

### 36. BURNT-OFFERING: TO VOLUSIUS'S DROPPINGS



nnals, of *Volusius* [p. 238], papyrus droppings,  
discharge my girl's votive offering.  
Since, by sacred *Venus* [p. 237] and *Cupid* [p. 208], she promised,  
that if I were given back to her,  
and I left off launching wild iambics,  
she'd offer the gods the choicest words,  
of the worst of limping poets,  
consumed with malignant wood.  
And the girl thought this was the worst,  
with charming laughter, to move the gods.  
Now O goddess created from the blue sea,  
whose is holy *Idalia* [p. 215], *Urii*, *Ancona* [p. 197],  
reed-bound *Cnidos* [p. 207], and *Amathusia* [p. 197],  
*Golgos* [p. 212], and Adriatic *Dyrrachium* [p. 210],  
make the vow acceptable, fulfilled,  
if its not lacking in wit and charm.  
But meanwhile, you, enter the fire,  
you, full of boorishness and crudities,  
Volusian annals, papyrus droppings.



'Triumph of the Marine Venus'  
Sebastiano Ricci (Italian, 1659 - 1734)  
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