

### 35. CYBELE: TO CAECILIUS



aper, I'd like you to say to *Caecilius* [p. 203],  
that tender poet, that friend of mine,  
leave Lake Como, come now to Verona,  
abandon the town there and the shore.  
Because there are certain thoughts that I want  
him to hear of, from his friend and yours.  
So, if he's wise, he'll eat up the road,  
though some lovely girl calls to him  
asks his return, clasping both hands  
round his neck, and begging delay.  
Who, if the truth's been told me now  
love's him with violent desire.  
For, since the moment she read his unfinished  
Lady of *Dindymus* [p. 210], the poor little thing  
has been eaten by fire to the core of her bones.  
I forgive you, girl, more learned  
than the *Sapphic* [p. 231] Muse: it's truly lovely,  
Caecilius's unfinished Great Mother *Cybele* [p. 208].



'Earth / Cybele'  
Adriaen Collaert, after Maerten de Vos (Dutch, 1560 - 1618)  
*The Rijksmuseum*