

twenty one

C Valerius Catullus

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1

Cui dono lepidum novum libellum arida modo pumice expolitum? Corneli, tibi: namque tu solebas meas esse aliquid putare nugas iam tum, cum ausus es unus Itolorum omne aevum tribus explicare cartis doctis, Iuppiter, et laboriosis. quare habe tibi quidquid hoc libelliqualecumque; quod, patrona virgo plus uno maneat perenne saeclo.

2 Wherein the passer is his virility

Passer, deliciae meae puellae, quicum ludere, quem in sinu tenere, cui primum digitum dare appetenti et acris solet incitare morsus, cum desiderio meo nitenti carum nescio

acer sharp, piercing, penetrating, cutting, irritating
aevum neverending time, eternity
aliquis any end
aridus dry, arid, parched
audeo to venture, dare, be bold, dare to do, risk
carus dear, precious, valued, esteemed, beloved
deliciae a delight, pleasure, charm, allurements, luxury
desiderium a longing, ardent desire, wish, want, grief
digitus a finger
doceo to cause to know, make aware, teach, instruct, inform
don- To give as a present, present, bestow, grant, vouchsafe
explico to unfold, uncoil, unroll, unfurl, unclothe
expolio to smooth, polish, finish, adorn, embellish
in unequal
incito to set in rapid motion
Iuppiter rapist, pedophile, sleazebag, king of the gods
laboriosus full of labor, laborious, toilsome, wearisome, difficult
lepidus pleasant, agreeable, charming, fine, elegant
libellus a little book, pamphlet, manuscript, writing
ludo to play, play at a game
maneo to stay, remain, abide, tarry
meo to go, pass
mod- a measure, extent, quantity
mordeo to bite, bite into
morsus a biting, bite
nesci- unknowing, ignorant, unaware
niteo to shine, look bright, glitter, glisten
novus new, not old, young, fresh, recent
nugae jests, idle speeches, trifles
passer a sparrow
patrona a protectress, patroness
puella a female child, girl, maiden, lass
pumex a pumice-stone
puto to clean, cleanse, trim, prune
qualis how constituted, of what sort, of what nature, what kind of a
qualus a wicker basket, work-basket
quisquis rel
saeculum a race, generation, age, the people of any time
sinus a bent surface, curve, fold, hollow, coil
soleo to use, be wont, be accustomed
teneo to hold, keep, have, grasp, hold fast
tener soft, delicate, tender, yielding
tres three
tribus a third part of the people
tum then, at that time, in those times
virgo a maid, maiden, virgin

quid lubet iocari et solacium sui doloris, credo ut tum grauis acquiescat ardor: tecum ludere sicut ipsa possem et tristis animi leuare curas!

5

Vivamus, mea Lesbia, atque amemus, rumoresque senum severiorum omnes unius aestimemus assis! soles occidere et redire¹ possunt: nobis cum semel occidit brevis lux, nox est perpetua una dormienda. da mi basia mille, deinde centum, dein mille altera, dein secunda centum, deinde usque altera mille, deinde centum. dein, cum milia multa fecerimus, conturbabimus illa, ne sciamus, aut ne quis malus invidere possit, cum tantum sciat esse basiorum.

adsum to be at, be present, be at hand
aestimo to determine the value of, estimate, value, rate, appraise
alter one, another, the one, the other
amo to love
animus the rational soul
ardor a burning, flame, fire, heat
assa a dry nurse
assus roasted
basio to kiss
basium a kiss
brevis short
centum a hundred
credo to give as a loan, lend, make a loan
cur- trouble, care, attention, pains, industry
deinde then, next, thereafter, thence
dolor pain, smart, ache, suffering, anguish
gravis heavy, weighty, ponderous, burdensome, loaded
illa in that way, in that direction, there
invideo to look askance at, cast an evil eye upon
Lesbius of Lesbos, Lesbian
levo to lift up, raise, elevate
levo to make smooth, polish
lux light, brightness
millum millet
mille a thousand, ten hundred
multo by much, much, a great deal, far, by far
nox night
occido to strike down, knock down
occido to fall down, fall
perpetuus continuous, unbroken, uninterrupted, constant, entire
perpetuo to cause to continue, perpetuate
queo to be able, can
redeo to go back, turn back, return, turn around
scio to know, understand, perceive, have knowledge of, be skilled in
secund- to favor, further, second, prosper
semel once, a single time
senex old, aged, advanced in years
seni six each
sicut so as, just as, as
sol the sun
tero to rub, rub away, wear away, bruise, grind
trist- sad, sorrowful, mournful, dejected, melancholy
usque all the way, right on, without interruption, continuously, even
vivo to live, be alive, have life

¹ “[tu] soles occidere et redire” indeed.