

Catullus Carmen 5

Vivāmus mea Lesbia, atque amēmus,
rūmōrēsque senum sevēriōrum
omnēs ūnius aestimēmus assis!
Sōlēs occidere et redire possunt —
nōbīs, cum semel occidit brevis lūx,
nox est perpetua ūna dormienda.
Dā mī bāsia mīlle, deinde centum,
dein mīlle altera, dein secunda centum,
deinde ūsque altera mīlle, deinde centum!
Dein, cum mīlia multa fēcerimus
conturbābimus illa, nē sciāmus,
aut nē quis malus invidere possit,
cum tantus sciat esse bāsiorum.

Let us be living, my Lesbia, and loving,
and all the grumbles of the sterner old folk
be accounted as worth a single a dime!
Suns can fall and then rise again —
for us, when a single brief light falls
a perpetual night is to be slept.
Give me a thousand kisses, then a hundred,
then another thousand, then a second hundred,
then even another thousand, then a hundred!
Then, when we will have made many thousands
let us shake them up, lest we might know,
or lest the malicious might glance the side-eye,
when they know just how many kisses there are.