

Catullus Carmen 15

Commendō tibi mē ac meōs amōrēs,
Aurēlī. Veniam petō pudentem,
ut, sī quicquam animō tuō cupīstī,
quod castum expeterēs et integellum,
cōservēs puerum mihi pudīcē.
Nōn dīcō ā populō. Nihil verēmur
istōs quī in platēā modo hūc modo illūc
in rē praetereunt suā occupātī.
Vērum ā tē metuō tuōque pēne,
īnfēstō puerīs bonīs malisque,
quem tū quā libet, ut libet, movētō
quantum vīs, ubi erit foris parātum.
Hunc ūnum excipiō, ut putō pudenter
quod sī tē mala mēns furorque vēcors
in tantam impulerit, sceleste, culpam,
ut nostrum īnsidiīs caput laccessās,
āh tum tē miserum malique fātī,
quem attractīs pedibus patente portā
percurrent raphanīque mūgilēsque.

I entrust myself and my loves to you,
Aurelius. I beg a modest favor—
if ever your heart has longed for anything
which you would dearly hold chaste and untouched,
then you would honorably keep my boy safe.
I don't mean from the public. We fear nothing
from those passing on the street, this way and that,
occupied by their own business.
Truly, my fear is from you and your penis,
menacing to boys, both the good and the bad.
You shall thrust it where you wish, when you wish,
however much you want, when it is primed forth.
Just this one I exclude—so I humbly deem
that if your evil mind and wild madness
would drive you, scoundrel, to so guilty a crime
that you might molest our head by scheming guile—
Ah! then you, miserable and of wretched fate,
being bent forward, with entryway exposed,
will be run through by both radishes and mullets!