

# eXchanges

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Spring 2005  
Beasts & Machines

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Three Poems  
Cosmo Catalano

Catullus 56

Oh what, dear Cato, a silly matter  
And most worthy of your ears and laughter.  
As you love Catullus, Cato, laugh,  
What a too-absurd and comic gaffe;  
Just now I caught the apple of  
My sweetheart's eye while jerking off,  
And I, if it please the dam of Venus,  
Hit him in tandem with my penis.

Catullus 69

You needn't wonder, Rufus, why  
No girl will place her tender thighs  
Beneath you, even though you ply her  
With gifts of jewels and rich attire.  
A certain rumor does you harm  
Of a goat who lives below your arms.  
They fear him, and I'm not suprised,  
His stench would bed no girl alive.  
So kill what gives them all such fright  
Or cease to wonder at their flight.

Catullus 75

So sharply has my mind been torn  
By all the faithless things you swore  
So shattered, Lesbia, that now,  
Demolished by the love it vowed,  
It could not hold you free of blame,  
If the best of women you became,  
Nor can it cease to love you dear  
Though you do the worst that can be feared.

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Three Poems  
Catullus

carmen XVI

O rem ridiculam, Cato, et iocosam,  
dignamque auribus et tuo cachinno!  
ride quidquid amas, Cato, Catullum:  
res est ridicula et nimis iocosa.  
deprendi modo pupulum puellae  
trusantem; hunc ego, si placet Dionae,  
protelo rigida mea cecidi.

carmen LXIX

Noli admirari quare tibi femina nulla,  
Rufe, velit tenerum supposuisse femur,  
non si illam rarae labefactes munere vestis  
aut perluciduli deliciis lapidis.  
laedit te quaedam mala fabula, qua tibi fertur  
valle sub alarum trux habitare caper.  
hunc metuunt omnes; neque mirum: nam mala valde est  
bestia, nec quicum bella puella cubet.  
quare aut crudelem nasorum interface pestem,  
aut admirari desine cur fugiant.

carmen LXXV

Huc est mens deducta tua mea, Lesbia, culpa  
atque ita se officio perdidit ipsa suo,  
ut iam nec bene velle queat tibi, si optima fias,  
nec desistere amare, omnia si facias.

