

I

Cui dōnō lepidum novum libellum
 āridā modo pūmice expolītum?
 Cornēlī, tibi; namque tū solēbās
 meās esse aliquid putāre nūgās
 iam tum, cum¹ ausus es ūnus Italōrum²
 omne aevum tribus explicāre cartīs
 doctīs, Iuppiter, et labōriōsīs.
 Quārē habē tibi quidquid hoc libellī
 quālecumque; quod, <ō> patrōna virgō,
 plūs ūnō maneat³ perenne saeclō.

5

10

- aevum**, -ī, *n.*, period of time, age, generation
aliquis, *aliquid* (indef. pron.), someone, something
āridus, -a, -um, dry
audeō, audēre, **ausus sum**, dare
c(h)arta, -ae, *f.*, leaf (of papyrus); book
Cornēlius, -ī, *m.*, Cornelius Nepos, addressee of the poem, a writer of history and biography
doctus, -a, -um, learned
explicō (1), unfold, reveal, explain
expoliō, **expolire**, **expolivī**, **expolitus**, smooth, polish, finish
Itali, -ōrum, *m. pl.*, Italians
labōriōsus, -a, -um, full of labor, elaborate
lepidus, -a, -um, pleasant, charming, elegant
libellus, -ī, *m.*, little book, manuscript
maneō, manēre, **mānsi**, **mānsus**, remain

- modo** (adv.), just now
namque (conj.), for in fact
nūgae, -ārum, *f. pl.*, trifles, nonsense
patrōna, -ae, *f.*, protectress, patroness
perennis, -e, everlasting
pūmex, **pūmicis**, *f.*, pumice-stone
putō (1), think
quāliscumque, **quālecumque** (indef. adj.), of whatever sort
quārē (adv.), wherefore
quisquis, **quidquid** (*quicquid*) (indef. pron.), whoever, whatever
saec(u)lum, -ī, *n.*, age, generation
soleō, **solēre**, **solitus sum**, be accustomed
trēs, **tria** (numerical adj.), three
tum (adv.), then, at that time
virgō, **virginis**, *f.*, maiden, virgin

1. **cum**, here, conj. + indic., when2. The first *I-* of *Itali* often scans *long* in poetry.3. **maneat**, a subjunctive used independently to express a wish. Translate: "May ... remain."

III

Lūgēte, ō Venerēs Cupīdinēsque,
et quantum est hominum venustiōrum:
passer mortuus est meae puellae,
passer, dēliciae meae puellae,
quem plūs illa oculis suis amābat.

5

Nam mellītus erat suamque nōrat¹
ipsam tam bene quam puella mātrem,
nec sēsē ā gremiō illius² movēbat,
sed circumsiliēns modo hūc modo illūc
ad sōlam dominam ūsque pīpiābat;
qui nunc it per iter tenebricōsum
illud, unde negant redire quemquam.

10

At vōbīs male sit, malae tenebrae
Orcī, quae omnia bella dēvorātis:
tam bellum mihi passerem abstulistiſ.
Ō factum male!³ Ō miselle passer!
Tuā nunc operā meae puellae
flendō turgidulī rubent ocellī.

15

at (conj.), but
bellus, -a, -um, pretty, charming, lovely
circumsiliō, **circumsilire**, —, —, leap about,
hop
Cupīdō, **Cupīdinis**, m., Cupid, god of love, son
of Venus
dēliciae, -ārum, f. pl., delight, darling,
sweetheart, beloved
dēvorō (1), swallow up, gulp down, devour
greedily
domina, -ae, f., mistress
fleō, **fliere**, **flixi**, **fletus**, weep (for)
gremium, -i, n., bosom, lap
lūgeō, **lūgere**, **lūxi**, **luctus**, mourn, grieve,
lament
mellitus, -a, -um, honeyed, honey-sweet
misellus, -a, -um, wretched, pitiable

ocellus, -i, m., (little) eye
opera, -ae, f., work, service, attention; (abl.)
fault
Orcus, -i, m., Orcus, the underworld; the god of
the infernal regions, Orcus or Pluto
passer, **passeris**, m., sparrow
pīpiō (1), chirp, cheep, peep
sēsē = **sē**
rubēo, **rubēre**, —, —, be red
tenebrae, -ārum, f. pl., darkness; infernal
regions
tenebricōsus, -a, -um, full of shadows, gloomy
turgidulus, -a, -um, swollen
ūsque (adv.), continuously, without interruption
Venus, **Veneris**, f., Venus, goddess of love
venustus, -a, -um, charming, pleasing

1. **nōrat** = **nōverat**2. The second -t- of *illius* often scans short in poetry.3. Here, elision does not occur between the final -e of *male* and Ō. When conditions for elision are present but no elision occurs, this is called *hiatus*.

V

Vivāmus, mea Lesbia, atque amēmus,
rūmōrēsque senum sevēriōrum
omnēs ūnius¹ aestimēmus assis!²
Sōlēs occidere et redīre possunt:
nōbīs, cum semel occidit brevis lūx,
nox est perpetua ūna dormienda.
Dā³ mī bāsia mīlle, deinde centum,
dein mīlle altera, dein secunda centum,
deinde ūsque altera mīlle, deinde centum.
Dein, cum mīlia multa fēcerimus,⁴
conturbābimus illa, nē sciāmus,
aut nē quis malus invidēre possit,
cum tantum sciat esse bāsiōrum.

5

10

aestimō (1), estimate, reckon
as, assis, -ium, m., as (a small denomination of
Roman money)
bāsium, -i, n., kiss
brevis, -e, brief, short
centum (indecl. numerical adj.), one hundred
conturbō (1), confuse, disorder, disturb
cum (conj. + indic.), when; (conj. + subj.), since,
although
deinde or dein (adv.), then, next, afterwards
dormiō, dormire, dormīvī, dormītus, sleep
invideō [*in+videō*], look askance at; begrudge,
envy

Lesbia, -ae, f., Lesbia, Catullus' poetic name for
his beloved
mī = *mihi*
mīlle (indecl. numerical adj.), a thousand
mīlia, mīlium, n. pl. subst., thousands
occidō, occidere, occidī, occāsus, fall, set; die
perpetuus, -a, -um, perpetual, continuous
redeō, redire, redīi, redditus, go back, return
secundus, -a, -um, following, second
semel (adv.), once, a single time; once and for
all
sevērus, -a, -um, stern, severe
ūsque (adv.), continuously, without interruption

1. The *-i-* of *ūnius* often scans short in poetry.
2. **assis**, genitive of indefinite value, at the
value of an as

3. The *-a* of the 2nd sing. present imperative
active of *dō* is long.
4. The *-i-* of *fēcerimus* here scans long.

XIII

Cēnābis bene, mī Fabulle, apud mē
 paucīs, sī tibi dī farent, diēbus,
 sī tēcum attuleris bonam atque magnam
 cēnam, nōn sine candidā puellā
 et vīnō et sale et omnibus cachinnīs.

5

Haec sī, inquam, attuleris, venuste noster,
 cēnābis bene; nam tuī Catullī
 plēnus sacculus est arāneārum.

Sed contrā accipiēs merōs amōrēs
 seu quid¹ suāvius ēlegantiusve est;
 nam unguentum dabo,² quod meae puellae
 dōnārunt³ Venerēs Cupīdinēsque,
 quod tū cum⁴ olfaciēs, deōs rogābis
 tōtum ut tē faciant, Fabulle, nāsum.

10

accipiō, accipere, accēpī, acceptus, receive
afferō, afferre, attuli, allātus, bring toward,
 bring along

apud (prep. + acc.), at, near, among; at the
 house of

arānea, -ae, f., spider; cobweb

cachinnus, -i, m., loud laugh

candidus, -a, -um, white, clear, bright, radiant

Catullus, -i, m., Catullus

cēna, -ae, f., dinner

cēnō (1), dine

contrā (adv.), in turn

Cupīdō, Cupīdinis, m., Cupid, god of love, son
 of Venus

diēs, diēi, m., day

ēlegāns, -antis, select, tasteful, elegant

ēlegantius (comparative adj. neut. nom. sing.)

Fabullus, -i, m., Fabullus, friend of Catullus

faveō, favēre, favi, fautus, be favorable, favor
 (+ dat.)

inquam (defective verb), I say
merus, -a, -um, pure, unmixed

nam (conj.), for

nāsus, -i, m., nose

olfaciō, olfacere, olfēcī, olfactus, smell

omnis, -e, every, all

pauci, -ae, -a, few

plēnus, -a, -um, full

rogō (1), ask

sacculus, -i, m., bag, wallet

sal, salis, n., salt; wit

seu (conj.), or if

suāvis, -e, sweet, pleasant

suāvius (comparative adj. neut. nom. sing.)

tōtus, -a, -um, all, whole

unguentum, -i, n., ointment, perfume

-ve (enclitic conj.), or

Venus, Veneris, f., Venus, goddess of love

venustus, -a, -um, charming, pleasing

vīnum, -i, n., wine

1. **quid**, neut. nom. sing. of *quis*, *quid* (indef. pron.), anyone, anything

2. The final *-o* of *dabō* here scans short.

3. **dōnārunt** = *dōnāvērunt*

4. **cum**, conj. + indic., when