

29. CATAMITE



ho could see it, who could endure it,
unless he were shameless, greedy, a gambler?
Mamurra [p. 219] owns riches that Transalpine Gaul
and furthest Britain once owned.

Roman sodomite, do you see this and bear it?
And now shall the man, arrogant, overbearing,
flit through all of the beds
like a whitish dove or an *Adonis*? [p. 196]
Roman sodomite, do you see this and bear it?
You're shameless, greedy, a gambler.
Surely it wasn't for this, you, *the unique leader* [p. 203],
were in the furthest western isle,
so that this loose-living tool of yours
might squander two or three hundred times its worth?
What is it but perverted generosity?
Hasn't he squandered enough, or been elevated enough?
First his inheritance was well and truly spent,
then the booty from *Pontus* [p. 228], then
Spain's, to make three, as the gold-bearing Tagus knows:
now be afraid for Gaul's and Britain's.
Why cherish this evil? What's he good for
but to devour his rich patrimony?
Was it for this, the city's wealthiest,
you, father-in law, son-in-law, wasted a world?



'Venus and Adonis'
Simon Vouet (French, 1590 - 1649)
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