

Catullus Carmen 13

Cēnābis bene, mī Fabulle, apud mē
paucīs, si tibi dī favent, diēbus,
sī tēcum attuleris bonam atque magnam
cēnam, nōn sine candidā puellā
et vinō et sale et omnibus cachinnīs.
Haec sī, inquam, attuleris, venuste noster,
cēnābis bene — nam tuī Catullī
plēnus sacculus est arāneārum.
Sed contrā accipiēs merōs amorēs
seu quid suāviūs ēlegantiusve est:
nam unguentum dabō, quod meae puellae
donarunt Venerēs Cupīnesque,
quod tū cum olfaciēs deōs rogābis,
totum ut tē faciant, Fabulle, nāsum.

You will eat well, my Fabullus, at my place
gods be willing, in a few days
if you would bring with you a good and indeed a large
meal, not omitting the fair girl,
the wine, the wit and all the laughter.
These if, I say, you would bring, my charming friend,
you will eat well — for your Catullus's
purse is full — of spiders!
But in return, you will accept my purest passion,
whether that's it, or more refined or more elegant:
for I will provide an ointment, presented to
my girl by the Venuses & Cupids, and when
you smell it you will beg the gods,
Fabullus, to make you all nose.