

Greco-Roman Feast: Catullus Poem XIII

Latin text taken from Henry V. Bender and Phyllis Forsyth, Catullus Expanded Edition, Wauconda, IL, Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, 2005. Translation by AP Latin students, The Archer School for Girls.

LATIN (HENDECASYLLABIC METER)

Cenabis bene, mi Fabulle, apud me
Paucis, si tibi di favent, diebus,
Si tecum attuleris bonam atque magnam
Cenam, non sine candida puella
Et vino et sale et omnibus cacchinis.
Haec si, inquam, attuleris, venuste noster,
Cenabis bene; nam tui Catulli
Plenus sacculus est aranearum.
Sed contra accipies meros amores
seu quid suavius elegantiusve est:
nam unguentum dabo, quod meae puellae
donarunt Veneres Cupidinesque,
quod tu cum olfacies, deos rogabis,
totum ut te faciant, Fabulle, nasum.

TRANSLATION

You will dine well, my Fabullus, with me
In a few days, if the Gods favor you,
If you will have brought with you a good and large
Dinner, not without a shining girl
And wine and wit and all laughter.
If, I say, you will have brought these things, my charming friend,
You will dine well; for the wallet of your Catullus
Is full of spiderwebs.
But, in exchange, you will receive unmixed love
And something more charming and elegant:
For I will give you perfume which the Venuses and Cupids
Have given to my girl.
Which, when you smell it, you will ask the Gods,
To make you, Fabullus, all nose.