the-city most-wealthy
socer generque, perdidistis omnia?
father-in-law and-son-in-law, you-have-destroyed all-things?

30 · ALFENUS

Catullus reproaches Alfenus, the faithless friend who led him into love as if all were safe and now withdraws, letting his promises vanish in the wind. The gods and Faith remember, and will make him repent.

Alfene immemor atque unanimis false sodalibus,
Alfenus unmindful and to-like-minded false comrades,
iam te nil miseret, dure, tui dulcis amiculi?
now you not-at-all pities, hard-one, of-your sweet little-friend?
iam me prodere, iam non dubitas fallere, perfide?
now me to-betray, now not do-you-hesitate to-deceive, faithless-one?
nec facta impia fallacum hominum caelicolis placent;
nor the-deeds impious of-deceitful men to-the-heaven-dwellers are-pleasing;

quae tu neglegis, ac me miserum deseris in malis.
which you neglect, and me wretched you-desert in troubles.
eheu, quid faciant, dic, homines, cuiue habeant fidem?
alas, what are-they-to-do, tell, men, or-in-whom are-they-to-have faith?
certe tute iubebas animam tradere, inique, me
surely you-yourself bade my-soul to-hand-over, unjust-one, me
inducens in amorem, quasi tuta omnia mi forent.
leading into love, as-if safe all-things for-me were.
idem nunc retrahis te ac tua dicta omnia factaque
the-same now you-draw-back yourself and your words all and-deeds
uentos irrita ferre ac nebulas aerias sinis.
the-winds void to-carry and the-clouds airy you-allow.
si tu oblitus es, at di meminerunt, meminit Fides,
if you forgotten have, yet the-gods remember, remembers Faith,
quae te ut paeniteat postmodo facti faciet tui.
who you that it-may-repent afterward of-the-deed will-make your.

31 · SIRMIO

Catullus greets Sirmio, the jewel of all peninsulas and islands, glad to be home from Bithynia: nothing is happier than to lay down cares, come home weary, and rest in one's own bed. Let the lake's waves rejoice and the house laugh.

Paene insularum, Sirmio, insularumque
Almost of-islands, Sirmio, and-of-islands
ocelle, quascumque in liquentibus stagnis
little-eye, whatever on clear lakes
marique uasto fert uterque Neptunus,
and-sea vast bears either Neptune,

quam te libenter quamque laetus inuiso,
how you gladly and-how joyful I-visit,
uix mi ipse credens Thyniam atque Bithynos
hardly me myself believing Thynia and the-Bithynian
liquisse campos et uidere te in tuto!
to-have-left plains and to-see you in safety!
o quid solutis est beatius curis,
o what than-loosened is happier cares,
cum mens onus reponit, ac peregrino
when the-mind its-burden lays-down, and with-foreign
labore fessi uenimus larem ad nostrum
toil weary we-have-come hearth-god to our
desideratoque adquiescimus lecto?
and-in-the-longed-for we-rest bed?
hoc est quod unum est pro laboribus tantis.
this is what alone is for toils so-great.
salue, o uenusta Sirmio, atque ero gaude;
hail, o graceful Sirmio, and in-your-master rejoice;
gaudete uosque, o Lydiae lacus undae;
rejoice you-too, o Lydian of-the-lake waves;
ridete, quidquid est domi cachinnorum.
laugh, whatever is at-home of-laughter.

32 · IPSITHILLA

Catullus asks Ipsithilla to invite him for a siesta, to keep the door unbolted, stay at home, and ready nine bouts in a row for him, and if she will, to send at once, for he lies after lunch, full and ready.

Amabo, mea dulcis Ipsithilla,
Please, my sweet Ipsithilla,
meae deliciae, mei lepores,
my delight, my charms,
iube ad te ueniam meridiatum.
bid to you I-come for-a-siesta.
et si iusseris illud, adiuuato,
and if you-bid that, help,
ne quis liminis obseret tabellam,
lest anyone of-the-threshold bolt the-panel,
neu tibi libeat foras abire;
nor for-you may-it-please out to-go-off;
sed domi maneas paresque nobis
but at-home stay and-prepare for-us
nouem continuas fututiones.
nine continuous fuckings.
uerum, si quid ages, statim iubeto:
but, if anything you-will-do, at-once bid:
nam pransus iaceo et satur supinus
for having-lunched I-lie and full on-my-back
pertundo tunicamque palliumque.
I-poke-through and-tunic and-cloak.

33 · THE VIBENNII

Catullus attacks the father and son Vibennius, the thief of the baths and his catamite son, and tells them to go into exile, since the father's thefts are known and the son cannot sell his hairy buttocks for a penny.

O furum optime balneariorum
O of-thieves best bathhouse
Vibenni pater, et cinaede fili,
Vibennius father, and catamite son,
(nam dextra pater inquinatiore,
(for with-the-right-hand the-father more-filthy,
culo filius est uoraciore)
with-the-arse the-son is more-greedy)
cur non exsilium malasque in oras
why not exile and-evil to shores
itis, quandoquidem patris rapinae
do-you-go, since of-the-father the-plunderings
notae sunt populo, et natis pilosas,
known are to-the-people, and buttocks hairy,
fili, non potes asse uenditare?
son, not can-you for-a-penny to-sell?

A chorus of chaste girls and boys sings to Diana, daughter of Latona, born by the Delian olive to rule mountains, woods, and rivers, called Lucina by women in labor, Trivia, and Luna, who measures the year by her months and fills the farmer's barns. They pray her to keep Romulus' race safe.

Dianae sumus in fide
Of-Diana we-are in the-protection
puellae et pueri integri;
girls and boys chaste;
Dianam pueri integri
Diana boys chaste
puellaeque canamus.
and-girls let-us-sing.

o Latonia, maximi
o Latonia, of-the-greatest
magna progenies Iouis,
great offspring of-Jupiter,
quam mater prope Deliam
whom your-mother near the-Delian
deposiuit oliuam,
laid-down olive,

montium domina ut fores
of-the-mountains mistress that you-might-be
siluarumque uirentium
and-of-the-woods green
saltuumque reconditorum
and-of-the-glades secluded
amniumque sonantum;
and-of-the-rivers sounding;

tu Lucina dolentibus
you Lucina by-suffering
Iuno dicta puerperis,
Juno called women-in-labor,
tu potens Triuia et notho es
you powerful Trivia and with-borrowed are
dicta lumine Luna.
called light Luna.

tu cursu, dea, menstruo
you in-course, goddess, monthly
metiens iter annuum
measuring the-journey yearly
rustica agricolae bonis
the-rustic of-the-farmer with-good
tecta frugibus exples.
roofs fruits you-fill.

sis quocumque tibi placet
may-you-be by-whatever to-you it-pleases
sancta nomine, Romulique,
holy name, and-of-Romulus,
antique ut solita es, bona
of-old as wont you-have-been, with-good
sospites ope gentem.
may-you-keep-safe aid the-race.

35 · CAECILIUS' POEM

Catullus bids his papyrus tell the poet Caecilius to come to Verona from Comum, though his girl, who has loved him desperately since she read his unfinished poem on the Great Mother, begs him to stay. Catullus forgives her, for the poem is gracefully begun.

Poetae tenero, meo sodali
To-the-poet tender, my comrade
uelim Caecilio, papyre, dicas,
I-would-wish Caecilius, papyrus, you-to-tell,
Veronam ueniat, Noui relinquens
to-Verona he-should-come, of-New leaving
Comi moenia Lariumque litus:
Comum the-walls and-the-Larian shore:
nam quasdam uolo cogitationes
for certain I-wish thoughts
amici accipiat sui meique.
of-a-friend he-should-receive his and-mine.
quare, si sapiet, uiam uorabit,
therefore, if he-is-wise, the-road he-will-devour,

quamuis candida milies puella
although the-fair a-thousand-times girl
euntem reuocet manusque collo
going call-him-back and-hands on-his-neck
ambas iniciens roget morari,
both throwing should-ask-him to-delay,
quae nunc, si mihi uera nuntiantur,
who now, if to-me true-things are-reported,
illum deperit impotente amore:
him is-dying-for with-uncontrollable love:
nam quo tempore legit incohatam
for from-which time she-read begun
Dindymi dominam, ex eo misellae
of-Dindymus the-mistress, from that the-poor-girl's
ignes interiorem edunt medullam.
fires the-inner devour marrow.
ignosco tibi, Sapphica puella
I-pardon you, than-the-Sapphic girl
Musa doctior: est enim uenuste
Muse more-learned: has-been for gracefully
Magna Caecilio incohata Mater.
the-Great by-Caecilius begun Mother.

Catullus' girl vowed to burn the choicest work of the worst poet if he came back to her and stopped writing iambics; Catullus pays the vow with Volusius' Annals, shitted paper, and prays Venus to accept it.

Annales Volusi, cacata charta,
Annals of-Volusius, shitted paper,
uotum soluite pro mea puella:
the-vow pay for my girl:
nam sanctae Veneri Cupidinique
for to-holy Venus and-to-Cupid
uouit, si sibi restitutus essem
she-vowed, if to-her restored I-had-been
desissemque truces uibrare iambos,
and-I-had-ceased fierce to-hurl iambics,
electissima pessimi poetae
the-choicest of-the-worst poet
scripta tardipedi deo daturam
writings to-the-slow-footed god to-be-going-to-give
infelicibus ustilanda lignis.
with-unlucky to-be-burned logs.
et hoc pessima se puella uidit
and this the-worst herself girl saw
iocose lepide uouere diuis.
jokingly charmingly to-vow to-the-gods.
nunc, o caeruleo creata ponto,
now, o from-the-blue born sea,
quae sanctum Idalium Uriosque apertos,
who holy Idalium and-the-Urii open,

quaeque Ancona Cnidumque harundinosam
and-who Ancona and-Cnidus reedy
colis, quaeque Amathunta, quaeque Golgos,
inhabit, and-who Amathus, and-who Golgi,
quaeque Durrachium Hadriae tabernam,
and-who Dyrrachium of-the-Adriatic the-tavern,
acceptum face redditumque uotum,
received make and-paid the-vow,
si non inlepidum neque inuenustum est.
if not uncharming nor ungraceful it-is.
at uos interea uenite in ignem,
but you meanwhile come into the-fire,
pleni ruris et inficetiarum
full of-the-countryside and of-witlessness
Annales Volusi, cacata charta.
Annals of-Volusius, shitted paper.

37 · THE LECHEROUS TAVERN

Catullus threatens the lechers of the tavern, who think they alone may have all the girls; his girl, loved as none will be, sits among them, loved by all the petty back-alley adulterers, above all Egnatius, whose beard and teeth scrubbed with Spanish urine make him handsome.

Salax taberna uosque contubernales,
Lecherous tavern and-you tent-mates,
a pilleatis nona fratribus pila,
from the-felt-capped ninth brothers pillar,
solis putatis esse mentulas uobis,
alone do-you-think to-be pricks to-you,

solis licere quidquid est puellarum
alone to-be-allowed whatever is of-girls
confutuere et putare ceteros hircos?
to-fuck and to-think the-rest goats?
an, continenter quod sedetis insulsi
or, continuously because you-sit witless
centum an ducenti, non putatis ausurum
a-hundred or two-hundred, not do-you-think to-be-going-to-dare
me una ducentos irrumare sessores?
me at-once two-hundred to-face-fuck sitters?
atqui putate: namque totius uobis
and-yet think-it: for of-the-whole on-you
frontem tabernae sopionibus scribam.
the-front of-the-tavern with-pricks I-will-write.
puella nam mi, quae meo sinu fugit,
the-girl for my, who from-my lap has-fled,
amata tantum quantum amabitur nulla,
loved as-much as will-be-loved none,
pro qua mihi sunt magna bella pugnata,
for whom by-me have-been great wars fought,
consedit istic. hanc boni beatique
has-sat-down there. her good and-blessed
omnes amatis, et quidem, quod indignum est,
all you-love, and indeed, what unworthy is,
omnes pusilli et semitarii moechi:
all petty and back-alley adulterers:
tu praeter omnes une de capillatis,
you beyond all only-one of the-long-haired,
cuniculosae Celtiberiae fili,
of-rabbity Celtiberia son,

Egnati, opaca quem bonum facit barba
Egnatius, dark whom good makes a-beard
et dens Hibera defricatus urina.
and teeth with-Spanish scrubbed urine.

38 · CORNIFICIUS

Catullus is unwell and grows worse daily, and his friend Cornificius has sent no word of comfort. He asks for a little consolation, sadder than Simonides' tears.

Male est, Cornifici, tuo Catullo,
Badly it-is, Cornificius, with-your Catullus,
male est me hercule ei et laboriose,
badly it-is by hercules with-him and toilsomely,
et magis magis in dies et horas.
and more more by days and hours.
quem tu, quod minimum facillimumque est,
whom you, what least and-easiest is,
qua solatus es adlocutione?
with-what consoled have-you address?
irascor tibi. sic meos amores?
I-am-angry with-you. so my loves?
paulum quid libet adlocutionis,
a-little anything it-pleases of-address,
maestius lacrimis Simonideis.
sadder than-tears Simonidean.

Egnatius grins everywhere, at a trial, at a mother's funeral, to show his white teeth. Were he from anywhere else it would be silly, but he is a Celtiberian, and there men scrub their teeth with urine, so the whiter his teeth, the more he has drunk.

Egnatius, quod candidos habet dentes,
Egnatius, because white he-has teeth,
renidet usque quaque. si ad rei uentum est
grins everywhere at-all. if to of-a-defendant come it-has
subsellium, cum orator excitat fletum,
the-bench, when the-orator rouses weeping,
renidet ille. si ad pii rogum fili
grins he. if at of-a-dutiful the-pyre son
lugetur, orba cum flet unicum mater,
there-is-mourning, bereaved when weeps-for her-only-one a-mother,
renidet ille. quidquid est, ubicumque est,
grins he. whatever it-is, wherever it-is,
quodcumque agit, renidet. hunc habet morbum
whatever he-does, he-grins. this he-has disease
neque elegantem, ut arbitror, neque urbanum.
neither elegant, as I-judge, nor urbane.
quare monendum est te mihi, bone Egnati.
therefore to-be-warned it-is you by-me, good Egnatius.
si urbanus esses aut Sabinus aut Tiburs
if a-city-man you-were or a-Sabine or a-Tiburtine
aut parcus Umber aut obesus Etruscus
or a-thrifty Umbrian or a-fat Etruscan
aut Lanuuinus ater atque dentatus
or a-Lanuvian dark and toothy

aut Transpadanus, ut meos quoque attingam,
or a-Transpadane, that my-own also I-may-touch,
aut qui libet qui puriter lauit dentes,
or whoever it-pleases who cleanly washes his-teeth,
tamen renidere usque quaque te nollem;
still to-grin everywhere at-all you I-would-not-wish;
nam risu inepto res ineptior nulla est.
for than-laughter silly a-thing sillier none is.
nunc Celtiber es: Celtiberia in terra,
now a-Celtiberian you-are: Celtiberian in land,
quod quisque minxit, hoc sibi solet mane
what each has-pissed, with-this himself is-wont in-the-morning
dentem atque russam defricare gingiuam,
his-teeth and red to-scrub gum,
ut quo iste uester expolitior dens est,
so-that the-more that your more-polished tooth is,
hoc te amplius bibisse praedicet loti.
the-more you more to-have-drunk it-may-proclaim of-piss.

40 · RAVIDUS

Catullus asks what madness drives Ravidus headlong into his iambics. Does he want to be famous? He will be, since he has chosen to love Catullus' love, at a long cost.

Quaenam te mala mens, miselle Rauide,
What-in-the-world you evil mind, poor-little Ravidus,
agit praecipitem in meos iambos?
drives headlong into my iambics?
quis deus tibi non bene aduocatus
what god by-you not well summoned

uecordem parat excitare rixam?
a-mad prepares to-rouse quarrel?
an ut peruenias in ora uulgi?
or so-that you-may-come into the-mouths of-the-crowd?
quid uis? qua libet esse notus optas?
what do-you-wish? by-whatever it-pleases to-be known do-you-desire?
eris, quandoquidem meos amores
you-will-be, since my loves
cum longa uoluisti amare poena.
with long you-have-wished to-love punishment.

41 · AMEANA

Ameana, the bankrupt's sweetheart, has asked Catullus for ten thousand. Her relatives should call doctors: she is not sane, and has never looked in a mirror.

Ameana puella defututa
Ameana the-girl fucked-out
tota milia me decem poposcit,
whole thousands from-me ten has-demanded,
ista turpiculo puella naso,
that with-ugly-little girl nose,
decoctoris amica Formiani.
of-the-bankrupt the-sweetheart Formian.
propinqui, quibus est puella curae,
relatives, to-whom is the-girl a-care,
amicos medicosque conuocate:
friends and-doctors summon:

non est sana puella, nec rogare
not is sound the-girl, nor to-ask
qualis sit solet aes imaginosum.
what-like she-is she-is-wont the-bronze image-giving.

42 · THE NOTEBOOKS

Catullus summons his hendecasyllables to surround the adulteress who will not return his notebooks and to shout at her. When abuse does not move her, they try another tack: 'chaste and honest one, give back the notebooks.'

Adeste, hendecasyllabi, quot estis
Come-here, hendecasyllables, as-many-as you-are
omnes undique, quotquot estis omnes.
all from-everywhere, however-many you-are all.
iocum me putat esse moecha turpis
a-joke me thinks to-be the-adulteress ugly
et negat mihi uestra reddituram
and denies to-me your to-be-about-to-return
pugillaria, si pati potestis.
writing-tablets, if to-endure you-can.
persequamur eam, et reflagitemus.
let-us-pursue her, and let-us-demand-back.
quae sit quaeritis? illa quam uidetis
who she-is do-you-ask? she whom you-see
turpe incedere, mimice ac moleste
uglily to-strut, mime-like and annoyingly
ridentem catuli ore Gallicani.
laughing with-a-puppy's mouth Gallic.

circumsistite eam, et reflagitate:
surround her, and demand-back:
'moecha putida, redde codicillos,
'adulteress stinking, give-back the-notebooks,
redde, putida moecha, codicillos.'
give-back, stinking adulteress, the-notebooks.'
non assis facis? o lutum, lupanar,
not of-a-penny do-you-care? o mud, brothel,
aut si perditius potes quid esse.
or if more-depraved you-can anything to-be.
sed non est tamen hoc satis putandum.
but not is yet this enough to-be-thought.
quod si non aliud potest, ruborem
but if not another-way it-can, a-blush
ferreo canis exprimamus ore.
from-the-iron of-the-bitch let-us-press-out face.
conclamate iterum altiore uoce
cry-out again with-higher voice
'moecha putida, redde codicillos,
'adulteress stinking, give-back the-notebooks,
redde, putida moecha, codicillos.'
give-back, stinking adulteress, the-notebooks.'
sed nil proficimus, nihil mouetur.
but nothing we-gain, nothing is-moved.
mutanda est ratio modusque nobis,
to-be-changed is the-plan and-the-method for-us,
si quid proficere amplius potestis,
if anything to-gain more you-can,
'pudica et proba, redde codicillos.'
'chaste and honest, give-back the-notebooks.'

Catullus greets the bankrupt's sweetheart, whose nose, feet, eyes, fingers, mouth, and tongue are none of them fine. Does the province call her pretty and compare her with Lesbia? O foolish age.

Salue, nec minimo puella naso
Greetings, neither with-smallest girl nose
nec bello pede nec nigris ocellis
nor with-pretty foot nor with-black little-eyes
nec longis digitis nec ore sicco
nor with-long fingers nor with-mouth dry
nec sane nimis elegante lingua,
nor truly too with-elegant tongue,
decoctoris amica Formiani.
of-the-bankrupt the-sweetheart Formian.
ten prouincia narrat esse bellam?
is-it-you the-province tells to-be pretty?
tecum Lesbia nostra comparatur?
with-you Lesbia our is-compared?
o saeclum insapiens et infacetum!
o age foolish and witless!

Catullus thanks his farm, Sabine or Tiburtine, where he cured a cough he caught by reading Sestius' speech against Antius. If he reads Sestius again, may the chill strike Sestius himself.

O funde noster seu Sabine seu Tiburs
O farm our whether Sabine or Tiburtine
(nam te esse Tiburtem autumant quibus non est
(for you to-be Tiburtine assert they-to-whom not is
cordi Catullum laedere: at quibus cordi est
to-heart Catullus to-hurt: but those-to-whom to-heart it-is
quouis Sabinum pignore esse contendunt),
at-any Sabine stake to-be contend),
sed seu Sabine siue uerius Tiburs,
but whether Sabine or more-truly Tiburtine,
fui libenter in tua suburbana
I-was gladly in your suburban
uilla malamque pectore expuli tussim,
villa and-the-evil from-my-breast I-expelled cough,
non immerenti quam mihi meus uenter,
not undeserving which to-me my belly,
dum sumptuosas adpeto, dedit, cenas.
while sumptuous I-seek, gave, dinners.
nam, Sestianus dum uolo esse conuiua,
for, of-Sestius while I-wish to-be a-guest,
orationem in Antium petitorem
a-speech against Antius the-candidate
plenam ueneni et pestilentiae legi.
full of-poison and pestilence I-read.

hic me grauido frigida et frequens tussis
here me a-heavy-cold chilly and frequent cough
quassauit usque dum in tuum sinum fugi
shook continually until into your bosom I-fled
et me recuraui otioque et urtica.
and myself I-cured and-with-leisure and with-nettle.
quare refectus maximas tibi grates
therefore restored greatest to-you thanks
ago, meum quod non es ulta peccatum.
I-give, my that not you-have avenged offense.
nec deprecor iam, si nefaria scripta
nor I-pray-against now, if wicked the-writings
Sesti recepso, quin grauedinem et tussim
of-Sestius I-take-back, that a-cold and cough
non mi, sed ipsi Sestio ferat frigus,
not to-me, but himself to-Sestius may-bring the-chill,
qui tunc uocat me cum malum librum legi.
who then invites me when an-evil book I-have-read.

45 · ACME AND SEPTIMIUS

Septimius swears that he loves Acme desperately and will love her always; Acme answers that her love burns even more fiercely. Love sneezes approval to each, and the two love and are loved, Septimius preferring Acme to Syria and Britain, she faithful to him alone: who has seen happier lovers?

Acmen Septimius suos amores
Acme Septimius his loves
tenens in gremio 'mea,' inquit, 'Acme,
holding in his-lap 'my,' he-says, 'Acme,

ni te perdite amo atque amare porro
unless you desperately I-love and to-love further
omnes sum adsidue paratus annos
all I-am constantly ready years
quantum qui pote plurimum perire,
as-much-as he-who is-able most to-perish,
solus in Libya Indiaque tosta
alone in Libya and-India scorched
caesio ueniam obuius leoni.'
a-gray-eyed may-I-come facing lion.'
hoc ut dixit, Amor, sinistra ut ante,
this when he-said, Love, on-the-left as before,
dextra sternuit adprobationem.
on-the-right sneezed approval.
at Acme leuiter caput reflectens
but Acme lightly her-head bending-back
et dulcis pueri ebrios ocellos
and of-the-sweet boy the-drunken little-eyes
illo purpureo ore sauiata
with-that purple mouth having-kissed
'sic,' inquit, 'mea uita, Septimille,
'so,' she-says, 'my life, little-Septimius,
huic uni domino usque seruiamus,
to-this one master always let-us-be-slaves,
ut multo mihi maior acriorque
as much in-me greater and-fiercer
ignis mollibus ardet in medullis.'
a-fire soft burns in marrow.'
hoc ut dixit, Amor, sinistra ut ante,
this when she-said, Love, on-the-left as before,

dextra sternuit adprobationem.
on-the-right sneezed approval.
nunc ab auspicio bono profecti
now from omen good having-set-out
mutuis animis amant amantur.
with-mutual hearts they-love are-loved.
unam Septimius misellus Acmen
one Septimius poor-little Acme
mauult quam Syrias Britanniasque:
prefers than Syrias and-Britains:
uno in Septimio fidelis Acme
one in Septimius faithful Acme
facit delicias libidinesque.
makes delights and-pleasures.
quis ullos homines beatiores
who any people happier
uidit, quis Venerem auspicatiorem?
has-seen, who a-Venus more-auspicious?

46 · SPRING DEPARTURE

Spring has come, the equinoctial gales have dropped, and Catullus will leave the plains of Phrygia for the famous cities of Asia; his mind longs to wander. He bids farewell to his companions, whom different roads will bring home.

Iam uer egelidos refert tepores,
Now spring unchilled brings-back warmths,
iam caeli furor aequinoctialis
now of-the-sky the-fury equinoctial

iucundis Zephyri silescit auris.
at-the-pleasant of-Zephyr falls-silent breezes.
linquantur Phrygii, Catulle, campi
let-be-left the-Phrygian, Catullus, plains
Nicaeaeque ager uber aestuosae:
and-of-Nicaea the-field fertile sweltering:
ad claras Asiae uolemus urbes.
to the-bright of-Asia let-us-fly cities.
iam mens praetrepidans auet uagari,
now the-mind trembling-ahead longs to-wander,
iam laeti studio pedes uigescunt.
now glad with-zeal the-feet grow-strong.
o dulces comitum ualete coetus,
o sweet of-companions farewell gatherings,
longe quos simul a domo profectos
far whom together from home having-set-out
diuersae uariae uiae reportant.
different various roads bring-back.

47 · PORCIUS AND SOCRATION

Catullus asks whether Piso's two left hands, Porcius and Socration, are preferred to Veranius and Fabullus, feasting by day while his friends seek invitations at the crossroads.

Porci et Socration, duae sinistrae
Porcius and Socration, two left-hands
Pisonis, scabies famesque mundi,
of-Piso, the-mange and-hunger of-the-world,

uos Veraniolo meo et Fabullo
you to-little-Veranius my and Fabullus
uerpus praeposuit Priapus ille?
the-circumcised has-preferred Priapus that?
uos conuiuia lauta sumptuose
you banquets elegant sumptuously
de die facitis? mei sodales
from day do-you-make? my comrades
quaerunt in triuio uocationes?
seek at the-crossroads invitations?

48 · JUVENTIUS' EYES

If he were allowed to kiss Juventius' eyes, Catullus would kiss them three hundred thousand times and never be satisfied, though the crop of kisses were thicker than ears of grain.

Mellitos oculos tuos, Iuuenti,
Honey-sweet the-eyes your, Juventius,
siquis me sinat usque basiare,
if-anyone me should-let constantly to-kiss,
usque ad milia basiem trecenta,
constantly to thousands I-would-kiss three-hundred,
nec unquam uidear satur futurus,
nor ever I-would-seem full to-be-going-to-be,
non si densior aridis aristis
not if denser than-dry ears-of-grain
sit nostrae seges osculationis.
were of-our the-crop kissing.

Catullus thanks Cicero, most eloquent of Romulus' descendants, as the worst of all poets thanks the best of all advocates.

Disertissime Romuli nepotum,
Most-eloquent of-Romulus of-the-descendants,
quot sunt quotque fuere, Marce Tulli,
as-many-as are and-as-many-as have-been, Marcus Tullius,
quotque post aliis erunt in annis,
and-as-many-as after other will-be in years,
gratias tibi maximas Catullus
thanks to-you greatest Catullus
agit pessimus omnium poeta,
gives worst of-all poet,
tanto pessimus omnium poeta
by-so-much worst of-all poet
quanto tu optimus omnium patronus.
by-as-much-as you best of-all advocate.

After a day of trading playful verses with Licinius over wine, Catullus went home so inflamed by his wit that he could neither eat nor sleep and tossed all night longing for dawn; this poem shows his pain. Let Licinius not spurn his prayers, lest Nemesis punish him.

Hesterno, Licini, die otiosi
On-yesterday's, Licinius, day idle
multum lusimus in meis tabellis,
much we-played on my tablets,
ut conuenerat esse delicatos.
as it-had-been-agreed to-be self-indulgent.
scribens uersiculos uterque nostrum
writing little-verses each of-us
ludebat numero modo hoc modo illoc,
was-playing in-meter now this now that,
reddens mutua per iocum atque uinum.
giving-back in-turn through jest and wine.
atque illinc abii tuo lepore
and from-there I-went-off by-your charm
incensus, Licini, facetiisque,
inflamed, Licinius, and-by-wit,
ut nec me miserum cibus iuuaret,
so-that neither me wretched food helped,
nec somnus tegeret quiete ocellos,
nor sleep covered with-quiet my-little-eyes,
sed toto indomitus furore lecto
but over-whole untamed with-frenzy bed
uersarer cupiens uidere lucem,
I-tossed desiring to-see the-light,

ut tecum loquerer simulque ut essem.
that with-you I-might-talk and-together that I-might-be.
at defessa labore membra postquam
but worn-out with-toil my-limbs after
semimortua lectulo iacebant,
half-dead on-the-little-bed lay,
hoc, iucunde, tibi poema feci,
this, pleasant-one, for-you poem I-made,
ex quo perspiceres meum dolorem.
from which you-might-see-through my pain.
nunc audax caue sis, precesque nostras,
now bold beware you-be, and-prayers our,
oramus, caue despuas, ocelle,
we-beg, beware you-spit-out, little-eye,
ne poenas Nemesis reposcat a te.
lest punishment Nemesis demand from you.
est uehemens dea: laedere hanc caueto.
she-is violent a-goddess: to-offend her beware.

He seems equal to a god who sits facing Lesbia and hears her laugh; at the sight of her Catullus loses his senses: his tongue grows numb, a flame runs through his limbs, his ears ring, his eyes are covered with night. Leisure, he tells himself, is his trouble; it has ruined kings and cities before.

Ille mi par esse deo uidetur,
He to-me equal to-be to-a-god seems,
ille, si fas est, superare diuos
he, if right it-is, to-surpass the-gods
qui sedens aduersus identidem te
who sitting opposite again-and-again you
spectat et audit
watches and hears

dulce ridentem, misero quod omnis
sweetly laughing, from-wretched which all
eripit sensus mihi: nam simul te,
snatches senses me: for as-soon-as you,
Lesbia, adspexi, nihil est super mi
Lesbia, I-have-looked-at, nothing is left of-me
* * *
(lacuna)

lingua sed torpet, tenuis sub artus
the-tongue but grows-numb, thin under limbs
flamma demanat, sonitu suopte
a-flame flows-down, with-sound their-own
tintinant aures, gemina teguntur
ring the-ears, twin are-covered
lumina nocte.
the-eyes with-night.

otium, Catulle, tibi molestum est:
leisure, Catullus, to-you troublesome is:
otio exsultas nimiumque gestis.
in-leisure you-exult and-too-much you-run-riot.
otium et reges prius et beatas
leisure both kings before and blessed
perdidit urbes.
has-destroyed cities.

52 · WHY DELAY

Why does Catullus not die, when the wen Nonius sits in the curule chair and Vatinius swears falsely by his consulship?

Quid est, Catulle? quid moraris emori?
What is-it, Catullus? why do-you-delay to-die?
sella in curuli struma Nonius sedet,
the-chair on curule the-wen Nonius sits,

per consulatum perierat Vatinius:
by the-consulship forswears Vatinius:
quid est, Catulle? quid moraris emori?
what is-it, Catullus? why do-you-delay to-die?

53 · THE LITTLE PRICK

Catullus laughed at a man in the crowd who, when his Calvus had marvelously set out the charges against Vatinius, raised his hands and cried in wonder: gods, what an eloquent little prick!

Risi nescio quem modo e corona,
I-laughed-at I-know-not whom just-now from the-crowd,
qui, cum mirifice Vatiniana
who, when marvelously the-Vatinian
meus crimina Caluus explicasset,
my charges Calvus had-unfolded,
admirans ait haec manusque tollens
wondering says these-things and-his-hands raising
'di magni, salaputium disertum!'
'gods great, a-little-prick eloquent!'

Catullus mocks the tiny head of Otho, someone's half-washed rustic legs, and the fart of Libo, wishes they might displease the addressee and old Fuficius, and expects the unique commander to be angry at his undeserving iambics again.

Othonis caput oppido est pusillum,
Of-Otho the-head very is tiny,
* * *
(lacuna)
et eri rustica semilauta crura,
and of-the-master the-rustic half-washed legs,
subtile et leue peditum Libonis,
the-subtle and light fart of-Libo,
* * *
(lacuna)
si non omnia, displicere uellem
if not all, to-displease I-would-wish
tibi et Fuficio, seni recocto
you and Fuficius, the-old-man recooked
* * *
(lacuna)
irascere iterum meis iambis
you-will-be-angry again at-my iambics
immerentibus, unice imperator.
undeserving, unique commander.

55 · WHERE ARE YOU

Catullus has searched for Camerius everywhere, in the field, the circus, the bookshops, and the temple, and questioned every woman in Pompey's colonnade. He begs him to say where he is hiding, and whether a girl holds him, for Venus delights in talk.

Oramus, si forte non molestum est,
We-beg, if perhaps not troublesome it-is,
demonstres ubi sint tuae tenebrae.
you-should-show where are your shadows.
te campo quaesiuimus minore,
you on-the-field we-have-sought smaller,
te in circo, te in omnibus libellis,
you in the-circus, you in all bookshops,
te in templo summi Iouis sacrato.
you in the-temple of-highest Jupiter holy.
in Magni simul ambulatione
in of-Magnus at-the-same-time the-colonnade
femellas omnes, amice, prendi,
the-little-women all, friend, I-seized,
quas uultu uidi tamen serenas.
whom with-face I-saw yet calm.
† a uelte sic ipse flagitabam:
(corrupt) ah or-you so I-myself was-demanding:
'Camerium mihi, pessimae puellae!'
'Camerius to-me, worst girls!'
quaedam inquit nudum † reduc...
a-certain-one says naked (corrupt) lead-back...
'en hic in roseis latet papillis.'
'look here in rosy hides nipples.'

sed te iam ferre Herculi labos est:
but you now to-bear of-Hercules a-labor it-is:
tanto ten fastu negas, amice?
with-so-great yourself disdain do-you-deny, friend?
dic nobis ubi sis futurus, ede
tell us where you-are going-to-be, bring-it-out
audacter, committe, crede luci.
boldly, entrust-it, trust to-the-light.
nunc te lacteolae tenent puellae?
now you milk-white hold girls?
si linguam clauso tenes in ore,
if the-tongue shut you-hold in mouth,
fructus proicies amoris omnes:
the-fruits you-will-throw-away of-love all:
uerbosa gaudet Venus loquella.
wordy delights Venus in-chatter.
uel si uis, licet obseres palatum,
or if you-wish, it-is-allowed bolt your-palate,
dum ueri sis particeps amoris.
provided-that of-true you-be a-sharer love.

56 · A FUNNY THING

Catullus tells Cato of a ridiculous thing: he caught a little boy thrusting at a girl and struck him, with Dione's leave, using his own rigid weapon for a spear.

O rem ridiculam, Cato, et iocosam
O thing ridiculous, Cato, and jocular
dignamque auribus et tuo cachinno.
and-worthy of-ears and of-your laughter.

ride, quidquid amas, Cato, Catullum:
laugh, as-much-as you-love, Cato, Catullus:
res est ridicula et nimis iocosa.
the-thing is ridiculous and too jocular.
deprendi modo pupulum puellae
I-caught just-now a-little-boy of-a-girl
trusantem: hunc ego, si placet Dionae,
thrusting: him I, if it-pleases Dione,
pro telo rigida mea cecidi.
for spear with-rigid my I-struck.

57 · MAMURRA AND CAESAR

Mamurra and Caesar suit each other well, two shameless catamites with matching stains, rivals and partners for girls.

Pulchre conuenit improbis cinaedis,
Finely there-is-agreement-between the-shameless catamites,
Mamurrae pathicoque Caesarique.
Mamurra the-bottom and-Caesar.
nec mirum: maculae pares utrisque,
nor a-wonder: stains equal on-both,
urbana altera et illa Formiana,
of-the-city the-one and that Formian,
impressae resident nec eluentur:
stamped stay nor will-be-washed-out:
morbosi pariter gemelli utrique,
diseased equally twins both,
uno in lecticulo erudituli ambo,
one on little-couch little-learned both,

non hic quam ille magis uorax adulter,
not this-one than that-one more greedy adulterer,
riuales socii puellularum:
rivals partners of-little-girls:
pulchre conuenit improbis cinaedis.
finely there-is-agreement-between the-shameless catamites.

58 · LESBIA NOW

Catullus tells Caelius that Lesbia, whom he loved more than himself and all his own, now strips the descendants of Remus at the crossroads and alleys.

Caeli, Lesbia nostra, Lesbia illa,
Caelius, Lesbia our, Lesbia that,
illa Lesbia, quam Catullus unam
that Lesbia, whom Catullus alone
plus quam se atque suos amauit omnes,
more than himself and his-own loved all,
nunc in quadriuiis et angiportis
now at crossroads and alleys
glubit magnanimi Remi nepotes.
shucks of-great-souled Remus the-descendants.

Even if he were that guardian of the Cretans, or flew on Pegasus, or ran like Ladas or Perseus, Catullus would be worn out seeking Camerius.

Non custos si fingar ille Cretum,
Not the-guardian if I-were-fashioned that of-the-Cretans,
non si Pegaseo ferar uolatu,
not if on-Pegasean I-were-borne flight,
non Ladas ego pinnipesue Perseus,
not Ladas I or-wing-footed Perseus,
non Rhesi niueae citaeque bigae:
not of-Rhesus the-snow-white and-swift two-horse-team:
adde huc plumipedes uolatilesque,
add to-this the-feather-footed and-flying-ones,
uentorumque simul require cursum,
and-of-the-winds at-the-same-time demand the-course,
quos uinctos, Cameri, mihi dicares:
which yoked, Camerius, to-me you-might-dedicate:
defessus tamen omnibus medullis
worn-out yet in-all marrow
et multis langoribus peresus
and by-many languors eaten-through
essem te mihi, amice, quaeritando.
I-would-be you for-me, friend, by-seeking.

59 · RUFA

Rufa of Bologna, wife of Menenius, sucks off Rufulus; she is often seen snatching food from the pyres in the cemeteries and being beaten by the half-shaven burner as she chases the bread rolling from the fire.

Bononiensis Rufa Rufulum fellat,
Bolognese Rufa little-Rufus sucks,
uxor Meneni, saepe quam in sepulcretis
the-wife of-Menenius, often whom in cemeteries
uidistis ipso rapere de rogo cenam,
you-have-seen very to-snatch from pyre dinner,
cum deuolutum ex igne prosequens panem
when rolled-down from the-fire chasing bread
ab semiraso tunderetur ustore.
by the-half-shaven she-was-beaten burner.

60 · A LIONESS

Catullus asks whether a lioness of the Libyan mountains or Scylla bore the one who despises a suppliant's cry in his last need.

Num te leaena montibus Libystinis
Surely-not you a-lioness on-the-mountains Libyan
aut Scylla latrans infima inguinum parte
or Scylla barking at-the-lowest of-the-groin part
tam mente dura procreauit ac taetra,
so with-mind hard bore and foul,

ut supplicis uocem in nouissimo casu
that of-a-suppliant the-voice in the-last misfortune
contemptam haberes, ah nimis fero corde?
despised you-should-hold, ah too with-savage heart?

61 · WEDDING HYMN FOR MANLIUS

The poet calls Hymen, son of Urania, from Helicon to the wedding of Vinia and Manlius: he is to come garlanded and singing, and the maidens are to sing his name, since no god does more for lovers, houses, or lands. The doors are opened and the bride, held back by modesty and weeping, is urged to come forth as the torches shake their flames. The boys are to raise the torches, the Fescennine jests begin, and the concubine is told to give the boys their nuts. The bride crosses the threshold, the husband waits on his couch, and the poet wishes the couple a little Torquatus who will smile at his father and show his mother's chastity in his face, then bids the maidens shut the doors.

Collis o Heliconii
Of-the-hill o Heliconian
cultor, Uraniae genus,
dweller, of-Urania offspring,
qui rapis teneram ad uirum
who seize the-tender to her-husband
uirginem, o Hymenaee Hymen,
maiden, o Hymenaeus Hymen,
o Hymen Hymenaee,
o Hymen Hymenaeus,

cinge tempora floribus
bind your-temples with-flowers
suaue olentis amaraci,
sweetly of-smelling marjoram,
flammeum cape, laetus huc,
the-bridal-veil take, glad hither,
huc ueni niueo gerens
hither come on-snowy wearing
luteum pede soccum,
the-saffron foot slipper,

excitusque hilari die
and-roused on-the-cheerful day
nuptialia concinens
wedding singing-together
uoce carmina tinnula
with-voice songs ringing
pelle humum pedibus, manu
strike the-ground with-feet, with-hand
pineam quate taedam.
the-pine shake torch.

namque Vinia Manlio,
for Vinia to-Manlius,
qualis Idalium colens
such-as Idalium dwelling-in
uenit ad Phrygium Venus
came to the-Phrygian Venus

iudicem, bona cum bona
judge, good with good
nubet alite uirgo,
will-marry omen a-maiden,

floridis uelut enitens
with-flowering like shining
myrtus Asia ramulis,
a-myrtle Asian sprays,
quos hamadryades deae
which the-hamadryad goddesses
ludicrum sibi rosido
as-a-plaything for-themselves with-dewy
nutriunt umore.
nourish moisture.

quare age huc aditum ferens
therefore come hither approach bringing
perge linquere Thespiae
proceed to-leave of-Thespian
rupis Aonios specus,
rock the-Aonian caves,
nympha quos super irrigat
the-nymph which from-above waters
frigerans Aganippe,
cooling Aganippe,

ac domum dominam uoca
and to-the-house the-mistress call
coniugis cupidam noui,
for-her-husband eager new,
mentem amore reuinciens
her-mind with-love binding-fast
ut tenax hedera huc et huc
as clinging ivy here and there
arborem implicat errans.
the-tree entwines wandering.

uosque item simul, integrae
and-you likewise together, chaste
uirgines, quibus aduenit
maidens, to-whom comes
par dies, agite in modum
a-like day, come in measure
dicite, 'o Hymenaee Hymen,
say, 'o Hymenaeus Hymen,
o Hymen Hymenaee.'
o Hymen Hymenaeus.'

ut libentius, audiens
so-that more-willingly, hearing
se citarier ad suum
himself to-be-summoned to his
munus, huc aditum ferat
office, hither approach he-may-bring

dux bonae Veneris, boni
the-leader of-good Venus, of-good
coniugator amoris.
the-joiner love.

quis deus magis anxiis
what god more by-anxious
est petendus amantibus?
is to-be-sought lovers?
quem colent homines magis
whom will-worship men more
caelitum? o Hymenaee Hymen,
of-the-heaven-dwellers? o Hymenaeus Hymen,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

te suis tremulus parens
you for-his-own trembling the-parent
inuocat, tibi uirgines
invokes, for-you maidens
zonula soluunt sinus,
from-the-little-girdle loose their-folds,
te timens cupida nouus
you fearing with-eager new
captat aure maritus.
catches ear husband.

tu fero iuueni in manus
you to-the-fierce youth into the-hands
floridam ipse puellulam
the-flowering yourself little-girl
dedis a gremio suae
give from the-lap of-her-own
matris, o Hymenaee Hymen,
mother, o Hymenaeus Hymen,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

nil potest sine te Venus
nothing can without you Venus
fama quod bona comprobet
by-fame which good may-approve
commodi capere: at potest
of-advantage to-take: but she-can
te uolente. quis huic deo
you willing. who with-this god
compararier ausit?
to-be-compared would-dare?

nulla quit sine te domus
no can without you house
liberos dare, nec parens
children to-give, nor a-parent
stirpe nitier: at potest
on-offspring to-lean: but it-can

te uolente. quis huic deo
you willing. who with-this god
compararier ausit?
to-be-compared would-dare?

quae tuis careat sacris
which your should-lack rites
non queat dare praesides
not could to-give guardians
terra finibus: at queat
a-land to-its-borders: but it-could
te uolente. quis huic deo
you willing. who with-this god
compararier ausit?
to-be-compared would-dare?

claustra pandite ianuae,
the-bolts open of-the-door,
uirgo adest. uiden ut faces
the-maiden is-here. do-you-see how the-torches
splendidas quatiunt comas?
shining shake their-tresses?
* * *
(lacuna)
* * *
(lacuna)

* * *

(lacuna)

* * *

(lacuna)

tardet ingenuus pudor:
delays inborn modesty:
quem tamen magis audiens
which yet more hearing
flet quod ire necesse est.
she-weeps because to-go necessary it-is.

flere desine. non tibi, Au-
to-weep cease. not for-you, Au-
runculeia, periculum est
runculeia, danger is
ne qua femina pulchrior
lest any woman more-beautiful
clarum ab Oceano diem
the-bright from the-Ocean day
uiderit uenientem.
have-seen coming.

talis in uario solet
such in the-varied is-wont
diuitis domini hortulo
of-a-rich master little-garden
stare flos hyacinthinus.
to-stand the-flower hyacinth.

sed moraris, abit dies:
but you-delay, goes-away the-day:
prodeas, noua nupta.
come-forth, new bride.

prodeas, noua nupta, si
come-forth, new bride, if
iam uidetur, et audias
now it-seems-good, and hear
nostra uerba. uide ut faces
our words. see how the-torches
aureas quatiunt comas:
golden shake their-tresses:
prodeas, noua nupta.
come-forth, new bride.

non tuus leuis in mala
not your light in evil
deditus uir adultera
given husband adulterous
probra turpia persequens
disgraces base pursuing
a tuis teneris uolet
from your tender will-wish
secubare papillis,
to-sleep-apart nipples,

lenta quin uelut adsitas
pliant but as the-planted-near
uitis implicat arbores,
vine entwines trees,
implicabitur in tuum
he-will-be-entwined into your
complexum. sed abit dies:
embrace. but goes-away the-day:
prodeas, noua nupta.
come-forth, new bride.

o cubile quod omnibus
o bed which to-all
* * *
(lacuna)
* * *
(lacuna)
* * *
(lacuna)
candido pede lecti,
with-white foot of-the-couch,

quae tuo ueniunt ero,
what to-your come master,
quanta gaudia, quae uaga
how-great joys, which in-the-wandering
nocte, quae medio die
night, which in-mid day

gaudeat! sed abit dies:
he-may-rejoice! but goes-away the-day:
prodeas, noua nupta.
come-forth, new bride.

tollite, o pueri, faces:
raise, o boys, the-torches:
flammeum uideo uenire.
the-bridal-veil I-see to-come.
ite, concinite in modum
go, sing-together in measure
'o Hymen Hymenaee io,
'o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.'
o Hymen Hymenaeus.'

ne diu taceat procax
lest long be-silent the-bold
fescennina iocatio,
fescennine jesting,
nec nuces pueris neget
nor nuts to-the-boys deny
desertum domini audiens
deserted his-master's hearing
concubinus amorem.
the-concubine love.

da nuces pueris, iners
give nuts to-the-boys, idle
concubine: satis diu
concubine: enough long
lusisti nucibus: libet
you-have-played with-nuts: it-pleases
iam seruire Talasio.
now to-serve Talasius.
concubine, nuces da.
concubine, nuts give.

sordebant tibi uilicae,
were-vile to-you the-farm-wives,
concubine, hodie atque heri:
concubine, today and yesterday:
nunc tuum cinerarius
now your the-hairdresser
tondet os. miser ah miser
shaves face. wretched ah wretched
concubine, nuces da.
concubine, nuts give.

diceris male te a tuis
you-will-be-said badly yourself from your
unguentate glabris marite
perfumed smooth-ones bridegroom
abstinere: sed abstine.
to-abstain: but abstain.

o Hymen Hymenaee io,
o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

scimus haec tibi quae licent
we-know these-things to-you which are-allowed
sola cognita: sed marito
alone known: but to-a-husband
ista non eadem licent.
those not the-same are-allowed.
o Hymen Hymenaee io,
o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

nupta, tu quoque quae tuus
bride, you too what your
uir petet caue ne neges,
husband will-seek beware lest you-deny,
ne petitum aliunde eat.
lest to-seek elsewhere he-go.
o Hymen Hymenaee io,
o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

en tibi domus ut potens
look for-you the-house how powerful
et beata uiri tui:
and blessed of-husband your:
quae tibi sine seruiat
which to-you allow it-may-serve
(o Hymen Hymenaee io,
(o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee).
o Hymen Hymenaeus).

usque dum tremulum mouens
constantly until trembling moving
cana tempus anilitas
white-haired the-temple old-age
omnia omnibus adnuit.
all-things to-all nods-to.
o Hymen Hymenaee io,
o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

transfer omine cum bono
carry-across omen with good
limen aureolos pedes,
the-threshold (your)-little-golden feet,
rasilemque subi forem.
and-the-polished go-under door.

o Hymen Hymenaee io,
o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

adspice unus ut accubans
look-at alone how reclining
uir tuus Tyrio in toro
husband your Tyrian on couch
totus immineat tibi.
wholly leans-toward you.
o Hymen Hymenaee io,
o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

illi non minus ac tibi
for-him not less than for-you
pectore uritur intimo
in-the-breast is-burned inmost
flamma, sed penite magis
a-flame, but deep-within more
o Hymen Hymenaee io,
o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

mitte bracchiolum teres,
let-go the-little-arm rounded,
praetextate, puellulae:
boy-in-the-toga, of-the-little-girl:
iam cubile adeat uiri.
now the-bed may-she-approach of-her-husband.
o Hymen Hymenaee io,
o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

o bonae senibus uiris
o good to-old husbands
cognitae bene feminae,
known well women,
conlocate puellulam.
place the-little-girl.
o Hymen Hymenaee io,
o Hymen Hymenaeus io,
o Hymen Hymenaee.
o Hymen Hymenaeus.

iam licet uenias, marite:
now it-is-allowed you-may-come, bridegroom:
uxor in thalamo tibi est
the-wife in the-bridal-chamber for-you is
ore floridulo nitens
with-face flowery shining

alba parthenice uelut
white parthenice like
luteumue papauer.
or-saffron poppy.

at, marite, (ita me iuuent
but, bridegroom, (so me may-help
caelites) nihilo minus
the-heaven-dwellers) by-nothing less
pulcher es, neque te Venus
handsome you-are, nor you Venus
neglegit. sed abit dies:
neglects. but goes-away the-day:
perge, ne remorare.
proceed, do-not delay.

non diu remoratus es,
not long delayed you-have,
iam uenis. bona te Venus
now you-come. good you Venus
iuuerit, quoniam palam
may-help, since openly
quod cupis cupis et bonum
what you-desire you-desire and good
non abscondis amorem.
not you-hide love.

ille pulueris Africi
he of-the-dust African
siderumque micantium
and-of-the-stars flashing
subducat numerum prius,
let-him-count-up the-number first,
qui uestri numerare uult
who of-your to-count wishes
multa milia ludi.
many thousands of-play.

ludite ut libet, et breui
play as it-pleases, and shortly
liberos date. non decet
children give. not it-befits
tam uetus sine liberis
so old without children
nomen esse, sed indidem
a-name to-be, but from-the-same-source
semper ingenerari.
always to-be-engendered.

Torquatus uolo paruulus
a-Torquatus I-wish tiny
matris e gremio suae
of-his-mother from the-lap her-own
porrigens teneras manus
stretching-out tender hands

dulce rideat ad patrem
sweetly may-smile at his-father
semihiante labello.
with-half-open little-lip.

sit suo similis patri
may-he-be his-own like father
Manlio et facile insciis
Manlius and easily the-unknowing
noscitetur ab omnibus
be-recognized by all
et pudicitiam suae
and the-chastity of-his-own
matris indicet ore.
mother may-show by-his-face.

talis illius a bona
such of-him from good
matre laus genus adprobet
mother praise his-birth may-approve
qualis unica ab optima
as unique from best
matre Telemacho manet
mother for-Telemachus remains
fama Penelopeo.
fame of-Penelope.

claudite ostia, uirgines:
close the-doors, maidens:
lusimus satis. at, boni
we-have-played enough. but, good
coniuges, bene uiuite et
spouses, well live and
munere adsiduo ualentem
in-office constant thriving
exercete iuuentam.
exercise youth.

62 · WEDDING SONG

As the evening star rises, the young men and the unmarried girls answer each other in a singing contest at a wedding. The girls call Hesperus the cruelest star, which tears a daughter from her mother's embrace; the young men call it the kindest, which confirms the marriages pledged by the parents. The girls compare a maiden to a flower in a closed garden that no one desires once it is plucked; the young men answer with the unwedded vine that no one tends until it is joined to an elm. The bride is told not to fight a husband to whom her father and mother, who own two parts of her maidenhead, have given her.

Vesper adest: iuuenes, consurgite: Vesper Olympo
Vesper is-here: young-men, rise-together: Vesper from-Olympus
exspectata diu uix tandem lumina tollit.
awaited long scarcely at-last his-lights raises.
surgere iam tempus, iam pinguis linquere mensas;
to-rise now it-is-time, now the-rich to-leave tables;

iam ueniet uirgo, iam dicetur hymenaeus.
now will-come the-maiden, now will-be-sung the-wedding-song.
Hymen o Hymenaee, Hymen ades o Hymenaee.
Hymen o Hymenaeus, Hymen be-present o Hymenaeus.

cernitis, innuptae, iuuenes? consurgite contra:
do-you-see, unmarried-girls, the-young-men? rise-together against-them:
nimirum Oetaeos ostendit Noctifer ignes.
doubtless the-Oetaean shows the-Night-bringer fires.
sic certe est: uiden ut perniciter exsiluere?
so surely it-is: do-you-see how swiftly they-have-leapt-out?
non temere exsiluere; canent quod uincere par est.
not rashly they-have-leapt-out; they-will-sing what to-conquer fit is.
Hymen o Hymenaee, Hymen ades o Hymenaee.
Hymen o Hymenaeus, Hymen be-present o Hymenaeus.

non facilis nobis, aequales, palma parata est:
not easy for-us, comrades, the-palm prepared is:
adspicite, innuptae secum ut meditata requirunt.
look, the-unmarried-girls with-themselves how what-was-practiced they-search-out.
non frustra meditantur; habent memorabile quod sit.
not in-vain they-practice; they-have memorable what may-be.
nec mirum, penitus quae tota mente laborant.
nor a-wonder, deep-within who with-whole mind labor.
nos alio mentes, alio diuisimus aures:
we elsewhere our-minds, elsewhere have-divided our-ears:
iure igitur uincemur; amat uictoria curam.
by-right therefore we-shall-be-conquered; loves victory care.

quare nunc animos saltem conuertite uestros:
therefore now the-minds at-least turn your:
dicere iam incipient, iam respondere decebit.
to-speak now they-will-begin, now to-answer it-will-befit.
Hymen o Hymenaee, Hymen ades o Hymenaee.
Hymen o Hymenaeus, Hymen be-present o Hymenaeus.

Hespere, qui caelo fertur crudelior ignis?
Hesperus, what in-the-sky is-borne crueler fire?
qui natam possis complexu auellere matris,
who a-daughter could from-the-embrace to-tear-away of-her-mother,
complexu matris retinentem auellere natam
from-the-embrace of-her-mother clinging to-tear-away a-daughter
et iuueni ardenti castam donare puellam.
and to-a-youth burning the-chaste to-give girl.
quid faciunt hostes capta crudelius urbe?
what do enemies at-a-captured more-cruelly city?
Hymen o Hymenaee, Hymen ades o Hymenaee.
Hymen o Hymenaeus, Hymen be-present o Hymenaeus.

Hespere, qui caelo lucet iucundior ignis?
Hesperus, what in-the-sky shines more-pleasant fire?
qui desponsa tua firmes conubia flamma,
who the-betrothed with-your might-confirm marriages flame,
quae pepigere uiri, pepigerunt ante parentes,
which have-pledged the-men, have-pledged before the-parents,
nec iunxere prius quam se tuus extulit ardor.
nor they-have-joined before than itself your raised ardor.

quid datur a diuis felici optatius hora?
what is-given by the-gods than-the-happy more-desired hour?
Hymen o Hymenaee, Hymen ades o Hymenaee.
Hymen o Hymenaeus, Hymen be-present o Hymenaeus.

Hesperus e nobis, aequales, abstulit unam
Hesperus from us, comrades, has-taken-away one
* * *
(lacuna)

namque tuo aduentu uigilat custodia semper.
for at-your coming keeps-watch the-guard always.
nocte latent fures, quos idem saepe reuertens,
by-night lie-hidden thieves, whom you-the-same often returning,
Hespere, mutato comprendis nomine eosdem.
Hesperus, with-changed catch name the-same.
at libet innuptis ficto te carpere questu.
but it-pleases the-unmarried-girls with-feigned you to-carp-at complaint.
quid tum, si carpunt tacita quem mente requirunt?
what then, if they-carp-at with-silent whom mind they-search-for?
Hymen o Hymenaee, Hymen ades o Hymenaee.
Hymen o Hymenaeus, Hymen be-present o Hymenaeus.

ut flos in saeptis secretus nascitur hortis,
as a-flower in enclosed apart is-born gardens,
ignotus pecori, nullo conuulsus aratro,
unknown to-the-flock, by-no torn-up plow,
quem mulcent aurae, firmat sol, educat imber,
which caress the-breezes, strengthens the-sun, rears the-rain,
multi illum pueri, multae optauere puellae;
many it boys, many have-longed-for girls;
idem cum tenui carptus defloruit ungui,
the-same when by-a-thin plucked has-shed-its-bloom nail,
nulli illum pueri, nullae optauere puellae:
no it boys, no have-longed-for girls:
sic uirgo, dum intacta manet, dum cara suis est;
so a-maiden, while untouched she-remains, while dear to-her-own she-is;
cum castum amisit polluto corpore florem,
when the-chaste she-has-lost with-polluted body flower,
nec pueris iucunda manet nec cara puellis.
neither to-boys pleasant remains nor dear to-girls.
Hymen o Hymenaee, Hymen ades o Hymenaee.
Hymen o Hymenaeus, Hymen be-present o Hymenaeus.

ut uidua in nudo uitis quae nascitur aruo
as unwedded on bare a-vine which is-born field
nunquam se extollit, nunquam mitem educat uuam,
never itself raises, never mellow rears grape,
sed tenerum prono deflectens pondere corpus
but tender with-forward bending weight body
iam iam contingit summum radice flagellum,
now now touches the-topmost with-its-root shoot,
hanc nulli agricolae, nulli accoluere iuuenci;
her no farmers, no have-tended bullocks;
at si forte eadem est ulmo coniuncta marito,
but if perhaps the-same is to-the-elm joined husband,
multi illam agricolae, multi accoluere iuuenci:
many her farmers, many have-tended bullocks:
sic uirgo, dum intacta manet, dum inculta senescit;
so a-maiden, while untouched she-remains, while untended she-grows-old;
cum par conubium maturo tempore adepta est,
when equal marriage at-ripe time gained she-has,
cara uiro magis et minus est inuisa parenti.
dear to-her-husband more and less is hateful to-her-parent.

et tu ne pugna cum tali coniuge, uirgo.
and you do-not fight with such a-spouse, maiden.
non aequum est pugnare, pater cui tradidit ipse,
not fair it-is to-fight, your-father to-whom has-handed-you himself,
ipse pater cum matre, quibus parere necesse est.
himself your-father with your-mother, whom to-obey necessary it-is.
uirginitas non tota tua est, ex parte parentum est:
your-virginity not wholly yours is, in part of-your-parents it-is:

tertia pars patri, pars est data tertia matri,
a-third part to-your-father, a-part is given third to-your-mother,
tertia sola tua est. noli pugnare duobus,
a-third alone yours is. do-not fight with-two,
qui genero sua iura simul cum dote dederunt.
who to-the-son-in-law their rights together with the-dowry have-given.
Hymen o Hymenaee, Hymen ades o Hymenaee.
Hymen o Hymenaeus, Hymen be-present o Hymenaeus.

63 · ATTIS

Attis sails to Phrygia, castrates himself in a frenzy, and, now a woman, leads the Gallae with drums into the groves of Cybele. Waking calm the next morning, Attis sees what she has done, goes to the shore, and laments her lost country, the forum, the wrestling ground, and the youth she was. Cybele looses one of her lions, which drives Attis back into the groves, where she serves the goddess all her life; the poet prays that Cybele's frenzy may stay far from his own house.

Super alta uectus Attis celeri rate maria
Over the-deep borne Attis in-a-swift boat seas
Phrygium ut nemus citato cupide pede tetigit
the-Phrygian when grove with-hurried eagerly foot touched
adiitque opaca siluis redimita loca deae,
and-approached the-dark with-woods wreathed places of-the-goddess,
stimulatus ibi furenti rabie, uagus animis
goaded there by-raging madness, wandering in-mind
deuoluit ili acuto sibi pondera silice.
cut-off of-the-groin with-sharp from-himself the-weights flint.
itaque ut relicta sensit sibi membra sine uiro,
and-so when left she-felt for-herself the-limbs without the-man,

etiam recente terrae sola sanguine maculans
still with-fresh of-the-ground the-soil blood staining
niueis citata cepit manibus leue typanum,
with-snowy hurried she-took hands the-light drum,
typanum, tubam Cybelles, tua, mater, initia,
the-drum, the-trumpet of-Cybele, your, mother, rites,
quatiensque terga tauri teneris caua digitis
and-shaking the-back of-a-bull with-tender hollow fingers
canere haec suis adorta est tremebunda comitibus.
to-sing this to-her begun has trembling companions.
'agite ite ad alta, Gallae, Cybeles nemora simul,
'come go to the-high, Gallae, of-Cybele groves together,
simul ite, Dindymenae dominae uaga pecora,
together go, of-the-Dindymene mistress wandering flocks,
aliena quae petentes uelut exsules loca
foreign who seeking like exiles places
sectam meam exsecutae duce me mihi comites
sect my having-followed with-leader me for-me companions
rapidum salum tulistis truculentaque pelagi
the-rushing swell you-have-borne and-the-savage of-the-sea
et corpus euirastis Veneris nimio odio,
and your-body you-have-unmanned of-Venus from-excessive hatred,
hilarate erae citatis erroribus animum.
gladden of-the-mistress with-hurried wanderings the-heart.
mora tarda mente cedat; simul ite, sequimini
delay slow from-your-mind let-it-yield; together go, follow
Phrygiam ad domum Cybelles, Phrygia ad nemora deae,
Phrygian to the-house of-Cybele, the-Phrygian to groves of-the-goddess,
ubi cymbalum sonat uox, ubi tympana reboant,
where of-the-cymbal sounds the-voice, where the-drums re-echo,

tibicen ubi canit Phryx curuo graue calamo,
the-piper where plays the-Phrygian with-curved deep reed,
ubi capita maenades ui iaciunt hederigerae,
where their-heads the-maenads violently toss ivy-bearing,
ubi sacra sancta acutis ululatibus agitant,
where rites holy with-shrill howls they-drive,
ubi sueuit illa diuae uolitare uaga cohors,
where is-wont that of-the-goddess to-flit wandering band,
quo nos decet citatis celerare tripudiis.'
where us it-befits with-hurried to-speed dances.'
simul haec comitibus Attis cecinit notha mulier,
as-soon-as these-things to-her-companions Attis sang the-false woman,
thiasus repente linguis trepidantibus ululat,
the-band suddenly with-tongues trembling howls,
leue tympanum remugit, caua cymbala recrepant,
the-light drum bellows-back, the-hollow cymbals clash-again,
uiridem citus adit Idam properante pede chorus.
green swiftly goes-to Ida with-hurrying foot the-chorus.
furibunda simul anhelans uaga uadit animam agens
frenzied at-once panting wandering goes her-breath gasping
comitata tympano Attis per opaca nemora dux,
accompanied by-the-drum Attis through dark groves the-leader,
ueluti iuuenca uitans onus indomita iugi:
like a-heifer avoiding the-burden untamed of-the-yoke:
rapidae ducem secuntur Gallae properipedem.
the-rushing the-leader follow Gallae swift-footed.
itaque, ut domum Cybelles tetigere lassulae,
and-so, when the-house of-Cybele they-touched weary,
nimio e labore somnum capiunt sine Cerere.
excessive from toil sleep they-take without Ceres.

piger his labante langore oculos sopor operit:
sluggish them with-falling languor their-eyes slumber covers:
abit in quiete molli rabidus furor animi.
goes-away in rest soft the-raging frenzy of-the-mind.
sed ubi oris aurei Sol radiantibus oculis
but when of-face golden the-Sun with-radiant eyes
lustrauit aethera album, sola dura, mare ferum,
surveyed the-air white, the-lands hard, the-sea wild,
pepulitque noctis umbras uegetis sonipedibus,
and-drove-off of-night the-shadows with-lively sound-footed-steeds,
ibi Somnus excitam Attin fugiens citus abiit:
there Sleep roused Attis fleeing quickly went-away:
trepidante eum recepit dea Pasithea sinu.
in-a-trembling him received the-goddess Pasithea bosom.
ita de quiete molli rapida sine rabie
so after rest soft hurried without madness
simul ipsa pectore Attis sua facta recoluit,
as-soon-as she-herself in-her-heart Attis her deeds recalled,
liquidaque mente uidit sine quis ubique foret,
and-with-clear mind saw without what-things and-where she-was,
animo aestuante rusum reditum ad uada tetulit.
with-mind seething again her-return to the-shallows she-brought.
ibi maria uasta uisens lacrimantibus oculis
there the-seas vast seeing with-weeping eyes
patriam adlocuta maesta est ita uoce miseriter:
her-fatherland addressed sad has so with-voice pitiably:
'patria o mei creatrix, patria o mea genetrix,
'fatherland o of-me creator, fatherland o my mother,
ego quam miser relinquens, dominos ut erifugae
I whom wretched leaving, their-masters as runaway

famuli solent, ad Idae tetuli nemora pedem,
servants are-wont, to of-Ida I-brought the-groves my-foot,
ut apud niuem et ferarum gelida stabula forem
that by the-snow and of-wild-beasts the-icy lairs I-might-be
et earum omnia adirem furibunda latibula,
and of-them all I-might-approach frenzied hiding-places,
ubinam aut quibus locis te positam, patria, reor?
where-on-earth or in-what places you placed, fatherland, do-I-think?
cupit ipsa pupula ad te sibi derigere aciem,
desires itself the-pupil to you for-itself to-direct its-gaze,
rabie fera carens dum breue tempus animus est.
from-madness wild being-free while a-brief time the-mind is.
egone a mea remota haec ferar in nemora domo?
I from my removed these shall-I-be-borne into groves home?
patria, bonis, amicis, genitoribus abero?
from-fatherland, from-goods, from-friends, from-parents shall-I-be-absent?
abero foro, palaestra, stadio, et gymnasiis?
shall-I-be-absent from-the-forum, the-wrestling-ground, the-race-course, and the-gymnasia?
miser ah miser, querendum est etiam atque etiam, anime.
wretched ah wretched, to-be-lamented it-is again and again, my-soul.
quod enim genus figurae est ego non quod obierim?
what for kind of-shape is I not which I-have-undergone?
ego mulier, ego adulescens, ego ephebus, ego puer,
I a-woman, I a-young-man, I an-ephebe, I a-boy,
ego gymnasi fui flos, ego eram decus olei:
I of-the-gymnasium was the-flower, I was the-glory of-the-oil:
mihi ianuae frequentes, mihi limina tepida,
for-me doors crowded, for-me thresholds warm,
mihi floridis corollis redimita domus erat,
for-me with-flowery garlands wreathed the-house was,

linquendum ubi esset orto mihi sole cubiculum.
to-be-left when was with-risen by-me sun the-bedroom.
ego nunc deum ministra et Cybeles famula ferar?
I now of-the-gods a-minister and of-Cybele a-servant shall-I-be-called?
ego maenas, ego mei pars, ego uir sterilis ero?
I a-maenad, I of-me a-part, I a-man sterile shall-I-be?
ego uiridis algida Idae niue amicta loca colam?
I of-green cold of-Ida with-snow clad places shall-I-inhabit?
ego uitam agam sub altis Phrygiae columinibus,
I my-life shall-I-spend under the-high of-Phrygia summits,
ubi cerua siluicultrix, ubi aper nemoriuagus?
where the-hind wood-dwelling, where the-boar grove-roaming?
iam iam dolet quod egi, iam iamque paenitet.'
now now it-pains what I-have-done, now and-now I-repent.'
roseis ut huic labellis sonitus citus abiit
from-rosy as from-her little-lips the-sound swiftly went-away
geminas deorum ad aures noua nuntia referens,
the-twin of-the-gods to ears new tidings bearing,
ibi iuncta iuga resoluens Cybele leonibus
there the-joined yokes loosening Cybele from-her-lions
laeuumque pecoris hostem stimulans ita loquitur.
and-the-left of-the-flock enemy goading so speaks.
'agedum,' inquit, 'age ferox i, fac ut hunc furor agitet,
'come-on,' she-says, 'come fierce go, make that him frenzy drive,
fac uti furoris ictu reditum in nemora ferat,
make that of-frenzy by-the-blow his-return into the-groves he-bring,
mea libere nimis qui fugere imperia cupit.
my freely too who to-flee commands desires.
age caede terga cauda, tua uerbera patere,
come beat your-back with-your-tail, your lashes endure,

fac cuncta mugienti fremitu loca retonent,
make all with-bellowing roaring places resound,
rutilam ferox torosa ceruice quate iubam.'
the-ruddy fierce on-your-brawny neck shake mane.'
ait haec minax Cybelle religatque iuga manu.
says this threatening Cybele and-unties the-yokes with-her-hand.
ferus ipse sese adhortans rabidum incitat animo,
the-wild-beast himself himself urging rabid rouses in-heart,
uadit, fremit, refringit uirgulta pede uago.
goes, roars, breaks the-thickets with-foot wandering.
at ubi umida albicantis loca litoris adiit
but when the-wet of-the-whitening places shore he-approached
tenerumque uidit Attin prope marmora pelagi,
and-tender saw Attis near the-marble of-the-sea,
facit impetum: ille demens fugit in nemora fera:
he-makes an-attack: she mad flees into the-groves wild:
ibi semper omne uitae spatium famula fuit.
there always all of-life the-span a-servant she-was.
dea magna, dea Cybelle, dea domina Dindymi,
goddess great, goddess Cybele, goddess mistress of-Dindymus,
procul a mea tuus sit furor omnis, era, domo:
far from my your may-be frenzy all, mistress, house:
alios age incitatos, alios age rabidos.
others drive roused, others drive rabid.

The first ship, of pines from Pelion, brings the Nereids up from the sea, and Peleus falls in love with Thetis. All Thessaly comes to their wedding, and the marriage couch is covered with a cloth that shows Ariadne on the shore of Dia watching Theseus sail away. The poet tells her story: her love for him, his killing of the Minotaur, her flight from Crete, and her lament, a curse that the ruler of the gods grants with a nod, so that Theseus forgets his father's command and Aegeus, seeing the dark sail, throws himself from the rock. Bacchus comes with his rout to find her. The gods arrive with gifts, and the Parcae sing at their spinning the couple's union, the birth of Achilles, his slaughter at Troy, and Polyxena's sacrifice on his tomb, with the refrain run, spindles. Once, the poet ends, the gods came among men; now crime has driven them away.

Peliaco quondam prognatae uertice pinus
On-Pelion once born from-the-summit pines
dicuntur liquidas Neptuni nasse per undas
are-said the-clear of-Neptune to-have-swum through waves
Phasidos ad fluctus et fines Aeeteos,
of-Phasis to the-floods and the-borders of-Aeetes,
cum lecti iuuenes, Argiuae robora pubis,
when chosen young-men, of-the-Argive the-strength youth,
auratam optantes Colchis auertere pellem
the-golden wishing from-the-Colchians to-carry-off fleece
ausi sunt uada salsa cita decurrere puppi,
dared have the-shallows salt in-a-swift to-run-down ship,
caerula uerrentes abiegnis aequora palmis.
the-blue sweeping with-fir-wood plains palms.
diua quibus retinens in summis urbibus arces
the-goddess for-whom keeping in the-highest cities citadels
ipsa leui fecit uolitantem flamine currum,
herself with-light made flying breeze the-chariot,

pinea coniungens inflexae texta carinae.
the-piny joining of-the-curved webs keel.
illa rudem cursu prima imbuit Amphitriten.
that untried with-its-course first initiated Amphitrite.
quae simul ac rostro uentosum proscidit aequor
which as-soon as with-its-beak the-windy plowed plain
tortaque remigio spumis incanduit unda,
and-twisted by-the-oarage with-foam grew-white the-wave,
emersere freti candenti e gurgite uultus
emerged of-the-strait gleaming from eddy their-faces
aequoreae monstrum Nereides admirantes.
the-sea the-monster Nereids wondering-at.
illa, siqua alia, uiderunt luce marinas
on-that, if-any other, saw day the-sea
mortales oculis nudato corpore nymphas
mortals with-eyes with-bared body nymphs
nutricum tenus exstantes e gurgite cano.
of-the-breasts as-far-as standing-out from eddy the-hoary.
tum Thetidis Peleus incensus fertur amore,
then for-Thetis Peleus inflamed is-said with-love,
tum Thetis humanos non despexit hymenaeos,
then Thetis human not despised weddings,
tum Thetidi pater ipse iugandum Pelea sensit.
then for-Thetis the-father himself to-be-yoked Peleus felt.
o nimis optato saeclorum tempore nati
o in-too longed-for of-the-ages time born
heroes, saluete, deum genus, o bona matrum
heroes, hail, of-the-gods the-race, o good of-mothers
progenies, saluete iterum ∗∗∗
offspring, hail again (lacuna)

uos ego saepe meo, uos carmine compellabo,
you I often in-my, you in-song will-address,
teque adeo eximie taedis felicibus aucte
and-you so exceptionally with-wedding-torches happy increased
Thessaliae columen Peleu, cui Iuppiter ipse,
of-Thessaly the-pillar Peleus, to-whom Jupiter himself,
ipse suos diuum genitor concessit amores.
himself his of-the-gods the-father has-yielded loves.
tene Thetis tenuit pulcherrima Nereine?
is-it-you Thetis held most-beautiful Nereid?
tene suam Tethys concessit ducere neptem
is-it-you her-own Tethys allowed to-lead granddaughter
Oceanusque, mari totum qui amplectitur orbem?
and-Ocean, with-the-sea the-whole who embraces world?
quae simul optatae finito tempore luces
which as-soon-as the-longed-for with-finished time days
aduenere, domum conuentu tota frequentat
arrived, the-house with-gathering whole throngs
Thessalia, oppletur laetanti regia coetu:
Thessaly, is-filled with-rejoicing the-palace company:
dona ferunt prae se, declarant gaudia uultu.
gifts they-bear before them, they-declare their-joys with-face.
deseritur Cieros, linquunt Phthiotica Tempe
is-deserted Cieros, they-leave Phthiotic Tempe
Crannonisque domos ac moenia Larisaea,
and-of-Crannon the-houses and the-walls Larisaean,
Pharsalum coeunt, Pharsalia tecta frequentant.
to-Pharsalus they-meet, Pharsalian roofs they-throng.
rura colit nemo, mollescunt colla iuuencis,
the-fields tills no-one, grow-soft the-necks for-the-bullocks,

non humilis curuis purgatur uinea rastris,
not low with-curved is-cleansed the-vineyard rakes,
non glaebam prono conuellit uomere taurus,
not the-clod with-forward tears-up plowshare the-bull,
non falx attenuat frondatorum arboris umbram,
not the-sickle thins of-the-pruners of-the-tree the-shade,
squalida desertis robigo infertur aratris.
squalid on-deserted rust comes-over plows.
ipsius at sedes, quacumque opulenta recessit
his-own but the-seat, wherever opulent receded
regia, fulgenti splendent auro atque argento.
the-palace, with-gleaming shine gold and silver.
candet ebur soliis, conlucent pocula mensae,
gleams ivory on-the-thrones, shine-bright the-cups on-the-table,
tota domus gaudet regali splendida gaza.
whole the-house rejoices with-royal splendid treasure.
puluinar uero diuae geniale locatur
the-couch but of-the-goddess the-marriage is-placed
sedibus in mediis, Indo quod dente politum
of-the-seat in the-middle, with-Indian which tooth polished
tincta tegit roseo conchyli purpura fuco.
dyed covers with-rosy of-the-shellfish purple dye.
haec uestis priscis hominum uariata figuris
this cloth with-ancient of-men variegated figures
heroum mira uirtutes indicat arte.
of-heroes with-wondrous the-valors shows art.
namque fluentisono prospectans litore Diae
for from-the-wave-sounding looking-out shore of-Dia
Thesea cedentem celeri cum classe tuetur
Theseus departing swift with fleet watches

indomitos in corde gerens Ariadna furores,
untamed in heart bearing Ariadne frenzies,
necdum etiam sese quae uisit uisere credit,
nor-yet even herself what she-sees to-see believes,
ut pote fallaci quae tunc primum excita somno
inasmuch as from-deceitful who then first roused sleep
desertam in sola miseram se cernat harena.
deserted on lonely wretched herself she-sees sand.
immemor at iuuenis fugiens pellit uada remis,
unmindful but the-youth fleeing strikes the-shallows with-oars,
irrita uentosae linquens promissa procellae.
void to-the-windy leaving promises storm.
quem procul ex alga maestis Minois ocellis
whom far-off from the-seaweed with-sad the-daughter-of-Minos little-eyes
saxea ut effigies bacchantis prospicit, eheu,
of-stone like an-image of-a-bacchant looks-out-at, alas,
prospicit et magnis curarum fluctuat undis,
looks-out-at and with-great of-cares tosses waves,
non flauo retinens subtilem uertice mitram,
not on-her-golden keeping the-fine head headband,
non contecta leui uelatum pectus amictu,
not covered with-light veiled her-breast mantle,
non tereti strophio lactentis uincta papillas,
not with-smooth breast-band milk-white bound her-nipples,
omnia quae toto delapsa e corpore passim
all which whole slipped from her-body everywhere
ipsius ante pedes fluctus salis adludebant.
of-herself before the-feet the-waves of-the-salt played-at.
sic neque tum mitrae neque tum fluitantis amictus
so neither then of-the-headband nor then of-the-floating mantle

illa uicem curans toto ex te pectore, Theseu,
she the-lot caring whole from you heart, Theseus,
toto animo, tota pendebat perdita mente:
with-whole soul, with-whole was-hanging lost mind:
ah misera, adsiduis quam luctibus exsternauit
ah wretched, with-constant whom griefs drove-mad
spinosas Erycina serens in pectore curas
thorny Erycina sowing in her-breast cares
illa tempestate, ferox quo ex tempore Theseus
at-that time, fierce which from time Theseus
egressus curuis e litoribus Piraei
having-set-out the-curved from shores of-Piraeus
attigit iniusti regis Gortynia tecta.
reached of-the-unjust king the-Gortynian roofs.
nam perhibent olim crudeli peste coactam
for they-relate once by-cruel plague compelled
Androgeoneae poenas exsoluere caedis
of-Androgeos the-penalties to-pay of-the-murder
electos iuuenes simul et decus innuptarum
chosen young-men together and the-glory of-the-unmarried
Cecropiam solitam esse dapem dare Minotauro.
Cecropia wont to-have-been as-a-feast to-give to-the-Minotaur.
quis angusta malis cum moenia uexarentur,
by-which narrow evils when the-walls were-harassed,
ipse suum Theseus pro caris corpus Athenis
himself his-own Theseus for dear body Athens
proicere optauit potius quam talia Cretam
to-throw-forth chose rather than such to-Crete
funera Cecropiae nec funera portarentur.
funerals of-Cecropia not funerals should-be-carried.

atque ita naue leui nitens ac lenibus auris
and so on-ship light leaning and on-gentle breezes
magnanimum ad Minoa uenit sedesque superbas.
great-souled to Minos came and-the-seat proud.
hunc simul ac cupido conspexit lumine uirgo
him as-soon as with-desiring saw eye the-maiden
regia, quam suauis exspirans castus odores
royal, whom sweet breathing chaste odors
lectulus in molli complexu matris alebat,
the-little-bed in soft embrace of-her-mother nourished,
quales Eurotae progignunt flumina myrtos
such-as of-Eurotas bring-forth the-streams myrtles
auraue distinctos educit uerna colores,
or-the-breeze distinct brings-out spring colors,
non prius ex illo flagrantia declinauit
not before from him burning she-turned-away
lumina quam cuncto concepit corpore flammam
her-eyes than in-whole she-conceived body flame
funditus atque imis exarsit tota medullis.
utterly and in-the-deepest blazed whole marrow.
heu misere exagitans immiti corde furores,
alas wretchedly stirring-up with-cruel heart frenzies,
sancte puer, curis hominum qui gaudia misces,
holy boy, with-cares of-men who joys mix,
quaeque regis Golgos quaeque Idalium frondosum,
and-you-who rule Golgi and-who Idalium leafy,
qualibus incensam iactastis mente puellam
on-what inflamed you-have-tossed in-mind the-girl
fluctibus in flauo saepe hospite suspirantem!
waves for the-golden often stranger sighing!

quantos illa tulit languenti corde timores,
how-great she bore with-languishing heart fears,
quanto saepe magis fulgore expalluit auri,
how-much often more than-the-gleam she-grew-pale of-gold,
cum saeuum cupiens contra contendere monstrum
when the-savage desiring against to-contend monster
aut mortem appeteret Theseus aut praemia laudis.
either death sought Theseus or the-rewards of-praise.
non ingrata tamen frustra munuscula diuis
not unwelcome yet in-vain little-gifts to-the-gods
promittens tacito succendit uota labello.
promising with-silent she-kindled vows little-lip.
nam uelut in summo quatientem bracchia Tauro
for as on the-top shaking its-arms of-Taurus
quercum aut conigeram sudanti cortice pinum
an-oak or a-cone-bearing with-sweating bark pine
indomitus turbo contorquens flamine robur
untamed a-whirlwind twisting with-its-blast the-trunk
eruit (illa procul radicitus exturbata
tears-out (it far-off by-the-roots dislodged
prona cadit, † lateque cum eius obuia frangens),
headlong falls, (corrupt) and-widely with its in-the-way breaking),
sic domito saeuum prostrauit corpore Theseus
so with-subdued the-savage laid-low body Theseus
nequiquam uanis iactantem cornua uentis.
in-vain at-empty tossing his-horns winds.
inde pedem sospes multa cum laude reflexit
thence his-foot safe much with praise he-turned-back
errabunda regens tenui uestigia filo,
wandering guiding with-thin his-steps thread,

ne labyrintheis e flexibus egredientem
lest labyrinthine from windings coming-out
tecti frustraretur inobseruabilis error.
of-the-building should-thwart-him untraceable straying.
sed quid ego a primo digressus carmine plura
but why I from the-first having-digressed song more
commemorem, ut linquens genitoris filia uultum,
should-relate, how leaving of-her-father the-daughter the-face,
ut consanguineae complexum, ut denique matris,
how of-her-sister the-embrace, how finally of-her-mother,
quae misera in gnata deperdita laetabatur,
who wretched in her-daughter utterly-lost rejoiced,
omnibus his Thesei dulcem praeoptarit amorem,
to-all these of-Theseus the-sweet she-preferred love,
aut ut uecta rati spumosa ad litora Diae
or how carried by-ship the-foaming to shores of-Dia
uenerit, aut ut eam deuinctam lumina somno
she-came, or how her bound as-to-her-eyes with-sleep
liquerit immemori discedens pectore coniunx?
left with-unmindful departing heart her-husband?
saepe illam perhibent ardenti corde furentem
often her they-relate with-burning heart raving
clarisonas imo fudisse ex pectore uoces,
clear-sounding the-deepest to-have-poured from breast cries,
ac tum praeruptos tristem conscendere montes
and then the-steep sad to-climb mountains
unde aciem in pelagi uastos protenderet aestus,
whence her-gaze over of-the-sea the-vast she-might-stretch surges,
tum tremuli salis aduersas procurrere in undas
then of-the-trembling salt the-oncoming to-run-forth into waves

mollia nudatae tollentem tegmina surae,
the-soft of-her-bared raising coverings calf,
atque haec extremis maestam dixisse querelis,
and these-things in-last sad to-have-said complaints,
frigidulos udo singultus ore cientem:
cold-little with-wet sobs mouth rousing:
'sicine me patriis auectam, perfide, ab aris,
'is-it-thus me my-father's carried-off, faithless-one, from altars,
perfide, deserto liquisti in litore, Theseu?
faithless-one, deserted you-have-left on shore, Theseus?
sicine discedens neglecto numine diuum
is-it-thus departing with-neglected divinity of-the-gods
immemor ah deuota domum periuria portas?
unmindful ah accursed home perjuries you-carry?
nullane res potuit crudelis flectere mentis
no thing could of-cruel to-bend mind
consilium? tibi nulla fuit clementia praesto
the-plan? for-you no was mercy at-hand
immite ut nostri uellet miserescere pectus?
pitiless that on-us might-wish to-take-pity breast?
at non haec quondam blanda promissa dedisti
but not these once flattering promises you-gave
uoce mihi, non haec miserae sperare iubebas,
with-voice to-me, not these wretched to-hope you-bade,
sed conubia laeta, sed optatos hymenaeos:
but marriage happy, but longed-for weddings:
quae cuncta aerii discerpunt irrita uenti.
which all of-the-air tear-apart void the-winds.
nunc iam nulla uiro iuranti femina credat,
now already no a-man swearing woman let-believe,

nulla uiri speret sermones esse fideles:
no of-a-man let-hope the-words to-be faithful:
quis dum aliquid cupiens animus praegestit apisci,
for-whom while something desiring the-mind longs to-gain,
nil metuunt iurare, nihil promittere parcunt:
nothing they-fear to-swear, nothing to-promise they-spare:
sed simul ac cupidae mentis satiata libido est,
but as-soon as of-desiring mind sated the-lust is,
dicta nihil meminere, nihil periuria curant.
their-words not-at-all they-remember, not-at-all perjuries they-care.
certe ego te in medio uersantem turbine leti
surely I you in the-middle turning of-the-whirlwind of-death
eripui et potius germanum amittere creui
snatched and rather my-brother to-lose decided
quam tibi fallaci supremo in tempore deessem:
than to-you deceitful the-last at time I-should-fail:
pro quo dilaceranda feris dabor alitibusque
for which to-be-torn-apart for-wild-beasts I-shall-be-given and-for-birds
praeda neque iniecta tumulabor mortua terra.
as-prey nor with-cast-on I-shall-be-buried dead earth.
quaenam te genuit sola sub rupe leaena,
what-kind you bore lonely under a-rock a-lioness,
quod mare conceptum spumantibus exspuit undis,
what sea conceived with-foaming spat-out waves,
quae Syrtis, quae Scylla rapax, quae uasta Charybdis.
what Syrtis, what Scylla rapacious, what vast Charybdis.
talia qui reddis pro dulci praemia uita?
such who return for sweet rewards life?
si tibi non cordi fuerant conubia nostra,
if to-you not to-heart had-been marriage our,

saeua quod horrebas prisci praecepta parentis,
savage because you-dreaded the-precepts of-your-old parent,
at tamen in uestras potuisti ducere sedes
but nevertheless into your you-could to-lead home
quae tibi iucundo famularer serua labore
one-who for-you with-pleasant I-might-serve as-a-slave labor
candida permulcens liquidis uestigia lymphis
the-white soothing with-clear footsteps waters
purpureaue tuum consternens ueste cubile.
or-with-purple your spreading cloth bed.
sed quid ego ignaris nequiquam conqueror auris
but why I to-unknowing in-vain lament breezes
exsternata malo, quae nullis sensibus auctae
driven-mad with-evil, which by-no senses endowed
nec missas audire queunt nec reddere uoces?
neither sent to-hear can nor to-return cries?
ille autem prope iam mediis uersatur in undis,
he however nearly now the-middle is-turned in waves,
nec quisquam adparet uacua mortalis in alga.
nor anyone appears empty mortal on seaweed.
sic nimis insultans extremo tempore saeua
so too-much insulting at-the-last time savage
fors etiam nostris inuidit questibus auris.
fortune even to-our has-grudged complaints ears.
Iuppiter omnipotens, utinam ne tempore primo
Jupiter all-powerful, would-that not at-time first
Gnosia Cecropiae tetigissent litora puppes,
Gnosian Cecropian had-touched shores the-ships,
indomito nec dira ferens stipendia tauro
to-the-untamed nor dreadful bringing tribute bull

perfidus in Creta religasset nauita funem,
the-faithless on Crete had-tied the-sailor his-cable,
nec malus hic celans dulci crudelia forma
nor evil-one this hiding in-sweet cruel form
consilia in nostris requiesset sedibus hospes!
plans in our had-rested home guest!
nam quo me referam? quali spe perdita nitor?
for where myself shall-I-take? on-what hope lost do-I-lean?
Idaeosne petam montes? ah, gurgite lato
the-Idaean shall-I-seek mountains? ah, with-flood wide
discernens ponti truculentum ubi diuidit aequor?
separating of-the-sea the-savage where divides plain?
an patris auxilium sperem, quemne ipsa reliqui
or of-my-father the-help should-I-hope-for, whom I-myself left
respersum iuuenem fraterna caede secuta?
spattered a-youth with-a-brother's slaughter following?
coniugis an fido consoler memet amore,
of-my-husband or with-faithful should-I-console myself love,
quine fugit lentos incuruans gurgite remos?
who flees pliant bending in-the-flood oars?
praeterea nullo litus, sola insula, tecto,
besides with-no the-shore, a-lonely island, roof,
nec patet egressus pelagi cingentibus undis:
nor lies-open a-way-out with-the-sea's surrounding waves:
nulla fugae ratio, nulla spes: omnia muta,
no of-flight method, no hope: all-things mute,
omnia sunt deserta, ostentant omnia letum.
all-things are deserted, show all-things death.
non tamen ante mihi languescent lumina morte,
not however before for-me will-grow-faint my-eyes in-death,

nec prius a fesso secedent corpore sensus
nor sooner from my-weary will-withdraw body my-senses
quam iustam a diuis exposcam prodita multam
than just from the-gods I-demand betrayed a-penalty
caelestumque fidem postrema comprecer hora.
and-of-the-heaven-dwellers the-faith at-the-last I-pray hour.
quare, facta uirum multantes uindice poena
therefore, the-deeds of-men punishing with-avenging penalty
Eumenides, quibus anguino redimita capillo
Eumenides, whose with-snaky wreathed hair
frons exspirantis praeportat pectoris iras,
brow of-the-expiring bears-before breast the-angers,
huc huc aduentate, meas audite querelas,
here here come, my hear complaints,
quas ego, uae miserae, extremis proferre medullis
which I, woe wretched, from-my-furthest to-bring-forth marrow
cogor inops, ardens, amenti caeca furore.
am-forced helpless, burning, with-mindless blind frenzy.
quae quoniam uerae nascuntur pectore ab imo,
which since true are-born the-breast from deepest,
uos nolite pati nostrum uanescere luctum,
you do-not allow our to-vanish grief,
sed quali solam Theseus me mente reliquit,
but with-such alone Theseus me mind left,
tali mente, deae, funestet seque suosque.'
with-such mind, goddesses, let-him-bring-death-to and-himself and-his-own.'
has postquam maesto profudit pectore uoces
these after from-her-sad she-poured-out breast cries
supplicium saeuis exposcens anxia factis,
punishment for-savage demanding anxious deeds,

adnuit inuicto caelestum numine rector,
nodded with-unconquered of-the-heaven-dwellers divinity the-ruler,
quo nutu tellus atque horrida contremuerunt
at-which nod the-earth and bristling trembled
aequora concussitque micantia sidera mundus.
the-seas and-shook the-flashing stars the-world.
ipse autem caeca mentem caligine Theseus
himself however with-blind his-mind darkness Theseus
consitus oblito dimisit pectore cuncta
sown with-forgetful let-go breast all-things
quae mandata prius constanti mente tenebat,
which commanded before with-constant mind he-held,
dulcia nec maesto sustollens signa parenti
sweet nor for-his-sad raising signals father
sospitem Erechtheum se ostendit uisere portum.
safe the-Erechthean himself he-showed to-see harbor.
namque ferunt olim, classi cum moenia diuae
for they-say once, with-the-fleet when the-walls of-the-goddess
linquentem gnatum uentis concrederet Aegeus,
leaving his-son to-the-winds entrusted Aegeus,
talia complexum iuueni mandata dedisse:
such embracing to-the-youth commands to-have-given:
'gnate mihi longe iucundior unice uita,
'son to-me by-far more-pleasant only than-life,
gnate, ego quem in dubios cogor dimittere casus,
son, I whom into doubtful am-forced to-send-away chances,
reddite in extrema nuper mihi fine senectae,
returned at the-furthest lately to-me end of-old-age,
quandoquidem fortuna mea ac tua feruida uirtus
since fortune my and your fervent valor

eripit inuito mihi te, cui languida nondum
snatches unwilling from-me you, to-whom faint not-yet
lumina sunt gnati cara saturata figura,
the-eyes are of-the-son with-the-dear sated form,
non ego te gaudens laetanti pectore mittam,
not I you rejoicing with-glad breast shall-send,
nec te ferre sinam fortunae signa secundae,
nor you to-bear I-shall-allow of-fortune the-signs favorable,
sed primum multas expromam mente querelas
but first many I-shall-bring-out from-my-mind complaints
canitiem terra atque infuso puluere foedans,
my-white-hair with-earth and with-poured-on dust defiling,
inde infecta uago suspendam lintea malo,
then dyed from-the-wandering I-shall-hang sails mast,
nostros ut luctus nostraeque incendia mentis
our that griefs and-of-our the-burnings mind
carbasus obscurata decet ferrugine Hibera.
the-canvas darkened befits with-rust Spanish.
quod tibi si sancti concesserit incola Itoni,
but to-you if the-holy grants the-dweller of-Itonus,
quae nostrum genus ac sedes defendere Erechthei
who our race and the-seat to-defend of-Erechtheus
adnuit, ut tauri respergas sanguine dextram,
has-nodded, that of-the-bull you-spatter with-the-blood your-right-hand,
tum uero facito ut memori tibi condita corde
then indeed make that in-mindful for-you laid-up heart
haec uigeant mandata, nec ulla oblitteret aetas,
these may-thrive commands, nor any blot-out age,
ut simul ac nostros inuisent lumina collis,
that as-soon as our shall-visit your-eyes hills,

funestam antennae deponant undique uestem
the-deathly the-yards may-put-down everywhere cloth
candidaque intorti sustollant uela rudentes,
and-white the-twisted may-raise sails ropes,
quam primum cernens ut laeta gaudia mente
as soon seeing that with-glad joys mind
agnoscam, cum te reducem aetas prospera sistet.'
I-may-recognize, when you returned the-age prosperous will-set.'
haec mandata prius constanti mente tenentem
these commands before with-constant mind holding
Thesea ceu pulsae uentorum flamine nubes
Theseus as driven of-the-winds by-the-blast clouds
aerium niuei montis liquere cacumen.
the-airy of-a-snowy mountain have-left summit.
at pater, ut summa prospectum ex arce petebat
but his-father, as the-highest a-view from citadel he-sought
anxia in adsiduos absumens lumina fletus,
anxious in constant consuming his-eyes weepings,
cum primum inflati conspexit lintea ueli,
when first of-the-swollen he-saw the-linen sail,
praecipitem sese scopulorum e uertice iecit
headlong himself of-the-crags from the-top threw
amissum credens immiti Thesea fato.
lost believing by-pitiless Theseus fate.
sic funesta domus ingressus tecta paterna
so the-deathly of-the-house having-entered roofs paternal
morte ferox Theseus, qualem Minoidi luctu
by-death fierce Theseus, such-as to-the-daughter-of-Minos grief
obtulerat mente immemori, talem ipse recepit.
he-had-offered with-mind unmindful, such himself received.

quae tum prospectans cedentem maesta carinam
who then looking-out-at departing sad the-keel
multiplices animo uoluebat saucia curas.
manifold in-mind was-turning wounded cares.
at parte ex alia florens uolitabat Iacchus
but side from other blooming was-flitting Iacchus
cum thiaso satyrorum et Nysigenis silenis
with the-band of-satyrs and the-Nysa-born sileni
te quaerens, Ariadna, tuoque incensus amore.
you seeking, Ariadne, and-by-your inflamed love.

* * *

(lacuna)

quae tum alacres passim lymphata mente furebant
who then eager everywhere with-crazed mind were-raving
euhoe bacchantes, euhoe capita inflectentes.
euhoe reveling, euhoe their-heads bending.
harum pars tecta quatiebant cuspide thyrsos,
of-these part covered were-shaking with-point thyrsi,
pars e diuulso iactabant membra iuuenco,
part from a-torn-apart were-tossing limbs bullock,
pars sese tortis serpentibus incingebant,
part themselves with-twisted serpents were-girding,
pars obscura cauis celebrabant orgia cistis,
part dark in-hollow were-celebrating mysteries baskets,
orgia quae frustra cupiunt audire profani,
mysteries which in-vain desire to-hear the-uninitiated,
plangebant aliae proceris tympana palmis
were-beating others with-tall drums palms
aut tereti tenuis tinnitus aere ciebant,
or from-smooth thin ringings bronze were-rousing,

multis raucisonos efflabant cornua bombos
for-many hoarse-sounding were-blowing horns boomings
barbaraque horribili stridebat tibia cantu.
and-the-barbarian with-dreadful shrieked pipe song.
talibus amplifice uestis decorata figuris
with-such magnificently the-cloth adorned figures
puluinar complexa suo uelabat amictu.
the-couch embracing with-its veiled covering.
quae postquam cupide spectando Thessala pubes
which after eagerly with-gazing the-Thessalian youth
expleta est, sanctis coepit decedere diuis.
filled was, to-the-holy began to-give-way gods.
hic, qualis flatu placidum mare matutino
here, as with-its-blast the-calm sea in-the-morning
horrificans Zephyrus procliuas incitat undas
roughening Zephyr the-sloping rouses waves
aurora exoriente uagi sub limina solis,
with-dawn rising of-the-wandering under the-threshold sun,
quae tarde primum clementi flamine pulsae
which slowly at-first with-gentle blast driven
procedunt, leuiterque sonant plangore cachinni,
advance, and-lightly sound with-the-splash of-laughter,
post uento crescente magis magis increbescunt
afterward with-the-wind growing more more they-thicken
purpureaque procul nantes ab luce refulgent,
and-the-purple far-off swimming from light shine-back,
sic tum uestibuli linquentes regia tecta
so then of-the-vestibule leaving the-royal roofs
ad se quisque uago passim pede discedebant.
to themselves each with-wandering everywhere foot were-departing.

quorum post abitum princeps e uertice Peli
whose after the-going-away first from the-top of-Pelion
aduenit Chiron portans siluestria dona:
came Chiron bearing woodland gifts:
nam quoscumque ferunt campi, quos Thessala magnis
for whatever bear the-fields, which the-Thessalian on-great
montibus ora creat, quos propter fluminis undas
mountains region creates, which beside of-the-river the-waves
aura parit flores tepidi fecunda Fauoni,
the-breeze brings-forth flowers of-warm fertile Favonius,
hos indistinctis plexos tulit ipse corollis,
these in-indistinct woven he-brought himself garlands,
quo permulsa domus iucundo risit odore.
with-which soothed the-house with-pleasant laughed odor.
confestim Penios adest, uiridantia Tempe,
at-once Peneus is-present, green Tempe,
Tempe quae siluae cingunt super impendentes,
Tempe which woods surround above overhanging,
naiasin linquens Doris celebranda choreis,
to-the-naiads leaving the-Dorian to-be-thronged with-dances,
non uacuus: namque ille tulit radicitus altas
not empty-handed: for he brought by-the-roots tall
fagos ac recto proceras stipite laurus,
beeches and with-straight tall trunk laurels,
non sine nutanti platano lentaque sorore
not without the-nodding plane-tree and-the-pliant sister
flammati Phaethontis et aeria cupressu.
of-burnt Phaethon and the-airy cypress.
haec circum sedes late contexta locauit,
these around the-seat widely interwoven he-placed,

uestibulum ut molli uelatum fronde uireret.
the-vestibule that with-soft veiled foliage might-be-green.
post hunc consequitur sollerti corde Prometheus
after him follows with-skilled heart Prometheus
extenuata gerens ueteris uestigia poenae
thinned bearing the-traces of-the-old punishment
quam quondam silici restrictus membra catena
which once to-the-flint bound in-limbs by-a-chain
persoluit pendens e uerticibus praeruptis.
he-paid-in-full hanging from the-peaks steep.
inde pater diuum sancta cum coniuge natisque
then the-father of-the-gods holy with wife and-children
aduenit, caelo te solum, Phoebe, relinquens
came, in-the-sky you alone, Phoebus, leaving
unigenamque simul cultricem montibus Idri:
and-your-only-born-twin at-the-same-time dwelling-in mountains of-Idrus:
Pelea nam tecum pariter soror adspernata est
Peleus for with-you equally your-sister spurned has
nec Thetidis taedas uoluit celebrare iugalis.
nor of-Thetis the-torches wished to-celebrate the-marriage.
qui postquam niueis flexerunt sedibus artus,
who after on-the-snowy bent seats their-limbs,
large multiplici constructae sunt dape mensae,
abundantly with-manifold heaped are with-feast the-tables,
cum interea infirmo quatientes corpora motu
when meanwhile with-infirm shaking their-bodies motion
ueridicos Parcae coeperunt edere cantus.
truth-telling the-Parcae began to-utter songs.
his corpus tremulum complectens undique uestis
for-them the-body trembling embracing on-all-sides a-garment

candida purpurea talos incinxerat ora,
white with-purple the-ankles had-girded border,
at roseae niueo residebant uertice uittae,
but rosy on-the-snowy rested head fillets,
aeternumque manus carpebant rite laborem.
and-the-eternal their-hands plucked duly labor.
laeua colum molli lana retinebat amictum,
the-left the-distaff with-soft wool held clothed,
dextera tum leuiter deducens fila supinis
the-right then lightly drawing-down the-threads with-upturned
formabat digitis, tum prono in pollice torquens
shaped fingers, then downturned on thumb twisting
libratum tereti uersabat turbine fusum,
the-balanced with-smooth turned whorl spindle,
atque ita decerpens aequabat semper opus dens,
and so plucking-off leveled always the-work the-tooth,
laneaque aridulis haerebant morsa labellis
and-woolly to-the-dry-little stuck bitten little-lips
quae prius in leui fuerant exstantia filo.
which before on smooth had-been standing-out thread.
ante pedes autem candentis mollia lanae
before their-feet moreover of-white the-soft wool
uellera uirgati custodibant calathisci.
fleeces wicker guarded little-baskets.
haec tum clarisona uellentes uellera uoce
these then with-clear-sounding plucking fleeces voice
talia diuino fuderunt carmine fata,
such with-divine poured-forth song fates,
carmine perfidiae quod post nulla arguet aetas:
song of-faithlessness which afterward no will-convict age:

‘o decus eximium magnis uirtutibus augens,
‘o glory exceptional with-great valors increasing,
Emathiae tutamen opis, clarissime nato,
of-Emathia protector of-power, most-famous for-your-son,
accipe quod laeta tibi pandunt luce sorores,
receive what on-the-glad to-you lay-open day the-sisters,
ueridicum oraclum. sed uos, quae fata secuntur,
truth-telling an-oracle. but you, which the-fates follow,
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.
adueniet tibi iam portans optata maritis
will-come to-you now bringing what-is-longed-for by-husbands
Hesperus, adueniet fausto cum sidere coniunx,
Hesperus, will-come favorable with star your-wife,
quae tibi flexanimo mentem perfundat amore
who for-you with-mind-bending your-mind may-steep love
languidulosque paret tecum coniungere somnos
and-languid-little may-prepare with-you to-join sleeps
leuia substernens robusto bracchia collo.
smooth spreading-under on-your-sturdy her-arms neck.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.
nulla domus tales unquam contexit amores,
no house such ever has-covered loves,
nullus amor tali coniunxit foedere amantes
no love by-such has-joined pact lovers
qualis adest Thetidi, qualis concordia Peleo.
as is-present for-Thetis, as concord for-Peleus.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.

nascetur uobis expers terroris Achilles,
will-be-born to-you free of-terror Achilles,
hostibus haud tergo, sed forti pectore notus,
to-enemies not by-his-back, but by-his-brave breast known,
qui persaepe uago uictor certamine cursus
who very-often in-the-wandering victor contest of-the-race
flammea praeuertet celeris uestigia ceruae.
the-flame-swift will-outstrip of-the-swift the-tracks hind.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.
non illi quisquam bello se conferet heros,
not to-him any in-war himself will-match hero,
cum Phrygii Teucro manabunt sanguine campi
when the-Phrygian with-Teucrian will-flow blood plains
Troicaque obsidens longinquo moenia bello
and-the-Trojan besieging in-a-long walls war
periuri Pelopis uastabit tertius heres.
of-perjured Pelops will-lay-waste the-third heir.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.
illius egregias uirtutes claraque facta
his outstanding valors and-famous deeds
saepe fatebuntur gnatorum in funere matres,
often will-confess of-their-sons at the-funeral mothers,
cum incultum cano soluent a uertice crinem
when the-unkempt the-white they-loose from head hair
putridaque infirmis uariabunt pectora palmis.
and-the-withered with-feeble will-mottle breasts palms.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.

namque uelut densas praecerpens messor aristas
for as the-dense cropping a-reaper ears
sole sub ardenti flauentia demetit arua,
the-sun under burning the-yellowing mows fields,
Troiugenum infesto prosternet corpora ferro.
of-the-Trojan-born with-hostile he-will-lay-low the-bodies steel.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.
testis erit magnis uirtutibus unda Scamandri,
witness will-be to-his-great valors the-wave of-Scamander,
quae passim rapido diffunditur Hellesponto,
which everywhere into-the-rushing is-poured Hellespont,
cuius iter caesis angustans corporum aceruis
whose course with-slain narrowing of-bodies heaps
alta tepefaciet permixta flumina caede.
the-deep he-will-warm mingled streams with-slaughter.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.
denique testis erit morti quoque reddita praeda,
finally witness will-be to-his-death also the-given prey,
cum teres excelso coaceruatum aggere bustum
when the-rounded on-high heaped mound the-tomb
excipiet niueos percussae uirginis artus.
will-receive the-snowy of-the-struck maiden limbs.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.
nam simul ac fessis dederit fors copiam Achiuis
for as-soon as to-the-weary has-given chance the-means Achaeans
urbis Dardaniae Neptunia soluere uincla,
of-the-city Dardanian the-Neptunian to-loosen bonds,

alta Polyxenia madefient caede sepulcra,
the-high with-Polyxenian will-be-drenched slaughter tomb,
quae, uelut ancipiti succumbens uictima ferro,
who, like with-the-two-edged sinking a-victim steel,
proiciet truncum submisso poplite corpus.
will-throw-forth her-trunk with-bent knee body.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.
quare agite optatos animi coniungite amores.
therefore come the-longed-for of-the-heart join loves.
accipiat coniunx felici foedere diuam,
let-receive the-husband with-happy pact the-goddess,
dedatur cupido iam dudum nupta marito.
let-be-given to-the-desiring now long the-bride husband.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.
non illam nutrix orienti luce reuisens
not her the-nurse at-rising light revisiting
hesterno collum poterit circumdare filo
with-yesterday's her-neck will-be-able to-encircle thread
(currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi),
(run drawing the-weft, run, spindles),
anxia nec mater discordis maesta puellae
anxious nor her-mother of-the-quarreling sad girl
secubitu caros mittet sperare nepotes.
by-sleeping-apart dear will-give-up to-hope-for grandchildren.
currite ducentes subtegmina, currite, fusi.'
run drawing the-weft, run, spindles.'
talia praefantes quondam felicia Pelei
such foretelling once happy of-Peleus

carmina diuino cecinerunt pectore Parcae.
songs with-divine sang breast the-Parcae.
praesentes namque ante domos inuisere castas
present for before the-homes to-visit chaste
heroum et sese mortali ostendere coetu
of-heroes and themselves to-mortal to-show company
caelicolae nondum spreta pietate solebant.
the-heaven-dwellers not-yet spurned dutifulness were-wont.
saepe pater diuum templo in fulgente, reuisens
often the-father of-the-gods his-temple in shining, revisiting
annua cum festis uenissent sacra diebus,
yearly when on-festal had-come rites days,
conspexit terra centum procumbere tauros.
saw on-the-earth a-hundred fall bulls.
saepe uagus Liber Parnasi uertice summo
often wandering Liber of-Parnassus from-the-top highest
Thyiadas effusis euantis crinibus egit,
the-Thyiads with-streaming crying-euhoe hair drove,
cum Delphi tota certatim ex urbe ruentes
when the-Delphians whole vying from city rushing
acciperent laeti diuum fumantibus aris.
received glad the-god with-smoking altars.
saepe in letifero belli certamine Mauors
often in the-death-bringing of-war contest Mavors
aut rapidi Tritonis era aut Rhamnusia uirgo
or of-swift Triton the-mistress or the-Rhamnusian maiden
armatas hominum est praesens hortata cateruas.
armed of-men has present encouraged bands.
sed postquam tellus scelere est imbuta nefando,
but after the-earth with-crime has been-steeped unspeakable,

iustitiamque omnes cupida de mente fugarunt,
and-justice all greedy from mind have-put-to-flight,
perfudere manus fraterno sanguine fratres,
have-drenched their-hands with-a-brother's blood brothers,
destitit exstinctos natus lugere parentes,
has-ceased extinguished the-son to-mourn his-parents,
optauit genitor primaeui funera nati
has-wished the-father of-his-first-born the-death son
liber ut innuptae poteretur flore nouercae,
free that of-the-unmarried he-might-possess the-flower stepmother,
ignaro mater substernens se impia nato
to-her-unknowing the-mother lying-under herself impious son
impia non uerita est diuos scelerare parentes,
impious not feared has the-gods to-defile ancestral,
omnia fanda nefanda malo permixta furore
all-things speakable unspeakable with-evil mingled frenzy
iustificam nobis mentem auertere deorum.
the-justice-making from-us mind have-turned-away of-the-gods.
quare nec talis dignantur uisere coetus
therefore neither such they-deign to-visit companies
nec se contingi patiuntur lumine claro.
nor themselves to-be-touched they-allow by-light clear.

Grief at his brother's death, who lies buried at Troy, keeps Catullus from the Muses, and he will mourn him always as the nightingale mourns Itylus. Yet he sends Ortalus a translation of Callimachus, lest he think his request had slipped away like an apple that falls from a girl's lap when her mother comes in.

Etsi me adsiduo defectum cura dolore
Although me with-constant worn-out care grief
seuocat a doctis, Ortale, uirginibus,
calls-away from the-learned, Ortalus, maidens,
nec potis est dulcis Musarum expromere fetus
nor able is the-sweet of-the-Muses to-bring-out offspring
mens animi: tantis fluctuat ipsa malis, —
the-mind of-my-heart: in-such tosses itself evils,
namque mei nuper Lethaeo gurgite fratris
for of-my lately in-the-Lethaean flood brother
pallidulum manans adluit unda pedem,
the-pale-little flowing has-washed wave foot,
Troia Rhoeteo quem subter litore tellus
the-Trojan the-Rhoetean whom beneath shore earth
ereptum nostris obterit ex oculis.
snatched-away our crushes from eyes.

* * *

(lacuna)

nunquam ego te uita frater amabilior
never I you than-life brother more-lovable
adspiciam posthac: at certe semper amabo,
shall-see hereafter: but surely always I-shall-love,
semper maesta tua carmina morte canam,
always sad at-your songs death I-shall-sing,

qualia sub densis ramorum concinit umbris
such-as under the-dense of-the-branches sings shadows
Daulias absumpti fata gemens Ityli, —
the-Daulian of-lost the-fates mourning Itylus,
sed tamen in tantis maeroribus, Ortale, mitto
but yet in such sorrows, Ortalus, I-send
haec expressa tibi carmina Battiadae,
these translated for-you songs of-Battiades,
ne tua dicta uagis nequiquam credita uentis
lest your words to-the-wandering in-vain entrusted winds
effluxisse meo forte putes animo,
to-have-slipped-away from-my perhaps you-think mind,
ut missum sponsi furtiuo munere malum
as sent of-her-betrothed as-a-stolen gift an-apple
procurrit casto uirginis e gremio,
runs-forth the-chaste of-a-maiden from lap,
quod miserae oblitae molli sub ueste locatum,
which of-the-poor-girl forgetful the-soft under garment placed,
dum aduentu matris prosilit, excutitur;
while at-the-arrival of-her-mother she-leaps-up, is-shaken-out;
atque illud prono praeceps agitur decursu,
and it in-a-downward headlong is-driven rush,
huic manat tristi conscius ore rubor.
over-her spreads on-sad conscious face a-blush.

The lock of Berenice's hair speaks: Conon the astronomer found it in the sky after the queen vowed it for her husband's safe return from laying waste the Assyrian borders. It recalls her grief at parting, her courage, and the iron that cut it, carried by Arsinoe's winged horse to Venus and set among the stars. It would rather be on its mistress's head, asks brides to pour it perfume, and prays the queen to honor it.

Omnia qui magni dispexit lumina mundi,
All who of-the-great has-discerned the-lights world,
qui stellarum ortus comperit atque obitus,
who of-the-stars the-risings has-found-out and settings,
flammeus ut rapidi solis nitor obscuretur,
the-flaming how of-the-swift sun brilliance is-obscured,
ut cedant certis sidera temporibus,
how yield at-fixed the-stars times,
ut Triuiam furtim sub Latmia saxa relegans
how Trivia stealthily under Latmian the-rocks banishing
dulcis amor gyro deuocet aerio,
sweet love from-her-round calls-away airy,
idem me ille Conon caelesti in lumine uidit
the-same me that Conon heavenly in light saw
e Bereniceo uertice caesariem
from Berenice's head a-lock
fulgentem clare, quam cunctis illa deorum
shining clearly, which to-all she of-the-gods
leuia protendens bracchia pollicita est,
smooth stretching-out her-arms promised has,
qua rex tempestate nouo auctus hymenaeo
at-what the-king time with-new increased wedding

uastatum finis iuerat Assyrios,
to-lay-waste the-borders had-gone Assyrian,
dulcia nocturnae portans uestigia rixae
sweet of-the-nightly bearing the-traces quarrel
quam de uirgineis gesserat exuuiis.
which over the-maidenly he-had-waged spoils.
estne nouis nuptis odio Venus, atque parentum
is to-new brides hateful Venus, and of-the-parents
frustrantur falsis gaudia lacrimulis
do-they-thwart with-false the-joys little-tears
ubertim thalami quas intra limina fundunt?
abundantly of-the-bridal-chamber which within the-threshold they-pour?
non, ita me diui, uera gemunt, iuerint.
no, so me the-gods, truly they-groan, may-help.
id mea me multis docuit regina querelis
that my me with-many has-taught queen complaints
inuisente nouo proelia torua uiro.
with-visiting her-new battles grim husband.
at tu non orbum luxti deserta cubile,
but you not the-widowed mourned deserted bed,
sed fratris cari flebile discidium?
but of-your-brother dear the-tearful parting?
quam penitus maestas exedit cura medullas!
how deeply your-sad has-eaten-out care marrow!
ut tibi tunc toto pectore sollicitae
how for-you then with-whole breast troubled
sensibus ereptis mens excidit! at te ego certe
with-your-senses snatched-away your-mind fell-out! but you I surely
cognoram a parua uirgine magnanimam.
had-known from a-little maiden great-souled.

anne bonum oblita es facinus, quo regium adepta es
or the-good forgotten have-you deed, by-which royal gained you-have
coniugium, quod non fortior ausit alis?
a-marriage, which not a-braver might-dare another?
sed tum maesta uirum mittens quae uerba locuta es!
but then sad your-husband sending-off what words spoken you-have!
Iuppiter, ut tristi lumina saepe manu!
Jupiter, how you-rubbed your-eyes often with-(your)-hand!
quis te mutauit tantus deus? an quod amantes
who you has-changed so-great god? or is-it-that lovers
non longe a caro corpore abesse uolunt?
not long from the-dear body to-be-absent wish?
atque ibi me cunctis pro dulci coniuge diuis
and there me to-all for your-sweet spouse gods
non sine taurino sanguine pollicita es,
not without bull's blood promised you-have,
si reditum tetulisset. is haud in tempore longo
if his-return he-should-have-brought. he not in time long
captam Asiam Aegypti finibus addiderat.
captured Asia to-Egypt's borders had-added.
quis ego pro factis caelesti reddita coetu
which I for deeds to-the-heavenly restored company
pristina uota nouo munere dissoluo.
the-former vows with-new gift pay.
inuita, o regina, tuo de uertice cessi,
unwilling, o queen, your from head I-departed,
inuita: adiuro teque tuumque caput:
unwilling: I-swear-by and-you and-your head:
digna ferat quod si quis inaniter adiurarit:
deserved may-he-bear what if anyone vainly has-sworn:

sed qui se ferro postulet esse parem?
but who himself to-steel would-claim to-be equal?
ille quoque euersus mons est quem maximum in oris
that too overturned mountain was which greatest on shores
progenies Thiae clara superuehitur,
the-offspring of-Thia bright passes-over,
cum Medi peperere nouum mare, cumque iuuentus
when the-Medes brought-forth a-new sea, and-when the-youth
per medium classi barbara nauit Athon.
through the-middle with-their-fleet barbarian sailed Athos.
quid facient crines, cum ferro talia cedant?
what will-do locks, when to-steel such-things yield?
Iuppiter, ut Chalybon omne genus pereat,
Jupiter, may of-the-Chalybes all the-race perish,
et qui principio sub terra quaerere uenas
and he-who at-the-beginning under the-earth to-seek veins
institit ac ferri fingere duritiem!
began and of-iron to-forge the-hardness!
abiunctae paulo ante comae mea fata sorores
separated a-little before the-locks my fate sisters
lugebant, cum se Memnonis Aethiopis
were-mourning, when himself of-Memnon the-Ethiopian
unigena impellens nutantibus aera pennis
the-only-born-brother beating with-nodding the-air wings
obtulit Arsinoes † elocridicos ales equus,
offered of-Arsinoe (corrupt) locrian the-winged horse,
isque per aetherias me tollens auolat umbras
and-he through the-airy me raising flies-away shadows
et Veneris casto conlocat in gremio.
and of-Venus chaste places in lap.

ipsa suum Zephyritis eo famulum legarat,
she-herself her-own the-Zephyritis there servant had-sent,
Graia Canopiis incola litoribus,
the-Grecian on-Canopic dweller shores,
† hi dii uen ibi uario ne solum in lumine caeli
(corrupt) here gods (corrupt) there varied lest alone in light of-the-sky
ex Ariadneis aurea temporibus
from Ariadne's golden temples
fixa corona foret, sed nos quoque fulgeremus
fixed the-crown should-be, but we also might-shine
deuotae flaui uerticis exuuiae,
the-dedicated of-the-golden head spoils,
uuidulam a fletu cedentem ad templa deum me
moist-little from weeping going to the-temples of-the-gods me
sidus in antiquis diua nouum posuit:
a-star among ancient the-goddess new set:
Virginis et saeui contingens namque Leonis
of-the-Virgin and of-the-savage touching for of-the-Lion
lumina, Callisto iuncta Lycaoniae,
the-lights, to-Callisto joined Lycaonian,
uertor in occasum, tardum dux ante Booten,
I-turn into setting, the-slow leader before Bootes,
qui uix sero alto mergitur Oceano.
who scarcely late in-the-deep is-plunged Ocean.
sed quamquam me nocte premunt uestigia diuum,
but although me by-night press the-footsteps of-the-gods,
lux autem canae Tethyi restituit,
the-light however to-hoary Tethys restores,
(pace tua fari hic liceat, Rhamnusia uirgo:
(with-leave your to-speak here may-it-be-allowed, Rhamnusian maiden:

namque ego non ullo uera timore tegam,
for I not with-any the-truth fear shall-hide,
nec si me infestis discerpent sidera dictis,
not-even if me with-hostile tear-apart the-stars words,
condita quin ueri pectoris euoluam)
hidden-things but-that of-my-true breast I-unroll)
non his tam laetor rebus quam me afore semper
not at-these so-much I-rejoice things as myself to-be-away always
afore me a dominae uertice discrucior,
to-be-away me from of-my-mistress the-head I-am-tormented,
quicum ego, dum uirgo quondam fuit, omnibus expers
with-whom I, while a-maiden once she-was, of-all without
unguentis, una milia multa bibi.
perfumes, together thousands many drank.
nunc uos optato quom iunxit lumine taeda,
now you on-the-longed-for when has-joined light the-torch,
non prius unanimis corpora coniugibus
not before to-your-like-minded your-bodies husbands
tradite nudantes reiecta ueste papillas,
hand-over baring with-thrown-back garment your-breasts,
quam iucunda mihi munera libet onyx,
than pleasant to-me gifts may-pour the-onyx,
uester onyx, casto colitis quae iura cubili.
your onyx, in-chaste you-cherish who the-rights bed.
sed quae se impuro dedit adulterio,
but she-who herself to-impure has-given adultery,
illius ah mala dona leuis bibat irrita puluis:
her ah evil gifts the-light may-drink void dust:
namque ego ab indignis praemia nulla peto.
for I from the-unworthy rewards none seek.

sed magis, o nuptae, semper concordia uestras,
but rather, o brides, always concord your,
semper amor sedes incolat adsiduus.
always love homes may-inhabit constant.
tu uero, regina, tuens cum sidera diuam
you however, queen, gazing when at-the-stars the-goddess
placabis festis luminibus Venerem,
you-will-appease with-festal lights Venus,
unguinis expertem non siris esse tuam me,
of-perfume without not allow to-be your me,
sed potius largis adfice muneribus.
but rather with-lavish endow gifts.
sidera cur retinent? utinam coma regia fiam:
the-stars why hold-me? would-that a-lock royal I-may-become:
proximus Hydrochoi fulgeret Oarion.
next to-Aquarius might-shine Orion.

67 · THE DOOR

Catullus questions a house door about why it changed its loyalty. The door denies blame and tells the scandal: the bride was not a virgin, since her impotent first husband never touched her, but his father violated his son's bed; she also had other lovers, Postumius and Cornelius, and a tall man whom the door will not name.

O dulci iucunda uiro, iucunda parenti,
O to-the-sweet pleasant husband, pleasant to-the-parent,
salue, teque bona Iuppiter auctet ope,
hail, and-you with-good Jupiter may-increase help,
Ianua, quam Balbo dicunt seruisse benigne
Door, whom Balbus they-say to-have-served kindly

olim, cum sedes ipse senex tenuit,
once, when the-house himself the-old-man held,
quamque ferunt rursus uoto seruisse maligne,
and-whom they-say in-turn the-vow to-have-served spitefully,
postquam es porrecto facta marita sene,
after you-have-been with-stretched-out made married old-man,
dic agedum nobis quare mutata feraris
tell come to-us why changed you-are-said
in dominum ueterem deseruisse fidem.
toward your-master old to-have-abandoned faith.
'non (ita Caecilio placeam, cui tradita nunc sum)
'not (so to-Caecilius may-I-be-pleasing, to-whom handed-over now I-am)
culpa mea est, quamquam dicitur esse mea,
the-fault mine is, although it-is-said to-be mine,
nec peccatum a me quisquam pote dicere quicquam:
nor wrongdoing of me anyone can to-say any:
† uerum istius populi ianua qui te facit!
(corrupt) but of-that the-people the-door who you makes!
qui, quacumque aliquid reperitur non bene factum,
who, wherever something is-found not well done,
ad me omnes clamant, "Ianua, culpa tua est."'
at me all shout, "Door, the-fault yours is."'
non istuc satis est uno te dicere uerbo,
not that enough is with-one for-you to-say word,
sed facere ut quiuis sentiat et uideat.
but to-act so-that anyone may-perceive and may-see.
'qui possum? nemo quaerit nec scire laborat.'
'how can-I? no-one asks nor to-know takes-pains.'
nos uolumus; nobis dicere ne dubita.
we wish; to-us to-tell do-not hesitate.

‘primum igitur, uirgo quod fertur tradita nobis,
‘first then, a-maiden that is-said handed-over to-us,
falsum est. non illam uir prior attigerit,
false is. not her the-husband former touched,
languidior tenera cui pendens sicula beta
more-limp than-the-tender whose hanging little-dagger beet
nunquam se mediam sustulit ad tunicam:
never itself middle raised to tunic:
sed pater illius gnati uiolasse cubile
but the-father of-that son to-have-violated the-bed
dicitur et miseram conscelerasse domum,
is-said and the-wretched to-have-polluted house,
siue quod impia mens caeco flagrabat amore,
whether because his-impious mind with-blind burned love,
seu quod iners sterili semine natus erat
or because idle with-sterile seed born he-was
et quaerendus is unde foret neruosius illud
and to-be-sought it whence might-be more-sinewy that
quod posset zonam soluere uirgineam.’
which could the-girdle to-loose maidenly.’
egregium narras mira pietate parentem,
outstanding you-tell-of with-wonderful dutifulness a-parent,
qui ipse sui gnati minxerit in gremium.
who himself of-his-own son has-pissed into the-lap.
‘atqui non solum hoc se dicit cognitum habere
‘and-yet not only this herself says known to-have
Brixia † chinea suppositum specula,
Brixia (corrupt) chinean set-under watchtower,
flauus quam molli praecurrit flumine Mella,
yellow which with-soft runs-past stream Mella,

Brixia, Veronae mater amata meae,
Brixia, of-Verona the-mother beloved my,
sed de Postumio et Corneli narrat amore,
but about Postumius and of-Cornelius tells love,
cum quibus illa malum fecit adulterium.
with whom she evil committed adultery.
dixerit hic aliquis, "quid? tu istaec, Ianua, nosti,
may-say here someone, "what? you these-things, Door, know,
cui nunquam domini limine abesse licet,
to-whom never of-your-master from-the-threshold to-be-absent is-allowed,
nec populum auscultare, sed hic suffixa tigillo
nor the-people to-listen-to, but here fixed to-the-little-beam
tantum operire soles aut aperire domum?"
only to-shut you-are-wont or to-open the-house?"
saepe illam audiui furtiua uoce loquentem
often her I-have-heard with-stealthy voice speaking
solam cum ancillis haec sua flagitia,
alone with her-maids these her disgraceful-deeds,
nomine dicentem quos diximus, ut pote quae mi
by-name naming whom we-have-named, as being-one who to-me
speraret nec linguam esse nec auriculam.
hoped neither a-tongue to-be nor a-little-ear.
praeterea addebat quendam, quem dicere nolo
besides she-added a-certain-man, whom to-name I-am-unwilling
nomine ne tollat rubra supercilia.
by-name lest he-raise his-red eyebrows.
longus homo est, magnas cui lites intulit olim
tall the-man is, great on-whom lawsuits brought once
falsum mendaci uentre puerperium.'
a-false with-lying womb pregnancy.'

Manlius, shipwrecked by fortune and sleepless with grief, asks Catullus for the gifts of the Muses and of Venus. Catullus cannot send them: his brother's death has driven from him all love and all poetry, so that his staying at Verona, which Manlius calls shameful, is only wretched, and the books he has are at Rome. He asks pardon for what grief prevents him from giving.

Quod mihi fortuna casuque oppressus acerbo
That to-me by-fortune and-by-chance overwhelmed bitter
conscriptum hoc lacrimis mittis epistolium,
written this with-tears you-send a-little-letter,
naufragum ut eiectum spumantibus aequoris undis
shipwrecked that cast-out by-foaming of-the-sea waves
subleuem et a mortis limine restituam,
I-may-lift-up and from of-death the-threshold restore,
quem neque sancta Venus molli requiescere somno
whom neither holy Venus in-soft to-rest sleep
desertum in lecto caelibe perpetitur,
deserted in bed unmarried allows,
nec ueterum dulci scriptorum carmine musae
nor of-the-old with-sweet writers song the-muses
oblectant, cum mens anxia peruigilat,
delight, when the-mind anxious lies-awake,
id gratum est mihi, me quoniam tibi dicis amicum
that welcome is to-me, me since to-you you-call a-friend
muneraque et Musarum hinc petis et Veneris.
and-gifts both of-the-Muses from-here you-seek and of-Venus.
sed tibi ne mea sint ignota incommoda, Manli,
but to-you lest my be unknown misfortunes, Manlius,

neu me odisse putes hospitis officium,
nor me to-hate you-think of-a-host the-duty,
accipe quis merser fortunae fluctibus ipse,
learn in-what I-am-sunk of-fortune waves myself,
ne amplius a misero dona beata petas.
lest more from a-wretched gifts happy you-seek.
tempore quo primum uestis mihi tradita pura est,
at-the-time when first the-toga to-me given pure was,
iucundum cum aetas florida uer ageret,
pleasant when my-age flowery spring was-passing,
multa satis lusi; non est dea nescia nostri
much enough I-played; not is the-goddess unknowing of-us
quae dulcem curis miscet amaritiem:
who sweet with-cares mixes bitterness:
sed totum hoc studium luctu fraterna mihi mors
but whole this zeal with-grief a-brother's from-me death
abstulit. o misero frater adempte mihi,
has-taken-away. o from-wretched brother taken-away me,
tu mea tu moriens fregisti commoda, frater,
you my you dying have-broken comforts, brother,
tecum una tota est nostra sepulta domus,
with-you together whole is our buried house,
omnia tecum una perierunt gaudia nostra,
all with-you together have-perished joys our,
quae tuus in uita dulcis alebat amor.
which your in life sweet nourished love.
cuius ego interitu tota de mente fugaui
whose I at-death whole from mind have-put-to-flight
haec studia atque omnes delicias animi.
these pursuits and all delights of-the-heart.

quare, quod scribis Veronae turpe Catullo
therefore, that you-write at-Verona shameful for-Catullus
esse quod hic quisquis de meliore nota
to-be because here whoever of better mark
frigida deserto tepefactet membra cubili,
cold in-deserted warms limbs bed,
id, Manli, non est turpe, magis miserum est.
that, Manlius, not is shameful, rather wretched it-is.
ignosces igitur, si, quae mihi luctus ademit,
you-will-forgive therefore, if, which from-me grief has-taken-away,
haec tibi non tribuo munera, cum nequeo.
these to-you not I-bestow gifts, since I-cannot.
nam quod scriptorum non magna est copia apud me,
for that of-writings not great is the-supply with me,
hoc fit quod Romae uiuimus: illa domus,
this happens because at-Rome we-live: that the-home,
illa mihi sedes, illic mea carpitur aetas;
that for-me the-seat, there my is-plucked age;
huc una ex multis capsula me sequitur.
hither one from many little-box me follows.
quod cum ita sit, nolim statuas nos mente maligna
which since so it-is, I-would-not-wish you-decide us with-mind spiteful
id facere aut animo non satis ingenuo
that to-do or with-spirit not enough generous
quod tibi non utriusque petenti copia parta est:
that to-you not of-either asking supply provided is:
ultro ego deferrem, copia si qua foret.
of-my-own-accord I would-bring, supply if any were.

Catullus thanks Allius, who opened his house to him and his mistress when he burned with love. She came to him as Laodamia came to the house of Protesilaus, Laodamia whose love was deeper than the pit Hercules dug at Pheneus, and the thought of Troy recalls his brother, buried far from home. He accepts his mistress's rare infidelities, as Juno does Jupiter's, and wishes Allius, his life, and his house happiness, and above all his own light, his mistress.

Non possum reticere: deae, qua me Allius in re
Not I-can to-be-silent: goddesses, what me Allius in thing
iuuerit aut quantis iuuerit officiis,
helped or with-how-great helped services,
ne fugiens saeclis obliuiscentibus aetas
lest fleeing with-ages forgetting time
illius hoc caeca nocte tegat studium:
his this with-blind night cover zeal:
sed dicam uobis, uos porro dicite multis
but I-will-tell you, you further tell to-many
milibus et facite haec charta loquatur anus
thousands and make this the-paper speak an-old-woman

* * *

(lacuna)

notescatque magis mortuus atque magis,
and-let-him-become-known more dead and more,
nec tenuem texens sublimis aranea telam
nor the-thin weaving aloft the-spider web
in deserto Alli nomine opus faciat.
over deserted of-Allius name its-work make.
nam mihi quam dederit duplex Amathusia curam
for to-me what has-given double Amathusia care

scitis, et in quo me corruerit genere,
you-know, and in what me she-has-ruined way,
cum tantum arderem quantum Trinacria rupes
when so-much I-burned as-much-as the-Trinacrian rock
lymphaque in Oetaeis Malia Thermopylis,
and-the-water at Oetaean Malian Thermopylae,
maesta neque adsiduo tabescere lumina fletu
sad nor with-constant to-waste my-eyes weeping
cessarent tristique imbre madere genae,
ceased and-with-gloomy rain to-be-wet my-cheeks,
qualis in aerii perlucens uertice montis
as on of-an-airy shining-through the-top mountain
riuus muscoso prosilit e lapide,
a-stream mossy leaps-forth from stone,
qui, cum de prona praeceps est ualle uolutus,
which, when from the-sloping headlong it-has rolled valley,
per medium densi transit iter populi,
through the-middle of-the-dense passes the-path people,
dulce uiatori lasso in sudore leuamen
sweet for-the-wayfarer weary in sweat relief
cum grauis exustos aestus hiulcat agros.
when heavy parched the-heat cracks fields.
hic, uelut in nigro iactatis turbine nautis
here, as in black tossed whirlwind for-sailors
lenius adspirans aura secunda uenit
more-gently breathing a-breeze favorable comes
iam prece Pollucis, iam Castoris implorata,
now by-prayer of-Pollux, now of-Castor implored,
tale fuit nobis Allius auxilium.
such was for-us Allius a-help.

is clausum lato patefecit limite campum,
he the-closed with-wide opened path field,
isque domum nobis isque dedit dominae,
and-he a-house for-us and-he gave to-the-mistress,
ad quam communes exerceremus amores.
at which shared we-might-practice loves.
quo mea se molli candida diua pede
where my herself with-soft fair goddess foot
intulit et trito fulgentem in limine plantam
brought-in and the-worn gleaming on threshold her-sole
innixa arguta constituit solea,
leaning-on with-the-creaking set sandal,
coniugis ut quondam flagrans aduenit amore
of-her-husband as once burning came with-love
Protesilaeam Laodamia domum
the-Protesilaean Laodamia house
inceptam frustra, nondum cum sanguine sacro
begun in-vain, not-yet when with-blood sacred
hostia caelestis pacificasset eros.
a-victim the-heavenly had-appeased lords.
nil mihi tam ualde placeat, Rhamnusia uirgo,
nothing to-me so strongly may-please, Rhamnusian maiden,
quod temere inuitis suscipiatur eris.
which rashly with-unwilling be-undertaken lords.
quam ieiuna pium desideret ara cruorem
how fasting dutiful longs-for the-altar gore
docta est amisso Laodamia uiro,
taught was by-her-lost Laodamia husband,
coniugis ante coacta noui dimittere collum
of-her-husband before compelled new to-let-go the-neck

quam ueniens una atque altera rursus hiems
than coming one and a-second again winter
noctibus in longis auidum saturasset amorem,
nights in long greedy had-sated love,
posset ut abrupto uiuere coniugio:
she-could that with-broken-off to-live marriage:
quod scibant Parcae non longo tempore abesse,
which knew the-Parcae not long a-time to-be-away,
si miles muros isset ad Iliacos:
if a-soldier the-walls had-gone to Ilian:
nam tum Helenae raptu primores Argiuorum
for then of-Helen by-the-rape the-chiefs of-the-Argives
coeperat ad sese Troia ciere uiros,
had-begun to itself Troy to-summon the-men,
Troia (nefas) commune sepulcrum Asiae Europaeque,
Troy (abomination) common the-tomb of-Asia and-Europe,
Troia uirum et uirtutum omnium acerba cinis:
Troy of-men and of-valors of-all bitter ash:
quaene etiam nostro letum miserabile fratri
which even to-our death pitiable brother
attulit. hei misero frater adempte mihi,
brought. alas from-wretched brother taken-away me,
hei misero fratri iucundum lumen ademptum,
alas from-wretched brother pleasant light taken-away,
tecum una tota est nostra sepulta domus,
with-you together whole is our buried house,
omnia tecum una perierunt gaudia nostra,
all with-you together have-perished joys our,
quae tuus in uita dulcis alebat amor.
which your in life sweet nourished love.

quem nunc tam longe non inter nota sepulcra
whom now so far not among known tombs
nec prope cognatos compositum cineres,
nor near kindred laid ashes,
sed Troia obscena, Troia infelice sepultum
but in-Troy obscene, in-Troy unlucky buried
detinet extremo terra aliena solo.
holds in-the-furthest a-land foreign soil.
ad quam tum properans fertur simul undique pubes
to which then hurrying is-said at-once from-everywhere the-youth
Graeca penetralis deseruisse focos,
Greek inner to-have-deserted hearths,
ne Paris abducta gauisus libera moecha
lest Paris with-carried-off rejoicing free adulteress
otia pacato degeret in thalamo.
leisure peaceful should-spend in bridal-chamber.
quo tibi tum casu, pulcherrima Laodamia,
by-which for-you then chance, most-beautiful Laodamia,
ereptum est uita dulcius atque anima
snatched has-been than-life sweeter and than-soul
coniugium: tanto te absorbens uertice amoris
your-marriage: with-so-great you sucking-down eddy of-love
aestus in abruptum detulerat barathrum,
the-surge into the-abrupt had-carried-down pit,
quale ferunt Grai Pheneum prope Cylleneum
such-as say the-Greeks Pheneus near Cyllenian
siccare emulsa pingue palude solum,
to-dry with-drained rich marsh soil,
quod quondam caesis montis fodisse medullis
which once with-cut of-the-mountain to-have-dug marrow

audit falsiparens Amphitryoniades,
is-said the-falsely-fathered son-of-Amphitryon,
tempore quo certa Stymphalia monstra sagitta
at-the-time when with-sure the-Stymphalian monsters arrow
perculit imperio deterioris eri,
he-struck at-the-command of-a-worse master,
pluribus ut caeli tereretur ianua diuis,
by-more that of-the-sky might-be-worn the-door gods,
Hebe nec longa uirginitate foret.
Hebe nor long in-maidenhood should-be.
sed tuus altus amor barathro fuit altior illo,
but your deep love than-the-pit was deeper that,
qui tunc indomitam ferre iugum docuit.
which then untamed to-bear the-yoke taught.
nam nec tam carum confecto aetate parenti
for neither so dear to-the-exhausted by-age parent
una caput seri nata nepotis alit,
one the-head of-a-late daughter grandson nourishes,
qui, cum diuitiis uix tandem inuentus auitis
who, when to-the-riches scarcely at-last found ancestral
nomen testatas intulit in tabulas,
his-name witnessed brought into tablets,
impia derisi gentilis gaudia tollens
the-impious of-the-mocked kinsman joys removing
suscitat a cano uulturium capiti:
rouses from the-hoary the-vulture head:
nec tantum niueo gauisa est ulla columbo
nor so-much in-snow-white rejoiced has any dove
compar, quae multo dicitur improbius
her-mate, who much is-said more-shamelessly

oscula mordenti semper decerpere rostro
kisses with-biting always to-pluck beak
quam quae praecipue multiuola est mulier:
than she-who especially much-desiring is a-woman:
sed tu horum magnos uicisti sola furores,
but you of-these the-great have-surpassed alone frenzies,
ut semel es flauo conciliata uiro.
as-soon-as once you-were to-golden united husband.
aut nihil aut paulo cui tum concedere digna
either in-nothing or a-little to-whom then to-yield worthy
lux mea se nostrum contulit in gremium,
light my herself our brought into lap,
quam circumcursans hinc illinc saepe Cupido
around-whom running-about here there often Cupid
fulgebat crocina candidus in tunica.
shone saffron fair in tunic.
quae tamenetsi uno non est contenta Catullo,
who though with-one not is content Catullus,
rara uerecundae furta feremus erae,
rare of-the-modest the-thefts we-shall-bear mistress,
ne nimium simus stultorum more molesti:
lest too-much we-be of-fools in-the-manner troublesome:
saepe etiam Iuno, maxima caelicolum,
often even Juno, greatest of-the-heaven-dwellers,
coniugis in culpa flagrantem concoquit iram
of-her-husband at the-fault blazing digests anger
noscens omniuoli plurima furta Iouis.
knowing of-all-desiring the-very-many thefts of-Jupiter.
atqui nec diuis homines componier aequum est
and-yet neither with-gods men to-be-compared fair it-is

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(lacuna)

* * *

(lacuna)

ingratum tremuli tolle parentis onus.

the-thankless of-a-trembling lift parent burden.

nec tamen illa mihi dextra deducta paterna

nor yet she to-me by-the-right-hand led paternal

fragrantem Assyrio uenit odore domum,

fragrant with-Assyrian came perfume to-the-house,

sed furtiua dedit mira munuscula nocte

but stolen she-gave wonderful little-gifts in-the-night

ipsius ex ipso dempta uiri gremio.

of-himself from the-very taken husband lap.

quare illud satis est, si nobis is datur unis

therefore that enough is, if to-us that is-given alone

quem lapide illa diem candidiore notat.

which with-a-stone she the-day whiter marks.

hoc tibi quod potui confectum carmine munus

this to-you which I-could made with-song gift

pro multis, Alli, redditur officiis,

for many, Allius, is-returned services,

ne uestrum scabra tangat robigine nomen

lest your with-scabby touch rust name

haec atque illa dies atque alia atque alia.

this and that day and another and another.

huc addent diui quam plurima, quae Themis olim

to-this will-add the-gods as very-many, which Themis once

antiquis solita est munera ferre piis:

to-the-ancient wont was gifts to-bring dutiful:

sitis felices et tu simul et tua uita
may-you-be happy both you together and your life
et domus, in qua nos lusimus et domina,
and the-house, in which we played and the-mistress,
et qui principio nobis † terram dedit aufert,
and he-who at-the-beginning to-us (corrupt) the-land gave takes-away,
a quo sunt primo omnia nata bona,
by whom are first all born good-things,
et longe ante omnes mihi quae me carior ipso est,
and far before all to-me she-who than-me dearer myself is,
lux mea, qua uiua uiuere dulce mihi est.
light my, with-whom living to-live sweet to-me is.

69 · RUFUS

Catullus tells Rufus why no woman will lie with him, though he offers gifts: a fierce goat is said to live in his armpits.

Noli admirari quare tibi femina nulla,
Do-not wonder why for-you a-woman no,
Rufe, uelit tenerum supposuisse femur,
Rufus, wishes her-tender to-have-placed-under thigh,
non si illam rarae labefactes munere uestis
not if her of-a-rare you-should-shake with-the-gift garment
aut perluciduli deliciis lapidis.
or of-a-translucent with-the-delights stone.
laedit te quaedam mala fabula, qua tibi fertur
harms you a-certain evil story, by-which of-you it-is-said
ualle sub alarum trux habitare caper.
the-valley under of-your-armpits a-fierce to-live goat.

hunc metuunt omnes. neque mirum: nam mala ualde est
this they-fear all. nor a-wonder: for evil very is
bestia, nec quicum bella puella cubet.
the-beast, nor one-with-whom a-pretty girl would-lie.
quare aut crudelem nasorum interfice pestem,
therefore either the-cruel of-noses kill plague,
aut admirari desine cur fugiunt.
or to-wonder cease why they-flee.

70 · WRITTEN IN WATER

Catullus' woman says she would marry no one but him, not even Jupiter. She says it: but what a woman says to an eager lover should be written on the wind and running water.

Nulli se dicit mulier mea nubere malle
To-no-one herself says woman my to-marry would-rather
quam mihi, non si se Iuppiter ipse petat.
than to-me, not if her Jupiter himself should-seek.
dicit: sed mulier cupido quod dicit amanti
she-says: but a-woman to-a-desiring what says lover
in uento et rapida scribere oportet aqua.
in the-wind and rushing to-write it-is-fitting water.

71 · THE RIVAL

The addressee's rival, who makes love to his girl, has both the goat and the gout, so that whenever he makes love he punishes both: her with his smell, himself with gout.

Si cui iure bono sacer alarum obstitit hircus,
If anyone by-right good the-accursed of-the-armpits has-obstructed goat,

aut si quem merito tarda podagra secat,
or if anyone deservedly slow gout cuts,

aemulus iste tuus, qui uestrum exercet amorem,
rival that your, who your practices love,

mirifice est a te nactus utrumque malum.
marvelously has from you got both evil.

nam quotiens futuit totiens ulciscitur ambos:
for as-often-as he-fucks so-often he-avenges both:

illam adfligit odore, ipse perit podagra.
her he-afflicts with-the-smell, he-himself perishes from-gout.

72 · DEARER AND CHEAPER

Lesbia once said she loved Catullus alone, and he loved her as a father loves his children. Now that he knows her, he burns more but values her less, for such an injury makes a lover love more but wish well less.

Dicebas quondam solum te nosse Catullum,
You-used-to-say once only you to-know Catullus,

Lesbia, nec prae me uelle tenere Iouem.
Lesbia, nor before me to-wish to-hold Jupiter.

dilexi tum te non tantum ut uulgus amicam,
I-loved then you not so-much as the-crowd a-sweetheart,
sed pater ut gnatos diligit et generos.
but a-father as his-sons loves and sons-in-law.
nunc te cognoui: quare etsi impensius uror,
now you I-have-come-to-know: therefore although more-intensely I-am-burned,
multo mi tamen es uilior et leuior.
much to-me nevertheless you-are cheaper and lighter.
qui potis est? inquis. quod amantem iniuria talis
how possible is-it? you-say. because a-lover an-injury such
cogit amare magis, sed bene uelle minus.
compels to-love more, but well to-wish less.

73 · THANKLESS

Catullus tells himself to stop expecting gratitude: all is thankless, and the man who presses him hardest is the one who called him his only friend.

Desine de quoquam quicquam bene uelle mereri
Cease from anyone anything well to-wish to-deserve
aut aliquem fieri posse putare pium.
or anyone to-become able to-think dutiful.
omnia sunt ingrata, nihil fecisse benigne:
all-things are thankless, nothing to-have-done kindly:
immo etiam taedet, taedet obestque magis:
nay even it-wearies, it-wearies and-it-harms more:
ut mihi, quem nemo grauius nec acerbius urget
as me, whom no-one more-heavily nor more-bitterly presses
quam modo qui me unum atque unicum amicum habuit.
than just-now he-who me as-his-one and only friend has-had.

74 · GELLIUS AND HIS UNCLE

Gellius, whose uncle scolded all talk and practice of love, seduced his uncle's wife and made him a Harpocrates; now the uncle will not say a word, even if Gellius abuses the uncle himself.

Gellius audierat patruum obiurgare solere,
Gellius had-heard his-uncle to-scold to-be-wont,
si quis delicias diceret aut faceret.
if anyone delights should-say or should-do.
hoc ne ipsi accideret, patrui perdepsuit ipsam
this lest to-himself should-happen, of-his-uncle he-kneaded-through the-very
uxorem et patruum reddidit Harpocratem.
wife and his-uncle rendered a-Harpocrates.
quod uoluit fecit: nam, quamuis irrumet ipsum
what he-wished he-did: for, although he-may-face-fuck himself
nunc patruum, uerbum non faciet patruus.
now the-uncle, a-word not will-make the-uncle.

75 · MY MIND

Catullus' mind has been brought by Lesbia's fault to where he can neither wish her well, if she became the best of women, nor stop loving her, whatever she did.

Huc est mens deducta tua, mea Lesbia, culpa,
Hither has my-mind been-led by-your, my Lesbia, fault,
atque ita se officio perdidit ipsa suo,
and so itself by-duty has-destroyed itself its-own,

ut iam nec bene uelle queat tibi, si optuma fias,
that now neither well to-wish can to-you, if best you-become,
nec desistere amare, omnia si facias.
nor to-cease to-love, all-things if you-do.

76 · A PRAYER

If a man takes pleasure in remembering his kindness, faith, and kept pacts, Catullus has much joy in store from his thankless love. He tells himself to end his misery and lay down a long love, however hard, and prays the gods to take away this plague: he no longer asks that she love him or be chaste, only that he be well.

Si qua recordanti benefacta priora uoluptas
If any to-one-recalling his-kindnesses former pleasure
est homini, cum se cogitat esse pium,
is to-a-man, when himself he-thinks to-be dutiful,
nec sanctam uiolasse fidem, nec foedere in ullo
nor holy to-have-violated faith, nor pact in any
diuum ad fallendos numine abusum homines,
of-the-gods for deceiving the-divinity to-have-abused men,
multa parata manent in longa aetate, Catulle,
many prepared remain in long age, Catullus,
ex hoc ingrato gaudia amore tibi.
from this thankless joys love for-you.
nam quaecumque homines bene cuiquam aut dicere possunt
for whatever men well to-anyone either to-say can
aut facere, haec a te dictaque factaque sunt:
or to-do, these-things by you and-said and-done have-been:
omnia quae ingratae perierunt credita menti.
all which to-a-thankless have-perished entrusted mind.

quare cur tu te iam amplius excrucies?
therefore why you yourself now further should-torment?
quin tu animo offirmas atque istinc teque reducis
why-not you in-your-mind make-firm and from-there and-yourself lead-back
et dis inuitis desinis esse miser?
and with-the-gods unwilling cease to-be wretched?
difficile est longum subito deponere amorem;
difficult it-is long suddenly to-lay-down love;
difficile est, uerum hoc qua libet efficias.
difficult it-is, but this by-whatever-way it-pleases you-should-accomplish.
una salus haec est, hoc est tibi peruincendum;
one salvation this is, this is by-you to-be-won-through;
hoc facias, siue id non pote siue pote.
this you-should-do, whether it not possible or possible.
o di, si uestrum est misereri, aut si quibus unquam
o gods, if yours it-is to-pity, or if to-any ever
extremam iam ipsa in morte tulistis opem,
the-last now the-very in death you-have-brought aid,
me miserum adspicite et, si uitam puriter egi,
me wretched look-at and, if my-life purely I-have-led,
eripite hanc pestem perniciemque mihi!
snatch-away this plague and-ruin from-me!
hei mihi subrepens imos ut torpor in artus
alas for-me creeping-under the-deepest like a-numbness into limbs
expulit ex omni pectore laetitias.
has-expelled from all breast joys.
non iam illud quaero, contra ut me diligat illa,
not now that I-ask, in-return that me may-love she,
aut, quod non potis est, esse pudica uelit:
or, what not possible is, to-be chaste may-wish:

ipse ualere opto et taetrum hunc deponere morbum.
myself to-be-well I-desire and foul this to-lay-down disease.
o di, reddite mi hoc pro pietate mea.
o gods, give-back to-me this for dutifulness my.

77 · RUFUS' BETRAYAL

Catullus reproaches Rufus, the friend he trusted in vain, who crept into his vitals and robbed him of all he had, the cruel poison of his life and the plague of their friendship.

Rufe mihi frustra ac nequiquam credite amice
Rufus by-me in-vain and to-no-purpose believed friend
(frustra? immo magno cum pretio atque malo),
(in-vain? nay great with price and harm),
sicine subrepsti mi atque intestina perurens
is-it-thus you-have-crept-under me and my-entrails burning-through
hei misero eripuisti omnia nostra bona?
alas from-wretched you-have-snatched all our goods?
eripuisti, eheu nostrae crudele uenenum
you-have-snatched, alas of-our cruel poison
uitae, eheu nostrae pestis amicitiae.
life, alas of-our plague friendship.

Gallus brings together his brother's wife and his other brother's son; but Gallus is a fool, who does not see that he is a husband himself, and as an uncle he shows his nephew how to commit adultery with an uncle's wife. A fragment after a lacuna rebukes someone whose foul spittle stained a pure girl's kisses: all ages will know him.

Gallus habet fratres, quorum est lepidissima coniunx
Gallus has brothers, of-whom is most-charming the-wife

alterius, lepidus filius alterius.
of-one, a-charming son of-the-other.

Gallus homo est bellus: nam dulces iungit amores,
Gallus a-man is pretty: for sweet he-joins loves,

cum puero ut bello bella puella cubet.
with the-boy that pretty a-pretty girl may-lie.

Gallus homo est stultus nec se uidet esse maritum,
Gallus a-man is foolish nor himself sees to-be a-husband,

qui patruus patrui monstret adulterium.
who as-uncle of-an-uncle shows adultery.

* * *
(lacuna)

* * *
(lacuna)

sed nunc id doleo quod purae pura puellae
but now that I-grieve that of-the-pure pure girl

sauia comminxit spurca saliua tua.
the-kisses has-pissed-on filthy spittle your.

uerum id non impune feres: nam te omnia saecla
but that not unpunished you-will-bear: for you all ages

noscent et qui sis fama loquetur anus.
will-know and who you-are fame will-tell an-old-woman.

79 · LESBIUS

Lesbius is handsome, and Lesbia prefers him to Catullus and all his family; but let him sell Catullus and his family if he can find three acquaintances who will kiss him.

Lesbius est pulcher: quid ni? quem Lesbia malit
Lesbius is handsome: why not? whom Lesbia would-prefer
quam te cum tota gente, Catulle, tua.
than you with whole family, Catullus, your.
sed tamen hic pulcher uendat cum gente Catullum,
but yet this handsome-man may-sell with his-family Catullus,
si tria notorum sauia reppererit.
if three of-acquaintances kisses he-has-found.

80 · GELLIUS' LIPS

Catullus asks Gellius why his rosy lips are whiter than snow in the morning: the rumor is true, as Victor's exhausted groin and Gellius' stained lips proclaim.

Quid dicam, Gelli, quare rosea ista labella
What shall-I-say, Gellius, why rosy those little-lips
hiberna fiant candidiora niue,
than-wintry become whiter snow,
mane domo cum exis et cum te octaua quiete
in-the-morning from-home when you-go-out and when you the-eighth rest
e molli longo suscitat hora die?
from soft in-the-long rouses hour day?
nescio quid certe est: an uere fama susurrat
I-know-not what surely it-is: or truly rumor whispers

grandia te medii tenta uorare uiri?
large-things you of-the-middle stretched to-devour man?
sic certe est: clamant Victoris rupta miselli
so surely it-is: cry-out of-Victor burst poor-little
ilia, et emulso labra notata sero.
the-groins, and with-milked-out lips marked whey.

81 · JUVENTIUS' GUEST

Could Juventius find no one in all Rome to love but this sallow guest from dying Pisaurum, whom he dares prefer to Catullus?

Nemone in tanto potuit populo esse, Iuuenti,
No-one in so-great could people to-be, Juventius,
bellus homo quem tu diligere inciperes
a-pretty man whom you to-love might-begin
praeterquam iste tuus moribunda ab sede Pisauri
except that your dying from seat of-Pisaurum
hospes inaurata pallidior statua?
guest than-a-gilded paler statue?
qui tibi nunc cordi est, quem tu praeponere nobis
who to-you now to-heart is, whom you to-prefer to-us
audes et nescis quod facinus facias.
dare and you-do-not-know what crime you-do.

82 · QUINTIUS

If Quintius wants Catullus to owe him his eyes, or anything dearer, let him not take from Catullus what is dearer to him than his eyes.

Quinti, si tibi uis oculos debere Catullum
Quintius, if to-you you-wish his-eyes to-owe Catullus
aut aliud si quid carius est oculis,
or anything-else if something dearer is than-eyes,
eripere ei noli multo quod carius illi
to-snatch-away from-him do-not much what dearer to-him
est oculis seu quid carius est oculis.
is than-eyes or anything dearer is than-eyes.

83 · LESBIA'S ABUSE

Lesbia abuses Catullus before her husband, who is delighted: the mule does not see that if she had forgotten him she would be silent; her snarling shows she is angry, that is, burning.

Lesbia mi praesente uiro mala plurima dicit:
Lesbia to-me with-present her-husband evils very-many says:
haec illi fatuo maxima laetitia est.
this to-him fool greatest joy is.
mule, nihil sentis. si nostri oblita taceret,
mule, nothing you-perceive. if of-us forgetful she-were-silent,
sana esset: nunc quod gannit et obloquitur,
sound she-would-be: now because she-snarls and speaks-against,

non solum meminit, sed, quae multo acrior est res,
not only she-remembers, but, which much fiercer is a-thing,
irata est: hoc est, uritur et loquitur.
angry she-is: this is, she-is-burned and she-speaks.

84 · ARRIUS' AITCHES

Arrius put an aitch on every word, chommoda and hinsidias, as his whole family did; when he went to Syria, everyone's ears rested, until news came that the Ionian Sea had become the Hionian.

Chommoda dicebat, si quando commoda uellet
Chommoda he-used-to-say, if ever commoda he-wished
dicere, et insidias Arrius hinsidias,
to-say, and insidias Arrius hinsidias,
et tum mirifice sperabat se esse locutum
and then marvelously he-hoped himself to-have spoken
cum quantum poterat dixerat hinsidias.
when as-much-as he-could he-had-said hinsidias.
credo, sic mater, sic liber auunculus eius,
I-believe, so his-mother, so free uncle his,
sic maternus auus dixerat atque auia
so his-maternal grandfather had-said and grandmother
hoc misso in Syriam requierant omnibus aures:
with-this-man sent to Syria had-rested for-all their-ears:
audibant eadem haec leniter et leuiter,
they-heard the-same these-words smoothly and lightly,
nec sibi postilla metuebant talia uerba,
nor for-themselves afterward feared such words,

cum subito adfertur nuntius horribilis
when suddenly is-brought news dreadful
Ionios fluctus, postquam illuc Arrius isset,
the-Ionian waves, after there Arrius had-gone,
iam non Ionios esse, sed Hionios.
now not Ionian to-be, but Hionian.

85 · I HATE AND I LOVE

Catullus hates and loves; he does not know why, but feels it happen and is tormented.

Odi et amo. quare id faciam fortasse requiris
I-hate and I-love. why that I-do perhaps you-ask
nescio, sed fieri sentio et excrucior.
I-do-not-know, but to-happen I-feel and I-am-tormented.

86 · QUINTIA AND LESBIA

Quintia is called beautiful by many; she is fair, tall, and straight, but has no grace or wit. Lesbia is beautiful, for she has stolen all the graces from all women.

Quintia formosa est multis, mihi candida, longa,
Quintia beautiful is to-many, to-me fair, tall,
recta est. haec ego sic singula confiteor,
straight is. these-things I so one-by-one admit,
totum illud 'formosa' nego: nam nulla uenustas,
whole that 'beautiful' I-deny: for no grace,
nulla in tam magno est corpore mica salis.
no in so great is body grain of-salt.

5 Lesbia formosa est, quae cum pulcherrima tota est,
Lesbia beautiful is, who both most-beautiful wholly is,
tum omnibus una omnis subripuit Veneres.
and from-all alone all has-stolen the-Graces.

87 · NO WOMAN SO LOVED

No woman can say she was loved as truly as Lesbia was loved by Catullus, and no faith in any pact was as great as his.

Nulla potest mulier tantum se dicere amatam
No can woman so-much herself to-say loved
uere, quantum a me Lesbia amata mea es:
truly, as-much-as by me Lesbia loved my you-are:
nulla fides ullo fuit unquam in foedere tanta
no faith any was ever in pact so-great
quanta in amore tuo ex parte reperta mea est.
as-great-as in love your on part found my has-been.

88 · GELLIUS' CRIMES

Gellius, who sleeps with his mother and his sister and does not let his uncle be a husband, commits a crime that Ocean cannot wash away.

Quid facit is, Gelli, qui cum matre atque sorore
What does he, Gellius, who with his-mother and his-sister
prurit et abiectis peruigilat tunicis?
itches and with-thrown-off stays-awake tunics?
quid facit is patruum qui non sinit esse maritum?
what does he his-uncle who not allows to-be a-husband?

ecquid scis quantum suscipiat sceleris?
anything do-you-know how-much he-undertakes of-crime?
suscipit, o Gelli, quantum non ultima Tethys
he-undertakes, o Gellius, as-much-as not furthest Tethys
nec genitor nympharum abluit Oceanus:
nor the-father of-the-nymphs washes-away Ocean:
nam nihil est quicquam sceleris quo prodeat ultra,
for nothing is anything of-crime to-which he-could-advance further,
non si demisso se ipse uoret capite.
not if with-lowered himself he-himself should-devour head.

89 · GELLIUS' THINNESS

Gellius is thin, and no wonder, with so good a mother, so charming a sister, and so many girl cousins, all of whom he touches.

Gellius est tenuis: quid ni? cui tam bona mater
Gellius is thin: why not? for-whom so good a-mother
tamque ualens uiuat tamque uenusta soror
and-so healthy lives and-so graceful a-sister
tamque bonus patruus tamque omnia plena puellis
and-so good an-uncle and-so all-things full with-girls
cognatis, quare is desinat esse macer?
relatives, why he should-cease to-be lean?
qui ut nihil attingat, nisi quod fas tangere non est,
who though nothing he-touch, except what right to-touch not is,
quantumuis quare sit macer inuenies.
as-much-as-you-like why he-is lean you-will-find.

90 · THE MAGUS

Let a magus be born of Gellius and his mother, for by the Persians' impious rite a magus must be born of a mother and son.

Nascatur magus ex Gelli matrisque nefando
Let-be-born a-magus from of-Gellius and-of-his-mother unspeakable
coniugio et discat Persicum haruspicium:
union and let-him-learn the-Persian soothsaying:
nam magus ex matre et gnato gignatur oportet,
for a-magus from mother and son should-be-begotten it-is-fitting,
si uera est Persarum impia religio,
if true is of-the-Persians the-impious religion,
gratus ut accepto ueneretur carmine diuos
pleasing that with-accepted he-may-worship song the-gods
omentum in flamma pingue liquefaciens.
the-caul in the-flame fat melting.

91 · GELLIUS' FAITHLESSNESS

Catullus hoped Gellius would be faithful to him in his own wretched love not because he knew him steady, but because the woman was neither Gellius' mother nor his sister. He was wrong: Gellius delights in any guilt that holds some crime.

Non ideo, Gelli, sperabam te mihi fidum
Not for-that, Gellius, I-hoped you to-me faithful
in misero hoc nostro, hoc perdito amore fore
in wretched this our, this lost love to-be

quod te cognossem bene constantemue putarem
because you I-had-known well or-steady thought
aut posse a turpi mentem inhibere probro,
or able from the-base the-mind to-restrain disgrace,
sed neque quod matrem nec germanam esse uidebam
but neither because your-mother nor your-sister to-be I-saw
hanc tibi cuius me magnus edebat amor;
her to-you whose me great was-devouring love;
et quamuis tecum multo coniungerer usu,
and although with-you by-great I-was-joined intimacy,
non satis id causae credideram esse tibi.
not enough that of-a-reason I-had-believed to-be for-you.
tu satis id duxti: tantum tibi gaudium in omni
you enough that thought: so-great for-you joy in every
culpa est in quacumque est aliquid sceleris.
fault is in which-ever is something of-crime.

92 · LESBIA LOVES ME

Lesbia always speaks ill of Catullus, so she loves him: he does the same, and he loves her.

Lesbia mi dicit semper male nec tacet unquam
Lesbia of-me speaks always badly nor is-silent ever
de me: Lesbia me dispeream nisi amat.
about me: Lesbia me may-I-perish unless loves.
quo signo? quia sunt totidem mea: deprecor illam
by-what sign? because are just-as-many mine: I-pray-against her
adsidue, uerum dispeream nisi amo.
constantly, but may-I-perish unless I-love.

93 · TO CAESAR

Catullus has no great wish to please Caesar, nor to know whether he is a white man or a black.

Nil nimium studeo, Caesar, tibi uelle placere,
Not-at-all too-much I-am-eager, Caesar, you to-wish to-please,
nec scire utrum sis albus an ater homo.
nor to-know whether you-are white or black a-man.

94 · MENTULA

Mentula commits adultery, as the proverb says: the pot picks its own vegetables.

Mentula moechatur. moechatur mentula certe.
Prick commits-adultery. commits-adultery prick surely.
hoc est quod dicunt, ipsa olera olla legit.
this is what they-say, itself the-vegetables the-pot picks.

Cinna's Zmyrna, nine years in the making, will travel far and live for ages, while Volusius' Annals die at Padua and wrap mackerel; Catullus prefers his friend's small monument, and lets the crowd enjoy its swollen Antimachus.

Zmyrna mei Cinnae nonam post denique messem
The-Zmyrna of-my Cinna the-ninth after at-last harvest
quam coepta est nonamque edita post hiemem,
than begun it-was and-the-ninth published after winter,
milia cum interea quingenta Hortensius uno
thousands when meanwhile five-hundred Hortensius in-one
* * *
(lacuna)
Zmyrna cauas Satrachi penitus mittetur ad undas,
the-Zmyrna the-hollow of-Satrachus far will-be-sent to waves,
Zmyrnam cana diu saecula peruoluent.
the-Zmyrna hoary long ages will-unroll.
at Volusi annales Paduam morientur ad ipsam
but of-Volusius the-annals Padua will-die at the-very
et laxas scombris saepe dabunt tunicas.
and loose to-mackerels often will-give jackets.
parua mei mihi sint cordi monumenta sodalis:
small of-my to-me may-be to-heart the-monuments comrade:
at populus tumido gaudeat Antimacho.
but the-people in-swollen may-rejoice Antimachus.

96 · TO CALVUS

If the dead feel anything of our grief, Calvus, surely Quintilia's early death grieves her less than his love for her gladdens her.

Si quicquam mutis gratum acceptumue sepulcris
If anything to-the-mute pleasing or-welcome tombs
accidere a nostro, Calue, dolore potest,
to-happen from our, Calvus, grief can,
quo desiderio ueteres renouamus amores
with-which longing old we-renew loves
atque olim missas flemus amicitias,
and long-ago lost we-weep-for friendships,
certe non tanto mors immatura dolori est
surely not so-great death untimely a-grief is
Quintiliae, quantum gaudet amore tuo.
to-Quintilia, as-much-as she-rejoices in-love your.

97 · AEMILIUS

Catullus can tell no difference between Aemilius' mouth and his arse, except that the arse, having no teeth, is cleaner; yet this man sleeps with many and thinks himself charming, and any woman who touches him could lick a sick executioner's arse.

Non (ita me di ament) quicquam referre putaui
Not (so me the-gods may-love) anything to-matter I-thought
utrumne os an culum olfacerem Aemilio.
whether the-mouth or the-arse I-should-smell of-Aemilius.

nilo mundius hoc, nihiloque immundius illud,
by-nothing cleaner this, and-by-nothing dirtier that,
uerum etiam culus mundior et melior:
but even the-arse cleaner and better:
nam sine dentibus est. hoc dentis sesquipedalis,
for without teeth it-is. this teeth a-foot-and-a-half,
gingiuas uero ploxeni habet ueteris,
gums but of-a-wagon-box has old,
praeterea rictum qualem diffissus in aestu
besides a-gape such-as split-open in the-heat
meientis mulae cunnus habere solet.
of-a-pissing she-mule the-cunt to-have is-wont.
hic futuit multas et se facit esse uenustum,
this-man fucks many and himself makes to-be graceful,
et non pistrino traditur atque asino?
and not to-the-mill is-handed-over and to-the-ass?
quem si qua attingit, non illam posse putemus
whom if any-woman touches, not her able should-we-think
aegroti culum lingere carnificis?
of-a-sick the-arse to-lick executioner?

98 · VICTIUS

The stinking Victius could lick arses with his tongue: if he wants to destroy everyone, let him just open his mouth.

In te, si in quemquam, dici pote, putide Victi,
Against you, if against anyone, to-be-said can, stinking Victius,
id quod uerbosis dicitur et fatuis:
that which of-the-wordy is-said and of-fools:

ista cum lingua, si usus ueniat tibi, possis
that with tongue, if need should-come to-you, you-could
culos et crepidas lingere carpatinas.
arses and sandals to-lick of-rawhide.
si nos omnino uis omnes perdere, Victi,
if us altogether you-wish all to-destroy, Victius,
hiscas: omnino quod cupis efficies.
open-your-mouth: altogether what you-desire you-will-accomplish.

99 · THE STOLEN KISS

Catullus stole a kiss from Juventius and was tormented for over an hour, while Juventius wiped his lips as if from a whore's spittle. Since that is his penalty, he will steal no more kisses.

Subripui tibi, dum ludis, mellite Iuuenti,
I-stole from-you, while you-play, honey-sweet Juventius,
sauiolum dulci dulcius ambrosia.
a-little-kiss than-sweet sweeter ambrosia.
uerum id non impune tuli: namque amplius horam
but that not unpunished I-bore: for more-than an-hour
suffixum in summa me memini esse cruce,
fixed on the-top me I-remember to-be of-the-cross,
dum tibi me purgo nec possum fletibus ullis
while to-you myself I-clear nor can by-weepings any
tantillum uestrae demere saeuitiae.
so-little of-your to-take-away savagery.
nam simul id factum est, multis diluta labella
for as-soon-as that done was, with-many washed little-lips

guttis abstersisti omnibus articulis,
drops you-wiped with-all knuckles,
ne quicquam nostro contractum ex ore maneret,
lest anything our contracted from mouth remain,
tanquam commictae spurca saliua lupae.
as-if of-a-pissed-on filthy the-spittle she-wolf.
praeterea infesto miserum me tradere Amori
besides to-hostile wretched me to-hand-over Love
non cessasti omnique excruciare modo,
not you-ceased and-in-every to-torment way,
ut mi ex ambrosia mutatum iam foret illud
so-that for-me from ambrosia changed now might-be that
sauiolum tristi tristius elleboro.
little-kiss than-sad sadder hellebore.
quam quoniam poenam misero proponis amori,
which since penalty on-wretched you-set love,
nunquam iam posthac basia subripiam.
never now hereafter kisses I-shall-steal.

100 · CAELIUS AND QUINTIUS

Caelius loves Aufilenus, and Quintius loves Aufilenus' sister; Catullus favors Caelius, whose friendship he proved when his own love burned him.

Caelius Aufilenum et Quintius Aufilenam
Caelius Aufilenus and Quintius Aufilena
flos Veronensum depereunt iuuenum,
the-flower of-the-Veronese are-dying-for young-men,
hic fratrem, ille sororem. hoc est quod dicitur illud
this-one the-brother, that-one the-sister. this is what is-said that

fraternum uere dulce sodalicium.
brotherly truly sweet fellowship.
cui faueam potius? Caeli, tibi: nam tua nobis
whom should-I-favor rather? Caelius, you: for your to-us
per facta exhibita est unica amicitia
through deeds shown is unique friendship
cum uesana meas torreret flamma medullas.
when mad my was-scorching flame marrow.
sis felix, Caeli, sis in amore potens.
may-you-be happy, Caelius, may-you-be in love powerful.

101 · AT HIS BROTHER'S GRAVE

Catullus has come over many lands and seas to his brother's grave, to give him the last gift of the dead and speak in vain to his mute ash. He offers the ancestral rites, wet with a brother's tears: forever, brother, hail and farewell.

Multas per gentes et multa per aequora uectus
Many through nations and many through seas carried
aduenio has miseras, frater, ad inferias,
I-arrive these wretched, brother, to offerings-to-the-dead,
ut te postremo donarem munere mortis
that you with-the-last I-might-present gift of-death
et mutam nequiquam adloquerer cinerem,
and the-mute in-vain might-address ash,
quandoquidem fortuna mihi tete abstulit ipsum,
since fortune from-me you has-taken-away yourself,
heu miser indigne frater adempte mihi.
alas wretched undeservedly brother taken-away from-me.

nunc tamen interea haec, prisco quae more parentum
now yet meanwhile these-things, by-the-old which custom of-our-parents
tradita sunt tristi munere ad inferias,
handed-down are as-a-sad gift for offerings-to-the-dead,
accipe fraterno multum manantia fletu
receive with-a-brother's much flowing weeping
atque in perpetuum, frater, aue atque uale.
and for ever, brother, hail and farewell.

102 · TO CORNELIUS

If anything was ever entrusted to a silent friend, Cornelius will find Catullus bound by that rule, a very Harpocrates.

Si quicquam tacito commissum est fido ab amico
If anything to-a-silent entrusted has-been faithful by friend
cuius sit penitus nota fides animi,
whose be deeply known the-faith of-the-heart,
meque esse inuenies illorum iure sacratum,
and-me to-be you-will-find of-those by-the-rule consecrated,
Corneli, et factum me esse puta Harpocratem.
Cornelius, and made me to-be think a-Harpocrates.

103 · SILO

Either Silo should return the ten thousand and then be as savage as he likes, or, if he loves money, stop being a pimp who is savage as well.

Aut sodes mihi redde decem sestertia, Silo,
Either please to-me give-back the-ten sesterces, Silo,
deinde esto quamuis saeuus et indomitus:
then be however savage and untamed:
aut, si te nummi delectant, desine quaeso
or, if you the-coins delight, cease I-ask
leno esse atque idem saeuus et indomitus.
a-pimp to-be and the-same savage and untamed.

104 · DO YOU BELIEVE

Does the addressee believe Catullus could speak ill of his life, dearer to him than both his eyes? He could not, nor would he love so desperately if he could; but the addressee, with Tappo, makes monsters of everything.

Credis me potuisse meae maledicere uitae,
Do-you-believe me to-have-been-able my to-speak-ill-of life,
ambobus mihi quae carior est oculis?
than-both to-me who dearer is eyes?
non potui, nec, si possem, tam perdite amarem:
not I-could, nor, if I-could, so desperately I-would-love:
sed tu cum Tappone omnia monstra facis.
but you with Tappo all monsters make.

105 · MENTULA ON HELICON

Mentula tries to climb the mountain of the Muses, and they throw him down with pitchforks.

Mentula conatur Pipleum scandere montem:
Prick tries the-Piplean to-climb mountain:
Musae furcillis praecipitem eiciunt.
the-Muses with-little-pitchforks headlong throw-out.

106 · THE AUCTIONEER

Whoever sees an auctioneer with a pretty boy must think the boy longs to sell himself.

Cum puero bello praeconem qui uidet esse,
With a-boy pretty an-auctioneer who sees to-be,
quid credat, nisi se uendere discupere?
what is-he-to-believe, except himself to-sell to-long?

107 · LESBIA RETURNS

Nothing is so welcome as what comes unhoped for, and so Lesbia's return to Catullus, who longed for her and did not hope, is dearer than gold: who is happier than he?

Si cui quid cupido optantique obtigit unquam
If to-anyone anything desiring and-wishing has-befallen ever
insperanti, hoc est gratum animo proprie.
not-hoping, this is welcome to-the-mind properly.

quare hoc est gratum nobis quoque, carius auro,
therefore this is welcome to-us also, dearer than-gold,
quod te restituis, Lesbia, mi cupido:
that yourself you-restore, Lesbia, to-me desiring:
restituis cupido atque insperanti, ipsa refers te
you-restore to-desiring and not-hoping, yourself you-bring-back yourself
nobis. o lucem candidiore nota!
to-us. o day with-whiter mark!
quis me uno uiuit felicior, aut magis hac res
who than-me alone lives happier, or more than-this things
optandas uita dicere quis poterit?
to-be-wished-for life to-say who will-be-able?

108 · COMINIUS

If the people put an end to Cominius' foul old age, his tongue would go to the vultures, his eyes to the ravens, his guts to the dogs, and the rest to the wolves.

Si, Comini, populi arbitrio tua cana senectus
If, Cominius, by-the-people's judgment your hoary old-age
spurcata impuris moribus intereat,
defiled with-impure morals should-perish,
non equidem dubito quin primum inimica bonorum
not indeed I-doubt that first hostile to-the-good
lingua exsecta auido sit data uulturio,
the-tongue cut-out to-the-greedy would-be given vulture,
effossos oculos uoret atro gutture coruus,
the-dug-out eyes would-devour with-black throat the-raven,
intestina canes, cetera membra lupi.
the-entrails the-dogs, the-other limbs the-wolves.

109 · A LASTING LOVE

His beloved, his life, promises that their love will be pleasant and lasting; Catullus prays the gods to make her promise true and sincere, so that they may keep this pact of holy friendship all their lives.

Iucundum, mea uita, mihi proponis amorem
Pleasant, my life, to-me you-propose love
hunc nostrum inter nos perpetuumque fore.
this our between us and-lasting to-be.
di magni, facite ut uere promittere possit
gods great, make that truly to-promise she-may-be-able
atque id sincere dicat et ex animo,
and that sincerely she-say and from the-heart,
ut liceat nobis tota perducere uita
that it-be-allowed to-us whole to-carry-through life
aeternum hoc sanctae foedus amicitiae.
eternal this of-holy pact friendship.

110 · AUFILENA

Good sweethearts are praised for doing what they are paid for; Aufilena, who takes and does not give, cheats worse than a whore.

Aufilena, bonae semper laudantur amicae:
Aufilena, good always are-praised sweethearts:
accipiunt pretium quod facere instituunt.
they-take the-price of-what to-do they-undertake.
tu, quod promisti mihi, quod mentita, inimica es;
you, because you-promised to-me, because you-lied, hostile are;

quod nec das et fers saepe, facis facinus.
because neither you-give and you-take often, you-do a-crime.
aut facere ingenuae est, aut non promisse pudicae,
either to-do of-a-generous-woman it-is, or not to-have-promised of-a-chaste,
Aufilena, fuit: sed data corripere
Aufilena, was: but what-was-given to-snatch
fraudando † efficit plus quam meretricis auarae,
by-cheating (corrupt) does more than of-a-whore greedy,
quae sese toto corpore prostituit.
who herself with-whole body prostitutes.

111 · AUFILENA'S CHILDREN

The highest praise of a wife is to live content with one husband; but better to sleep with anyone than to bear cousins by one's uncle.

Aufilena, uiro contentam uiuere solo
Aufilena, with-a-husband content to-live alone
nuptarum laus e laudibus eximiis:
of-brides the-praise from praises exceptional:
sed cuiuis quamuis potius succumbere par est
but to-anyone however-you-like rather to-submit fitting it-is
quam matrem fratres ex patruo parere.
than a-mother cousins from her-uncle to-bear.

112 · NASO

Naso is a big man, but those who go down with him are not: Naso is big, and a bottom.

Multus homo est, Naso, neque tecum multus homo est qui
Much-of-a man is, Naso, nor with-you much-of-a man is who
descendit: Naso, multus es et pathicus.
goes-down: Naso, much-of-a you-are and a-bottom.

113 · MAECILIA

In Pompey's first consulship Maecilia had two lovers; in his second she still has two, but each has become a thousand.

Consule Pompeio primum duo, Cinna, solebant
In-the-consulship of-Pompey first two, Cinna, were-wont
Maeciliam: facto consule nunc iterum
Maecilia: with-made consul now again
manserunt duo, sed creuerunt milia in unum
have-remained two, but have-grown thousands into one
singula. fecundum semen adulterio.
each. fertile the-seed for-adultery.

114 · MENTULA'S ESTATE

Mentula is called rich for his estate at Firmum, full of game, fish, meadows, and fields, but he spends more than it yields: let it be praised while he goes in need.

Firmanus saltu non falso Mentula diues
Of-Firmum with-an-estate not falsely Prick rich
fertur, qui tot res in se habet egregias,
is-said, which so-many things in itself has outstanding,
aucupium omne genus, piscis, prata, arua, ferasque.
fowling every kind, fish, meadows, fields, and-wild-beasts.
nequiquam: fructus sumptibus exsuperat.
in-vain: the-yield by-expenses he-exceeds.
quare concedo sit diues, dum omnia desint;
therefore I-grant he-be rich, provided all-things be-lacking;
saltum laudemus, dum domo ipse egeat.
the-estate let-us-praise, provided at-home he-himself be-in-need.

115 · MENTULA'S WEALTH

Mentula owns thirty acres of meadow and forty of plowland, and the rest is sea; why should he not outdo Croesus? All of it is great, but he himself is greatest, not a man but a great menacing prick.

Mentula habet iuxta triginta iugera prati,
Prick has nearly thirty acres of-meadow,
quadraginta arui: cetera sunt maria.
forty of-plowland: the-rest are seas.

cur non diuitiis Croesum superare potis sit
why not in-riches Croesus to-surpass able should-be-be
uno qui in saltu tot bona possideat,
one who in estate so-many goods possesses,
prata, arua, ingentis siluas saltusque paludesque
meadows, fields, huge woods and-glades and-marshes
usque ad Hyperboreos et mare ad Oceanum?
all-the-way to the-Hyperboreans and the-sea to Ocean?
omnia magna haec sunt, tamen ipse est maximus ultro,
all great these-things are, yet he-himself is greatest besides,
non homo, sed uero mentula magna minax.
not a-man, but truly a-prick great menacing.

116 · TO GELLIUS

Catullus had sought to send Gellius poems of Callimachus to soften him and stop his attacks; he sees the labor was wasted. He will ward off Gellius' weapons with his cloak, and Gellius will pay the penalty, pierced by Catullus' own.

Saepe tibi studioso animo uenante requirens
Often for-you with-eager mind hunting seeking
carmina uti possem mittere Battiadae
songs how I-might-be-able to-send of-Battiades
qui te lenirem nobis, neu conarere
with-which you I-might-soften to-us, nor you-should-try
tela infesta mihi mittere in usque caput,
weapons hostile at-me to-send at even my-head,
hunc uideo mihi nunc frustra sumptum esse laborem,
this I-see for-me now in-vain spent to-have-been labor,

Gelli, nec nostras hic ualuisse preces.
Gellius, nor our here to-have-availed prayers.
contra nos tela ista tua euitamus amictu:
in-return we weapons those your we-avoid with-the-cloak:
at fixus nostris tu dabis supplicium.
but pierced by-ours you will-pay the-penalty.

TIBULLUS

Tibulli Aliorumque Carminum Libri Tres

Tibullus and His Circle

BOOK I

I.1 · THE SIMPLE LIFE

Let others heap up gold and fear the war trumpet: Tibullus wants a poor and quiet life by his own hearth, planting his vines, honoring the rustic gods with small offerings, and resting under a tree in summer. Messalla may win spoils by land and sea; Tibullus is held by a girl's chains and sits as doorkeeper at her hard door. He asks only to look on Delia when he dies and to be wept over by her, and bids her love while the fates allow, before old age comes; in that warfare he is a good soldier, and he will look down on wealth and want alike.

Diuitias alius fuluo sibi congerat auro
Riches another with-tawny for-himself may-heap-up gold
et teneat culti iugera multa soli,
and may-hold of-tilled acres many soil,
quem labor adsiduus uicino terreat hoste,
whom toil constant with-neighboring may-terrify enemy,
Martia cui somnos classica pulsa fugent:
Martial from-whom his-sleep trumpets sounded may-put-to-flight:
me mea paupertas uita traducat inerti,
me my poverty through-life may-lead inactive,
dum meus adsiduo luceat igne focus.
while my with-constant may-shine fire hearth.
ipse seram teneras maturo tempore uites
myself may-I-plant the-tender at-ripe time vines
rusticus et facili grandia poma manu:
a-countryman and with-easy large fruit-trees hand:
nec Spes destituat sed frugum semper aceruos
nor Hope may-abandon-me but of-crops always heaps
praebeat et pleno pinguia musta lacu.
may-she-supply and in-full rich must vat.

nam ueneror, seu stipes habet desertus in agris
for I-worship, whether a-stump holds deserted in the-fields
seu uetus in triuio florida serta lapis:
or an-old at the-crossroads flowery garlands stone:
et quodcumque mihi pomum nouus educat annus,
and whatever for-me fruit the-new brings-up year,
libatum agricolae ponitur ante deo.
as-an-offering to-the-farmer is-placed before god.
flaua Ceres, tibi sit nostro de rure corona
golden Ceres, for-you may-there-be our from farm a-crown
spicea, quae templi pendeat ante fores;
of-ears, which of-the-temple may-hang before the-doors;
pomosisque ruber custos ponatur in hortis
and-fruitful red the-guardian may-be-placed in gardens
terreat ut saeua falce Priapus aues.
may-terrify that with-savage sickle Priapus the-birds.
uos quoque, felicis quondam, nunc pauperis agri
you also, of-a-fortunate once, now of-a-poor field
custodes, fertis munera uestra, Lares.
guardians, you-take gifts your, Lares.
tunc uitula innumeros lustrabat caesa iuuencos:
then a-calf countless purified slain bullocks:
nunc agna exigui est hostia parua soli.
now a-lamb of-scant is the-victim small soil.
agna cadet uobis, quam circum rustica pubes
a-lamb will-fall for-you, which around the-rustic youth
clamet 'io messes et bona uina date.'
may-shout 'io harvests and good wines give.'
iam mihi, iam possim contentus uiuere paruo
now for-me, now may-I-be-able content to-live with-little

nec semper longae deditus esse uiae,
nor always to-a-long given-over to-be road,
sed Canis aestiuos ortus uitare sub umbra
but of-the-Dog-Star the-summer risings to-avoid under the-shade
arboris ad riuos praetereuntis aquae.
of-a-tree by the-streams of-passing water.
nec tamen interdum pudeat tenuisse bidentem
nor yet at-times may-I-be-ashamed to-have-held the-hoe
aut stimulo tardos increpuisse boues;
or with-the-goad the-slow to-have-rebuked oxen;
non agnamue sinu pigeat fetumue capellae
not or-a-lamb in-my-bosom may-it-irk or-the-young of-a-she-goat
desertum oblita matre referre domum.
deserted by-its-forgetful mother to-carry-back home.
at uos exiguo pecori, furesque lupique,
but you to-my-scant flock, and-thieves and-wolves,
parcite: de magno praeda petenda grege.
spare: from a-great the-prey is-to-be-sought herd.
hinc ego pastoremque meum lustrare quot annis
hence I and-shepherd my to-purify every year
et placidam soleo spargere lacte Palem.
and gentle am-wont to-sprinkle with-milk Pales.
adsitis, diui, neu uos e paupere mensa
may-you-be-present, gods, nor you from a-poor table
dona nec e puris spernite fictilibus. —
the-gifts nor from clean spurn earthenware.
fictilia antiquus primum sibi fecit agrestis
earthenware the-ancient first for-himself made countryman
pocula, de facili composuitque luto. —
cups, from easy and-he-fashioned-them clay.

non ego diuitias patrum fructusque requiro,
not I the-riches of-my-fathers and-the-yields seek,
quos tulit antiquo condita messis auo:
which brought to-my-ancient stored the-harvest grandfather:
parua seges satis est; satis est, requiescere lecto
a-small crop enough is; enough it-is, to-rest on-my-bed
si licet et solito membra leuare toro.
if it-is-allowed and on-the-accustomed my-limbs to-ease couch.
quam iuuat immites uentos audire cubantem
how it-pleases the-pitiless winds to-hear lying
et dominam tenero continuisse sinu
and my-mistress in-my-tender to-have-held bosom
aut, gelidas hibernus aquas cum fuderit Auster,
or, the-icy wintry waters when has-poured the-South-wind,
securum somnos imbre iuuante sequi!
untroubled sleep with-the-rain helping to-follow!
hoc mihi contingat: sit diues iure, furorem
this to-me may-befall: may-he-be rich by-right, the-fury
qui maris et tristes ferre potest pluuias.
who of-the-sea and the-gloomy to-bear can rains.
o quantum est auri pereat potiusque smaragdi,
o as-much-as is of-gold may-perish and-rather of-emerald,
quam fleat ob nostras ulla puella uias.
than should-weep on-account-of our any girl journeys.
te bellare decet terra, Messalla, marique,
you to-war befits by-land, Messalla, and-by-sea,
ut domus hostiles praeferat exuuias:
that your-house hostile may-display spoils:
me retinent uinctum formosae uincla puellae,
me hold bound of-a-beautiful the-bonds girl,

et sedeo duras ianitor ante fores.
and I-sit hard doorkeeper before doors.
non ego laudari curo, mea Delia: tecum
not I to-be-praised care, my Delia: with-you
dum modo sim, quaeso segnis inersque uocer.
while only I-be, I-ask lazy and-idle may-I-be-called.
te spectem, suprema mihi cum uenerit hora,
you may-I-gaze-at, the-last for-me when has-come hour,
et teneam moriens deficiente manu.
and may-I-hold dying with-failing hand.
flebis et arsuro positum me, Delia, lecto,
you-will-weep-for and on-the-going-to-burn placed me, Delia, couch,
tristibus et lacrimis oscula mixta dabis.
with-sad and tears kisses mingled you-will-give.
flebis: non tua sunt duro praecordia ferro
you-will-weep: not your are with-hard the-breast iron
uincta, nec in tenero stat tibi corde silex.
bound, nor in tender stands for-you heart flint.
illo non iuuenis poterit de funere quisquam
that not a-young-man will-be-able from funeral any
lumina, non uirgo sicca referre domum.
his-eyes, not a-maiden dry to-bring-back home.
tu manes ne laede meos, sed parce solutis
you shades do-not hurt my, but spare loosened
crinibus et teneris, Delia, parce genis.
your-hair and your-tender, Delia, spare cheeks.
interea, dum fata sinunt, iungamus amores:
meanwhile, while the-fates allow, let-us-join loves:
iam ueniet tenebris Mors adoperta caput;
soon will-come in-darkness Death covered as-to-her-head;

iam subrepet iners aetas, nec amare decebit,
soon will-creep-up idle age, nor to-love it-will-befit,
dicere nec cano blanditias capite.
to-say nor with-white flatteries head.
nunc leuis est tractanda uenus, dum frangere postes
now light is to-be-handled love, while to-break doorposts
non pudet et rixas inseruisse iuuat.
not it-shames and quarrels to-have-thrust-in it-pleases.
hic ego dux milesque bonus: uos, signa tubaeque,
here I a-leader and-soldier good: you, standards and-trumpets,
ite procul, cupidis uulnera ferte uiris,
go far-off, to-greedy wounds bring men,
ferte et opes: ego composito securus aceruo
bring also riches: I with-stored untroubled heap
dites despiciam despiciamque famem.
the-rich shall-despise and-shall-despise hunger.

I.2 · DELIA'S DOOR

Tibullus drinks to drown his grief, for Delia is guarded and her door barred. He pleads with the door, urges Delia to deceive her guards, as Venus teaches, and boasts that a witch has given him a charm to blind her husband. He prefers Delia to all the soldier's plunder, asks whether he has offended Venus, and warns the man who laughs at lovers that the god will punish him too in old age.

Adde merum uinoque nouos compesce dolores,
Add unmixed-wine and-with-wine new restrain pains,
occupet ut fessi lumina uicta sopor:
may-seize that of-the-weary the-eyes conquered sleep:
neu quisquam multo percussum tempora baccho
nor anyone much struck as-to-the-temples with-wine

excitet, infelix dum requiescit amor.
may-rouse, unhappy while rests love.
nam posita est nostrae custodia saeua puellae,
for set is on-our a-guard savage girl,
clauditur et dura ianua firma sera.
is-shut and the-hard door with-firm bar.
ianua difficilis domini te uerberet imber,
door difficult of-your-master you may-beat the-rain,
te Iouis imperio fulmina missa petant.
you of-Jupiter by-the-command thunderbolts sent may-seek.
ianua, iam pateas uni mihi uicta querellis,
door, now may-you-open for-one me conquered by-complaints,
neu furtim uerso cardine aperta sones.
nor stealthily with-turned hinge opened may-you-sound.
et mala si qua tibi dixit dementia nostra,
and evil if any against-you has-said madness our,
ignoscas: capiti sint precor illa meo.
pardon: on-the-head may-they-be I-pray those-things my.
te meminisse decet quae plurima uoce peregi
you to-remember befits what very-many with-voice I-performed
supplice cum posti florida serta darem.
suppliant when to-the-post flowery garlands I-gave.
tu quoque ne timide custodes, Delia, falle.
you too not timidly the-guards, Delia, deceive.
audendum est: fortes adiuuat ipsa Venus.
to-be-dared it-is: the-brave helps herself Venus.
illa fauet seu quis iuuenis noua limina temptat
she favors whether some youth new thresholds tries
seu reserat fixo dente puella fores:
or unbolts with-fixed tooth a-girl the-doors:

illa docet molli furtim derepere lecto,
she teaches from-the-soft stealthily to-slip-down bed,
illa pedem nullo ponere posse sono,
she the-foot with-no to-place to-be-able sound,
illa uiro coram nutus conferre loquaces
she in-the-husband's presence nods to-exchange talkative
blandaque compositis abdere uerba notis.
and-flattering in-agreed to-hide words signs.
nec docet hoc omnes, sed quos nec inertia tardat
nor she-teaches this all, but those-whom neither sloth delays
nec uetat obscura surgere nocte timor.
nor forbids in-dark to-rise night fear.
en ego cum tenebris tota uagor anxius urbe,
look I with darkness through-whole wander anxious city,
* * *
(lacuna)
nec sinit occurrat quisquam qui corpora ferro
nor she-allows there-meet-me anyone who my-body with-steel
uulneret aut rapta praemia ueste petat.
may-wound or with-snatched rewards garment may-seek.
quisquis amore tenetur, eat tutusque sacerque
whoever by-love is-held, let-him-go and-safe and-sacred
qualibet; insidias non timuisse decet.
wherever-he-likes; plots not to-have-feared befits.
non mihi pigra nocent hibernae frigora noctis,
not me the-sluggish harm of-wintry chills night,
non mihi cum multa decidit imber aqua.
not me when with-much falls the-rain water.
non labor hic laedit, reseret modo Delia postes
not toil this harms, should-unbolt only Delia the-doorposts

et uocet ad digiti me taciturna sonum.
and call to of-her-finger me silent the-sound.
parcite luminibus, seu uir seu femina fiat
spare your-lights, whether a-man or a-woman should-be
obuia: celari uult sua furta Venus.
in-the-way: to-be-hidden wishes her thefts Venus.
neu strepitu terrete pedum neu quaerite nomen
nor with-the-noise frighten of-your-feet nor ask my-name
neu prope fulgenti lumina ferte face.
nor near with-shining lights bring torch.
si quis et imprudens aspexerit, occulat ille
if anyone even unwitting has-caught-sight-of, let-him-hide he
perque deos omnes se meminisse neget:
and-by gods all himself to-remember let-him-deny:
nam fuerit quicumque loquax, is sanguine natam,
for will-have-been whoever talkative, he with-blood born,
is Venerem e rapido sentiet esse mari.
he Venus from the-rushing will-feel to-be sea.
nec tamen huic credet coniunx tuus, ut mihi uerax
nor yet him will-believe husband your, as to-me truthful
pollicita est magico saga ministerio.
promised has with-magic the-witch ministry.
hanc ego de caelo ducentem sidera uidi,
her I from the-sky drawing-down the-stars have-seen,
fluminis haec rapidi carmine uertit iter,
of-a-river she of-rushing with-song turns the-course,
haec cantu finditque solum manesque sepulcris
she with-chant and-splits the-ground and-the-shades from-the-tombs
elicit et tepido deuocat ossa rogo:
draws-out and from-the-warm calls-down the-bones pyre:

iam tenet infernas magico stridore cateruas,
now she-holds the-infernal with-magic screech troops,
iam iubet aspersas lacte referre pedem.
now she-bids sprinkled with-milk to-take-back their-foot.
cum libet, haec tristi depellit nubila caelo:
when it-pleases, she from-the-gloomy drives-away clouds sky:
cum libet, aestiuo conuocat orbe niues.
when it-pleases, in-the-summer summons world snows.
sola tenere malas Medeae dicitur herbas,
alone to-hold the-evil of-Medea is-said herbs,
sola feros Hecatae perdomuisse canes.
alone the-fierce of-Hecate to-have-tamed hounds.
haec mihi composuit cantus, quis fallere posses:
she for-me has-composed chants, by-which to-deceive you-could:
ter cane, ter dictis despue carminibus.
three-times sing, three-times at-the-spoken spit songs.
ille nihil poterit de nobis credere cuiquam,
he nothing will-be-able about us to-believe anyone,
non sibi, si in molli uiderit ipse toro.
not himself, if on soft he-has-seen himself couch.
tu tamen abstineas aliis: nam cetera cernet
you nevertheless keep-away from-others: for the-rest he-will-see
omnia: de me uno sentiet ille nihil.
all: of me alone will-perceive he nothing.
quid credam? nempe haec eadem se dixit amores
what am-I-to-believe? of-course she the-same herself said loves
cantibus aut herbis soluere posse meos,
with-chants or with-herbs to-loosen to-be-able my,
et me lustrauit taedis, et nocte serena
and me she-purified with-torches, and at-night calm

concidit ad magicos hostia pulla deos.
fell to the-magic a-victim dark gods.
non ego totus abesset amor, sed mutuus esset,
not I wholly should-be-absent love, but mutual should-be,
orabam, nec te posse carere uelim.
was-praying, nor you to-be-able to-lack I-should-wish.
ferreus ille fuit qui, te cum posset habere,
iron he was who, you when he-could to-have,
maluerit praedas stultus et arma sequi.
preferred plunder fool and arms to-follow.
ille licet Cilicum uictas agat ante cateruas,
he though of-the-Cilicians the-conquered may-drive before troops,
ponat et in capto Martia castra solo,
may-pitch and on captured Martial camp soil,
totus et argento contextus, totus et auro,
wholly and with-silver woven, wholly and with-gold,
insideat celeri conspiciendus equo;
may-sit-on a-swift to-be-gazed-at horse;
ipse boues mea si tecum modo Delia possim
myself the-oxen my if with-you only Delia I-could
iungere et in solito pascere monte pecus,
to-yoke and on accustomed to-pasture mountain the-flock,
et te dum liceat teneris retinere lacertis,
and you while it-be-allowed in-tender to-hold arms,
mollis et inculta sit mihi somnus humo.
soft even on-untilled may-be for-me sleep ground.
quid Tyrio recubare toro sine amore secundo
what on-a-Tyrian to-recline couch without love favorable
prodest cum fletu nox uigilanda uenit?
does-it-profit when with-weeping a-night to-be-watched-through comes?

nam neque tunc plumae nec stragula picta soporem
for neither then feathers nor coverlets embroidered sleep
nec sonitus placidae ducere posset aquae.
nor the-sound of-calm to-draw could water.
num Veneris magnae uiolaui numina uerbo,
surely-not of-Venus great have-I-violated the-divinity by-a-word,
et mea nunc poenas impia lingua luit?
and my now the-penalty impious tongue pays?
num feror incestus sedes adiisse deorum
surely-not am-I-said impure the-seats to-have-approached of-the-gods
sertaque de sanctis deripuisse focis?
and-garlands from holy to-have-torn-down hearths?
non ego, si merui, dubitem procumbere templis
not I, if I-have-deserved, would-hesitate to-fall-prostrate at-temples
et dare sacratis oscula liminibus,
and to-give to-hallowed kisses thresholds,
non ego tellurem genibus perrepere supplex
not I the-earth on-my-knees to-crawl-over suppliant
et miserum sancto tundere poste caput.
and wretched against-the-holy to-beat doorpost head.
at tu, qui laetus rides mala nostra, caueto
but you, who glad laugh-at evils our, beware
mox tibi: non uni saeuiet usque deus.
soon for-yourself: not at-one will-rage always the-god.
uidi ego qui iuuenum miseros lusisset amores
I-have-seen I one-who of-the-young-men the-wretched had-mocked loves
post Veneris uinclis subdere colla senem
afterward of-Venus to-the-bonds submit his-neck an-old-man
et sibi blanditias tremula componere uoce
and for-himself flatteries with-trembling to-compose voice

et manibus canas fingere uelle comas:
and with-his-hands his-white to-fashion to-wish hair:
stare nec ante fores puduit caraeue puellae
to-stand nor before the-doors he-was-ashamed or-of-a-dear girl
ancillam medio detinuisse foro.
the-maid in-the-middle to-have-detained of-the-forum.
hunc puer, hunc iuuenis turba circumterit arta,
him the-boy, him the-young throng surrounds close,
despuit in molles et sibi quisque sinus.
spits into his-soft and himself each folds.
at mihi parce, Venus: semper tibi dedita seruit
but me spare, Venus: always to-you devoted serves
mens mea: quid messes uris acerba tuas?
mind my: why harvests do-you-burn bitter your?

I.3 · SICK IN PHAEACIA

Left behind sick in Phaeacia while Messalla sails on, Tibullus fears death with no mother, sister, or Delia beside him. He recalls Delia's anxious omens and his own delays, prays to her Isis, and contrasts the golden age of Saturn with the wars of Jupiter. If he dies, Venus will lead him to the Elysian fields of lovers, while his enemies go to the punishments of Tartarus. He asks Delia to stay chaste and imagines coming home suddenly to find her spinning.

Ibitis Aegaeas sine me, Messalla, per undas,
You-will-go the-Aegean without me, Messalla, through waves,
o utinam memores ipse cohorsque mei!
o would-that mindful yourself and-your-staff of-me!
me tenet ignotis aegrum Phaeacia terris:
me holds in-unknown sick Phaeacia lands:

abstineas auidas Mors modo nigra manus.
may-you-keep-off your-greedy Death only black hands.
abstineas, Mors atra, precor: non hic mihi mater
may-you-keep-off, Death dark, I-pray: not here for-me a-mother
quae legat in maestos ossa perusta sinus,
who may-gather into her-sad bones burnt folds,
non soror, Assyrios cineri quae dedat odores
not a-sister, Assyrian on-the-ash who may-give perfumes
et fleat effusis ante sepulcra comis,
and may-weep with-loosened before the-tomb hair,
Delia non usquam quae, me cum mitteret urbe,
Delia not anywhere who, me when she-sent-off from-the-city,
dicitur ante omnes consuluisse deos.
is-said before all to-have-consulted gods.
illa sacras pueri sortes ter sustulit: illi
she the-sacred of-the-boy lots three-times took-up: to-her
rettulit e trinis omnia certa puer.
brought-back from the-three all-things sure the-boy.
cuncta dabant reditus: tamen est deterrita numquam
all-things gave return: yet she-was deterred never
quin fleret nostras respiceretque uias.
but-that she-should-weep our and-look-back-on journeys.
ipse ego solator, cum iam mandata dedissem,
myself I her-comforter, when already commands I-had-given,
quaerebam tardas anxius usque moras.
was-seeking slow anxious constantly delays.
aut ego sum causatus aues aut omina dira
either I have pretexted birds or omens dire
Saturni sacram me tenuisse diem.
of-Saturn the-holy me to-have-held day.

o quotiens ingressus iter mihi tristia dixi
o how-often having-entered the-road for-myself gloomy I-said
offensum in porta signa dedisse pedem!
struck at the-gate signs to-have-given my-foot!
audeat inuito ne quis discedere Amore,
let-dare with-unwilling not anyone to-depart Love,
aut sciat egressum se prohibente deo.
or let-him-know having-gone-forth himself with-forbidding the-god.
quid tua nunc Isis mihi, Delia, quid mihi prosunt
what your now Isis to-me, Delia, what to-me do-they-profit
illa tua totiens aera repulsa manu,
those by-your so-often bronzes beaten hand,
quidue, pie dum sacra colis, pureque lauari
or-what, piously while the-rites you-cultivate, and-purely to-be-washed
te, memini, et puro secubuisse toro?
you, I-remember, and in-a-pure to-have-slept-apart bed?
nunc, dea, nunc succurre mihi (nam posse mederi
now, goddess, now help me (for to-be-able to-heal
picta docet templis multa tabella tuis)
painted teaches in-temples many a-tablet your)
ut mea uotiuas persoluens Delia uoces
that my votive paying Delia words
ante sacras lino tecta fores sedeat
before the-holy with-linen covered doors may-sit
bisque die resoluta comas tibi dicere laudes
and-twice a-day loosed as-to-her-hair to-you to-say praises
insignis turba debeat in Pharia.
conspicuous the-throng may-be-bound in Pharian.
at mihi contingat patrios celebrare Penates
but to-me may-it-befall the-ancestral to-honor Penates

reddereque antiquo menstrua tura Lari.
and-to-give to-the-ancient monthly incense Lar.
quam bene Saturno uiuebant rege, priusquam
how well with-Saturn they-lived king, before
tellus in longas est patefacta uias!
the-earth into long was opened roads!
nondum caeruleas pinus contempserat undas,
not-yet the-blue the-pine had-scorned waves,
effusum uentis praebueratque sinum,
spread to-the-winds and-had-offered its-fold,
nec uagus ignotis repetens compendia terris
nor wandering in-unknown seeking gains lands
presserat externa nauita merce ratem.
had-loaded with-foreign the-sailor merchandise his-boat.
illo non ualidus subiit iuga tempore taurus,
at-that not the-strong went-under the-yoke time bull,
non domito frenos ore momordit equus,
not with-tamed the-bridle mouth bit the-horse,
non domus ulla fores habuit, non fixus in agris
not house any doors had, not fixed in the-fields
qui regeret certis finibus arua, lapis.
which might-rule with-certain boundaries the-plowlands, a-stone.
ipsae mella dabant quercus, ultroque ferebant
themselves honey gave the-oaks, and-of-their-own-accord brought
obuia securis ubera lactis oues.
to-meet the-untroubled udders of-milk ewes.
non acies, non ira fuit, non bella, nec ensem
not battle-line, not anger was, not wars, nor a-sword
immiti saeuus duxerat arte faber.
with-pitiless savage had-drawn art a-smith.

nunc Ioue sub domino caedes et uulnera semper,
now Jupiter under master slaughter and wounds always,
nunc mare, nunc leti mille repente uiae.
now the-sea, now of-death a-thousand suddenly ways.
parce, pater. timidum non me periuria terrent,
spare, father. timid not me perjuries terrify,
non dicta in sanctos impia uerba deos.
not spoken against holy impious words gods.
quod si fatales iam nunc expleuimus annos,
but if the-fated already now we-have-filled years,
fac lapis inscriptis stet super ossa notis:
make a-stone with-inscribed stand over my-bones letters:
hic iacet immiti consumptus morte Tibullus,
here lies by-pitiless consumed death Tibullus,
Messallam terra dum sequiturque mari.
Messalla by-land while and-he-follows by-sea.
sed me, quod facilis tenero sum semper Amori,
but me, because yielding to-tender I-am always Love,
ipsa Venus campos ducet in Elysios.
herself Venus the-fields will-lead into Elysian.
hic choreae cantusque uigent, passimque uagantes
here dances and-songs thrive, and-everywhere wandering
dulce sonant tenui gutture carmen aues;
sweetly sound with-thin throat a-song the-birds;
fert casiam non culta seges, totosque per agros
bears cassia not tilled the-field, and-whole through the-fields
floret odoratis terra benigna rosis;
blooms with-fragrant the-earth kindly roses;
ac iuuenum series teneris immixta puellis
and of-young-men a-line with-tender mingled girls

ludit, et adsidue proelia miscet amor.
plays, and constantly battles joins love.
illic est, cuicumque rapax Mors uenit amanti,
there is, to-whatever rapacious Death has-come lover,
et gerit insigni myrtea serta coma.
and he-wears on-his-distinguished myrtle garlands hair.
at scelerata iacet sedes in nocte profunda
but the-accursed lies seat in night deep
abdita, quam circum flumina nigra sonant:
hidden, which around rivers black sound:
Tisiphoneque impexa feros pro crinibus angues
and-Tisiphone uncombed fierce in-place-of hair snakes
saeuit et huc illuc impia turba fugit;
rages and here there the-impious throng flees;
tum niger in porta serpentum Cerberus ore
then black at the-gate with-serpents' Cerberus mouth
stridet et aeratas excubat ante fores.
hisses and the-bronze keeps-watch before doors.
illic Iunonem temptare Ixionis ausi
there Juno to-tempt of-Ixion who-dared
uersantur celeri noxia membra rota;
are-turned on-the-swift guilty limbs wheel;
porrectusque nouem Tityos per iugera terrae
and-stretched-out nine Tityos over acres of-land
adsiduas atro uiscere pascit aues.
the-constant with-his-black liver feeds birds.
Tantalus est illic, et circum stagna: sed acrem
Tantalus is there, and around pools: but the-fierce
iam iam poturi deserit unda sitim;
now now of-(him)-going-to-drink deserts the-water thirst;

et Danai proles, Veneris quod numina laesit,
and of-Danaus the-offspring, of-Venus because the-divinity they-harmed,
in caua Lethaeas dolia portat aquas.
into hollow Lethaean jars carry waters.
illic sit quicumque meos uiolauit amores,
there may-be whoever my has-violated loves,
optauit lentas et mihi militias.
has-wished long and on-me campaigns.
at tu casta precor maneas, sanctique pudoris
but you chaste I-pray may-remain, and-of-holy modesty
adsideat custos sedula semper anus.
may-sit-by-you as-guardian busy always an-old-woman.
haec tibi fabellas referat positaque lucerna
she to-you stories may-tell and-with-placed the-lamp
deducat plena stamina longa colu;
may-draw-down from-full threads long distaff;
at circa grauibus pensis adfixa puella
and around to-heavy tasks fixed the-girl
paulatim somno fessa remittat opus.
little-by-little with-sleep weary may-let-go her-work.
tunc ueniam subito, nec quisquam nuntiet ante,
then may-I-come suddenly, nor anyone may-announce(-me) before,
sed uidear caelo missus adesse tibi.
but may-I-seem from-heaven sent to-be-present for-you.
tunc mihi, qualis eris longos turbata capillos,
then to-me, such-as you-will-be disordered as-to-your-long hair,
obuia nudato, Delia, curre pede.
to-meet-me with-bare, Delia, run foot.

hoc precor, hunc illum nobis Aurora nitentem
this I-pray, this that for-us Aurora shining
Luciferum roseis candida portet equis.
Lucifer with-rosy bright may-bring horses.

I.4 · PRIAPUS' LESSON

Tibullus asks Priapus how he wins handsome boys, and the god gives his rules: yield to the boy in everything, be patient, follow him on his journeys and hunts, let him win, and his kisses will follow. He laments that boys now want gifts and curses the man who first sold love; poets deserve love more than gold. Tibullus would teach these arts to all, but Marathus torments him, and his own lessons fail.

'Sic umbrosa tibi contingant tecta, Priape,
'So shady for-you may-befall roofs, Priapus,
ne capiti soles, ne noceantque niues:
not to-your-head suns, not and-may-harm snows:
quae tua formosos cepit sollertia? certe
what your the-handsome has-caught skill? surely
non tibi barba nitet, non tibi culta coma est;
not for-you the-beard shines, not for-you dressed hair is;
nudus et hibernae producis frigora brumae,
naked and of-wintry you-endure the-chills solstice,
nudus et aestiui tempora sicca Canis.'
naked and of-the-summer the-seasons dry Dog-Star.'
sic ego: tum Bacchi respondit rustica proles
so I: then of-Bacchus answered the-rustic offspring
armatus curua sic mihi falce deus.
armed with-curved so to-me sickle the-god.
'o fuge te tenerae puerorum credere turbae:
'o flee yourself to-the-tender of-boys to-entrust throng:

nam causam iusti semper amoris habent.
for cause of-just always love they-have.

hic placet, angustis quod equum compescit habenis:
this-one pleases, with-narrow because his-horse he-restrains reins:

hic placidam niueo pectore pellit aquam;
this-one the-calm with-snowy breast strikes water;

hic, quia fortis adest audacia, cepit: at illi
this-one, because brave is-present boldness, has-captured: but that-one's

uirgineus teneras stat pudor ante genas.
maidenly tender stands modesty before cheeks.

sed ne te capiant, primo si forte negabit,
but lest you seize, at-first if perhaps he-will-refuse,

taedia; paulatim sub iuga colla dabit.
wearinesses; little-by-little under the-yoke his-neck he-will-give.

longa dies homini docuit parere leones,
long time to-man has-taught to-obey lions,

longa dies molli saxa peredit aqua;
long time with-soft rocks has-eaten-through water;

annus in apricis maturat collibus uuas,
the-year on sunny ripens hills grapes,

annus agit certa lucida signa uice.
the-year drives in-fixed bright the-signs turn.

nec iurare time: ueneris periuria uenti
nor to-swear fear: of-love the-perjuries the-winds

inrita per terras et freta summa ferunt.
void over lands and the-straits surface carry.

gratia magna Ioui: uetuit Pater ipse ualere,
thanks great to-Jupiter: has-forbidden the-Father himself to-be-valid,

iurasset cupide quidquid ineptus amor:
had-sworn eagerly whatever foolish love:

perque suas impune sinit Dictynna sagittas
and-by her with-impunity allows Dictynna arrows
adfirmes, crines perque Minerua suos.
you-may-affirm, hair and-by Minerva her-own.
at si tardus eris errabis. transiet aetas
but if slow you-will-be you-will-err. will-pass age
quam cito! non segnis stat remeatque dies.
how quickly! not idle stands and-returns the-day.
quam cito purpureos deperdit terra colores,
how quickly the-purple loses the-earth colors,
quam cito formosas populus alta comas.
how quickly the-beautiful the-poplar tall leaves.
quam iacet, infirmae uenere ubi fata senectae,
how lies, of-weak when have-come the-fates old-age,
qui prior Eleo est carcere missus equus.
which first from-the-Elean was barrier sent horse.
uidi iam iuuenem, premeret cum serior aetas,
I-have-seen already a-young-man, pressed when later age,
maerentem stultos praeteriisse dies.
mourning the-foolish to-have-passed-by days.
crudeles diui! serpens nouus exuit annos:
cruel gods! the-snake new sheds its-years:
formae non ullam fata dedere moram.
to-beauty not any the-fates have-given delay.
solis aeterna est Baccho Phoeboque iuuentas:
to-alone eternal is Bacchus and-Phoebus youth:
nam decet intonsus crinis utrumque deum.
for befits unshorn hair each god.
tu, puero quodcumque tuo temptare libebit,
you, to-the-boy whatever your to-try it-shall-please,

cedas: obsequio plurima uincet amor.
should-yield: by-compliance very-many-things will-win love.

neu comes ire neges, quamuis uia longa paretur
nor as-companion to-go refuse, although the-road long be-prepared

et Canis arenti torreat arua siti,
and the-Dog-Star with-parching may-scorch the-fields thirst,

quamuis praetexens picta ferrugine caelum
although fringing with-embroidered dark-red the-sky

† uenturam amiciat imbrifer arcus aquam †.
(corrupt) coming may-clothe rain-bringing the-bow water (corrupt).

uel si caeruleas puppi uolet ire per undas,
or if blue in-a-ship he-wishes to-go through waves,

ipse leuem remo per freta pelle ratem.
yourself the-light with-oar through the-straits drive boat.

nec te paeniteat duros subiisse labores
nor you may-it-repent hard to-have-undergone labors

aut opera insuetas atteruisse manus;
or with-work unaccustomed to-have-worn hands;

nec, uelit insidiis altas si claudere ualles,
nor, he-wishes with-snares the-deep if to-close valleys,

dum placeas, umeri retia ferre negent.
provided-that you-please, your-shoulders the-nets to-carry may-refuse.

si uolet arma, leui temptabis ludere dextra;
if he-wants arms, with-light you-will-try to-play right-hand;

saepe dabis nudum, uincat ut ille, latus.
often you-will-give bare, may-win that he, your-side.

tunc tibi mitis erit, rapias tum cara licebit
then to-you gentle he-will-be, you-may-snatch then dear it-will-be-allowed

oscula: pugnabit, sed tibi rapta dabit.
kisses: he-will-fight, but to-you snatched he-will-give.

rapta dabit primo, post adferet ipse roganti,
snatched he-will-give at-first, afterward he-will-bring himself to-the-asking,
post etiam collo se implicuisse uelit.
afterward even on-your-neck himself to-have-twined will-wish.
heu male nunc artes miseras haec saecula tractant:
alas badly now arts wretched these ages handle:
iam tener adsueuit munera uelle puer.
now the-tender has-grown-accustomed gifts to-want boy.
at tua, qui uenerem docuisti uendere primus,
but your, who love taught to-sell first,
quisquis es, infelix urgeat ossa lapis.
whoever you-are, unhappy may-press bones stone.
Pieridas, pueri, doctos et amate poetas,
the-Pierians, boys, the-learned and love poets,
aurea nec superent munera Pieridas.
golden nor may-surpass gifts the-Pierians.
carmine purpurea est Nisi coma: carmina ni sint,
by-song purple is of-Nisus the-lock: songs unless there-were,
ex umero Pelopis non nituisset ebur.
from the-shoulder of-Pelops not would-have-shone the-ivory.
quem referent Musae, uiuet, dum robora tellus,
whom will-tell-of the-Muses, will-live, while oaks the-earth,
dum caelum stellas, dum uehet amnis aquas.
while the-sky stars, while will-carry the-river waters.
at qui non audit Musas, qui uendit amorem,
but who not hears the-Muses, who sells love,
Idaeae currus ille sequatur Opis,
of-Idaean the-chariot he may-follow Ops,
et tercentenas erroribus expleat urbes
and three-hundred in-wanderings may-fill cities

et secet ad Phrygios uilia membra modos.
and may-cut to Phrygian cheap limbs measures.
blanditiis uult esse locum Venus ipsa: querellis
for-flatteries wishes to-be a-place Venus herself: to-complaints
supplicibus, miseris fletibus illa fauet.'
suppliant, to-wretched weepings she favors.'
haec mihi, quae canerem Titio, deus edidit ore:
these-things to-me, which I-should-sing to-Titius, the-god uttered with-mouth:
sed Titium coniunx haec meminisse uetat.
but Titius his-wife these to-remember forbids.
pareat ille suae: uos me celebrate magistrum,
let-him-obey he his-own: you me throng as-master,
quos male habet multa callidus arte puer.
whom badly treats with-much cunning art a-boy.
gloria cuique sua est: me, qui spernentur, amantes
glory to-each his-own is: me, who will-be-spurned, lovers
consultent: cunctis ianua nostra patet.
let-consult: to-all door our lies-open.
tempus erit, cum me Veneris praecepta ferentem
a-time will-be, when me of-Venus the-precepts bearing
deducat iuuenum sedula turba senem.
may-escort of-young-men a-busy throng old.
eheu quam Marathus lento me torquet amore!
alas how Marathus with-slow me tortures love!
deficiunt artes, deficiuntque doli.
fail arts, and-fail tricks.
parce, puer, quaeso, ne turpis fabula fiam,
spare, boy, I-beg, lest a-shameful story I-become,
cum mea ridebunt uana magisteria.
when my will-laugh-at empty teachings.

Tibullus, who boasted he could bear the separation, now begs Delia's pardon. He nursed her through illness and dreamed of a country life with her as mistress of his farm, entertaining Messalla, but another enjoys her now. He tried wine and other women in vain; the greedy bawd has ruined him, and he curses her. He warns his rival that fortune's wheel turns and another already waits at the door.

Asper eram et bene discidium me ferre loquebar:
Harsh I-was and well the-separation me to-bear I-said:

at mihi nunc longe gloria fortis abest.
but from-me now far the-glory brave is-absent.

namque agor ut per plana citus sola uerbere turben
for I-am-driven as over level swift ground by-the-lash a-top

quem celer adsueta uersat ab arte puer.
which the-quick accustomed spins from skill boy.

ure ferum et torque, libeat ne dicere quicquam
burn the-wild-one and torture, may-it-please lest to-say anything

magnificum post haec: horrida uerba doma.
grand after these-things: the-bristling words tame.

parce tamen, per te furtiui foedera lecti,
spare nevertheless, by you of-the-stolen the-pacts bed,

per uenerem quaeso compositumque caput.
by love I-beg and-the-laid-together head.

ille ego cum tristi morbo defessa iaceres
that-one I when with-gloomy disease worn-out you-lay

te dicor uotis eripuisse meis:
you am-said with-vows to-have-snatched-away my:

ipseque te circum lustraui sulpure puro,
and-myself you around I-purified with-sulfur pure,

carmine cum magico praecinuisset anus;
with-a-spell when magic had-chanted-first an-old-woman;
ipse procuraui ne possent saeua nocere
myself I-took-care lest could cruel to-harm
somnia, ter sancta deueneranda mola;
dreams, three-times with-holy to-be-averted meal;
ipse ego uelatus filo tunicisque solutis
myself I veiled with-a-fillet and-with-tunics loosened
uota nouem Triuiae nocte silente dedi.
vows nine to-Trivia at-night silent gave.
omnia persolui: fruitur nunc alter amore,
all I-paid: enjoys now another the-love,
et precibus felix utitur ille meis.
and prayers happy uses he my.
at mihi felicem uitam, si salua fuisses,
but for-myself a-happy life, if safe you-had-been,
fingebam demens, et renuente deo.
I-was-imagining mad, even with-refusing the-god.
rura colam, frugumque aderit mea Delia custos,
the-country I-shall-till, and-of-the-crops will-be-present my Delia the-guardian,
area dum messes sole calente teret,
the-threshing-floor while the-harvests in-the-sun hot will-tread,
aut mihi seruabit plenis in lintribus uuas
or for-me will-keep full in vats grapes
pressaque ueloci candida musta pede.
and-pressed with-swift white must foot.
consuescet numerare pecus; consuescet amantis
she-will-grow-used to-count the-flock; will-grow-used of-the-loving
garrulus in dominae ludere uerna sinu.
the-chatty in mistress to-play home-born-slave lap.

illa deo sciet agricolae pro uitibus uuam,
she for-the-god will-know farmer for vines a-grape,
pro segete spicas, pro grege ferre dapem.
for the-crop ears, for the-flock to-bring a-feast.
illa regat cunctos, illi sint omnia curae:
she may-rule all, to-her may-be all-things a-care:
at iuuet in tota me nihil esse domo.
but may-it-please in whole me nothing to-be house.
huc ueniet Messalla meus, cui dulcia poma
here will-come Messalla my, for-whom sweet fruits
Delia selectis detrahat arboribus:
Delia from-chosen may-pluck trees:
et, tantum uenerata uirum, hunc sedula curet,
and, so-great reverencing the-man, him busy may-tend,
huic paret atque epulas ipsa ministra gerat.
for-him may-prepare and banquets herself as-servant carry.
haec mihi fingebam, quae nunc Eurusque Notusque
these-things to-me I-was-imagining, which now and-East-wind and-South-wind
iactat odoratos uota per Armenios.
toss fragrant my-vows through Armenians.
saepe ego temptaui curas depellere uino:
often I have-tried my-cares to-drive-away with-wine:
at dolor in lacrimas uerterat omne merum.
but pain into tears had-turned all the-unmixed-wine.
saepe aliam tenui: sed iam cum gaudia adirem,
often another I-held: but now when joys I-approached,
admonuit dominae deseruitque Venus.
reminded-me of-my-mistress and-deserted-me Venus.
tunc me discedens deuotum femina dixit,
then me departing bewitched the-woman said,

a pudet, et narrat scire nefanda meam.
ah it-shames, and tells to-know unspeakable-things my(-girl).
non facit hoc uerbis, facie tenerisque lacertis
not she-does this by-words, by-face and-by-tender arms
deuouet et flauis nostra puella comis.
bewitches and by-golden our girl hair.
talis ad Haemonium Nereis Pelea quondam
such to the-Haemonian the-Nereid Peleus once
uecta est frenato caerula pisce Thetis.
carried was on-a-bridled blue fish Thetis.
haec nocuere mihi. quod adest huic dies amator,
these-things harmed me. that is-present for-her a-rich lover,
uenit in exitium callida lena meum.
has-come to the-ruin a-cunning bawd my.
sanguineas edat illa dapes atque ore cruento
bloody may-eat she feasts and with-mouth gory
tristia cum multo pocula felle bibat:
gloomy with much cups gall may-she-drink:
hanc uolitent animae circum sua fata querentes
her may-flit souls around their fates lamenting
semper, et e tectis strix uiolenta canat:
always, and from the-roofs the-screech-owl violent may-sing:
ipsa fame stimulante furens herbasque sepulcris
herself with-hunger goading raving and-herbs from-tombs
quaerat et a saeuis ossa relicta lupis;
may-she-seek and from savage bones left wolves;
currat et inguinibus nudis ululetque per urbes,
may-she-run and with-groin bare and-may-she-howl through cities,
post agat e triuiis aspera turba canum.
behind may-drive from the-crossroads a-rough throng of-dogs.

eueniet; dat signa deus: sunt numina amanti,
it-will-come-to-pass; gives signs the-god: there-are divinities for-the-lover,
saeuit et iniusta lege relicta Venus.
rages and by-unjust law abandoned Venus.
at tu quam primum sagae praecepta rapacis
but you as soon-as-possible of-the-witch the-precepts rapacious
desere: nam donis uincitur omnis amor.
desert: for by-gifts is-conquered all love.
pauper erit praesto tibi semper: pauper adibit
the-poor-man will-be at-hand for-you always: the-poor-man will-approach
primus et in tenero fixus erit latere:
first and to tender fixed will-be side:
pauper in angusto fidus comes agmine turbae
the-poor-man in narrow a-faithful companion column of-the-crowd
subicietque manus efficietque uiam:
and-will-put-under his-hands and-will-make a-way:
pauper ad occultos furtim deducet amicos
the-poor-man to hidden stealthily will-lead friends
uinclaque de niueo detrahet ipse pede.
and-the-bonds from snowy will-draw-off himself foot.
heu canimus frustra nec uerbis uicta patescit
alas we-sing in-vain nor by-words conquered opens
ianua sed plena est percutienda manu.
the-door but with-full is to-be-struck hand.
at tu, qui potior nunc es, mea furta timeto:
but you, who preferred now are, my thefts fear:
uersatur celeri Fors leuis orbe rotae.
turns with-the-swift Fortune fickle round of-the-wheel.
non frustra quidam iam nunc in limine perstat
not in-vain a-certain-one already now on the-threshold persists

sedulus ac crebro prospicit ac refugit
busy and often looks-out and retreats
et simulat transire domum, mox deinde recurrit
and pretends to-pass the-house, soon then runs-back
solus et ante ipsas exscreat usque fores.
alone and before the-very clears-his-throat constantly doors.
nescio quid furtiuus amor parat. utere quaeso,
I-know-not what stolen love prepares. use-it I-beg,
dum licet: in liquida nam tibi linter aqua.
while it-is-allowed: on liquid for for-you the-skiff water.

I.6 · DELIA'S DECEIT

Love deceives Tibullus: Delia now cheats him with the tricks he taught her to cheat her husband. He warns the husband to let him guard her, recalls the priestess of Bellona who threatens the man who violates a girl Love guards, and spares Delia only for her mother's sake, who once brought her to him. Let Delia be chaste, not from fear but faith, for the faithless woman grows old spinning for hire, and let them be an example of love in their white hair.

Semper ut inducar blandos offers mihi uultus,
Always so-that I-may-be-lured flattering you-offer to-me faces,
post tamen es misero tristis et asper, Amor.
afterward yet you-are to-the-wretched gloomy and harsh, Love.
quid tibi, saeue, rei mecum est? an gloria magna est
what to-you, savage-one, of-business with-me is-there? or a-glory great is-it
insidias homini composuisse deum?
snares for-a-man to-have-laid a-god?
nam mihi tenduntur casses: iam Delia furtim
for for-me are-stretched nets: now Delia stealthily

nescio quem tacita callida nocte fouet.
I-know-not whom in-silent cunning night cherishes.
illa quidem iurata negat, sed credere durum est:
she indeed on-oath denies, but to-believe hard it-is:
sic etiam de me pernegat usque uiro.
so also about me she-denies-flatly constantly to-her-husband.
ipse miser docui, quo posset ludere pacto
myself wretched I-taught, by-what she-could to-trick means
custodes: heu heu nunc premor arte mea.
the-guards: alas alas now I-am-pressed by-art my.
fingere tunc didicit causas ut sola cubaret,
to-invent then she-learned pretexts that alone she-might-lie,
cardine tunc tacito uertere posse fores:
on-hinge then silent to-turn to-be-able the-doors:
tunc sucos herbasque dedi quis liuor abiret
then juices and-herbs I-gave by-which the-bruise might-go-away
quem facit impresso mutua dente uenus.
which makes by-pressed mutual tooth love.
at tu, fallacis coniunx incaute puellae,
but you, of-the-deceitful husband careless girl,
me quoque seruato, peccet ut illa nihil,
me also watch, may-sin that she nothing,
neu iuuenes celebret multo sermone caueto
nor the-young-men may-she-throng with-much talk beware
neue cubet laxo pectus aperta sinu,
nor may-she-lie with-loose her-breast open fold,
neu te decipiat nutu, digitoque liquorem
nor you may-she-deceive with-a-nod, and-with-her-finger the-wine
ne trahat et mensae ducat in orbe notas.
lest she-draw and of-the-table trace on the-round signs.

exibit quam saepe, time, seu uisere dicet
she-will-go-out how often, fear, whether to-visit she-will-say
sacra Bonae maribus non adeunda Deae.
the-rites of-the-Good to-males not to-be-approached Goddess.
at mihi si credas, illam sequar unus ad aras:
but me if you-trust, her I-shall-follow alone to the-altars:
tunc mihi non oculis sit timuisse meis.
then for-me not for-eyes it-may-be to-have-feared my.
saepe, uelut gemmas eius signumque probarem,
often, as-if the-gems her and-the-seal I-approved,
per causam memini me tetigisse manum:
under the-pretext I-remember myself to-have-touched her-hand:
saepe mero somnum peperi tibi, at ipse bibebam
often with-unmixed-wine sleep I-produced for-you, but I-myself drank
sobria supposita pocula uictor aqua.
sober with-substituted cups victor water.
non ego te laesi prudens: ignosce fatenti.
not I you have-harmed knowingly: forgive me-confessing.
iussit Amor: contra quis ferat arma deos?
ordered Love: against who may-bear arms gods?
ille ego sum, nec me iam dicere uera pudebit,
that-man I am, nor me now to-tell the-truth it-will-shame,
instabat tota cui tua nocte canis.
pressed whole at-whom your night dog.
quid tenera tibi coniuge opus? tua si bona nescis
what of-a-tender for-you wife need? your if good you-do-not-know-how
seruare, frustra clauis inest foribus.
to-keep, in-vain the-key is-in the-doors.
te tenet, absentes alios suspirat amores
you she-holds, absent other she-sighs-for loves

et simulat subito condoluisse caput.
and pretends suddenly to-have-ached in-her-head.

at mihi seruandam credas: non saeua recuso
but to-me to-be-guarded entrust-her: not savage I-refuse

uerbera, detrecto non ego uincla pedum.
lashes, I-reject not I the-bonds of-the-feet.

tum procul absitis, quisquis colit arte capillos,
then far-off be-away, whoever tends with-art his-hair,

et fluit effuso cui toga laxa sinu:
and flows with-spread whose toga loose fold:

quisquis et occurret, ne possit crimen habere,
whoever also meets-her, lest he-be-able a-charge to-have,

† stet procul ante, aut alia stet procul ante uia †.
(corrupt) let-stand far before, or by-other let-stand far before way (corrupt).

sic fieri iubet ipse deus, sic magna sacerdos
so to-happen bids himself the-god, so the-great priestess

est mihi diuino uaticinata sono.
has to-me with-divine prophesied sound.

haec, ubi Bellonae motu est agitata, nec acrem
she, when by-Bellona's motion she-is driven, neither fierce

flammam, non amens uerbera torta timet:
flame, nor mad lashes twisted fears:

ipsa bipenne suos caedit uiolenta lacertos
herself with-a-double-axe her-own cuts violent arms

sanguineque effuso spargit inulta deam,
and-with-blood poured-out sprinkles unharmed the-goddess,

statque latus praefixa ueru, stat saucia pectus,
and-stands as-to-her-side pierced with-a-spit, stands wounded in-the-breast,

et canit euentus quos dea magna monet.
and sings outcomes which the-goddess great warns.

‘parcite quam custodit Amor uiolare puellam,
‘spare whom guards Love to-violate the-girl,
ne pigeat magno post didicisse malo.
lest it-irk with-great afterward to-have-learned harm.
attigerit, labentur opes, ut uulnere nostro
he-who-has-touched-her, will-slip-away his-riches, as from-wound our
sanguis, ut hic uentis diripiturque cinis.’
the-blood, as this by-the-winds and-is-scattered ash.’
et tibi nescio quas dixit, mea Delia, poenas:
and for-you I-know-not what she-spoke, my Delia, penalties:
si tamen admittas, sit precor illa leuis.
if however you-commit-a-fault, may-it-be I-pray it light.
non ego te propter parco tibi, sed tua mater
not I you on-account-of spare you, but your mother
me mouet atque iras aurea uincit anus.
me moves and angers golden conquers the-old-woman.
haec mihi te adducit tenebris multoque timore
she to-me you brings in-the-darkness and-with-much fear
coniungit nostras clam taciturna manus:
joins our secretly silent hands:
haec foribusque manet noctu me adfixa proculque
she and-at-the-doors waits by-night for-me fixed and-from-afar
cognoscit strepitus me ueniente pedum.
recognizes the-sound with-me coming of-feet.
uiue diu mihi, dulcis anus: proprios ego tecum,
live long for-me, sweet old-woman: my-own I with-you,
sit modo fas, annos contribuisse uelim.
may-it-be only right, years to-have-contributed would-wish.
te semper natamque tuam te propter amabo:
you always and-daughter your you for I-shall-love:

quidquid agit, sanguis est tamen illa tuus.
whatever she-does, blood is yet she your.

sit modo casta, doce, quamuis non uitta ligatos
let-her-be only chaste, teach-her, although not a-fillet bound

impediat crines nec stola longa pedes.
may-hamper her-hair nor a-robe long her-feet.

et mihi sint durae leges, laudare nec ullam
and for-me may-be harsh laws, to-praise nor any

possim ego quin oculos appetat illa meos;
may-be-able I but-that eyes may-attack she my;

et si quid peccasse putet, ducarque capillis
and if anything to-have-sinned she-thinks, and-may-I-be-dragged by-the-hair

immerito pronas proripiarque uias.
undeservedly headlong and-may-I-be-hurled-forth through-the-streets.

non ego te pulsare uelim, sed, uenerit iste
not I you to-strike would-wish, but, should-have-come that

si furor, optarim non habuisse manus.
if frenzy, I-would-wish not to-have-had hands.

nec saeuo sis casta metu, sed mente fideli:
nor through-savage be chaste fear, but with-mind faithful:

mutuus absenti te mihi seruet amor.
mutual for-absent you me may-keep love.

* * *

(lacuna)

at quae fida fuit nulli, post uicta senecta
but she-who faithful was to-no-one, afterward conquered by-old-age

ducit inops tremula stamina torta manu
draws needy with-trembling threads twisted hand

firmaque conductis adnectit licia telis
and-firm to-hired attaches heddle-threads looms

tractaque de niueo uellere ducta putat.
and-drawn from snowy fleece spun cleans.

hanc animo gaudente uident iuuenumque cateruae
her with-mind rejoicing see and-of-young-men the-troops

commemorant merito tot mala ferre senem:
relate deservedly so-many evils to-bear old:

hanc Venus ex alto flentem sublimis Olympo
her Venus from high weeping aloft Olympus

spectat et infidis quam sit acerba monet.
watches and to-the-faithless how she-may-be harsh warns.

haec aliis maledicta cadant: nos, Delia, amoris
these to-others curses may-fall: we, Delia, of-love

exemplum cana simus uterque coma.
an-example with-white let-us-be each hair.

I.7 · MESSALLA'S BIRTHDAY

The Parcae sang that Messalla would conquer the Aquitanians, and Tibullus, who served with him, names the rivers and peoples that witnessed his triumph and his campaigns in the East. He praises the Nile and Osiris, the inventor of plowing and wine, and calls him to Messalla's birthday with song and dance. He prays for offspring to increase Messalla's fame and praises the road he built near Alba.

Hunc cecinere diem Parcae fatalia nentes
This sang day the-Parcae fateful spinning

stamina, non ulli dissoluenda deo:
threads, not by-any to-be-undone god:

hunc fore, Aquitanas posset qui fundere gentes,
this-one to-be, the-Aquitanian could who to-rout peoples,

quem tremeret forti milite uictus Atax.
whom should-tremble-at with-brave soldiery conquered the-Atax.

euenere: nouos pubes Romana triumphos
it-came-to-pass: new the-youth Roman triumphs

uidit et euinctos bracchia capta duces:
saw and bound as-to-their-arms captured leaders:

at te uictrices lauros, Messalla, gerentem
but you victorious laurels, Messalla, wearing

portabat nitidis currus eburnus equis.
carried with-gleaming the-chariot ivory horses.

non sine me est tibi partus honos: Tarbella Pyrene
not without me is for-you won the-honor: Tarbellian Pyrene

testis et Oceani litora Santonici,
is-witness and of-the-Ocean the-shores Santonic,

testis Arar Rhodanusque celer magnusque Garunna,
witness the-Arar and-the-Rhone swift and-great Garonne,

Carnutis et flaui caerula lympha Liger.
of-the-Carnutes and of-the-golden the-blue water Liger.

an te, Cydne, canam, tacitis qui leniter undis
or you, Cydnus, shall-I-sing, with-silent who gently waves

caeruleus placidis per uada serpis aquis,
blue in-calm through the-shallows creep waters,

quantus et aetherio contingens uertice nubes
how-great and with-airy touching summit clouds

frigidus intonsos Taurus alat Cilicas?
cold the-unshorn Taurus nourishes Cilicians?

quid referam ut uolitet crebras intacta per urbes
why should-I-tell how flits crowded untouched through cities

alba Palaestino sancta columba Syro,
white for-the-Palestinian holy the-dove Syrian,

utque maris uastum prospectet turribus aequor
and-how of-the-sea the-vast looks-out-over from-towers plain

prima ratem uentis credere docta Tyros,
first a-boat to-the-winds to-entrust taught Tyre,
qualis et, arentes cum findit Sirius agros,
how and, the-parched when splits Sirius fields,
fertilis aestiua Nilus abundet aqua?
fertile with-summer the-Nile overflows water?
Nile pater, quanam possim te dicere causa
Nile father, for-what could-I you to-say reason
aut quibus in terris occuluisse caput?
or what in lands to-have-hidden your-head?
te propter nullos tellus tua postulat imbres,
you on-account-of no land your demands rains,
arida nec pluuio supplicat herba Ioui.
dry nor to-rainy prays the-grass Jupiter.
te canit atque suum pubes miratur Osirim
you sings and her-own the-youth marvels-at Osiris
barbara, Memphiten plangere docta bouem.
barbarian, the-Memphite to-lament taught ox.
primus aratra manu sollerti fecit Osiris
first plows with-hand skillful made Osiris
et teneram ferro sollicitauit humum,
and the-tender with-iron stirred ground,
primus inexpertae commisit semina terrae
first to-untried entrusted seeds earth
pomaque non notis legit ab arboribus.
and-fruits not known gathered from trees.
hic docuit teneram palis adiungere uitem,
he taught the-tender to-stakes to-join vine,
hic uiridem dura caedere falce comam:
he the-green with-hard to-cut sickle foliage:

illi iucundos primum matura sapores
for-him pleasant first ripe flavors
expressa incultis uua dedit pedibus.
pressed by-untrained the-grape gave feet.
ille liquor docuit uoces inflectere cantu,
that liquor taught voices to-bend in-song,
mouit et ad certos nescia membra modos:
moved and to fixed unknowing limbs measures:
Bacchus et agricolae magno confecta labore
Bacchus and of-the-farmer by-great worn-out toil
pectora tristitiae dissoluenda dedit:
the-breast of-sadness to-be-loosened gave:
Bacchus et adflictis requiem mortalibus adfert,
Bacchus and to-afflicted rest mortals brings,
crura licet dura compede pulsa sonent.
legs though with-hard fetter struck may-clank.
non tibi sunt tristes curae nec luctus, Osiri,
not for-you are gloomy cares nor grief, Osiris,
sed chorus et cantus et leuis aptus amor,
but dance and song and light fitted love,
sed uarii flores et frons redimita corymbis,
but varied flowers and a-brow wreathed with-ivy-clusters,
fusa sed ad teneros lutea palla pedes
poured but to the-tender yellow robe feet
et Tyriae uestes et dulcis tibia cantu
and Tyrian garments and sweet the-pipe in-song
et leuis occultis conscia cista sacris.
and light to-hidden privy the-basket rites.
huc ades et Genium ludis centumque choreis
hither come and the-Genius with-games and-a-hundred dances

concelebra et multo tempora funde mero:
celebrate and with-much his-temples pour unmixed-wine:
illius et nitido stillent unguenta capillo,
his and from-shining may-drip perfumes hair,
et capite et collo mollia serta gerat.
and on-his-head and on-his-neck soft garlands may-he-wear.
sic uenias hodierne: tibi dem turis honores,
so may-you-come today's-one: to-you may-I-give of-incense honors,
liba et Mopsopio dulcia melle feram.
cakes and with-Mopsopian sweet honey may-I-bring.
at tibi succrescat proles quae facta parentis
but for-you may-grow-up offspring which the-deeds of-its-parent
augeat et circa stet ueneranda senem.
may-increase and around may-stand to-be-revered you-old.
nec taceat monumenta uiae, quem Tuscula tellus
nor let-be-silent the-monument of-the-road, him-whom Tusculan land
candidaque antiquo detinet Alba Lare.
and-white with-ancient detains Alba Lar.
namque opibus congesta tuis hic glarea dura
for by-the-wealth heaped your here gravel hard
sternitur, hic apta iungitur arte silex.
is-spread, here with-fitted is-joined art flint.
te canet agricola, a magna cum uenerit urbe
you will-sing the-farmer, from the-great when he-has-come city
serus, inoffensum rettuleritque pedem.
late, unstumbling and-has-carried-back his-foot.
at tu, Natalis multos celebrande per annos,
but you, Birthday many to-be-celebrated through years,
candidior semper candidiorque ueni.
brighter always and-brighter come.

Tibullus sees through Marathus' secret love for Pholoe and warns him that grooming is useless against Venus. He urges Pholoe not to be hard on the boy, who weeps for her, and to love while she is young, asking gifts only of an old lover, since a smooth-cheeked youth is dearer than gold. Marathus himself once mocked lovers, and now Venus punishes him; Pholoe too will be punished unless she ceases to be proud.

Non ego celari possum, quid nutus amantis
Not I to-be-hidden-from can, what the-nods of-a-lover
quidue ferant miti lenia uerba sono.
or-what may-bring with-gentle soft words sound.
nec mihi sunt sortes nec conscia fibra deorum,
nor for-me are lots nor privy the-entrail of-the-gods,
praecinit euentus nec mihi cantus auis:
foretells outcomes nor for-me the-song of-a-bird:
ipsa Venus magico religatum bracchia nodo
herself Venus with-magic bound as-to-my-arms knot
perdocuit multis non sine uerberibus.
has-taught-thoroughly many not without lashes.
desine dissimulare: deus crudelius urit,
cease to-dissemble: the-god more-cruelly burns,
quos uidet inuitos succubuisse sibi.
those-whom he-sees unwilling to-have-yielded to-himself.
quid tibi nunc molles prodest coluisse capillos
what for-you now soft does-it-profit to-have-tended hair
saepeque mutatas disposuisse comas,
and-often changed to-have-arranged locks,
quid fuco splendente genas ornare, quid ungues
what with-dye shining cheeks to-adorn, what nails

artificis docta subsecuisse manu?
of-an-artist with-skilled to-have-trimmed hand?
frustra iam uestes, frustra mutantur amictus
in-vain now garments, in-vain are-changed cloaks
ansaque compressos colligat arta pedes.
and-the-strap pressed binds tight feet.
illa placet, quamuis inculto uenerit ore
she pleases, although with-unadorned she-has-come face
nec nitidum tarda compserit arte caput.
nor shining with-slow has-arranged art head.
num te carminibus, num te pallentibus herbis
surely-not you with-spells, surely-not you with-pale herbs
deuouit tacito tempore noctis anus?
has-bewitched in-silent time of-night an-old-woman?
cantus uicinis fruges traducit ab agris,
song neighboring crops brings-over from fields,
cantus et iratae detinet anguis iter,
song and of-an-angry stops snake the-path,
cantus et e curru Lunam deducere temptat,
song and from the-chariot the-Moon to-draw-down tries,
et faceret, si non aera repulsa sonent.
and would-do-it, if not bronzes beaten should-sound.
quid queror heu misero carmen nocuisse, quid herbas?
why do-I-complain alas to-wretched-me a-spell to-have-harmed, why herbs?
forma nihil magicis utitur auxiliis:
beauty not-at-all magical uses aids:
sed corpus tetigisse nocet, sed longa dedisse
but the-body to-have-touched harms, but long to-have-given
oscula, sed femori conseruisse femur.
kisses, but to-thigh to-have-joined thigh.

nec tu difficilis puero tamen esse memento:
nor you difficult to-the-boy yet to-be remember:
persequitur poenis tristia facta Venus.
pursues with-penalties gloomy deeds Venus.
munera ne poscas: det munera canus amator,
gifts do-not demand: let-give gifts the-white-haired lover,
ut foueat molli frigida membra sinu.
so-that he-may-warm in-soft cold limbs bosom.
carior est auro iuuenis, cui leuia fulgent
dearer is than-gold the-young-man, for-whom smooth shine
ora nec amplexus aspera barba terit.
the-cheeks nor embraces a-rough beard chafes.
huic tu candentes umero suppone lacertos,
for-him you white to-his-shoulder put-under arms,
et regum magnae despiciantur opes.
and of-kings great may-be-despised the-riches.
at Venus inueniet puero concumbere furtim,
but Venus will-find with-the-boy to-lie stealthily,
dum timet et teneros conserit usque sinus,
while he-fears and tender joins constantly folds,
et dare anhelanti pugnantibus umida linguis
and to-give to-the-panting-one with-fighting wet tongues
oscula et in collo figere dente notas.
kisses and on the-neck to-fix with-the-tooth marks.
non lapis hanc gemmaeque iuuant, quae frigore sola
not stone her and-gems help, who in-the-cold alone
dormiat et nulli sit cupienda uiro.
sleeps and by-no is to-be-desired man.
heu sero reuocatur amor seroque iuuentas
alas too-late is-recalled love and-too-late youth

cum uetus infecit cana senecta caput.
when old has-stained white old-age the-head.
tum studium formae est: coma tum mutatur, ut annos
then the-zeal for-beauty is: the-hair then is-changed, that the-years
dissimulet uiridi cortice tincta nucis:
it-may-hide with-green the-husk dyed of-the-nut:
tollere tum cura est albos a stirpe capillos
to-pluck then the-care is the-white from the-root hairs
et faciem dempta pelle referre nouam.
and the-face with-removed skin to-bring-back new.
at tu dum primi floret tibi temporis aetas
but you while of-first blooms for-you time the-age
utere: non tardo labitur illa pede.
use-it: not with-slow glides it foot.
neu Marathum torque: puero quae gloria uicto est?
nor Marathus torment: in-the-boy what glory conquered is?
in ueteres esto dura, puella, senes.
toward old be harsh, girl, old-men.
parce precor tenero: non illi sontica causa est,
spare I-pray the-tender-one: not for-him serious the-cause is,
sed nimius luto corpora tingit amor.
but excessive with-yellow his-body tinges love.
uel miser absenti maestas quam saepe querellas
or wretched for-absent sad how often complaints
conicit et lacrimis omnia plena madent!
he-throws and with-tears all-things full are-wet!
'quid me spernis?' ait. 'poterat custodia uinci:
'why me do-you-spurn?' he-says. 'could the-guard to-be-conquered:
ipse dedit cupidis fallere posse deus.
himself gave to-the-desiring to-deceive to-be-able the-god.

nota uenus furtiua mihi est, ut lenis agatur
known love stolen to-me is, how gently may-be-drawn
spiritus, ut nec dent oscula rapta sonum;
the-breath, how nor may-give kisses snatched a-sound;
et possum media quamuis obrepere nocte
and I-can at-mid however to-creep-up night
et strepitu nullo clam reserare fores.
and with-noise no secretly to-unbolt the-doors.
quid prosunt artes, miserum si spernit amantem
what profit arts, wretched if spurns the-lover
et fugit ex ipso saeua puella toro?
and flees from the-very savage the-girl couch?
uel cum promittit, subito sed perfida fallit,
or when she-promises, suddenly but faithless deceives,
est mihi nox multis euigilanda malis.
there-is for-me a-night with-many to-be-watched-through evils.
dum mihi uenturam fingo, quodcumque mouetur,
while for-me to-be-coming I-imagine-her, whatever moves,
illius credo tunc sonuisse pedes.'
her I-believe then to-have-sounded feet.'
desistas lacrimare, puer: non frangitur illa,
cease to-weep, boy: not is-broken she,
et tua iam fletu lumina fessa tument.
and your already with-weeping eyes weary swell.
oderunt, Pholoe, moneo, fastidia diui,
hate, Pholoe, I-warn, disdain the-gods,
nec prodest sanctis tura dedisse focis.
nor it-profits to-holy incense to-have-given hearths.
hic Marathus quondam miseros ludebat amantes,
this Marathus once wretched mocked lovers,

nescius ultorem post caput esse deum;
not-knowing an-avenger behind his-head to-be a-god;
saepe etiam lacrimas fertur risisse dolentis
often even the-tears is-said to-have-laughed-at of-the-grieving
et cupidum ficta detinuisse mora:
and the-desiring with-feigned to-have-detained delay:
nunc omnes odit fastus, nunc displicet illi
now all he-hates disdain, now displeases him
quaecumque opposita est ianua dura sera.
whatever opposed is door with-hard bar.
at te poena manet, ni desinis esse superba.
but you a-penalty awaits, unless you-cease to-be proud.
quam cupies uotis hunc reuocare diem!
how you-will-desire with-vows this to-call-back day!

I.9 · THE BOY BOUGHT

Tibullus' boy has sold himself for gifts to a rich old man, though he swore by the gods. Tibullus curses the gold, recalls how he helped the boy in his affairs and wrote him praises he now regrets, and curses the rich lover: may his wife deceive him and his house lie open to all. The boy will weep when another boy holds Tibullus bound, and Tibullus, freed from his deceitful love, will dedicate a golden palm to Venus.

Quid mihi, si fueras miseros laesurus amores,
What to-me, if you-had-been wretched going-to-wound loves,
foedera per diuos, clam uiolanda, dabas?
pacts by the-gods, secretly to-be-violated, were-you-giving?
a miser, et si quis primo periuria celat,
ah wretched, even if someone at-first perjuries hides,
sera tamen tacitis Poena uenit pedibus.
late yet with-silent Punishment comes feet.

parcite, caelestes: aequum est impune licere
spare, heaven-dwellers: fair it-is with-impunity to-be-allowed
numina formosis laedere uestra semel.
the-divinities for-the-beautiful to-wound your once.
lucra petens habili tauros adiungit aratro
gains seeking to-the-handy bulls he-yokes plow
et durum terrae rusticus urget opus,
and the-hard of-the-earth the-countryman presses work,
lucra petituras freta per parentia uentis
gains going-to-seek the-straits through obeying the-winds
ducunt instabiles sidera certa rates:
lead unsteady the-stars sure boats:
muneribus meus est captus puer. at deus illa
by-gifts my has-been captured boy. but the-god those
in cinerem et liquidas munera uertat aquas.
into ash and liquid the-gifts turn waters.
iam mihi persoluet poenas, puluisque decorem
soon to-me he-will-pay penalties, and-the-dust his-grace
detrahet et uentis horrida facta coma;
will-take-away and by-the-winds bristling made hair;
uretur facies, urentur sole capilli,
will-be-burned his-face, will-be-burned by-the-sun his-locks,
deteret inualidos et uia longa pedes.
will-wear-down his-weak and the-road long feet.
admonui quotiens 'auro ne pollue formam:
I-warned how-often 'with-gold do-not pollute your-beauty:
saepe solent auro multa subesse mala.
often are-wont gold many to-lurk-under evils.
diuitiis captus si quis uiolauit amorem,
by-riches captured if anyone has-violated love,

asperaque est illi difficilisque Venus.
and-harsh is to-him and-difficult Venus.

ure meum potius flamma caput et pete ferro
burn my rather with-flame head and attack with-steel

corpus et intorto uerbere terga seca.
my-body and with-twisted lash my-back cut.

nec tibi celandi spes sit peccare paranti:
nor for-you of-hiding hope be to-sin preparing:

scit deus, occultos qui uetat esse dolos.
knows the-god, hidden who forbids to-be tricks.

ipse deus tacito permisit † leue † ministro
himself the-god to-the-silent permitted (corrupt) smooth (corrupt) servant

ederet ut multo libera uerba mero:
should-utter that with-much free words unmixed-wine:

ipse deus somno domitos emittere uocem
himself the-god by-sleep subdued to-send-forth their-voice

iussit et inuitos facta tegenda loqui.'
bade and unwilling deeds to-be-hidden to-tell.'

haec ego dicebam: nunc me fleuisse loquentem,
these-things I was-saying: now me to-have-wept speaking,

nunc pudet ad teneros procubuisse pedes.
now it-shames at tender to-have-fallen-prostrate feet.

tunc mihi iurabas nullo te diuitis auri
then to-me you-swore for-no you of-rich gold

pondere, non gemmis, uendere uelle fidem,
weight, not for-gems, to-sell to-wish your-faith,

non tibi si pretium Campania terra daretur,
not for-you if as-the-price the-Campanian land were-given,

non tibi si Bacchi cura Falernus ager.
not for-you if of-Bacchus the-care the-Falernian field.

illis eriperes uerbis mihi sidera caeli
with-those you-could-have-snatched words from-me the-stars of-the-sky
lucere et pronas fluminis esse uias.
to-shine and downhill of-the-river to-be the-courses.
quin etiam flebas: at non ego fallere doctus
nay even you-wept: but not I to-deceive taught
tergebam umentes credulus usque genas.
wiped your-wet credulous constantly cheeks.
quid faciam, nisi et ipse fores in amore puellae?
what am-I-to-do, unless also yourself you-were in love with-a-girl?
sit precor exemplo sit leuis illa tuo.
may-she-be I-pray by-the-example may-she-be fickle she your.
o quotiens, uerbis ne quisquam conscius esset,
o how-often, to-the-words lest anyone privy might-be,
ipse comes multa lumina nocte tuli!
I-myself as-companion much lights by-night have-carried!
saepe insperanti uenit tibi munere nostro
often to-unhoping she-came you by-gift our
et latuit clausas post adoperta fores.
and lay-hidden the-shut behind covered doors.
tum miser interii, stulte confisus amari:
then wretched I-perished, foolishly having-trusted to-be-loved:
nam poteram ad laqueos cautior esse tuos.
for I-could at snares more-cautious to-be your.
quin etiam attonita laudes tibi mente canebam,
nay even with-thunderstruck praises for-you mind I-sang,
at me nunc nostri Pieridumque pudet.
but me now of-myself and-of-the-Pierians it-shames.
illa uelim rapida Vulcanus carmina flamma
those I-would-wish with-rushing Vulcan songs flame

torreat et liquida deleat amnis aqua.
may-roast and with-liquid may-delete the-river water.

tu procul hinc absis, cui formam uendere cura est
you far from-here may-you-be-away, whose beauty to-sell care is

et pretium plena grande referre manu.
and a-price with-full great to-bring-back hand.

at te qui puerum donis corrumpere es ausus
but you who the-boy with-gifts to-corrupt have dared

rideat adsiduis uxor inulta dolis,
may-laugh-at with-constant your-wife unpunished tricks,

et cum furtiuo iuuenem lassauerit usu,
and when by-stolen the-young-man she-has-tired use,

tecum interposita languida ueste cubet.
with-you with-placed-between languid garment may-she-lie.

semper sint externa tuo uestigia lecto
always may-there-be strange in-your footprints bed

et pateat cupidis semper aperta domus:
and may-lie-open to-the-desiring always open your-house:

nec lasciua soror dicatur plura bibisse
nor wanton your-sister be-said more to-have-drunk

pocula uel plures emeruisse uiros.
cups or more to-have-earned men.

illam saepe ferunt conuiuia ducere baccho,
her often they-say the-banquets to-draw-out with-wine,

dum rota Luciferi prouocet orta diem:
until the-wheel of-Lucifer challenges risen the-day:

illa nulla queat melius consumere noctem
than-her no-woman could better to-spend the-night

aut operum uarias disposuisse uices.
or of-the-works the-varied to-have-arranged turns.

at tua perdidicit: nec tu, stultissime, sentis,
but your-wife has-learned-thoroughly: nor you, most-foolish, perceive,

cum tibi non solita corpus ab arte mouet.
when for-you not accustomed her-body with art she-moves.

tune putas illam pro te disponere crines
do-you think her for you to-arrange her-hair

aut tenues denso pectere dente comas?
or her-fine with-dense to-comb tooth locks?

istane persuadet facies, auroque lacertos
does-that persuade face, and-with-gold arms

uinciat et Tyrio prodeat apta sinu?
does-she-bind and in-Tyrian come-forth fitted fold?

non tibi sed iuueni cuidam uult bella uideri,
not for-you but for-a-youth a-certain she-wishes pretty to-seem,

deuoueat pro quo remque domumque tuam.
may-she-devote for whom both-property and-house your.

nec facit hoc uitio, sed corpora foeda podagra
nor she-does this from-vice, but bodies foul with-gout

et senis amplexus culta puella fugit.
and of-an-old-man the-embraces a-refined girl flees.

huic tamen accubuit noster puer: hunc ego credam
with-him however has-lain our boy: him I would-believe

cum trucibus uenerem iungere posse feris.
with savage love to-join to-be-able wild-beasts.

blanditiasne meas aliis tu uendere es ausus,
flatteries my to-others you to-sell have dared,

tune aliis demens oscula ferre mea?
you to-others mad kisses to-bring my?

tum flebis, cum me uinctum puer alter habebit
then you-will-weep, when me bound another boy will-have

et geret in regno regna superba tuo.
and will-wield in kingdom rule proud your.
at tua tum me poena iuuet, Venerique merenti
but your then me punishment may-delight, and-to-Venus deserving
fixa notet casus aurea palma meos:
fixed may-mark misfortunes a-golden palm my:
hanc tibi fallaci resolutus amore Tibullus
this to-you from-deceitful freed love Tibullus
dedicat et grata sis, dea, mente rogat.
dedicates and with-grateful may-you-be, goddess, mind asks.

I.10 · AGAINST WAR

Who first forged the sword? Wars came with gold; when cups were beechwood, no one fought. Tibullus, dragged off to war, prays the ancestral Lares to protect him and promises them a pig. Death is near enough without war; better the old man in his cottage with his children. He praises peace, which first yoked oxen and nourished the vine; in peace love's wars flare, but let them stop at a torn dress and tears, for a man who strikes his girl is stone. Let peace come with the wheat ear.

Quis fuit, horrendos primus qui protulit enses?
Who was, the-horrible first who brought-forth swords?
quam ferus et uere ferreus ille fuit!
how wild and truly iron he was!
tum caedes hominum generi, tum proelia nata,
then slaughter for-the-race of-men, then battles born,
tum breuior dirae mortis aperta uia est.
then shorter of-dire death opened the-way is.
an nihil ille miser meruit, nos ad mala nostra
or not-at-all he wretched deserved, we to evils our

uertimus, in saeuas quod dedit ille feras?
have-turned, against savage what gave he wild-beasts?
diuitis hoc uitium est auri, nec bella fuerunt,
of-rich this the-vice is gold, nor wars were,
faginus astabat cum scyphus ante dapes.
of-beechwood stood when the-cup before the-feast.
non arces, non uallus erat, somnumque petebat
not citadels, not a-palisade was, and-sleep sought
securus uarias dux gregis inter oues.
untroubled the-varied the-leader of-the-flock among sheep.
tunc mihi uita foret uulgi nec tristia nossem
then for-me life would-be of-the-crowd nor gloomy I-would-have-known
arma nec audissem corde micante tubam.
arms nor I-would-have-heard with-heart throbbing the-trumpet.
nunc ad bella trahor, et iam quis forsitan hostis
now to wars I-am-dragged, and already some perhaps enemy
haesura in nostro tela gerit latere.
going-to-stick in our weapons bears side.
sed patrii seruate Lares: aluistis et idem,
but ancestral save-me Lares: you-nourished and the-same,
cursarem uestros cum tener ante pedes.
I-ran-about your when tender before feet.
neu pudeat prisco uos esse e stipite factos:
nor may-it-shame ancient you to-be from stump made:
sic ueteris sedes incoluistis aui.
so of-my-old the-seats you-inhabited grandfather.
tunc melius tenuere fidem, cum paupere cultu
then better they-kept faith, when with-poor worship
stabat in exigua ligneus aede deus.
stood in a-scant wooden shrine the-god.

hic placatus erat, seu quis libauerat uuam
he appeased was, whether someone had-offered a-grape
seu dederat sanctae spicea serta comae:
or had-given to-holy of-wheat-ears garlands hair:
atque aliquis uoti compos liba ipse ferebat
and someone of-his-vow possessed cakes himself brought
postque comes purum filia parua fauum.
and-after as-companion pure his-daughter small honeycomb.
at nobis aerata, Lares, depellite tela,
but from-us bronze, Lares, drive-away weapons,
* * *
(lacuna)
hostiaque e plena rustica porcus hara.
and-as-victim from full rustic a-pig sty.
hanc pura cum ueste sequar myrtoque canistra
it pure with garment I-shall-follow and-with-myrtle baskets
uincta geram, myrto uinctus et ipse caput.
bound I-shall-carry, with-myrtle bound and myself as-to-my-head.
sic placeam uobis: alius sit fortis in armis,
so may-I-please you: another may-be brave in arms,
sternat et aduersos Marte fauente duces,
may-lay-low and the-opposing with-Mars favoring leaders,
ut mihi potanti possit sua dicere facta
so-that to-me drinking he-may-be-able his to-tell deeds
miles et in mensa pingere castra mero.
the-soldier and on the-table to-paint his-camp with-wine.
quis furor est atram bellis accersere Mortem?
what frenzy is-it dark by-wars to-summon Death?
imminet et tacito clam uenit illa pede.
she-threatens and with-silent secretly comes she foot.

non seges est infra, non uinea culta, sed audax
not a-crop is below, not a-vineyard tilled, but bold
Cerberus et Stygiae nauita turpis aquae:
Cerberus and of-the-Stygian the-boatman foul water:
illic percussisque genis ustoque capillo
there and-with-struck cheeks and-with-burnt hair
errat ad obscuros pallida turba lacus.
wanders to the-dark pale the-throng lakes.
quin potius laudandus hic est quem prole parata
nay rather to-be-praised this-one is whom with-offspring raised
occupat in parua pigra senecta casa!
seizes in a-small sluggish old-age cottage!
ipse suas sectatur oues, at filius agnos,
he-himself his-own follows sheep, but his-son the-lambs,
et calidam fesso comparat uxor aquam.
and warm for-the-weary prepares his-wife water.
sic ego sim, liceatque caput candescere canis
so I may-be, and-may-it-be-allowed my-head to-grow-white with-white-hairs
temporis et prisci facta referre senem.
of-time and old the-deeds to-relate an-old-man.
interea pax arua colat. pax candida primum
meanwhile peace the-fields may-till. peace bright first
duxit araturos sub iuga curua boues:
led going-to-plow under the-yokes curved oxen:
pax aluit uites et sucos condidit uuae,
peace nourished the-vines and the-juices stored of-the-grape,
funderet ut nato testa paterna merum:
might-pour that for-the-son the-jar of-the-father unmixed-wine:
pace bidens uomerque nitent, at tristia duri
in-peace the-hoe and-the-plowshare shine, but the-gloomy of-the-hard

militis in tenebris occupat arma situs. —
soldier in the-darkness seizes arms mold.

rusticus e lucoque uehit, male sobrius ipse,
the-countryman from and-the-grove carries, badly sober himself,

uxorem plaustro progeniemque domum. —
his-wife in-the-wagon and-the-offspring home.

sed ueneris tunc bella calent, scissosque capillos
but of-love then wars grow-hot, and-torn hair

femina, perfractas conqueriturque fores;
the-woman, broken-down and-laments doors;

flet teneras subtusa genas: sed uictor et ipse
she-weeps her-tender bruised cheeks: but the-victor and himself

flet sibi dementes tam ualuisse manus.
weeps for-himself mad so to-have-prevailed hands.

at lasciuus Amor rixae mala uerba ministrat,
but wanton Love of-the-quarrel evil words supplies,

inter et iratum lentus utrumque sedet.
between and angry slow each sits.

a lapis est ferrumque, suam quicumque puellam
ah stone he-is and-iron, his-own whoever girl

uerberat: e caelo deripit ille deos.
beats: from the-sky drags-down he the-gods.

sit satis e membris tenuem rescindere uestem,
let-it-be enough from the-limbs fine to-tear the-garment,

sit satis ornatus dissoluisse comae,
let-it-be enough the-ornaments to-have-loosened of-the-hair,

sit lacrimas mouisse satis: quater ille beatus
let-it-be tears to-have-moved enough: four-times he happy

quo tenera irato flere puella potest.
with-whom tender angry to-weep a-girl can.

65 sed manibus qui saeuus erit, scutumque sudemque
but with-hands who savage will-be, both-shield and-stake
is gerat et miti sit procul a Venere.
he may-carry and gentle may-be far from Venus.
at nobis, Pax alma, ueni spicamque teneto,
but to-us, Peace nourishing, come and-the-wheat-ear hold,
profluat et pomis candidus ante sinus.
may-flow-forth and with-fruits white before fold.

BOOK II

II.1 · THE COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Tibullus leads the purification of the fields: the plowman rests, the oxen are garlanded, and all who have lain with Venus keep away. He prays to the ancestral gods, calls for old Falernian, toasts Messalla, and sings the country gods who taught men to build, yoke the bull, and plant, and the farmer who first sang and led the dance. Cupid too was born among the herds and now hunts girls and men; Tibullus bids the crowd pray to him and then lets night and sleep come.

Quisquis adest, faueat: fruges lustramus et agros,
Whoever is-present, let-him-keep-silence: the-crops we-purify and the-fields,
ritus ut a prisco traditus extat auo.
the-rite as from an-ancient handed-down stands ancestor.
Bacche, ueni, dulcisque tuis e cornibus uua
Bacchus, come, and-sweet your from horns the-grape
pendeat, et spicis tempora cinge, Ceres.
may-hang, and with-wheat-ears your-temples bind, Ceres.
luce sacra requiescat humus, requiescat arator,
on-the-day holy may-rest the-ground, may-rest the-plowman,
et graue suspenso uomere cesset opus.
and the-heavy with-hung-up plowshare may-cease work.
soluite uincla iugis: nunc ad praesepia debent
loose the-bonds from-the-yokes: now at the-mangers ought
plena coronato stare boues capite.
full with-garlanded to-stand the-oxen head.
omnia sint operata deo: non audeat ulla
all-things be in-service to-the-god: not may-dare any-woman
lanificam pensis imposuisse manum.
her-wool-working on-tasks to-have-laid hand.

uos quoque abesse procul iubeo, discedat ab aris,
you also to-be-away far-off I-bid, let-depart from the-altars,
cui tulit hesterna gaudia nocte Venus.
to-whom brought on-yesterday's joys night Venus.
casta placent superis: pura cum ueste uenite
chaste-things please the-gods-above: pure with garment come
et manibus puris sumite fontis aquam.
and with-hands pure take of-the-spring water.
cernite, fulgentes ut eat sacer agnus ad aras
see, the-shining how goes the-sacred lamb to altars
uinctaque post olea candida turba comas.
and-bound behind with-olive white the-throng as-to-their-hair.
di patrii, purgamus agros, purgamus agrestes:
gods ancestral, we-purify the-fields, we-purify the-farmers:
uos mala de nostris pellite limitibus,
you evils from our drive borders,
neu seges eludat messem fallacibus herbis,
nor the-crop let-cheat the-harvest with-deceitful weeds,
neu timeat celeres tardior agna lupos.
nor let-fear the-swift the-slower lamb wolves.
tunc nitidus plenis confisus rusticus agris
then sleek in-full trusting the-countryman fields
ingeret ardenti grandia ligna foco,
will-heap-on to-the-burning large logs hearth,
turbaque uernarum, saturi bona signa coloni,
and-the-throng of-home-born-slaves, of-a-sated good signs farmer,
ludet et ex uirgis extruet ante casas.
will-play and from twigs will-build before huts.
euentura precor: uiden ut felicibus extis
going-to-come-to-pass I-pray: do-you-see how with-favorable entrails

significet placidos nuntia fibra deos?
signifies calm the-messenger the-fiber gods?
nunc mihi fumosos ueteris proferte Falernos
now for-me the-smoky of-an-old bring-out Falernians
consulis et Chio soluite uincla cado.
consul and from-the-Chian loose the-bonds jar.
uina diem celebrent: non festa luce madere
wines the-day may-celebrate: not on-a-festal day to-be-soaked
est rubor, errantes et male ferre pedes.
is a-blush, wandering and badly to-carry feet.
sed 'bene Messallam' sua quisque ad pocula dicat,
but 'well Messalla' his each at cups may-say,
nomen et absentis singula uerba sonent.
the-name and of-the-absent each words may-sound.
gentis Aquitanae celeber Messalla triumphis
of-the-race Aquitanian famous Messalla for-triumphs
et magna intonsis gloria uictor auis,
and great to-unshorn glory victor ancestors,
huc ades aspiraque mihi, dum carmine nostro
hither come and-breathe-on me, while in-song our
redditur agricolis gratia caelitibus.
is-returned by-farmers thanks to-the-heaven-dwellers.
rura cano rurisque deos. his uita magistris
the-country I-sing and-of-the-country the-gods. with-these life as-teachers
desueuit querna pellere glande famem:
has-grown-unused with-oak to-drive-away acorn hunger:
illi compositis primum docuere tigillis
they with-fitted first taught little-beams
exiguam uiridi fronde operire domum:
a-scant with-green foliage to-cover house:

illi etiam tauros primi docuisse feruntur
they also bulls first to-have-taught are-said
seruitium et plaustro supposuisse rotam.
service and to-the-wagon to-have-put-under the-wheel.
tum uictus abiere feri, tum consita pomus,
then foods went-away wild, then planted the-fruit-tree,
tum bibit inriguas fertilis hortus aquas,
then drank irrigating fertile the-garden waters,
aurea tum pressos pedibus dedit uua liquores
golden then pressed by-feet gave the-grape juices
mixtaque securo est sobria lympha mero.
and-mixed with-untroubled was sober water wine.
rura ferunt messes, calidi cum sideris aestu
the-countryside bears harvests, of-the-hot when star in-the-heat
deponit flauas annua terra comas.
lays-down her-golden yearly the-earth hair.
rure leuis uerno flores apis ingerit alueo,
in-the-country the-light spring flowers bee heaps-into hive,
compleat ut dulci sedula melle fauos.
may-fill that with-sweet busy honey combs.
agricola adsiduo primum satiatus aratro
the-farmer with-constant first sated plow
cantauit certo rustica uerba pede
sang with-fixed rustic words foot
et satur arenti primum est modulatus auena
and full on-dry first has modulated oat-pipe
carmen, ut ornatos diceret ante deos,
a-song, that adorned he-might-sing before gods,
agricola et minio suffusus, Bacche, rubenti
the-farmer and with-vermilion suffused, Bacchus, red

primus inexperta duxit ab arte choros.
first untried led from art dances.
huic datus a pleno memorabile munus ouili
to-him given from full a-memorable gift fold
dux pecoris curtas auxerat hircus opes.
the-leader of-the-flock scant had-increased goat riches.
rure puer uerno primum de flore coronam
in-the-country the-boy spring first from flower a-crown
fecit et antiquis imposuit Laribus.
made and on-the-ancient placed Lares.
rure etiam teneris curam exhibitura puellis
in-the-country also for-the-tender work going-to-supply girls
molle gerit tergo lucida uellus ouis.
soft bears on-its-back bright fleece the-sheep.
hinc et femineus labor est, hinc pensa colusque,
hence also womanly the-labor is, hence tasks and-distaff,
fusus et adposito pollice uersat opus:
the-spindle and with-applied thumb turns the-work:
atque aliqua adsiduae textrix operata mineruae
and some-woman to-constant weaver devoted weaving
cantat, et a pulso tela sonat latere.
sings, and from struck the-loom sounds side.
ipse quoque inter agros interque armenta Cupido
himself too among the-fields and-among the-herds Cupid
natus et indomitas dicitur inter equas.
born and untamed is-said among mares.
illic indocto primum se exercuit arcu:
there with-untaught first himself he-exercised bow:
ei mihi, quam doctas nunc habet ille manus!
ah me, how skilled now has he hands!

nec pecudes, uelut ante, petit: fixisse puellas
nor herds, as before, he-seeks: to-have-pierced girls
gestit et audaces perdomuisse uiros.
he-longs and bold to-have-tamed men.
hic iuueni detraxit opes, hic dicere iussit
this-one to-the-young-man took-away riches, this-one to-say bade
limen ad iratae uerba pudenda senem:
the-threshold at of-an-angry-woman words shameful an-old-man:
hoc duce custodes furtim transgressa iacentes
with-this-one leader the-guards stealthily having-passed lying
ad iuuenem tenebris sola puella uenit
to the-young-man in-the-darkness alone the-girl comes
et pedibus praetemptat iter suspensa timore,
and with-her-feet tries-in-advance the-path hung with-fear,
explorat caecas cui manus ante uias.
explores the-blind whose hand before ways.
a miseri, quos hic grauiter deus urget! at ille
ah wretched, whom this heavily god presses! but he
felix, cui placidus leniter adflat Amor.
happy, on-whom calm gently breathes Love.
sancte, ueni dapibus festis, sed pone sagittas
holy-one, come to-the-feast festal, but lay-aside your-arrows
et procul ardentes hinc precor abde faces.
and far burning from-here I-pray hide torches.
uos celebrem cantate deum pecorique uocate
you the-famous sing god and-for-the-flock summon
uoce: palam pecori, clam sibi quisque uocet.
with-voice: openly for-the-flock, secretly for-himself each may-call.
aut etiam sibi quisque palam: nam turba iocosa
or even for-himself each openly: for the-throng jocular

obstrepit et Phrygio tibia curua sono.
makes-a-din and with-Phrygian the-pipe curved sound.
ludite: iam Nox iungit equos, currumque sequuntur
play: now Night yokes her-horses, and-the-chariot follow
matris lasciuo sidera fulua choro,
of-their-mother in-wanton the-stars golden dance,
postque uenit tacitus furuis circumdatus alis
and-after comes silent with-dusky surrounded wings
Somnus et incerto Somnia nigra pede.
Sleep and with-uncertain Dreams black foot.

II.2 · CORNUTUS' BIRTHDAY

Tibullus calls for silence and incense on Cornutus' birthday and prays the Genius to grant him what he asks, which will be a faithful wife's love, dearer than all the fields of the world and all the gems of India. May Love bring golden bonds that last until old age, and may the Birthday bring children to play at his feet.

Dicamus bona uerba: uenit Natalis ad aras:
Let-us-say good words: comes the-Birthday to the-altars:
quisquis ades, lingua, uir mulierque, faue.
whoever are-present, with-tongue, man and-woman, keep-silence.
urantur pia tura focis, urantur odores
let-be-burned dutiful incense on-the-hearths, let-be-burned the-perfumes
quos tener e terra diuite mittit Arabs.
which the-tender from land rich sends the-Arab.
ipse suos Genius adsit uisurus honores,
himself his-own the-Genius may-he-be-present going-to-see honors,
cui decorent sanctas mollia serta comas.
for-whom may-adorn his-holy soft garlands hair.

illius puro destillent tempora nardo,
his with-pure may-drip temples nard,
atque satur libo sit madeatque mero,
and full with-cake may-he-be and-may-he-be-soaked with-unmixed-wine,
adnuat et, Cornute, tibi, quodcumque rogabis.
may-nod-assent and, Cornutus, to-you, whatever you-will-ask.
en age (quid cessas? adnuit ille) roga.
look come (why do-you-delay? nods-assent he) ask.
auguror, uxoris fidos optabis amores:
I-foretell, of-a-wife the-faithful you-will-wish loves:
iam reor hoc ipsos edidicisse deos.
already I-think this themselves to-have-learned-by-heart the-gods.
nec tibi malueris, totum quaecumque per orbem
nor for-yourself you-would-prefer, whole whatever through the-world
fortis arat ualido rusticus arua boue,
brave plows with-strong the-countryman fields ox,
nec tibi, gemmarum quidquid felicibus Indis
nor for-yourself, of-gems whatever for-fortunate Indians
nascitur, Eoi qua maris unda rubet.
is-born, of-the-Eastern where of-the-sea the-wave reddens.
uota cadunt: utinam strepitantibus aduolet alis
the-vows fall: would-that with-rustling may-fly-hither wings
flauaque coniugio uincula portet Amor,
and-golden to-the-marriage bonds may-bring Love,
uincula quae maneant semper dum tarda senectus
bonds which may-remain always until slow old-age
inducat rugas inficiatque comas.
may-bring-on wrinkles and-may-stain the-hair.

haec ueniat, Natalis, auis prolemque ministret,
this may-come, Birthday, for-ancestors and-offspring may-supply,
ludat et ante tuos turba nouella pedes.
may-play and before your the-throng new-little feet.

II.3 · NEMESIS IN THE COUNTRY

Nemesis is in the country, and Tibullus would gladly work the fields to see her, as Apollo once tended Admetus' cattle for love, when neither his lyre nor his unshorn hair availed him. The age praises plunder, which drives men to war and the sea and builds villas; since girls love the rich, let plunder come, so that Nemesis may parade in his gifts. Tibullus curses the country that keeps her and wishes for the golden age of acorns and free love. If she wills it, he will plow her fields in chains.

Rura meam, Cornute, tenent uillaeque puellam:
The-country my, Cornutus, hold and-the-villas girl:
ferreus est, heu heu, quisquis in urbe manet.
iron is, alas alas, whoever in the-city stays.
ipsa Venus latos iam nunc migrauit in agros,
herself Venus broad already now has-migrated into fields,
uerbaque aratoris rustica discit Amor.
and-the-words of-the-plowman rustic learns Love.
o ego, cum aspicerem dominam, quam fortiter illic
o I, when I-looked-at my-mistress, how strongly there
uersarem ualido pingue bidente solum
I-would-turn with-strong rich hoe soil
agricolaeque modo curuum sectarer aratrum,
and-of-a-farmer in-the-manner the-curved I-would-follow plow,
dum subigunt steriles arua serenda boues!
while subdue the-barren fields to-be-sown oxen!

nec quererer quod sol graciles exureret artus,
nor I-would-complain that the-sun my-slender burned limbs,
laederet et teneras pussula rupta manus.
might-hurt and my-tender a-blister burst hands.
pauit et Admeti tauros formosus Apollo,
fed too of-Admetus the-bulls the-beautiful Apollo,
nec cithara intonsae profueruntue comae,
nor his-lyre unshorn or-availed his-hair,
nec potuit curas sanare salubribus herbis:
nor could cares to-heal with-healthful herbs:
quidquid erat medicae uicerat artis amor.
whatever was of-the-medical had-conquered art love.
ipse deus solitus stabulis expellere uaccas
himself the-god was-wont from-the-stalls to-drive-out cows
* * *
(lacuna)
et miscere nouo docuisse coagula lacte,
and to-mix with-new to-have-taught rennet milk,
lacteus et mixtis obriguisse liquor.
milky and from-mixed to-have-stiffened liquid.
tunc fiscella leui detexta est uimine iunci,
then the-cheese-basket with-light woven was osier of-rush,
raraque per nexus est uia facta sero.
and-thin through the-knots was a-way made for-whey.
o quotiens illo uitulum gestante per agros
o how-often with-him a-calf carrying through the-fields
dicitur occurrens erubuisse soror!
is-said meeting-him to-have-blushed his-sister!
o quotiens ausae, caneret dum ualle sub alta,
o how-often dared, he-was-singing while the-valley under deep,

rumpere mugitu carmina docta boues!
to-break with-lowing his-songs learned cows!
saepe duces trepidis petiere oracula rebus,
often leaders in-troubled sought oracles affairs,
uenit et a templis inrita turba domum:
went and from the-temples unsuccessful the-throng home:
saepe horrere sacros doluit Latona capillos,
often to-bristle his-holy grieved Latona hair,
quos admirata est ipsa nouerca prius.
which admired has herself his-stepmother before.
quisquis inornatumque caput crinesque solutos
whoever and-unadorned his-head and-hair loosened
aspiceret, Phoebi quaereret ille comam.
should-see, of-Phoebus would-seek he the-locks.
Delos ubi nunc, Phoebe, tua est, ubi Delphica Pytho?
Delos where now, Phoebus, yours is, where Delphic Pytho?
nempe Amor in parua te iubet esse casa.
of-course Love in a-small you bids to-be cottage.
felices olim, Veneri cum fertur aperte
happy once, to-Venus when it-is-said openly
seruire aeternos non puduisse deos.
to-serve the-eternal not to-have-been-ashamed gods.
fabula nunc ille est: sed cui sua cura puella est,
a-story now he is: but for-whom his care the-girl is,
fabula sit mauult quam sine amore deus.
a-story to-be he-prefers than without love a-god.
at tu, quisquis is es, cui tristi fronte Cupido
but you, whoever he you-are, whom with-gloomy brow Cupid
imperat ut nostra sint tua castra domo
commands that at-our be your camp house

* * *

(lacuna)

ferrea non uenerem sed praedam saecula laudant:
iron not love but plunder the-ages praise:

praeda tamen multis est operata malis.
plunder yet with-many has worked evils.

praeda feras acies cinxit discordibus armis:
plunder fierce battle-lines has-girded with-discordant arms:

hinc cruor, hinc caedes mors propiorque uenit.
hence gore, hence slaughter death and-nearer comes.

praeda uago iussit geminare pericula ponto,
plunder on-the-wandering bade to-double dangers sea,

bellica cum dubiis rostra dedit ratibus.
warlike when to-doubtful beaks it-gave boats.

praedator cupit immensos obsidere campos,
the-plunderer desires immense to-occupy plains,

ut multa innumera iugera pascat oue:
that with-many countless acres he-may-pasture sheep:

cui lapis externus curae est, urbisque tumultu
for-whom stone foreign a-care is, and-through-the-city's uproar

portatur ualidis mille columna iugis,
is-carried by-strong a-thousand column yokes,

claudit et indomitum moles mare, lentus ut intra
encloses and untamed a-mole the-sea, slow that within

neglegat hibernas piscis adesse minas.
may-disregard wintry the-fish to-be-present threats.

at mihi laeta trahant Samiae conuiuia testae
but for-me glad may-draw-out of-Samian banquets jars

fictaque Cumana lubrica terra rota.
and-made with-Cumaean slippery earth wheel.

heu heu diuitibus uideo gaudere puellas:
alas alas in-rich-men I-see to-delight girls:
iam ueniant praedae, si Venus optat opes:
now may-come plunder, if Venus wishes riches:
ut mea luxuria Nemesis fluat utque per urbem
that my in-luxury Nemesis may-flow and-that through the-city
incedat donis conspicienda meis.
she-may-strut with-gifts conspicuous my.
illa gerat uestes tenues, quas femina Coa
she may-wear garments fine, which the-woman Coan
texuit, auratas disposuitque uias:
wove, golden and-arranged paths:
illi sint comites fusci, quos India torret
for-her may-be companions dark, whom India scorches
Solis et admotis inficit ignis equis:
of-the-Sun and with-near stains the-fire horses:
illi selectos certent praebere colores
for-her choice may-vie to-supply colors
Africa puniceum purpureumque Tyros.
Africa scarlet and-purple Tyre.
nota loquor: regnum ipse tenet, quem saepe coegit
known-things I-speak: kingship himself holds, whom often compelled
barbara gypsatos ferre catasta pedes.
the-barbarian chalked to-bear the-auction-stand feet.
at tibi, dura seges, Nemesim quae abducis ab urbe,
but for-you, harsh crop, Nemesis which lead-away from the-city,
persoluat nulla semina Terra fide.
may-repay no seeds the-Earth with-faith.
et tu, Bacche tener, iucundae consitor uuae,
and you, Bacchus tender, of-the-pleasant planter grape,

tu quoque deuotos, Bacche, relinque lacus.
you too the-cursed, Bacchus, abandon vats.
haud impune licet formosas tristibus agris
not with-impunity it-is-allowed beautiful-girls in-gloomy fields
abdere: non tanti sunt tua musta, pater.
to-hide: not so-much-worth are your musts, father.
o ualeant fruges, ne sint modo rure puellae:
o may-they-fare-well crops, lest there-be only in-the-country girls:
glans alat et prisco more bibantur aquae.
the-acorn may-nourish and in-the-ancient manner may-be-drunk waters.
glans aluit ueteres, et passim semper amarunt:
the-acorn nourished the-ancients, and everywhere always they-loved:
quid nocuit sulcos non habuisse satos?
what harmed furrows not to-have-had sown?
tunc, quibus aspirabat Amor, praebebat aperte
then, on-whom breathed Love, offered openly
mitis in umbrosa gaudia ualle Venus.
gentle in the-shady joys valley Venus.
nullus erat custos, nulla exclusura dolentes
no was guardian, no going-to-shut-out the-grieving
ianua: si fas est, mos precor ille redi.
door: if right it-is, custom I-pray that return.
* * *
(lacuna)
horrida uillosa corpora ueste tegant.
bristling with-shaggy bodies garment may-cover.
nunc si clausa mea est, si copia rara uidendi,
now if shut my-girl is, if the-chance rare of-seeing,
heu miserum, laxam quid iuuat esse togam?
alas wretched, loose what does-it-help to-be toga?

ducite: ad imperium dominae sulcabimus agros:
lead: at the-command of-my-mistress we-shall-furrow the-fields:
non ego me uinclis uerberibusque nego.
not I myself to-chains and-lashes deny.

II.4 · SLAVE TO NEMESIS

Tibullus is a slave to a greedy mistress, and his elegies are useless: Nemesis wants gifts, so he would steal from the temples. He curses whoever gathers emeralds and dyes wool with purple, for these made women greedy and doors locked. May the greedy woman's wealth burn while young men watch gladly, and her death go unmourned, while the good woman is mourned at her pyre. Yet he obeys her, would sell his ancestral home at her bidding, and would drink any potion she gave him.

Hic mihi seruitium uideo dominamque paratam:
Here for-me slavery I-see and-a-mistress ready:
iam mihi, libertas illa paterna, uale.
now for-me, liberty that ancestral, farewell.
seruitium sed triste datur, teneorque catenis,
slavery but gloomy is-given, and-I-am-held by-chains,
et numquam misero uincla remittit Amor,
and never for-the-wretched the-bonds loosens Love,
et seu quid merui seu nil peccauimus, urit.
and whether something I-have-deserved or nothing we-have-sinned, he-burns.
uror, io, remoue, saeua puella, faces.
I-am-burned, io, remove, savage girl, the-torches.
o ego ne possim tales sentire dolores,
o I not may-I-be-able such to-feel pains,
quam mallem in gelidis montibus esse lapis,
how I-would-rather on icy mountains be a-stone,

stare uel insanis cautes obnoxia uentis,
to-stand or to-insane a-crag exposed winds,
naufraga quam uasti tunderet unda maris!
shipwrecking which of-the-vast might-beat the-wave sea!
nunc et amara dies et noctis amarior umbra est:
now both bitter the-day and of-night more-bitter the-shadow is:
omnia nam tristi tempora felle madent.
all for with-gloomy times gall are-wet.
nec prosunt elegi nec carminis auctor Apollo:
nor profit elegies nor of-song the-author Apollo:
illa caua pretium flagitat usque manu.
she with-hollow the-price demands constantly hand.
ite procul, Musae, si non prodestis amanti:
go far-off, Muses, if not you-profit the-lover:
non ego uos, ut sint bella canenda, colo,
not I you, that may-be wars to-be-sung, cultivate,
nec refero Solisque uias et qualis, ubi orbem
nor I-relate both-of-the-Sun the-paths and how, when her-orb
compleuit, uersis Luna recurrit equis.
she-has-filled, with-turned the-Moon runs-back horses.
ad dominam faciles aditus per carmina quaero:
to my-mistress easy approaches through songs I-seek:
ite procul, Musae, si nihil ista ualent.
go far-off, Muses, if nothing those avail.
at mihi per caedem et facinus sunt dona paranda,
but for-me through slaughter and crime are gifts to-be-procured,
ne iaceam clausam flebilis ante domum:
lest I-lie shut tearful before the-house:
aut rapiam suspensa sacris insignia fanis:
or I-shall-snatch hung-up from-holy insignia shrines:

sed Venus ante alios est uiolanda mihi.
but Venus before others is to-be-violated by-me.
illa malum facinus suadet dominamque rapacem
she the-evil crime urges and-a-mistress rapacious
dat mihi: sacrilegas sentiat illa manus.
gives me: sacrilegious may-feel she hands.
o pereat quicumque legit uiridesque smaragdos
o may-he-perish whoever gathers and-green emeralds
et niueam Tyrio murice tingit ouem.
and snowy with-Tyrian murex dyes sheep.
addit auaritiae causas et Coa puellis
adds of-avarice causes and Coan for-girls
uestis et e Rubro lucida concha mari.
cloth and from the-Red bright shell sea.
haec fecere malas: hinc clauim ianua sensit
these-things have-made bad: hence the-key the-door has-felt
et coepit custos liminis esse canis.
and has-begun the-guardian of-the-threshold to-be a-dog.
sed pretium si grande feras, custodia uicta est
but a-price if great you-bring, the-guard conquered is
nec prohibent claues et canis ipse tacet.
nor hinder keys and the-dog himself is-silent.
heu quicumque dedit formam caelestis auarae,
alas whoever gave beauty heavenly-one to-a-greedy-woman,
quale bonum multis attulit ille malis!
what good with-many has-brought he evils!
hinc fletus rixaeque sonant, haec denique causa
hence weepings and-quarrels sound, this finally the-cause
fecit ut infamis nunc deus erret Amor.
has-made that infamous now the-god wanders Love.

at tibi, quae pretio uictos excludis amantes,
but from-you, who for-a-price conquered shut-out lovers,
eripiant partas uentus et ignis opes:
may-snatch-away the-acquired the-wind and fire riches:
quin tua tunc iuuenes spectent incendia laeti,
nay your then the-young-men may-watch fires glad,
nec quisquam flammae sedulus addat aquam.
nor anyone to-the-flame busily may-add water.
seu ueniet tibi mors, nec erit qui lugeat ullus
or there-will-come to-you death, nor there-will-be who may-mourn any
nec qui det maestas munus in exsequias.
nor who may-give sad a-gift to funeral.
at bona quae nec auara fuit, centum licet annos
but the-good-one who nor greedy was, a-hundred though years
uixerit, ardentem flebitur ante rogum:
she-has-lived, burning will-be-wept-for before the-pyre:
atque aliquis senior ueteres ueneratus amores
and some older-man his-old revering loves
annua constructo serta dabit tumulo
yearly on-the-built garlands will-give mound
et 'bene' discedens dicet 'placideque quiescas,
and 'well' departing will-say 'and-calmly may-you-rest,
terraque securae sit super ossa leuis.'
and-the-earth for-the-untroubled-one may-be over the-bones light.'
uera quidem moneo, sed prosunt quid mihi uera?
true-things indeed I-warn, but profit what me true-things?
illius est nobis lege colendus amor.
by-her is by-us law to-be-cultivated love.
quin etiam sedes iubeat si uendere auitas,
nay even my-seat she-should-bid if to-sell ancestral,

ite sub imperium sub titulumque, Lares.
go under her-command under and-the-auction-label, Lares.
quidquid habet Circe, quidquid Medea ueneni,
whatever has Circe, whatever Medea of-poison,
quidquid et herbarum Thessala terra gerit,
whatever and of-herbs the-Thessalian land bears,
et quod, ubi indomitis gregibus Venus adflat amores,
and what, when on-untamed herds Venus breathes loves,
hippomanes cupidae stillat ab inguine equae,
hippomanes of-the-desiring drips from the-groin mare,
si modo me placido uideat Nemesis mea uultu,
if only me with-calm should-see Nemesis my face,
mille alias herbas misceat illa, bibam.
a-thousand other herbs may-mix she, I-shall-drink.

II.5 · MESSALINUS MADE PRIEST

Tibullus calls Phoebus to the installation of Messalinus as a new priest who may touch the Sibyl's holy pages. He recalls the Sibyl's prophecy to Aeneas of Rome's future, when the Palatine was still pasture, and the portents the Sibyls foretold, and prays that the coming year be happy. He describes the shepherds' festival, laments that Cupid has taken up arms against him, and asks Nemesis to spare the poet who will sing Messalinus' triumph.

Phoebe, faue: nouus ingreditur tua templa sacerdos:
Phoebus, be-favorable: a-new enters your temples priest:
huc age cum cithara carminibusque ueni.
hither come with lyre and-songs come.
nunc te uocales impellere pollice chordas,
now you the-vocal to-strike with-the-thumb strings,

nunc precor ad laudes flectere uerba meas.
now I-pray to praises to-turn words my.
ipse triumphali deuinctus tempora lauro,
yourself with-triumphal bound as-to-your-temples laurel,
dum cumulant aras, ad tua sacra ueni.
while they-heap the-altars, to your rites come.
sed nitidus pulcherque ueni: nunc indue uestem
but shining and-handsome come: now put-on the-garment
sepositam, longas nunc bene pecte comas,
laid-aside, the-long now well comb locks,
qualem te memorant Saturno rege fugato
such-as you they-tell with-Saturn king put-to-flight
uictori laudes concinuisse Ioui.
to-the-victor praises to-have-sung-together Jupiter.
tu procul euentura uides, tibi deditus augur
you far-off things-to-come see, to-you devoted the-augur
scit bene quid fati prouida cantet auis;
knows well what of-fate foreseeing sings the-bird;
tuque regis sortes, per te praesentit haruspex,
and-you rule the-lots, through you foresees the-soothsayer,
lubrica signauit cum deus exta notis;
slippery has-marked when the-god entrails with-signs;
te duce Romanos numquam frustrata Sibylla,
with-you leader the-Romans never has-deceived the-Sibyl,
abdita quae senis fata canit pedibus.
hidden who in-six fates sings feet.
Phoebe, sacras Messalinum sine tangere chartas
Phoebus, the-holy Messalinus allow to-touch pages
uatis, et ipse precor quid canat illa doce.
of-the-prophetess, and yourself I-pray what sings she teach.

haec dedit Aeneae sortes, postquam ille parentem
she gave to-Aeneas lots, after he his-father
dicitur et raptos sustinuisse Lares
is-said and snatched to-have-carried Lares
nec fore credebat Romam, cum maestus ab alto
nor to-be believed Rome, when sad from the-deep
Ilion ardentes respiceretque deos.
Ilion burning and-looked-back-at the-gods.
(Romulus aeternae nondum formauerat urbis
(Romulus of-the-eternal not-yet had-shaped city
moenia, consorti non habitanda Remo;
the-walls, for-his-partner not to-be-dwelt-in Remus;
sed tunc pascebant herbosa Palatia uaccae
but then were-grazing the-grassy Palatine cows
et stabant humiles in Iouis arce casae.
and stood humble on of-Jupiter the-citadel huts.
lacte madens illic suberat Pan ilicis umbrae
with-milk soaked there stood-under Pan of-the-holm-oak the-shade
et facta agresti lignea falce Pales,
and made with-rustic wooden sickle Pales,
pendebatque uagi pastoris in arbore uotum,
and-hung of-the-wandering shepherd on the-tree the-vow,
garrula siluestri fistula sacra deo,
the-chattering to-the-woodland pipe sacred god,
fistula cui semper decrescit harundinis ordo:
the-pipe whose always decreases of-reed the-row:
nam calamus cera iungitur usque minor.
for the-stalk with-wax is-joined constantly smaller.
at qua Velabri regio patet, ire solebat
but where of-the-Velabrum the-region lies-open, to-go was-wont

exiguus pulsa per uada linter aqua.
a-tiny with-struck over the-shallows skiff water.
illa saepe gregis diti placitura magistro
in-it often of-the-flock to-the-rich going-to-please master
ad iuuenem festa est uecta puella die,
to the-young-man on-a-festal was carried the-girl day,
cum qua fecundi redierunt munera ruris,
with whom of-the-fertile came-back the-gifts countryside,
caseus et niueae candidus agnus ouis.)
cheese and of-a-snowy white lamb ewe.)
'Impiger Aenea, uolitantis frater Amoris,
'Tireless Aeneas, of-the-flitting brother Love,
Troica qui profugis sacra uehis ratibus,
the-Trojan who in-fugitive rites carry boats,
iam tibi Laurentes adsignat Iuppiter agros,
now to-you the-Laurentine assigns Jupiter fields,
iam uocat errantes hospita terra Lares.
now calls the-wandering the-hospitable land Lares.
illic sanctus eris cum te ueneranda Numici
there holy you-will-be when you revered of-Numicius
unda deum caelo miserit indigetem.
the-wave a-god to-the-sky shall-have-sent native.
ecce super fessas uolitat Victoria puppes;
see over the-weary flits Victory ships;
tandem ad Troianos diua superba uenit.
at-last to the-Trojans the-goddess proud comes.
ecce mihi lucent Rutulis incendia castris:
see for-me shine on-the-Rutulian fires camp:
iam tibi praedico, barbare Turne, necem.
now to-you I-foretell, barbarian Turnus, death.

ante oculos Laurens castrum murusque Lauini est
before my-eyes the-Laurentine fort and-the-wall of-Lavinium is
Albaque ab Ascanio condita Longa duce.
and-Alba by Ascanius founded Longa leader.
te quoque iam uideo, Marti placitura sacerdos
you too now I-see, to-Mars going-to-please priestess
Ilia, Vestales deseruisse focos,
Ilia, the-Vestal to-have-deserted hearths,
concubitusque tuos furtim uittasque iacentes
and-lyings-together your stealthily and-the-fillets lying
et cupidi ad ripas arma relicta dei.
and of-the-desiring on the-banks arms left god.
carpite nunc, tauri, de septem montibus herbas
crop now, bulls, from the-seven hills grass
dum licet: hic magnae iam locus urbis erit.
while it-is-allowed: here of-a-great now the-place city will-be.
Roma, tuum nomen terris fatale regendis,
Rome, your name for-the-lands fated to-be-ruled,
qua sua de caelo prospicit arua Ceres,
where her-own from heaven looks-out-at fields Ceres,
quaque patent ortus et qua fluitantibus undis
and-where lie-open the-risings and where with-flowing waves
Solis anhelantes abluit amnis equos.
of-the-Sun the-panting washes the-river horses.
Troia quidem tunc se mirabitur et sibi dicet
Troy indeed then itself will-wonder-at and to-itself will-say
uos bene tam longa consuluisse uia.
you well by-so long to-have-taken-thought road.
uera cano: sic usque sacras innoxia laurus
true-things I-sing: so always the-holy harmless laurels

uescar, et aeternum sit mihi uirginitas.'
may-I-eat, and forever may-be for-me virginity.'

haec cecinit uates et te sibi, Phoebe, uocauit,
these-things sang the-prophetess and you to-herself, Phoebus, called,

iactauit fusas et caput ante comas. —
tossed loosened and her-head before her-hair.

quidquid Amalthea, quidquid Marpesia dixit
whatever Amalthea, whatever Marpessian said

Herophile, Phyto Graia quod admonuit,
Herophile, Phyto the-Greek what warned,

quaeque Aniena sacras Tiburs per flumina sortes
and-what the-Anio's holy the-Tiburtine through the-stream lots

portarat sicco pertuleratque sinu —
had-carried in-dry and-had-carried-through fold

haec fore dixerunt belli mala signa cometen,
these-women to-be said of-war evil the-signs a-comet,

multus ut in terras deplueretque lapis.
much that onto the-lands and-should-rain-down stone.

atque tubas atque arma ferunt strepitantia caelo
and trumpets and arms they-say clashing in-the-sky

audita et lucos praecinuisse fugam:
heard and the-groves to-have-foretold flight:

ipsum etiam Solem defectum lumine uidit
himself also the-Sun failed in-light saw

iungere pallentes nubilus annus equos:
to-yoke pale cloudy the-year horses:

et simulacra deum lacrimas fudisse tepentes
and the-statues of-the-gods tears to-have-poured warm

fataque uocales praemonuisse boues.
and-the-fates vocal to-have-forewarned oxen.

haec fuerant olim: sed tu iam mitis, Apollo,
these-things had-been once: but you now gentle, Apollo,
prodigia indomitis merge sub aequoribus,
the-prodigies untamed sink under seas,
et succensa sacris crepitet bene laurea flammis,
and kindled in-holy may-crackle well the-laurel flames,
omine quo felix et sacer annus erit.
by-omen which happy and holy the-year will-be.
laurus ubi bona signa dedit, gaudete coloni;
the-laurel when good signs has-given, rejoice farmers;
distendet spicis horrea plena Ceres,
will-stretch with-wheat-ears the-barns full Ceres,
oblitus et musto feriet pede rusticus uuas,
smeared and with-must will-strike with-foot the-countryman the-grapes,
dolia dum magni deficiantque lacus:
the-jars until great and-fail the-vats:
ac madidus baccho sua festa Palilia pastor
and soaked with-wine his festal Parilia the-shepherd
concinet: a stabulis tunc procul este lupi.
will-sing: from the-stalls then far-off be wolves.
ille leuis stipulae sollemnis potus aceruos
he of-light stubble customary drunk heaps
accendet, flammas transilietque sacras.
will-kindle, the-flames and-will-leap-over holy.
et fetus matrona dabit, natusque parenti
and offspring the-matron will-give, and-the-son to-his-parent
oscula comprensis auribus eripiet,
kisses with-seized ears will-snatch,
nec taedebit auum paruo aduigilare nepoti
nor it-will-irk the-grandfather over-the-small to-watch grandson

balbaque cum puero dicere uerba senem.
and-babbling with the-boy to-speak words the-old-man.
tunc operata deo pubes discumbet in herba,
then worshiping the-god the-youth will-recline on the-grass,
arboris antiquae qua leuis umbra cadit,
of-a-tree old where light the-shade falls,
aut e ueste sua tendent umbracula sertis
or from garment their stretch sunshades with-garlands
uincta, coronatus stabit et ipse calix.
bound, crowned will-stand and itself the-cup.
at sibi quisque dapes et festas extruet alte
but for-himself each feasts and festal will-build high
caespitibus mensas caespitibusque torum.
of-turfs tables and-of-turfs a-couch.
ingeret hic potus iuuenis maledicta puellae,
will-heap here drunk the-young-man curses on-the-girl,
postmodo quae uotis inrita facta uelit:
afterward which by-vows void made he-would-wish:
nam ferus ille suae plorabit sobrius idem
for fierce he to-his-own will-weep sober the-same
et se iurabit mente fuisse mala.
and himself will-swear in-mind to-have-been bad.
pace tua pereant arcus pereantque sagittae,
by-leave your may-perish the-bows and-may-perish the-arrows,
Phoebe, modo in terris erret inermis Amor.
Phoebus, provided-only on the-lands may-wander unarmed Love.
ars bona: sed postquam sumpsit sibi tela Cupido,
an-art good: but after took for-himself weapons Cupid,
heu heu quam multis ars dedit ista malum!
alas alas how to-many the-art has-given that harm!

et mihi praecipue, iaceo cum saucius annum
and to-me especially, I-lie since wounded a-year
et (faueo morbo cum iuuat ipse dolor)
and (I-favor the-disease since pleases itself the-pain)
usque cano Nemesim, sine qua uersus mihi nullus
constantly I-sing Nemesis, without whom verse to-me no
uerba potest iustos aut reperire pedes.
words can just or to-find feet.
at tu, nam diuum seruat tutela poetas,
but you, for of-the-gods guards the-protection poets,
praemoneo, uati parce, puella, sacro,
I-forewarn, the-prophet spare, girl, sacred,
ut Messalinum celebrem, cum praemia belli
that Messalinus I-may-celebrate, when the-rewards of-war
ante suos currus oppida uicta feret,
before his chariot towns conquered he-will-carry,
ipse gerens laurus: lauro deuinctus agresti
himself bearing laurels: with-laurel bound rustic
miles 'io' magna uoce 'triumphe' canet.
the-soldier 'io' with-great voice 'triumph' will-sing.
tunc Messalla meus pia det spectacula turbae
then Messalla my dutiful may-give spectacles to-the-throng
et plaudat curru praetereunte pater.
and may-applaud with-the-chariot passing-by the-father.
adnue: sic tibi sint intonsi, Phoebe, capilli,
nod-assent: so for-you may-be unshorn, Phoebus, the-locks,
sic tua perpetuo sit tibi casta soror.
so your for-ever may-be for-you chaste sister.

Macer joins the army, and Tibullus too resolves to go, but his oath never to return to Nemesis' door always fails. Hope alone keeps him alive. He begs Nemesis, by the bones of her dead sister, to spare him, and blames the bawd Phryne, who carries her letters and lies to him at the door; he curses her.

Castra Macer sequitur: tenero quid fiet Amori?
The-camp Macer follows: to-tender what will-become-of Love?
sit comes et collo fortiter arma gerat?
is-he-to-be a-companion and on-his-neck bravely arms to-carry?
et seu longa uirum terrae uia seu uaga ducent
and whether long the-man of-land the-road or wandering will-lead
aequora, cum telis ad latus ire uolet?
seas, with weapons at his-side to-go will-he-wish?
ure, puer, quaeso, tua qui ferus otia liquit,
burn, boy, I-beg, your who fierce leisure has-left,
atque iterum erronem sub tua signa uoca.
and again the-vagabond under your standards call.
quod si militibus parces, erit hic quoque miles,
but if the-soldiers you-spare, will-be this-one too a-soldier,
ipse leuem galea qui sibi portet aquam.
himself light in-his-helmet who for-himself may-carry water.
castra peto, ualeatque Venus ualeantque puellae:
the-camp I-seek, and-farewell Venus and-farewell girls:
et mihi sunt uires et mihi laeta tuba est.
and for-me are strength and for-me glad the-trumpet is.
magna loquor, sed magnifice mihi magna locuto
great-things I-speak, but grandly from-me great-things having-spoken
excutiunt clausae fortia uerba fores.
shake-out shut brave words doors.

iuraui quotiens rediturum ad limina numquam!
I-have-sworn how-often to-be-going-to-return to her-threshold never!
cum bene iuraui, pes tamen ipse redit.
when well I-have-sworn, my-foot yet itself returns.
acer Amor, fractas utinam tua tela sagittas,
fierce Love, broken would-that your weapons arrows,
si licet, extinctas aspiciamque faces!
if it-is-allowed, extinguished and-may-I-see torches!
tu miserum torques, tu me mihi dira precari
you wretched-me torture, you me for-myself dire-things to-pray
cogis et insana mente nefanda loqui.
compel and with-mad mind unspeakable-things to-speak.
iam mala finissem leto, sed credula uitam
already evils I-would-have-ended by-death, but credulous life
spes fouet et fore cras semper ait melius.
hope cherishes and to-be tomorrow always says better.
spes alit agricolas, spes sulcis credit aratis
hope nourishes farmers, hope to-the-furrows entrusts plowed
semina quae magno faenore reddat ager:
seeds which with-great interest may-repay the-field:
haec laqueo uolucres, haec captat harundine pisces,
she with-a-noose birds, she catches with-a-reed fish,
cum tenues hamos abdidit ante cibus:
when fine hooks has-hidden before food:
spes etiam ualida solatur compede uinctum:
hope even with-strong consoles fetters the-bound:
crura sonant ferro, sed canit inter opus:
his-legs sound with-iron, but he-sings amid his-work:
spes facilem Nemesim spondet mihi, sed negat illa.
hope easy Nemesis promises to-me, but denies she.

ei mihi, ne uincas, dura puella, deam.
ah me, do-not conquer, harsh girl, the-goddess.
parce, per immatura tuae precor ossa sororis:
spare, by the-untimely of-your I-pray bones sister:
sic bene sub tenera parua quiescat humo.
so well under tender small may-she-rest ground.
illa mihi sancta est, illius dona sepulcro
she for-me holy is, her gifts to-the-tomb
et madefacta meis serta feram lacrimis,
and wet with-my garlands I-shall-bring tears,
illius ad tumulum fugiam supplexque sedebo
her to the-mound I-shall-flee and-a-suppliant shall-sit
et mea cum muto fata querar cinere.
and my with mute fates shall-lament ash.
non feret usque suum te propter flere clientem:
not she-will-bear always her-own you on-account-of to-weep client:
illius ut uerbis, sis mihi lenta ueto,
her as by-words, be to-me slow I-forbid,
ne tibi neglecti mittant mala somnia manes,
lest for-you neglected may-send evil dreams the-shade,
maestaque sopitae stet soror ante torum,
and-sad for-you-asleep may-stand your-sister before your-couch,
qualis ab excelsa praeceps delapsa fenestra
such-as from a-lofty headlong having-slipped window
uenit ad infernos sanguinolenta lacus.
she-came to the-infernal bloodstained lakes.
desino, ne dominae luctus renouentur acerbi:
I-cease, lest of-my-mistress the-griefs be-renewed bitter:
non ego sum tanti, ploret ut illa semel.
not I am of-such-worth, should-weep that she once.

nec lacrimis oculos digna est foedare loquaces:
nor with-tears her-eyes worthy is to-defile talkative:
lena nocet nobis, ipsa puella bona est.
the-bawd harms us, herself the-girl good is.
lena necat miserum Phryne furtimque tabellas
the-bawd kills wretched-me Phryne and-stealthily tablets
occulto portans itque reditque sinu:
in-hidden carrying both-goes and-returns fold:
saepe, ego cum dominae dulces a limine duro
often, I when of-my-mistress the-sweet from the-threshold hard
agnosco uoces, haec negat esse domi:
recognize the-voice, she denies to-be at-home:
saepe, ubi nox mihi promissa est, languere puellam
often, when the-night to-me promised is, to-be-ill the-girl
nuntiat aut aliquas extimuisse minas.
she-announces or some to-have-feared threats.
tunc morior curis, tunc mens mihi perdita fingit,
then I-die with-cares, then my-mind to-me lost imagines,
quisue meam teneat, quot teneatue modis:
or-who my may-hold, in-how-many or-hold ways:
tunc tibi, lena, precor diras: satis anxia uiuas,
then for-you, bawd, I-pray dire-things: enough anxious may-you-live,
mouerit e uotis pars quotacumque deos.
shall-have-moved of my-vows a-part however-small the-gods.

BOOK III

III.1 · LYGDAMUS TO NEAERA

On the Kalends of March, when gifts go through the city, the poet asks the Muses what to give Neaera. They answer: a book of verses, bound in saffron and polished with pumice. He sends it with a message: once her husband, now her brother, he swears she is dearer than his marrow, wife or sister, and only death will take the hope of the name wife from him.

Martis Romani festae uenere kalendae
Of-Mars Roman the-festal have-come kalends
(exoriens nostris hic fuit annus auis),
(rising for-our this was the-year ancestors),
et uaga nunc certa discurrunt undique pompa
and wandering now in-fixed run-about everywhere procession
perque uias urbis munera perque domos.
and-through the-streets of-the-city gifts and-through the-houses.
dicite, Pierides, quonam donetur honore
say, Pierians, with-what may-be-presented honor
seu mea, seu fallor, cara Neaera tamen.
whether mine, or I-am-deceived, dear Neaera still.
'carmine formosae, pretio capiuntur auarae:
'by-song the-beautiful, by-price are-captured the-greedy:
gaudeat, ut digna est, uersibus illa nouis.
let-her-rejoice, as worthy she-is, in-verses she new.
lutea sed niueum inuoluat membrana libellum,
saffron but snowy may-wrap the-parchment little-book,
pumex et canas tondeat ante comas,
the-pumice and white may-shave first hairs,

summaque praetexat tenuis fastigia chartae
and-the-top may-fringe of-the-fine the-edges sheet
indicet ut nomen littera facta tuum,
may-show that the-name the-letter made your,
atque inter geminas pingantur cornua frontes:
and between the-twin may-be-painted the-horns ends:
sic etenim comptum mittere oportet opus.'
so for elegant to-send it-is-fitting the-work.'
per uos, auctores huius mihi carminis, oro
by you, authors of-this to-me song, I-beg
Castaliamque umbram Pieriosque lacus,
and-by-the-Castalian shade and-the-Pierian pools,
ite domum cultumque illi donate libellum,
go to-her-home and-elegant to-her present the-little-book,
sicut erit: nullus defluat inde color.
as it-will-be: no may-flow-away from-it color.
illa mihi referet, si nostri mutua cura est,
she to-me will-report, if for-us mutual care is,
an minor, an toto pectore deciderim.
or less, or from-whole breast I-have-fallen.
sed primum meritam larga donate salute
but first the-deserving with-abundant present greeting
atque haec submisso dicite uerba sono:
and these with-lowered say words sound:
'haec tibi uir quondam, nunc frater, casta Neaera,
'these to-you a-husband once, now a-brother, chaste Neaera,
mittit et accipias munera parua rogat,
sends and you-may-receive gifts small asks,
teque suis iurat caram magis esse medullis,
and-you than-his-own swears dear more to-be marrow,

siue sibi coniunx siue futura soror:
whether to-him wife or to-be sister:
sed potius coniunx: huius spem nominis illi
but rather wife: of-this the-hope name from-him
auferet extincto pallida Ditis aqua.'
will-take-away extinguished the-pale of-Dis water.'

III.2 · LYGDAMUS' EPITAPH

He was iron who first took a girl from a young man; Lygdamus cannot bear the loss of Neaera. When he dies, let her come weeping to his pyre with her mother, gather his bones in black, wash them with wine and milk, and lay them in a marble tomb with perfumes, and let the stone say that grief for his lost wife was his cause of death.

Qui primus caram iuueni carumque puellae
He-who first dear from-the-young-man and-dear from-the-girl
eripuit iuuenem, ferreus ille fuit.
snatched the-young-man, iron he was.
durus et ille fuit, qui tantum ferre dolorem,
harsh and he was, who such to-bear pain,
uiuere et erepta coniuge qui potuit.
to-live and with-snatched-away his-wife who could.
non ego firmus in hoc, non haec patientia nostro
not I firm in this, not this endurance in-our
ingenio: frangit fortia corda dolor.
nature: breaks brave hearts pain.
nec mihi uera loqui pudor est uitaeque fateri,
nor for-me the-truth to-speak shame is and-of-life to-confess,
tot mala perpessae, taedia nata meae.
so-many evils having-endured, the-wearinesses born my.

ergo cum tenuem fuero mutatus in umbram
therefore when thin I-shall-have-been changed into shade
candidaque ossa supra nigra fauilla teget,
and-white bones over black ash shall-cover,
ante meum ueniat longos incompta capillos
before my may-she-come as-to-her-long unkempt hair
et fleat ante meum maesta Neaera rogum.
and may-weep before my sad Neaera pyre.
sed ueniat carae matris comitata dolore:
but may-she-come of-her-dear mother accompanied by-the-grief:
maereat haec genero, maereat illa uiro.
may-mourn this-one for-a-son-in-law, may-mourn that-one for-a-husband.
praefatae ante meos manes animamque recentem
having-addressed-first before my shade and-soul fresh
perfusaeque pias ante liquore manus,
and-having-washed their-dutiful beforehand with-water hands,
pars quae sola mei superabit corporis, ossa
the-part which alone of-me will-survive body, the-bones
incinctae nigra candida ueste legent,
girded in-black white garment will-gather,
et primum annoso spargent collecta lyaeo,
and first with-aged will-sprinkle gathered wine,
mox etiam niueo fundere lacte parent,
soon also with-snowy to-pour milk may-they-prepare,
post haec carbaseis umorem tollere uelis
after this with-linen the-moisture to-remove cloths
atque in marmorea ponere sicca domo.
and in a-marble to-place dry house.
illic quas mittit diues Panchaia merces
there which sends rich Panchaia wares

Eoique Arabes, diues et Assyria,
and-the-Eastern Arabs, rich and Assyria,
et nostri memores lacrimae fundantur eodem:
and of-us mindful tears may-be-poured there:
sic ego componi uersus in ossa uelim.
so I to-be-laid-to-rest turned into bones would-wish.
sed tristem mortis demonstret littera causam
but the-gloomy of-death let-show the-letter cause
atque haec in celebri carmina fronte notet:
and these on frequented poems front mark:
Lygdamus hic situs est: dolor huic et cura Neaerae,
Lygdamus here laid is: grief for-him and care for-Neaera,
coniugis ereptae, causa perire fuit.
of-his-wife snatched-away, the-cause to-perish was.

III.3 · POVERTY WITH NEAERA

The poet prayed not for marble halls, herds, or harvests, but to share his life with Neaera and grow old in her arms. Riches do not lighten cares; poverty with her would be sweet, and without her he wants no kingdom. If the gods refuse her return, let Orcus take him.

Quid prodest caelum uotis implesse, Neaera,
What profits-it the-sky with-vows to-have-filled, Neaera,
blandaque cum multa tura dedisse prece,
and-flattering with much incense to-have-given prayer,
non ut marmorei prodirem e limine tecti,
not that of-a-marble I-might-come-forth from the-threshold house,
insignis clara conspicuusque domo,
distinguished by-a-famous and-conspicuous house,

aut ut multa mei renouarent iugera tauri
or that many my might-renew acres bulls
et magnas messes terra benigna daret,
and great harvests the-earth kindly might-give,
sed tecum ut longae sociarem gaudia uitae
but with-you that of-long I-might-share the-joys life
inque tuo caderet nostra senecta sinu,
and-in your might-fall our old-age lap,
tunc cum permenso defunctus tempore lucis
then when the-traversed done-with time of-light
nudus Lethaea cogerer ire rate?
naked on-the-Lethaean I-should-be-forced to-go boat?
nam graue quid prodest pondus mihi diuitis auri,
for heavy what profits the-weight for-me of-rich gold,
aruaque si findant pinguia mille boues?
and-plowlands if split rich a-thousand oxen?
quidue domus prodest Phrygiis innixa columnis,
or-what the-house profits on-Phrygian leaning columns,
Taenare siue tuis, siue Caryste tuis,
Taenarus whether yours, or Carystus yours,
et nemora in domibus sacros imitantia lucos
and groves in houses holy imitating groves
aurataeque trabes marmoreumque solum?
and-golden beams and-marble floor?
quidue in Erythraeo legitur quae litore concha
or-what on Erythraean is-gathered which shore shell
tinctaque Sidonio murice lana iuuat,
and-dyed with-Sidonian murex wool delights,
et quae praeterea populus miratur? in illis
and what besides the-people admires? in those-things

inuidia est: falso plurima uulgus amat.
envy is: falsely very-many-things the-crowd loves.
non opibus mentes hominum curaeque leuantur:
not by-riches the-minds of-men and-cares are-lightened:
nam Fortuna sua tempora lege regit.
for Fortune her-own times by-law rules.
sit mihi paupertas tecum iucunda, Neaera:
may-be for-me poverty with-you pleasant, Neaera:
at sine te regum munera nulla uolo.
but without you of-kings gifts none I-wish.
o niueam quae te poterit mihi reddere lucem!
o snowy which you will-be-able to-me to-give-back light!
o mihi felicem terque quaterque diem!
o for-me happy and-thrice and-four-times day!
at si, pro dulci reditu quaecumque uouentur,
but if, for sweet return whatever-things are-vowed,
audiat auersa non meus aure deus,
should-hear with-turned-away not my ear god,
nec me regna iuuant nec Lydius aurifer amnis
neither me kingdoms delight nor Lydian gold-bearing river
nec quas terrarum sustinet orbis opes.
nor which of-the-lands sustains the-world riches.
haec alii cupiant; liceat mihi paupere cultu
these-things others may-desire; may-it-be-allowed to-me with-poor living
securo cara coniuge posse frui.
untroubled the-dear wife to-be-able to-enjoy.
adsis et timidis faueas, Saturnia, uotis,
be-present and to-timid be-favorable, Saturnia, vows,
et faueas concha, Cypria, uecta tua.
and be-favorable on-shell, Cyprian, borne your.

aut si fata negant reditum tristesque sorores,
or if the-fates deny return and-the-gloomy sisters,
stamina quae ducunt quaeque futura canunt,
threads who draw and-who future-things sing,
me uocet in uastos amnes nigramque paludem
me may-call into vast rivers and-black marsh
diues in ignaua luridus Orcus aqua.
rich in sluggish wan Orcus water.

III.4 · THE DREAM

The poet prays that his dream may be false. At dawn Apollo appeared to him, a beautiful youth with a lyre, and told him that Neaera prefers another man; he must win her back with prayers, for love once taught Apollo too to serve Admetus. The poet cannot believe Neaera so cruel, for she was born not of a monster but of a gentle mother and father.

Di meliora ferant, nec sint mihi somnia uera,
The-gods better-things may-bring, nor may-be to-me dreams true,
quae tulit hesterna pessima nocte quies.
which brought on-yesterday's worst night rest.
ite procul, uani, falsumque auertite uisum:
go far-off, vain-ones, and-the-false turn-away vision:
desinite in nobis quaerere uelle fidem.
cease in us to-seek to-wish belief.
diui uera monent, uenturae nuntia sortis
the-gods true-things warn, of-coming the-messengers lot
uera monent Tuscis exta probata uiris:
true-things warn by-Tuscan entrails tested men:
somnia fallaci ludunt temeraria nocte
dreams in-deceitful play rash night

et pauidas mentes falsa timere iubent?
and fearful minds false-things to-fear bid?

et † natum maturast † hominum genus omina noctis
and (corrupt) born ripe (corrupt) of-men the-race the-omens of-night

farre pio placant et saliente sale?
with-spelt dutiful appease and with-leaping salt?

et tamen, utcumque est, siue illi uera moneri,
and yet, however it-is, whether they true-things to-be-warned,

mendaci somno credere siue solent,
in-lying sleep to-believe or are-wont,

efficiat uanos noctis Lucina timores
may-make vain of-night Lucina the-fears

et frustra immeritum pertimuisse uelit,
and in-vain the-undeserving to-have-feared may-she-wish,

si mea nec turpi mens est obnoxia facto
if my neither to-a-base mind is liable deed

nec laesit magnos impia lingua deos.
nor has-hurt the-great impious tongue gods.

iam Nox aetherium nigris emensa quadrigis
already Night the-airy with-black having-traversed four-horse-team

mundum caeruleo lauerat amne rotas,
world in-the-blue had-washed river her-wheels,

nec me sopierat menti deus utilis aegrae:
nor me had-lulled to-my-mind the-god useful sick:

Somnus sollicitas deficit ante domos.
Sleep anxious fails before homes.

tandem, cum summo Phoebus prospexit ab ortu,
at-last, when the-highest Phoebus looked-out from rising,

pressit languentis lumina sera quies.
pressed of-the-languishing the-eyes late rest.

hic iuuenis casta redimitus tempora lauro
here a-youth with-chaste wreathed as-to-his-temples laurel
est uisus nostra ponere sede pedem.
was seen in-our to-set seat his-foot.
non illo quicquam formosius ulla priorum
not than-him anything more-beautiful any of-the-earlier
aetas, humanum nec uidet ulla domus.
age, human nor sees any house.
intonsi crines longa ceruice fluebant,
unshorn his-locks on-his-long neck flowed,
stillabat Syrio myrtea rore coma.
dripped with-Syrian myrtle dew hair.
candor erat qualem praefert Latonia Luna,
whiteness there-was such-as shows Latonian Luna,
et color in niueo corpore purpureus,
and a-color on snowy body purple,
ut iuueni primum uirgo deducta marito
as to-her-young first a-maiden led husband
inficitur teneras ore rubente genas,
is-stained her-tender with-face reddening cheeks,
et cum contexunt amarantis alba puellae
and when weave-together with-amaranths white girls
lilia et autumno candida mala rubent.
lilies and in-autumn white apples redden.
ima uidebatur talis inludere palla:
the-lowest seemed the-ankles to-play-upon cloak:
namque haec in nitido corpore uestis erat.
for this on his-shining body garment was.
artis opus rarae, fulgens testudine et auro
of-art a-work rare, gleaming with-tortoiseshell and gold

pendebat laeua garrula parte lyra.
hung on-the-left talkative side the-lyre.
hanc primum ueniens plectro modulatus eburno
this first coming with-plectrum having-tuned ivory
felices cantus ore sonante dedit:
happy songs with-mouth sounding he-gave:
sed postquam fuerant digiti cum uoce locuti,
but after had his-fingers with his-voice spoken,
edidit haec dulci tristia uerba modo:
he-uttered these with-sweet sad words measure:
'salue, cura deum: casto nam rite poetae
'hail, care of-the-gods: to-the-chaste for duly poet
Phoebusque et Bacchus Pieridesque fauent:
both-Phoebus and Bacchus and-the-Pierians are-favorable:
sed proles Semelae Bacchus doctaeque sorores
but the-offspring of-Semele Bacchus and-the-learned sisters
dicere non norunt quid ferat hora sequens:
to-tell not know what may-bring the-hour following:
at mihi fatorum leges aeuique futuri
but to-me of-the-fates the-laws and-of-age future
euentura pater posse uidere dedit.
the-coming-things my-father to-be-able to-see has-given.
quare ego quae dico non fallax accipe uates
therefore I what I-say not deceitful hear a-prophet
quamque deus uero Cynthius ore ferar.
and-whom the-god with-true Cynthian with-mouth I-am-called.
tantum cara tibi quantum nec filia matri,
so dear to-you as-much-as neither a-daughter to-her-mother,
quantum nec cupido bella puella uiro,
as-much-as nor to-a-desiring a-pretty girl husband,

pro qua sollicitas caelestia numina uotis,
for whom you-trouble the-heavenly divinities with-vows,
quae tibi securos non sinit ire dies
who for-you untroubled not allows to-go days
et, cum te fusco Somnus uelauit amictu,
and, when you with-dusky Sleep has-veiled cloak,
uanum nocturnis fallit imaginibus,
vain with-nightly deceives images,
carminibus celebrata tuis formosa Neaera
in-songs celebrated your beautiful Neaera
alterius mauult esse puella uiri,
of-another prefers to-be the-girl man,
diuersasque suas agitat mens impia curas,
and-different her-own drives mind impious cares,
nec gaudet casta nupta Neaera domo.
nor rejoices in-a-chaste bride Neaera home.
a crudele genus nec fidum femina nomen!
ah cruel race nor faithful woman name!
a pereat, didicit fallere si qua uirum.
ah may-she-perish, has-learned to-deceive if any a-man.
sed flecti poterit: mens est mutabilis illis:
but to-be-bent she-will-be-able: the-mind is changeable in-them:
tu modo cum multa bracchia tende prece.
you only with many arms stretch prayer.
saeuus Amor docuit ualidos temptare labores,
savage Love has-taught strong to-try labors,
saeuus Amor docuit uerbera posse pati.
savage Love has-taught lashes to-be-able to-endure.
me quondam Admeti niueas pauisse iuuencas
me once of-Admetus the-snowy to-have-pastured heifers

non est in uanum fabula ficta iocum:
not is into empty a-story fashioned jest:
tunc ego nec cithara poteram gaudere sonora
then I neither with-the-lyre could to-rejoice sounding
nec similes chordis reddere uoce sonos,
nor like to-the-strings to-return with-voice sounds,
sed perlucenti cantum meditabar auena
but on-a-translucent a-song I-practiced oat-pipe
ille ego Latonae filius atque Iouis.
that I of-Latona son and of-Jupiter.
nescis quid sit amor, iuuenis, si ferre recusas
you-know-not what may-be love, young-man, if to-bear you-refuse
immitem dominam coniugiumque ferum.
a-pitiless mistress and-marriage fierce.
ergo ne dubita blandas adhibere querellas:
therefore do-not hesitate flattering to-apply complaints:
uincuntur molli pectora dura prece.
are-conquered by-soft breasts hard prayer.
quod si uera canunt sacris oracula templis,
but if true-things sing in-holy oracles temples,
haec illi nostro nomine dicta refer:
these to-her in-our name said report:
hoc tibi coniugium promittit Delius ipse;
this to-you marriage promises the-Delian himself;
felix hoc alium desine uelle uirum.'
happy in-this another cease to-wish husband.'
dixit, et ignauus defluxit corpore somnus.
he-spoke, and idle flowed-away from-my-body sleep.
a ego ne possim tanta uidere mala.
ah I not may-I-be-able such to-see evils.

nec tibi crediderim uotis contraria uota
nor of-you I-would-believe to-my-vows contrary vows
nec tantum crimen pectore inesse tuo.
nor so-great a-crime in-breast to-be your.
nam te nec uasti genuerunt aequora ponti
for you neither of-the-vast bore the-plains sea
nec flammam uoluens ore Chimaera fero
nor flame rolling from-mouth the-Chimaera fierce
nec canis anguina redimitus terga caterua,
nor the-dog with-snaky wreathed as-to-his-back troop,
cui tres sunt linguae tergeminumque caput,
for-whom three are tongues and-triple head,
Scyllaque uirgineam canibus succincta figuram,
and-Scylla as-to-her-maidenly with-dogs girded shape,
nec te conceptam saeua leaena tulit,
nor you conceived a-savage lioness bore,
barbara nec Scythiae tellus horrendaue Syrtis;
barbarian nor of-Scythia the-land or-dreadful Syrtis;
sed culta et duris non habitanda domus
but a-cultivated and by-the-harsh not to-be-dwelt-in house
et longe ante alias omnes mitissima mater
and far before others all most-gentle a-mother
isque pater quo non alter amabilior.
and-that father than-whom not another more-lovable.
haec deus in melius crudelia somnia uertat
these the-god into better cruel dreams may-turn
et iubeat tepidos inrita ferre Notos.
and may-bid the-warm void to-carry South-winds.

While his friends enjoy the Etruscan springs, the poet lies sick and fears death, though he has never offended the gods and is still young, born in the year when both consuls fell. He asks the gods of the dead to spare him, and tells his friends to live happily and remember him.

Vos tenet, Etruscis manat quae fontibus unda,
You holds, from-Etruscan flows which springs water,
unda sub aestiuum non adeunda Canem,
water under the-summer not to-be-approached Dog-Star,
nunc autem sacris Baiarum proxima lymphis,
now however to-the-holy of-Baiae nearest waters,
cum se purpureo uere remittit humus.
when itself in-purple spring relaxes the-ground.
at mihi Persephone nigram denuntiat horam:
but to-me Persephone a-black announces hour:
immerito iuueni parce nocere, dea.
to-the-undeserving youth refrain to-harm, goddess.
non ego temptaui nulli temeranda uirorum
not I have-tried by-no-one to-be-violated of-men
audax laudandae sacra docere deae,
bold of-the-to-be-praised the-rites to-teach goddess,
nec mea mortiferis infecit pocula sucis
nor my with-death-bringing has-tainted cups juices
dextera nec cuiquam trita uenena dedit,
right-hand nor to-anyone ground poisons has-given,
nec nos sacrilegos templis admouimus ignes,
nor we sacrilegious to-temples have-moved fires,
nec cor sollicitant facta nefanda meum,
nor heart trouble deeds unspeakable my,

nec nos insanae meditantes iurgia mentis
nor we of-a-mad devising quarrels mind
impia in aduersos soluimus ora deos.
impious against hostile have-loosed mouths gods.
et nondum cani nigros laesere capillos,
and not-yet white-hairs the-black have-harmed hair,
nec uenit tardo curua senecta pede.
nor has-come with-slow bent old-age foot.
natalem primo nostrum uidere parentes,
the-birthday first our saw my-parents,
cum cecidit fato consul uterque pari.
when fell by-fate consul each equal.
quid fraudare iuuat uitem crescentibus uuis
what to-cheat does-it-help the-vine of-growing grapes
et modo nata mala uellere poma manu?
and just-now born with-evil to-pluck the-fruit hand?
parcite, pallentes undas quicumque tenetis
spare, the-pale waves whoever hold
duraque sortiti tertia regna dei.
and-the-harsh having-obtained-by-lot third realms gods.
Elysios olim liceat cognoscere campos
the-Elysian one-day may-it-be-allowed to-know fields
Lethaeamque ratem Cimmeriosque lacus,
and-the-Lethaean boat and-the-Cimmerian lakes,
cum mea rugosa pallebunt ora senecta
when my with-wrinkled will-be-pale face old-age
et referam pueris tempora prisca senex.
and I-shall-tell to-boys times old an-old-man.
atque utinam uano nequiquam terrear aestu!
and would-that by-vain in-vain I-be-terrified fever!

languent ter quinos sed mea membra dies.
languish thrice five but my limbs days.
at uobis Tuscae celebrantur numina lymphae
but by-you of-the-Tuscan are-thronged the-divinities water
et facilis lenta pellitur unda manu.
and easy with-slow is-struck the-water hand.
uiuite felices, memores et uiuite nostri,
live happy, mindful and live of-us,
siue erimus seu nos fata fuisse uelint.
whether we-shall-be or us the-fates to-have-been may-wish.
interea nigras pecudes promittite Diti
meanwhile black cattle promise to-Dis
et niuei lactis pocula mixta mero.
and of-snowy milk cups mixed with-wine.

III.6 · DRINKING AWAY LOVE

The poet calls on Bacchus and the wine boy to drown his pain, for wine has often conquered Love. He tries to drink and be glad, but cannot feign joy; Neaera has broken her oaths, as Theseus broke his to Ariadne, and Jupiter laughs at lovers' perjuries. He would still wish to spend his nights with her, faithless as she is, and calls for more wine.

Candide Liber ades: sic sit tibi mystica uitis
Fair Liber be-present: so may-be for-you the-mystic vine
semper, sic hedera tempora uincta feras:
always, so with-ivy your-temples bound may-you-wear:
aufer et ipse meum patera medicante dolorem:
take-away and yourself my with-the-bowl healing pain:
saepe tuo cecidit munere uictus Amor.
often by-your has-fallen gift conquered Love.

care puer, madeant generoso pocula baccho,
dear boy, may-be-soaked with-noble the-cups wine,
et nobis prona funde Falerna manu.
and for-us with-tilted pour Falernian hand.
ite procul durum curae genus, ite labores:
go far-off harsh of-care race, go labors:
fulserit hic niueis Delius alitibus.
may-shine here with-snowy the-Delian birds.
uos modo proposito dulces faueatis amici,
you only to-the-purpose sweet be-favorable friends,
neue neget quisquam me duce se comitem:
nor may-deny anyone with-me as-leader himself as-companion:
aut si quis uini certamen mite recusat,
or if anyone of-wine the-contest gentle refuses,
fallat eum tecto cara puella dolo.
may-deceive him with-hidden a-dear girl trick.
ille facit mites animos deus, ille ferocem
he makes gentle minds the-god, he the-fierce
contudit et dominae misit in arbitrium;
has-crushed and of-a-mistress has-sent into the-power;
Armenias tigres et fuluas ille leaenas
Armenian tigers and tawny he lionesses
uicit et indomitis mollia corda dedit.
has-conquered and to-the-untamed soft hearts has-given.
haec Amor et maiora ualet. sed poscite Bacchi
these-things Love and greater-things can. but demand of-Bacchus
munera: quem uestrum pocula sicca iuuant?
the-gifts: whom of-you cups dry please?
conuenit ex aequo nec toruus Liber in illis
comes-together on equal-terms nor grim Liber with those

qui se quique una uina iocosa colunt:
who him and-who together wines jocular cultivate:
† non uenit iratus nimium nimiumque seuerust †:
(corrupt) not he-comes angry too and-too severe-he-is (corrupt):
qui timet irati numina magna, bibat.
who fears of-the-angry-god the-divinities great, let-him-drink.
quales his poenas qualis quantusque minetur,
what for-them penalties what-sort and-how-great he-may-threaten,
Cadmeae matris praeda cruenta docet.
of-the-Cadmean mother the-prey bloody teaches.
sed procul a nobis hic sit timor, illaque, si qua est,
but far from us this be fear, and-that, if any there-is,
quid ualeat laesi sentiat ira dei.
what can of-the-offended may-feel the-anger god.
quid precor a demens? uenti temeraria uota,
what do-I-pray ah mad? the-winds rash vows,
aeriae et nubes diripienda ferant.
the-airy and clouds to-be-torn-apart may-carry.
quamuis nulla mei superest tibi cura, Neaera,
although no of-me remains for-you care, Neaera,
sis felix et sint candida fata tua.
may-you-be happy and may-be bright fates your.
at nos securae reddamus tempora mensae:
but we to-untroubled let-us-give the-times table:
uenit post multas una serena dies.
comes after many one calm day.
ei mihi, difficile est imitari gaudia falsa,
ah me, difficult it-is to-imitate joys false,
difficile est tristi fingere mente iocum,
difficult it-is with-sad to-feign mind jest,

nec bene mendaci risus componitur ore,
nor well on-a-lying laughter is-composed mouth,
nec bene sollicitis ebria uerba sonant.
nor well from-the-anxious drunken words sound.
quid queror infelix? turpes discedite curae:
why do-I-complain unhappy? base depart cares:
odit Lenaeus tristia uerba pater.
hates the-Lenaean sad words father.
Gnosia, Theseae quondam periuria linguae
Gnosian-woman, of-the-Thesean once the-perjuries tongue
fleuisti ignoto sola relicta mari:
you-wept on-unknown alone left sea:
sic cecinit pro te doctus, Minoi, Catullus
so sang for you learned, daughter-of-Minos, Catullus
ingrati referens impia facta uiri.
of-the-ungrateful relating the-impious deeds man.
uos ego nunc moneo: felix, quicumque dolore
you I now warn: happy, whoever by-the-pain
alterius disces posse cauere tuom.
of-another shall-learn to-be-able to-beware your-own.
nec uos aut capiant pendentia bracchia collo
nor you either may-capture hanging arms on-your-neck
aut fallat blanda sordida lingua prece.
or may-deceive with-flattering the-sordid tongue prayer.
etsi perque suos fallax iurauit ocellos
even-if both-by her-own the-deceitful-one has-sworn little-eyes
Iunonemque suam perque suam Venerem,
and-by-Juno her-own and-by her-own Venus,
nulla fides inerit: periuria ridet amantum
no faith will-be-in-it: the-perjuries laughs-at of-lovers

Iuppiter et uentos inrita ferre iubet.
Jupiter and the-winds void to-carry bids.
ergo quid totiens fallacis uerba puellae
therefore why so-often of-the-deceitful the-words girl
conqueror? ite a me, seria uerba, precor.
do-I-lament? go from me, serious words, I-pray.
quam uellem tecum longas requiescere noctes
how I-would-wish with-you long to-rest nights
et tecum longos peruigilare dies,
and with-you long to-watch-through days,
perfida nec merito nobis † inimica merenti †
faithless nor deservedly to-us (corrupt) hostile to-the-deserving (corrupt)
perfida, sed, quamuis perfida, cara tamen!
faithless, but, although faithless, dear still!
Naida Bacchus amat: cessas, o lente minister?
the-Naiad Bacchus loves: do-you-delay, o slow servant?
temperet annosum Marcia lympha merum.
let-temper the-aged Marcian water wine.
non ego, si fugit nostrae conuiuia mensae
not I, if flees of-our the-banquets table
ignotum cupiens uana puella torum,
an-unknown desiring fickle the-girl couch,
sollicitus repetam tota suspiria nocte.
anxious I-shall-renew through-the-whole sighs night.
tu, puer, i, liquidum fortius adde merum.
you, boy, go, the-clear more-strongly add wine.
iam dudum Syrio madefactus tempora nardo
now long-since with-Syrian soaked as-to-my-temples nard
debueram sertis implicuisse comas.
I-ought with-garlands to-have-entwined my-hair.

The poet, too humble for so great a subject, offers Messalla his poem as Icarus and Molorchus gave the gods small gifts. Messalla surpasses his ancestors and is equal in camp and forum; his eloquence surpasses Nestor's, and the poet retells Ulysses' wanderings, granting their labor the greater so long as Messalla's eloquence is greater. He is master of the arts of war, as the Iapydes and Pannonians know, and the omens of his consulship promise conquests in every land, from Gaul to Britain and the far zones of the earth, which the poet describes. Poor himself, he vows to sing Messalla in every form he may take hereafter.

Te, Messalla, canam, quamquam tua cognita uirtus
You, Messalla, I-shall-sing, although your known valor
terret: ut infirmae nequeant subsistere uires,
terrifies: though weak may-be-unable to-hold-up strength,
incipiam tamen, ac meritas si carmina laudes
I-shall-begin nevertheless, and deserved if songs praises
deficiant, humilis tantis sim conditor actis,
fail, humble to-such may-I-be the-author deeds,
nec tua praeter te chartis intexere quisquam
nor your except you on-pages to-weave anyone
facta queat, dictis ut non maiora supersint,
deeds could, than-words that not greater may-remain,
est nobis uoluisse satis. nec munera parua
it-is for-us to-have-wished enough. nor gifts small
respueris. etiam Phoebo gratissima dona
you-will-spurn. even to-Phoebus most-welcome gifts
Cres tulit, et cunctis Baccho iucundior hospes
the-Cretan brought, and to-all than-Bacchus more-pleasant host
Icarus, ut puro testantur sidera caelo
Icarus, as in-the-clear bear-witness the-stars sky

Erigoneque Canisque, neget ne longior aetas.
and-Erigone and-the-Dog, may-deny lest a-longer age.
quin etiam Alcides, deus ascensurus Olympum,
nay even Alcides, the-god going-to-ascend Olympus,
laeta Molorcheis posuit uestigia tectis,
glad in-Molorchus' set footsteps roofs,
paruaque caelestis placauit mica, nec illis
and-with-a-small the-heaven-dwellers appeased grain, nor for-them
semper inaurato taurus cadit hostia cornu.
always with-gilded the-bull falls as-victim horn.
hic quoque sit gratus paruus labor, ut tibi possim
this too may-be welcome small labor, so-that for-you I-may-be-able
inde alios aliosque memor componere uersus.
thence other and-other mindful to-compose verses.
alter dicat opus magni mirabile mundi,
another may-tell the-work of-the-great wondrous world,
qualis in immenso desederit aere tellus,
how in the-immense has-settled air the-earth,
qualis et in curuum pontus confluxerit orbem,
how and into the-curved the-sea has-flowed-together orb,
et uagus, e terris qua surgere nititur, aer,
and the-wandering, from the-lands where to-rise it-strives, air,
huic et contextus passim fluat igneus aether,
on-this and woven everywhere may-flow fiery ether,
pendentique super claudantur ut omnia caelo:
and-in-the-hanging above may-be-closed how all-things sky:
at quodcumque meae poterunt audere camenae,
but whatever my will-be-able to-dare muses,
seu tibi par poterunt seu, quod spes abnuit, ultra
whether for-you equal they-will-be-able or, what hope denies, beyond

siue minus (certeque canent minus), omne uouemus
or less (and-surely they-will-sing less), all we-vow
hoc tibi, nec tanto careat mihi nomine charta.
this to-you, nor of-so-great may-lack for-me name the-page.
nam quamquam antiquae gentis superant tibi laudes,
for although of-an-ancient race abound for-you praises,
non tua maiorum contenta est gloria fama,
not your of-your-ancestors content is glory with-the-fame,
nec quaeris quid quaque index sub imagine dicat,
nor you-ask what each the-label under image says,
sed generis priscos contendis uincere honores,
but of-your-family the-ancient you-strive to-surpass honors,
quam tibi maiores maius decus ipse futuris:
than to-you your-ancestors a-greater glory yourself to-the-future:
at tua non titulus capiet sub nomine facta,
but your not a-label will-hold under the-name deeds,
aeterno sed erunt tibi magna uolumina uersu,
in-eternal but there-will-be for-you great volumes verse,
conuenientque tuas cupidi componere laudes
and-will-come-together your eager to-compose praises
undique quique canent uincto pede quique soluto.
from-everywhere both-who will-sing with-bound foot and-who with-loose.
quis potior, certamen erit: sim uictor in illis,
who better, a-contest there-will-be: may-I-be victor among them,
ut nostrum tantis inscribam nomen in actis.
so-that our such I-may-inscribe name on deeds.
nam quis te maiora gerit castrisue foroue?
for who than-you greater-things does or-in-the-camp or-in-the-forum?
nec tamen hic aut hic tibi laus maiorue minorue,
nor yet in-this or in-this to-you the-praise or-greater or-less,

iusta pari premitur ueluti cum pondere libra,
just with-equal is-pressed as when with-weight the-balance,
qualis, inaequatum si quando onus urget utrimque,
such-as, unbalanced if ever a-load presses on-both-sides,
instabilis natat alterno depressior orbe,
unsteady floats with-alternate lower pan,
prona nec hac plus parte sedet nec surgit ab illa.
tilted nor on-this more side sits nor rises on that.
nam seu diuersi fremat inconstantia uulgi,
for whether divided rages the-fickleness of-the-crowd,
non alius sedare queat; seu iudicis ira
no another to-calm could; or of-a-judge the-anger
sit placanda, tuis poterit mitescere uerbis.
be to-be-appeased, by-your will-be-able to-be-softened words.
non Pylos aut Ithace tantos genuisse feruntur
not Pylos or Ithaca such to-have-borne are-said
Nestora uel paruae magnum decus urbis Ulixem,
Nestor or of-a-small great glory city Ulysses,
uixerit ille senex quamuis, dum terna per orbem
lived he old-man although, while three through the-world
saecula fertilibus Titan decurreret horis,
ages through-fertile the-Titan ran-down hours,
ille per ignotas audax errauerit urbes,
he through unknown bold wandered cities,
qua maris extremis tellus includitur undis.
where of-the-sea by-the-furthest the-land is-enclosed waves.
nam Ciconumque manus aduersis reppulit armis,
for both-of-the-Cicones the-band with-opposing he-repelled arms,
nec ualuit lotos coeptos auertere cursus,
nor could the-lotus the-begun to-turn-away course,

cessit et Aetnaeae Neptunius incola rupis
yielded and of-the-Aetnaean the-Neptunian dweller rock
uicta Maroneo foedatus lumina baccho:
conquered by-Maronean disfigured as-to-his-eye wine:
uexit et Aeolios placidum per Nerea uentos:
he-carried and the-Aeolian calm over Nereus winds:
incultos adiit Laestrygonas Antiphatenque,
the-uncouth he-approached Laestrygonians and-Antiphates,
nobilis Artacie gelida quos inrigat unda:
the-noble Artacie with-icy whom waters water:
solum nec doctae uerterunt pocula Circes,
alone-him nor of-learned changed the-cups Circe,
quamuis illa foret Solis genus, apta uel herbis
although she were of-the-Sun the-race, skilled either with-herbs
† aptaque † uel cantu ueteres mutare figuras:
(corrupt) and-skilled (corrupt) or with-song old to-change shapes:
Cimmerion etiam obscuras accessit ad arces,
of-the-Cimmerians even dark he-came to citadels,
quis numquam candente dies apparuit ortu,
to-whom never with-bright day appeared rising,
seu supra terras Phoebus seu curreret infra:
whether above the-lands Phoebus or ran below:
uidit ut inferno Plutonis subdita regno
he-saw how to-infernal of-Pluto subjected realm
magna deum proles leuibus ius diceret umbris,
the-great of-the-gods offspring to-light law spoke shades,
praeteriitque cita Sirenum litora puppi.
and-passed-by in-swift of-the-Sirens the-shores ship.
illum inter geminae nantem confinia mortis
him between of-double swimming the-borders death

nec Scyllae saeuo conterruit impetus ore,
neither of-Scylla with-savage terrified the-onset mouth,
cum canibus rabidas inter fera serperet undas,
when with-dogs the-rabid among fierce she-crept waves,
nec uiolenta suo consumpsit more Charybdis,
nor violent in-her consumed manner Charybdis,
uel si sublimis fluctu consurgeret imo,
whether if aloft from-flood should-rise lowest,
uel si interrupto nudaret gurgite pontum.
or if with-broken should-bare whirlpool the-sea.
non uiolata uagi sileantur pascua Solis,
not violated of-the-wandering be-passed-over the-pastures Sun,
non amor et fecunda Atlantidos arua Calypsus,
not the-love and fertile of-Atlas'-daughter the-fields Calypso,
finis et erroris miseri Phaeacia tellus.
the-end and of-wandering wretched the-Phaeacian land.
atque haec seu nostras inter sunt cognita terras,
and these whether our among are known lands,
fabula siue nouum dedit his erroribus orbem,
a-story or new has-given to-these wanderings world,
sit labor illius, tua dum facundia, maior.
may-be the-labor his, your while eloquence, greater.
nam te non alius belli tenet aptius artes,
for you not another of-war holds more-aptly the-arts,
qua deceat tutam castris praeducere fossam,
where it-befits safe for-the-camp to-draw-before a-ditch,
qualiter aduersos hosti defigere ceruos,
how hostile for-the-enemy to-fix stakes,
quemue locum ducto melius sit claudere uallo,
or-what place with-drawn better it-be to-enclose palisade,

fontis ubi dulces erumpat terra liquores,
of-a-spring where sweet may-burst-forth the-earth waters,
ut facilisque tuis aditus sit et arduus hosti,
that and-easy for-your the-approach be and steep for-the-enemy,
laudis ut adsiduo uigeat certamine miles
of-praise that in-constant may-thrive contest the-soldier
quis tardamue sudem melius celeremue sagittam
who or-the-slow stake better or-the-swift arrow
iecerit aut lento perfregerit obuia pilo,
has-thrown or with-pliant has-broken-through the-opposing javelin,
aut quis equum celeremque arto compescere freno
or who a-horse and-swift with-tight to-restrain bridle
possit et effusas tardo permittere habenas
can and the-loosened to-the-slow to-let-go reins
inque uicem modo derecto contendere passu,
and-in turn now straight to-strive with-pace,
seu libeat, curuo breuius conuertere gyro,
or if-it-please, in-a-curved more-briefly to-turn circle,
quis parma, seu dextra uelit seu laeua, tueri,
who with-the-shield, whether on-the-right he-wish or the-left, to-defend,
siue hac siue illac ueniat grauis impetus hastae,
whether here or there may-come heavy the-onset of-the-spear,
aptior, aut signata cita loca tangere funda.
more-skilled, or the-marked swift places to-touch with-the-sling.
iam simul audacis ueniant certamina Martis
now as-soon-as of-bold may-come the-contests of-Mars
aduersisque parent acies concurrere signis,
and-with-opposing prepare the-battle-lines to-clash standards,
tum tibi non desit faciem componere pugnae,
then for-you not may-it-fail the-face to-arrange of-battle,

seu sit opus quadratum acies consistat in agmen,
whether there-be need squared the-battle-line may-stand in column,
rectus ut aequatis decurrat frontibus ordo,
straight that with-leveled may-run-down fronts the-rank,
seu libeat duplicem seiunctim cernere martem,
or if-it-please double separately to-see war,
dexter uti laeuum teneat dextrumque sinister
the-right that the-left may-hold and-the-right the-left
miles sitque duplex gemini uictoria casus.
soldier and-be double of-twin the-victory chance.
at non per dubias errant mea carmina laudes:
but not through doubtful wander my songs praises:
nam bellis experta cano. testis mihi uictae
for in-wars proven-things I-sing. witness to-me of-conquered
fortis Iapydiae miles, testis quoque fallax
brave Iapydia the-soldier, witness also deceitful
Pannonius, gelidas passim disiectus in Alpes,
the-Pannonian, the-icy everywhere scattered over Alps,
testis Arupinis et pauper natus in aruis,
witness Arupine and poor born in fields,
quem si quis uideat uetus ut non fregerit aetas,
whom if anyone should-see old how not has-broken age,
terna minus Pyliae miretur saecula famae.
the-three less of-Pylian should-wonder-at ages fame.
namque senex longae peragit dum tempora uitae,
for the-old-man of-long completes while the-times life,
centum fecundos Titan renouauerit annos,
a-hundred fertile the-Titan will-have-renewed years,
ipse tamen uelox celerem super edere corpus
himself yet swift the-quick upon to-mount body

audet equum ualidisque sedet moderator habenis.
dares horse and-with-strong sits as-controller reins.
te duce non alias conuersus terga Domator
with-you leader not otherwise turned his-back the-Domator
libera Romanae subiecit colla catenae.
free to-the-Roman submitted his-neck chain.
nec tamen his contentus eris: maiora peractis
nor yet with-these content you-will-be: greater-things than-the-accomplished
instant, compertum est ueracibus ut mihi signis,
press, ascertained it-is by-truthful as to-me signs,
quis Amythaonius nequeat certare Melampus.
with-which Amythaonian could-not to-compete Melampus.
nam modo fulgentem Tyrio subtemine uestem
for just-now gleaming with-Tyrian weft a-garment
indueras oriente die duce fertilis anni,
you-had-put-on on-the-rising day leader of-the-fertile year,
splendidior liquidis cum Sol caput extulit undis
more-splendid from-the-liquid when the-Sun his-head raised waves
et fera discordes tenuerunt flamina uenti,
and the-fierce discordant held blasts winds,
curua nec adsuetos egerunt flumina cursus,
the-curved nor their-accustomed drove rivers courses,
quin rapidum placidis etiam mare constitit undis,
nay the-rushing in-calm even sea stood waves,
ulla nec aerias uolucris perlabitur auras
any nor the-airy bird glides-through breezes
nec quadrupes densas depascitur aspera siluas,
nor four-footed the-dense grazes rough woods,
quin largita tuis sit multa silentia uotis.
nay granted to-your be much silence vows.

Iuppiter ipse leui uectus per inania curru
Jupiter himself in-light borne through the-void chariot
adfuit et caelo uicinum liquit Olympum
was-present and to-the-sky neighboring left Olympus
intentaque tuis precibus se praebuit aure
and-strained to-your prayers himself offered ear
cunctaque ueraci capite adnuit: additus aris
and-all-things with-truthful head nodded-assent: added on-the-altars
laetior eluxit structos super ignis aceruos.
more-glad shone-out the-built over fire heaps.
quin hortante deo magnis insistere rebus
nay with-urging the-god on-great to-press affairs
incipe: non idem tibi sint aliisque triumphi.
begin: not the-same to-you be and-to-others triumphs.
non te uicino remorabitur obuia marte
not you with-neighboring will-delay meeting war
Gallia nec latis audax Hispania terris
Gaul nor with-broad bold Spain lands
nec fera Theraeo tellus obsessa colono,
nor wild by-Theraean the-land occupied colonist,
nec qua uel Nilus uel regia lympha Choaspes
nor where or the-Nile or royal the-water Choaspes
profluit aut rapidus, Cyri dementia, Gyndes,
flows-forth or the-rushing, of-Cyrus the-madness, Gyndes,
aret Araccaeis aut unda † caristia † campis.
is-parched on-Araccaean or the-water (corrupt) caristian (corrupt) fields.
nec qua regna uago Tomyris finiuit Araxe,
nor where realms with-wandering Tomyris bounded Araxes,
impia nec saeuis celebrans conuiuia mensis
impious nor at-savage celebrating banquets tables

ultima uicinus Phoebo tenet arua Padaeus,
the-furthest neighbor to-Phoebus holds fields the-Padaean,
quaque Hebrus Tanaisque Getas rigat atque Magynos.
and-where the-Hebrus and-the-Tanais the-Getae waters and the-Magyni.
quid moror? Oceanus ponto qua continet orbem,
why do-I-delay? Ocean with-the-sea where holds-in the-world,
nulla tibi aduersis regio sese offeret armis.
no for-you with-hostile region itself will-offer arms.
te manet inuictus Romano marte Britannus
you awaits unconquered by-Roman war the-Briton
teque interiecto mundi pars altera sole.
and-you with-interposed of-the-world the-part other sun.
nam circumfuso consistit in aere tellus
for surrounding stands in air the-earth
et quinque in partes toto disponitur orbe.
and five into parts in-whole is-arranged orb.
atque duae gelido uastantur frigore semper:
and two with-icy are-wasted cold always:
illic et densa tellus absconditur umbra,
there and in-dense the-earth is-hidden shadow,
et nulla incepto perlabitur unda liquore,
and no in-begun glides-through wave liquid,
sed durata riget densam in glaciemque niuemque,
but hardened stiffens dense into and-ice and-snow,
quippe ubi non umquam Titan super egerit ortus.
since where not ever the-Titan above has-driven risings.
at media est Phoebi semper subiecta calori,
but the-middle is of-Phoebus always subject to-the-heat,
seu propior terris aestiuum fertur in orbem
whether nearer to-the-lands the-summer he-is-borne into orb

seu celer hibernas properat decurrere luces:
or swift the-wintry hastens to-run-down days:
non igitur presso tellus exsurgit aratro,
not therefore with-pressed the-earth rises plow,
nec frugem segetes praebent neque pabula terrae:
nor crop the-fields supply nor pasture the-lands:
non illic colit arua deus, Bacchusue Ceresue,
not there tills the-fields a-god, or-Bacchus or-Ceres,
ulla nec exustas habitant animalia partes.
any nor the-burnt-up inhabit animals parts.
fertilis hanc inter posita est interque rigentes
fertile this between placed is and-between the-frozen
nostraque et huic aduersa solo pars altera nostro,
and-our and to-this opposite on-the-ground part other our,
quas similis utrimque tenens uicinia caeli
which like on-both-sides holding the-neighborhood of-the-sky
temperat, alter et alterius uires necat aer:
tempers, the-one and of-the-other the-strength kills air:
hinc placidus nobis per tempora uertitur annus:
hence calm for-us through the-seasons turns the-year:
hinc et colla iugo didicit submittere taurus
hence and its-neck to-the-yoke has-learned to-submit the-bull
et lenta excelsos uitis conscendere ramos,
and the-pliant lofty vine to-climb branches,
tondeturque seges maturos annua partus,
and-is-shorn the-crop ripe yearly of-its-offspring,
et ferro tellus, pontus confunditur aere,
and with-iron the-earth, the-sea is-mingled with-bronze,
quin etiam structis exsurgunt oppida muris.
nay even with-built rise towns walls.

ergo ubi praeclaros poscent tua facta triumphos,
therefore when splendid shall-demand your deeds triumphs,
solus utroque idem diceris magnus in orbe.
alone both the-same you-will-be-called great in world.
non ego sum satis ad tantae praeconia laudis,
not I am enough for so-great the-proclamation praise,
ipse mihi non si praescribat carmina Phoebus.
himself for-me not if should-prescribe songs Phoebus.
est tibi, qui possit magnis se accingere rebus,
there-is for-you, who could with-great himself to-gird affairs,
Valgius: aeterno propior non alter Homero.
Valgius: to-eternal nearer not another Homer.
languida non noster peragit labor otia, quamuis
languid not our completes labor leisure, although
Fortuna, ut mos est illi; me aduersa fatiget.
Fortune, as the-custom is for-her; me hostile wears-out.
nam mihi, cum magnis opibus domus alta niteret,
for to-me, when with-great riches the-house high shone,
cui fuerant flaui ditantes ordine sulci
to-whom had-been golden enriching in-order furrows
horrea fecundas ad deficientia messis,
barns the-fertile to failing-for harvests,
cuique pecus denso pascebant agmine colles,
and-for-whom the-flock in-dense pastured column the-hills,
et domino satis et nimium furique lupoque,
both for-the-master enough and too-much for-the-thief and-for-the-wolf,
nunc desiderium superest: nam cura nouatur,
now longing remains: for care is-renewed,
cum memor ante actos semper dolor admonet annos.
when mindful before spent always pain reminds years.

sed licet asperiora cadant spolierque relictis,
but though harsher-things fall and-I-be-stripped of-what-is-left,
non te deficient nostrae memorare camenae.
not you will-fail our to-commemorate muses.
nec solum tibi Pierii tribuentur honores:
nor only to-you Pierian will-be-paid honors:
pro te uel rapidas ausim maris ire per undas,
for you even the-rushing I-would-dare of-the-sea to-go through waves,
aduersis hiberna licet tumeant freta uentis,
with-hostile wintry though swell the-straits winds,
pro te uel densis solus subsistere turmis
for you even in-dense alone to-stand-against squadrons
uel paruum Aetnaeae corpus committere flammae.
or a-small to-the-Aetnaean body to-entrust flame.
sum quodcumque, tuum est. nostri si paruula cura
I-am whatever, yours it-is. of-us if a-tiny care
sit tibi, quanta libet, si sit modo, non mihi regna
be to-you, as-much-as it-pleases, if it-be only, not for-me the-kingdom
Lydia, non magni potior sit fama Gylippi,
Lydian, not of-the-great preferable be the-fame Gylippus,
posse Meleteas nec mallem uincere chartas.
to-be-able the-Meletean nor I-would-prefer to-surpass pages.
quod tibi si uersus noster, totusue minusue,
but to-you if verse our, or-wholly or-less,
uel bene sit notus, summo uel inerret in ore,
or well be known, top or may-wander on mouth,
nulla mihi statuent finem te fata canendi.
no for-me will-set an-end of-you the-fates of-singing.
quin etiam mea tunc tumulus cum texerit ossa,
nay even my then the-mound when shall-have-covered bones,

seu matura dies celerem properat mihi mortem,
whether ripe the-day swift hurries for-me death,
longa manet seu uita, tamen, mutata figura
long remains or life, still, changed in-shape
seu me finget equum rigidos percurrere campos
whether me shall-fashion as-a-horse the-stiff to-run-over plains
doctum seu tardi pecoris sim gloria taurus
skilled or of-the-slow herd I-be the-glory a-bull
siue ego per liquidum uolucris uehar aera pennis,
or I through the-liquid as-a-bird be-borne air on-wings,
quandocumque hominem me longa receperit aetas,
whenever a-man me long shall-have-taken-back age,
inceptis de te subtexam carmina chartis.
on-begun about you I-shall-weave songs pages.

III.8 · SULPICIA ON THE KALENDS

Sulpicia has dressed for the Kalends of March, and the god should come to see her; Love lights his torches at her eyes and Grace follows her steps. Whether her hair is loose or combed, in purple or in white, she charms like Vertumnus; she alone deserves Tyrian wool and Arabian spices. Let the Muses and Phoebus sing her every year.

Sulpicia est tibi culta tuis, Mars magne, kalendis:
Sulpicia is for-you adorned on-your, Mars great, kalends:
spectatum e caelo, si sapis, ipse ueni.
to-gaze from heaven, if you-are-wise, yourself come.
hoc Venus ignoscet: at tu, uiolente, caueto
this Venus will-pardon: but you, violent-one, beware
ne tibi miranti turpiter arma cadant.
lest from-you wondering shamefully your-arms fall.

illius ex oculis, cum uult exurere diuos,
her from eyes, when he-wishes to-burn-up the-gods,
accendit geminas lampadas acer Amor.
kindles twin torches fierce Love.
illam, quidquid agit, quoquo uestigia mouit,
her, whatever she-does, wherever her-steps she-has-moved,
componit furtim subsequiturque Decor.
arranges stealthily and-follows Grace.
seu soluit crines, fusis decet esse capillis:
whether she-loosens her-hair, with-spread it-becomes-her to-be locks:
seu compsit, comptis est ueneranda comis.
or-whether she-has-combed-it, with-combed she-is to-be-revered hair.
urit, seu Tyria uoluit procedere palla:
she-burns, whether in-Tyrian she-has-wished to-come-forth robe:
urit, seu niuea candida ueste uenit.
she-burns, whether in-snowy white garment she-comes.
talis in aeterno felix Vertumnus Olympo
such in eternal happy Vertumnus Olympus
mille habet ornatus, mille decenter habet.
a-thousand has adornments, a-thousand becomingly has.
sola puellarum digna est cui mollia caris
alone of-girls worthy she-is to-whom soft with-costly
uellera det sucis bis madefacta Tyros,
fleeces may-give with-juices twice soaked Tyre,
possideatque, metit quidquid bene olentibus aruis
and-may-she-possess, reaps whatever on-well smelling fields
cultor odoratae diues Arabs segetis,
the-tiller of-fragrant the-rich Arab crop,
et quascumque niger Rubro de litore gemmas
and whatever black the-Red from shore gems

proximus Eois colligit Indus aquis.
nearest to-the-Eastern gathers the-Indian waters.
hanc uos, Pierides, festis cantate kalendis,
her you, Pierians, on-the-festal sing kalends,
et testudinea Phoebe superbe lyra.
and with-tortoise-shell Phoebus proud lyre.
hoc sollemne sacrum multos haec sumet in annos:
this solemn rite many she will-take-up for years:
dignior est uestro nulla puella choro.
worthier is of-your no girl chorus.

III.9 · CERINTHUS HUNTING

The boar is to spare the speaker's young man, Cerinthus, whom the hunt leads away. She would rather carry the nets herself, to wander with him and lie with him beside the snares. Let no love be without her, and let any woman who steals him be torn by wild beasts; let him leave hunting to his father and come back to her arms.

Parce meo iuueni, seu quis bona pascua campi
Spare my young-man, whether any the-good pastures of-the-plain
seu colis umbrosi deuia montis aper,
or inhabit of-the-shady the-byways mountain boar,
nec tibi sit duros acuisse in proelia dentes;
nor for-you be-it your-hard to-have-whetted for battles tusks;
incolumem custos hunc mihi seruet Amor.
unharmed as-guardian him for-me may-keep Love.
* * *
(lacuna)
sed procul abducit uenandi Delia cura:
but far-off leads-him of-hunting Delian care:

o pereant siluae deficiantque canes!
o may-perish the-woods and-may-fail the-dogs!
quis furor est, quae mens densos indagine colles
what frenzy is-it, what mind the-dense with-a-net-ring hills
claudentem teneras laedere uelle manus?
enclosing tender to-hurt to-wish hands?
quidue iuuat furtim latebras intrare ferarum
or-what does-it-please stealthily the-lairs to-enter of-wild-beasts
candidaque hamatis crura notare rubis?
and-white with-hooked legs to-mark brambles?
sed tamen, ut tecum liceat, Cerinthe, uagari,
but yet, so-that with-you it-be-allowed, Cerinthus, to-wander,
ipsa ego per montes retia torta feram,
myself I through mountains the-nets twisted will-carry,
ipsa ego uelocis quaeram uestigia cerui
myself I of-the-swift will-seek the-tracks stag
et demam celeri ferrea uincla cani.
and will-take-off from-the-swift the-iron bonds dog.
tunc mihi, tunc placeant siluae, si, lux mea, tecum
then for-me, then may-please the-woods, if, light my, with-you
arguar ante ipsas concubuisse plagas:
I-be-accused before the-very to-have-lain-together nets:
tunc ueniat licet ad casses, inlaesus abibit,
then may-come though to the-snares, unharmed will-go-away,
ne ueneris cupidae gaudia turbet, aper.
lest of-love eager the-joys he-disturb, the-boar.
nunc sine me sit nulla uenus, sed lege Dianae,
now without me be no love, but by-the-law of-Diana,
caste puer, casta retia tange manu:
chaste boy, with-chaste the-nets touch hand:

et quaecumque meo furtim subrepit amori,
and whatever-girl on-my stealthily creeps-up love,
incidat in saeuas diripienda feras.
may-she-fall among savage to-be-torn-apart wild-beasts.
at tu uenandi studium concede parenti,
but you of-hunting the-zeal yield to-your-father,
et celer in nostros ipse recurre sinus.
and swift into our yourself run-back arms.

III.10 · SULPICIA'S FEVER

Apollo is to come and heal the sick girl, and banish her fever. Cerinthus is not to fear, for the god does not harm lovers; she thinks only of him. If Phoebus saves one body he will save two, and both will thank him.

Huc ades et tenerae morbos expelle puellae,
Hither come and of-the-tender the-diseases drive-out girl,
huc ades, intonsa Phoebe superbe coma.
hither come, with-unshorn Phoebus proud hair.
crede mihi, propera: nec te iam, Phoebe, pigebit
believe me, hurry: nor you now, Phoebus, it-will-irk
formosae medicas applicuisse manus.
to-the-beautiful healing to-have-applied hands.
effice ne macies pallentes occupet artus,
make lest leanness pale seize limbs,
neu notet informis candida membra color,
nor may-mark unsightly white limbs a-color,
et quodcumque mali est et quidquid triste timemus,
and whatever of-evil is and whatever gloomy we-fear,

in pelagus rapidis euehat amnis aquis.
into the-sea with-rushing may-carry-off the-river waters.
sancte, ueni, tecumque feras, quicumque sapores,
holy-one, come, and-with-you bring, whatever flavors,
quicumque et cantus corpora fessa leuant:
whatever and chants bodies weary relieve:
neu iuuenem torque, metuit qui fata puellae
nor the-young-man torture, fears who the-fate of-the-girl
uotaque pro domina uix numeranda facit.
and-vows for his-mistress scarcely to-be-counted makes.
interdum uouet, interdum, quod langueat illa,
sometimes he-vows, sometimes, because languishes she,
dicit in aeternos aspera uerba deos.
he-speaks against the-eternal harsh words gods.
pone metum, Cerinthe; deus non laedit amantes.
put-aside fear, Cerinthus; the-god not harms lovers.
tu modo semper ama: salua puella tibi est.
you only always love: safe the-girl for-you is.
nil opus est fletu: lacrimis erit aptius uti,
not-at-all need is of-weeping: tears it-will-be more-fitting to-use,
si quando fuerit tristior illa tibi.
if ever will-be sadder she to-you.
at nunc tota tua est, te solum candida secum
but now wholly yours she-is, you alone white with-herself
cogitat, et frustra credula turba sedet.
thinks-of, and in-vain the-credulous throng sits.
Phoebe, faue: laus magna tibi tribuetur in uno
Phoebus, be-favorable: praise great to-you will-be-paid in one
corpore seruato restituisse duos.
body preserved to-have-restored two.

iam celeber, iam laetus eris, cum debita reddet
soon famous, soon glad you-will-be, when what-is-owed shall-pay
certatim sanctis laetus uterque focis.
vying at-the-holy glad each hearths.
tunc te felicem dicet pia turba deorum,
then you happy will-call the-dutiful throng of-the-gods,
optabunt artes et sibi quisque tuas.
will-wish-for arts and for-himself each your.

III.11 · CERINTHUS' BIRTHDAY

The speaker will always keep holy the birthday of Cerinthus, at whose birth the Parcae gave him dominion over girls. She burns for him and prays the Genius that his love be mutual; if he loves another, let the god leave his altars. She asks Venus to bind them both in an unbreakable chain; he wishes the same but is ashamed to say it.

Qui mihi te, Cerinthe, dies dedit, hic mihi sanctus
Which to-me you, Cerinthus, the-day gave, this for-me holy
atque inter festos semper habendus erit.
and among festal always to-be-held will-be.
te nascente nouum Parcae cecinere puellis
with-you being-born new the-Parcae sang for-girls
seruitium et dederunt regna superba tibi.
slavery and gave kingdoms proud to-you.
uror ego ante alias: iuuat hoc, Cerinthe, quod uror,
am-burned I before others: it-pleases this, Cerinthus, that I-am-burned,
si tibi de nobis mutuus ignis adest.
if in-you from us mutual fire is-present.
mutuus adsit amor, per te dulcissima furta
mutual may-be-present love, by you sweetest thefts

perque tuos oculos per Geniumque rogo.
and-by your eyes by and-the-Genius I-ask.
magne Geni, cape tura libens uotisque faueto,
great Genius, take the-incense gladly and-to-the-vows be-favorable,
si modo, cum de me cogitat, ille calet.
if only, when about me he-thinks, he is-warm.
quod si forte alios iam nunc suspirat amores,
but if perhaps other already now he-sighs-for loves,
tum precor infidos, sancte, relinque focos.
then I-pray the-faithless, holy-one, leave hearths.
nec tu sis iniusta, Venus: uel seruiat aeque
nor you be unjust, Venus: either may-serve equally
uinctus uterque tibi uel mea uincla leua.
bound each you or my bonds lighten.
sed potius ualida teneamur uterque catena,
but rather with-strong may-we-be-held each chain,
nulla queat posthac quam soluisse dies.
no could hereafter which to-have-loosed day.
optat idem iuuenis quod nos, sed tectius optat:
wishes the-same the-young-man as we, but more-secretly he-wishes:
nam pudet haec illum dicere uerba palam.
for it-shames these him to-say words openly.
at tu, Natalis, quoniam deus omnia sentis,
but you, Birthday, since a-god all-things you-perceive,
adnue: quid refert, clamne palamne roget?
nod-assent: what does-it-matter, whether-secretly or-openly he-ask?

On her birthday a learned girl brings Juno incense; she has dressed for the goddess, but secretly for another. The poet prays Juno to bind the lovers in mutual love, to blind the guards and let Love find ways to deceive them. Her mother tells her what to wish, but she asks for something else in her heart; may the next year find the same love grown old.

Natalis Iuno, sanctos cape turis aceruos,
Birthday Juno, the-holy take of-incense heaps,
quos tibi dat tenera docta puella manu.
which to-you gives with-tender the-learned girl hand.
tota tibi est hodie, tibi se laetissima compsit,
whole to-you she-is today, for-you herself most-gladly she-has-adorned,
staret ut ante tuos conspicienda focos.
might-stand that before your to-be-gazed-at hearths.
illa quidem ornandi causas tibi, diua, relegat:
she indeed of-adorning the-reasons to-you, goddess, refers:
est tamen, occulte cui placuisse uelit.
there-is yet, secretly to-whom to-have-pleased she-would-wish.
at tu, sancta, faue, neu quis diuellat amantes,
but you, holy-one, be-favorable, nor may-anyone tear-apart the-lovers,
sed iuueni quaeso mutua uincla para.
but for-the-young-man I-beg mutual bonds prepare.
sic bene compones: ullae non ille puellae
so well you-will-match: to-any not he girl
seruire aut cuiquam dignior illa uiro.
to-be-a-slave or to-any worthier she man.
nec possit cupidos uigilans deprendere custos
nor may-be-able the-desiring keeping-watch to-catch the-guardian

fallendique uias mille ministret Amor.
and-of-deceiving the-ways a-thousand may-supply Love.
adnue purpureaque ueni perlucida palla:
nod-assent and-in-purple come translucent robe:
ter tibi fit libo, ter, dea casta, mero,
three-times to-you sacrifice-is-made with-cake, three-times, goddess chaste, with-wine,
praecipit et natae mater studiosa quod optet:
enjoins and on-her-daughter the-mother eager what she-should-wish:
illa aliud tacita iam sua mente rogat.
she another-thing in-silent now her-own mind asks.
uritur ut celeres urunt altaria flammae,
she-is-burned as swift burn the-altars flames,
nec, liceat quamuis, sana fuisse uelit.
nor, it-be-allowed though, sound to-have-been she-would-wish.
† sis iuueni grata, ueniet cum proximus annus †,
(corrupt) may-you-be to-the-youth pleasing, will-come when next year (corrupt),
hic idem uotis iam uetus adsit amor.
here the-same in-vows now old may-be-present love.

III.13 · LOVE AT LAST

Love has come at last, and the speaker would be more ashamed to hide it than to bare it. Venus has brought him into her arms; let anyone tell her joys who has none of his own. She will not seal her letters, but will be said to have been worthy of a worthy man.

Tandem uenit amor, qualem texisse pudori
At-last has-come love, such-as to-have-covered for-a-shame
quam nudasse alicui sit mihi fama magis.
than to-have-bared to-anyone be for-me the-report more.

exorata meis illum Cytherea Camenis
won-over by-my him Cytherea Camenae
attulit in nostrum deposuitque sinum.
brought into our and-laid-down lap.
exoluit promissa Venus: mea gaudia narret,
has-paid her-promises Venus: my joys let-him-tell,
dicetur si quis non habuisse sua.
will-be-said if anyone not to-have-had his-own.
non ego signatis quicquam mandare tabellis,
not I to-sealed anything to-entrust tablets,
me legat ut nemo quam meus ante, uelim,
me may-read that no-one than my-own before, would-wish,
sed peccasse iuuat, uultus componere famae
but to-have-sinned delights, my-face to-compose for-reputation
taedet: cum digno digna fuisse ferar.
wearies: with a-worthy worthy to-have-been may-I-be-said.

III.14 · THE HATED BIRTHDAY

Her birthday is coming, to be spent sadly in the country without Cerinthus. Messalla is too zealous for her; she leaves her heart behind in the city.

Inuisus natalis adest, qui rure molesto
Hateful my-birthday is-at-hand, which in-the-country troublesome
et sine Cerintho tristis agendus erit.
and without Cerinthus sad to-be-spent will-be.
dulcius urbe quid est? an uilla sit apta puellae
sweeter than-the-city what is? or a-villa should-be fit for-a-girl
atque Arretino frigidus amnis agro?
and in-the-Arretine cold river field?

iam, nimium Messalla mei studiose, quiescas;
now, too Messalla of-me zealous, may-you-rest;
non tempestiuae saepe, propinque, uiae.
not timely often, kinsman, journeys.
hic animum sensusque meos abducta relinquo,
here mind and-senses my carried-off I-leave,
arbitrio quam uis non sinit esse meo.
by-judgment which force not allows to-be my.

III.15 · THE JOURNEY CALLED OFF

The sad journey is off: she may now be at Rome for the birthday, and let them all keep that day, which comes to him unlooked for.

Scis iter ex animo sublatum triste puellae?
Do-you-know the-journey from the-mind removed sad of-your-girl?
natali Romae iam licet esse tuo.
on-the-birthday at-Rome now it-is-allowed to-be your.
omnibus ille dies nobis natalis agatur,
by-all that day us as-a-birthday may-be-spent,
qui nec opinanti nunc tibi forte uenit.
which not expecting now to-you by-chance comes.

III.16 · THE RIVAL

Sulpicia bitterly thanks her lover for taking such liberties, unconcerned for her: let him prefer a tart with her wool basket to Servius' daughter Sulpicia. Her friends are anxious for her, grieved that she may give place to a nobody's bed.

Gratum est, securus multum quod iam tibi de me
Welcome it-is, untroubled much that now for-yourself about me
permittis, subito ne male inepta cadam.
you-allow, suddenly lest badly foolish I-fall.
sit tibi cura togae potior pressumque quasillo
may-be to-you the-care for-the-toga preferable and-burdened with-the-wool-basket
scortum quam Serui filia Sulpicia:
tart than of-Servius the-daughter Sulpicia:
solliciti sunt pro nobis, quibus illa dolori est
anxious are for us, to-whom that for-pain is
ne cedam ignoto maxima causa toro.
lest I-yield to-an-unknown the-greatest cause bed.

III.17 · SULPICIA SICK

Does Cerinthus care that fever wears her out? She would wish to recover only if he wished it too; what good is it if he can bear her illness unmoved?

Estne tibi, Cerinthe, tuae pia cura puellae,
Is-there to-you, Cerinthus, for-your dutiful care girl,
quod mea nunc uexat corpora fessa calor?
that my now troubles body weary fever?
a ego non aliter tristes euincere morbos
ah I not otherwise the-gloomy to-overcome diseases

optarim, quam te si quoque uelle putem.
would-wish, than you if also to-wish I-should-think.
at mihi quid prosit morbos euincere, si tu
but to-me what would-it-profit the-diseases to-overcome, if you
nostra potes lento pectore ferre mala?
our can with-slow breast to-bear evils?

III.18 · THE NIGHT BEFORE

The speaker wishes not to be so dear to her love as she was a few days ago if she has done anything in her youth she repents more than leaving him alone last night, wishing to hide her passion.

Ne tibi sim, mea lux, aeque iam feruida cura
Not to-you may-I-be, my light, equally now a-fervent care
ac uideor paucos ante fuisse dies,
as I-seem a-few before to-have-been days,
si quicquam tota commisi stulta iuuenta
if anything in-all I-have-committed foolish youth
cuius me fatear paenituisse magis,
of-which myself I-might-confess to-have-repented more,
hesterna quam te solum quod nocte reliqui,
on-yesterday's than you alone that night I-left,
ardorem cupiens dissimulare meum.
ardor desiring to-dissemble my.

No woman will take her place: the girl he addresses alone pleases the poet, and he wishes she pleased no one else. He could live with her in the wilds, his rest and his light; but he regrets swearing it by Juno, since now she will be bolder. He will be her slave and sit bound at Venus' altar.

Nulla tuum nobis subducet femina lectum:
No your from-us will-withdraw woman bed:
hoc primum iuncta est foedere nostra uenus.
in-this first joined has-been pact our love.
tu mihi sola places, nec iam te praeter in urbe
you to-me alone please, nor now you except in the-city
formosa est oculis ulla puella meis.
beautiful is to-the-eyes any girl my.
atque utinam posses uni mihi bella uideri!
and would-that you-could to-one me pretty to-seem!
displiceas aliis: sic ego tutus ero.
may-you-displease others: so I safe shall-be.
nil opus inuidia est, procul absit gloria uulgi:
not-at-all need of-envy is, far may-be-away the-glory of-the-crowd:
qui sapit, in tacito gaudeat ille sinu.
who is-wise, in silent let-him-rejoice he bosom.
sic ego secretis possum bene uiuere siluis,
so I in-secluded can well to-live woods,
qua nulla humano sit uia trita pede.
where no by-human may-be path worn foot.
tu mihi curarum requies, tu nocte uel atra
you to-me of-cares the-rest, you in-night even black
lumen, et in solis tu mihi turba locis.
a-light, and in lonely you to-me a-throng places.

nunc licet e caelo mittatur amica Tibullo,
now though from heaven be-sent a-sweetheart to-Tibullus,
mittetur frustra deficietque uenus.
she-will-be-sent in-vain and-will-fail love.
hoc tibi sancta tuae Iunonis numina iuro,
this to-you the-holy of-your Juno divinities I-swear,
quae sola ante alios est mihi magna deos.
who alone before others is to-me great gods.
quid facio demens? heu heu mea pignora cedo.
what am-I-doing mad? alas alas my pledges I-yield.
iuraui stulte: proderat iste timor.
I-have-sworn foolishly: was-profiting that fear.
nunc tu fortis eris, nunc tu me audacius ures:
now you brave will-be, now you me more-boldly will-burn:
hoc peperit misero garrula lingua malum.
this has-brought-forth for-wretched-me the-chattering tongue evil.
iam faciam quodcumque uoles, tuus usque manebo,
now I-will-do whatever you-will-wish, yours constantly I-shall-remain,
nec fugiam notae seruitium dominae,
nor I-shall-flee of-a-known the-slavery mistress,
sed Veneris sanctae considam uinctus ad aras:
but of-Venus holy I-shall-sit bound at the-altars:
haec notat iniustos supplicibusque fauet.
she marks the-unjust and-the-suppliants favors.

Rumor says his girl is unfaithful; the poet would rather be deaf. Why torture him, bitter rumor? Be silent.

Rumor ait crebro nostram peccare puellam:
Rumor says often our to-sin girl:
nunc ego me surdis auribus esse uelim.
now I myself with-deaf ears to-be would-wish.
crimina non haec sunt nostro sine facta dolore:
charges not these are our without done pain:
quid miserum torques, rumor acerbe? tace.
why wretched-me do-you-torture, rumor bitter? be-silent.

EPIGRAM ON TIBULLUS' DEATH

Unjust Death, the epigram says, sent the young Tibullus to the Elysian fields as Vergil's companion, so that none would remain to weep for love in elegy or sing of royal wars in epic.

Te quoque Vergilio comitem non aequa, Tibulle,
You also to-Vergil as-companion not just, Tibullus,
Mors iuuenem campos misit ad Elysios,
Death young the-fields sent to Elysian,
ne foret aut elegis molles qui fleret amores
lest there-should-be either in-elegies soft who should-weep loves
aut caneret forti regia bella pede.
or should-sing with-brave royal wars foot.