

# Collected Poems of Catullus

A Latin to English Translation

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## (10) A bad moment with Varus and his girl

*Varus me meus ad suos amores  
visum duxerat e foro otiosum:*

- *duxerat* from *duco, ducere, duxi, ductus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to lead.
- I think that *visum* (from *video, videre, vidi, visus*) is the supine of *duxerat*, and that *otiosum* is modifying *visum*, since they're the only things which match in case.  
My Varus had led me, at leisure, to his loves out of the forum to see them.

*scortillum (ut mihi tum repente visum est)  
non sane illepidum neque invenustum;*

- *visum est* from *video, videre, vidi, visus* is 3rd singular perfect passive indicative, meaning to see.
- *ut* in the conjunctive usage.
- Double negative here, litotes.  
A little harlot (as then it suddenly seemed to me) not reasonably lacking grace nor unlovely;

*huc ut venimus, incidere nobis  
sermones varii, in quibus quid esset  
iam Bithnyia, quo modo se haberet,  
et quonam mihi profuisset aere.*

- *venimus* from *venio, venire, veni, ventus* is 1st plural perfect active indicative, meaning to come.
- *incidere* from *incido, incidere, incidi, incasus* is the 3rd plural perfect active indicative, meaning to fall upon.
- *esset* is 3rd singular imperfect active subjunctive. I think indirect question?
- *haberet* from *habeo, habere, habui, habitus* is 3rd singular imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to hold.

- *profuisset* from *prosum*, *prodesse*, *profui*, *profuturus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active subjunctive, meaning to be useful (with DAT).
- Note that *-nam* is a suffix of this relative, like
- *aere* is an ablative of means.  
as we came to this place, various conversations fell upon us, in which what was Bithynia now, in what manner was it holding itself, and it had profitited me with whatever money.

*Respondi id quod erat:*

- *respondi* from *respondeo*, *respondere*, *respondi*, *responsus* is 1st singular perfect active indicative, meaning to answer.
- *id quod erat* I have no clue.  
I answered that which was:

*nihil neque ipsis  
nec praetoribus esse nec cohorti,  
cur quisquam caput unctius referret:*

- *esse* likely is setting off indirect speech, with
- *ipsis*, *praetoribus*, and *cohorti* is a tricolon of dative of references.
- *referret* from *refero*, *referre*, *rettuli*, *relatus* is 3rd singular imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to bring back. This is subjunctive likely because it's an indirect question.  
That there was nothing neither for themselves nor for the praetors nor for the court, why anyone might bring back a greasy head:

That neither themselves nor the praetors nor the court had anything, why anyone might bring back a more oily head:

*praesertim quibus esset irrumator  
praetor, nec faceret pili cohortem.*

- *esset* is subjunctive, likely in a relative clause of characteristic, functioning off of the implied indefinite antecedent *ipsis*.
- *faceret* is also subjunctive, fitting into the same relative clause of characteristic as *esset*.
- *pili* is a genitive of value.  
especially to those of the sort whom the praetor was a vile person, nor was he making the cohort worth of a hair?

*"At certe tamen," inquiunt "quod illic  
natum dicitur esse, comparasti  
ad lecticam homines."*

- *inquiunt* from *inquit* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to say.
- *dicitur* from *dico*, *dicere*, *dixi*, *dictus* is 3rd singular present passive indicative, meaning to say.
- *comparasti* from *comparo*, *comparare*, *comparavi*, *comparatus* is 2nd singular perfect active indicative.  
"But surely nevertheless" they say "that which is said to be born there, you obtained the man towards the litter."

*Ego (ut puellae  
unum me facerem beatiorum)  
"Non" inquam "mihi tam fuit maligne,  
ut, provincia quod mala incidisset,  
non possem octo homines parare rectos."*

- *facerem* from *facio, facere, feci, factus* is 1st singular imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to make. I believe that this is a purpose clause.
- *inquam* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to say.
- *fuit* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative.
- *incidisset* from *incido, incidere, incidi, incasus* is 3rd singular pluperfect active subjunctive, meaning to happen/fall. This is after a *quod*, so I think this is a causal clause.
- *possem* from *possum, posse, potui* is 1st singular imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to be able. This takes complimentary infinitive *parare*, and it is subjunctive because it's a result clause.
- *parare* from *paro, parare, paravi, paratus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to prepare. (So that I might make myself one more beautiful to the girl) I said "it was not so spiteful to me, that, because the bad province had fallen, I was not able to prepare 8 proper men."

*(At mi nullus erat nec hic neque illic  
fractum qui veteris pedem grabati  
in collo sibi collocare posset.)*

- *mi* = (poetic, syncopated) dative singular of *ego*
- *erat* is 3rd singular imperfect active indicative.
- *fractum* from *frango, frangere, fregi, fractus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to break.
- *collocare* from *colloco, collocare, collocavi, collocatus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to place/put/set.
- *posset* from *possum, posse, potui* is 3rd singular imperfect active subjunctive, meaning to be able.
- Not sure where to place the *fractum*.  
(But there was no one for me neither here nor there who was able to place the foot of a cot on his neck.)

*Hic illa, ut decuit cinaediorum,  
"Quaeso," inquit "mihi, mi Catulle, paulum  
istos commoda: nam volo ad Serapim  
deferri."*

- I think the implied subject of *illa* is that harlot he's talking too.
- *decuit* from *decet, decere, decuit* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning it is fitting.
- *quaeso* from *quaso, quasere* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to beg/ask.
- *commoda* from *commodo, commodare, commodavi, commodatus*, is 2nd singular present active imperative, meaning to lend.
- *volo* from *volo, velle, volui* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to wish. This takes *deferri* is a complimentary infinitive.
- *deferri* from *defero, deferre, detuli, delatus* is the present passive infinitive, meaning to carry/bring down/off.

Here that girl, as it is suitable for a more shameless girl, said "I beg, my Catullus, lend a few of those to me: For I wish to be brought back to Serapim."

*Mane," inquit puellae,  
"istud quod modo dixeram me habere ...  
fugit me ratio:*

- *mane* from *maneo, manere, mansi, mansus* is the present active imperative, meaning to stay.
- *dixeram* from *dico, dicere, dixi, dictus* is 1st singular pluperfect active indicative, meaning to say.
- *habere* from *habeo, habere, habui, habitus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to have. Setting off indirect speech.
- *fugit* from *fugio, fugere, fugi, fugitus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to flee/fly.  
"Stay," I said to the girl, "That which I had just now said that I had ... the reason flees me.

*meus sodalis —  
Cinna est Gaius — is sibi paravit.  
Verum utrum illius an mei, quid ad me?  
Utor tam bene quam mihi pararim.  
Sed tu insula male et molesta vivis,  
per quam non licet esse neglegentem!"*