

One Two Five

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 Italogum
omne aevum tribus explicare cartis
doctis, Iuppiter, et laboriosis.
quare habe tibi quidquid hoc libelli
qualecumque; quod, patrona virgo
plus uno maneat perenne saeclo.

2 Wherein the passer is his virility

Passer, deliciae meae puellae,

aevum neverending time, eternity

aridus dry, arid, parched

audeo to venture, dare, be bold, dare to do, risk

deliciae a delight, pleasure, charm, allurement, luxury

don- To give as a present, present, bestow, grant, vouchsafe

explico to unfold, uncoil, unroll, unfurl, unclothe

expolio to smooth, polish, finish, adorn, embellish

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

nugae jests, idle speeches, trifles

passer a sparrow

patrona a protectress, patroness

puella a female child, girl, maiden, lass

pumex a pumice-stone

qualis how constituted, of what sort, of what nature, what kind of a

qualus a wicker basket, work-basket

saeculum a race, generation, age, the people of any time

tribus a third part of the people

virgo a maid, maiden, virgin

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

acer sharp, piercing, penetrating, cutting, irritating
ardor a burning, flame, fire, heat
carus dear, precious, valued, esteemed, beloved
cura trouble, care, attention, pains, industry
desiderium a longing, ardent desire, wish, want, grief
digitus a finger
dolor pain, smart, ache, suffering, anguish
in unequal
incito to set in rapid motion
Lesbius of Lesbos, Lesbian
levo to lift up, raise, elevate
levo to make smooth, polish
ludo to play, play at a game
mordeo to bite, bite into
morsus a biting, bite
nesci— unknowing, ignorant, unaware
niteo to shine, look bright, glitter, glisten
senex old, aged, advanced in years
seni six each
sinus a bent surface, curve, fold, hollow, coil
tener soft, delicate, tender, yielding
tero to rub, rub away, wear away, bruise, grind
trist— sad, sorrowful, mournful, dejected, melancholy

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

assa a dry nurse

assus roasted

basio to kiss

basium a kiss

brevis short

centum a hundred

invideo to look askance at, cast an evil eye upon

lux light, brightness

milium millet

perpetuus continuous, unbroken, uninterrupted, constant, entire

perpetuo to cause to continue, perpetuate

secundo to favor, further, second, prosper

semel once, a single time

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

