

TWO LOVE POEMS BY CATULLUS

GRAMMAR ASSUMED:

Subjunctive Mood: Present Subjunctive;
Jussive & Purpose Clauses

WHEELOCK: CHAPTER 28

Catullus wrote over one hundred lyric poems on a variety of subjects; those poems chronicling his love affair with Lesbia are among the most inspired.

Vivāmus, mea Lesbia, atque amēmus; omnēsque rūmōrēs
senum graviōrum aestimēmus ūnīus assis. Sōlēs occidere
et redire possunt; ubi semel occidit haec brevissima lūx,
²ūna nox perpetua nōbīs est dormienda. Dā mihi bāsia
5 mīlle, deinde centum; deinde mīlle altera, deinde secunda
centum: deinde, ubi plūrima bāsia fēcerimus, conturbēmus
³illa, nē sciāmus nūmerum bāsiorum, aut nē ⁵quis malus
numerum invenire possit atque invidere.

—adapted from Catullus, Poem 5

Mihi prōpōnis, mea vīta, jūcundum amōrem nostrum fu-
¹⁰tūrum esse perpetuum. Dī magnī, id sincērē Lesbia dīcat et
ex animō, ut possīmus tōtam vītam agere in hāc fēlicissimā
amīcitiā!

—adapted from Catullus, Poem 109

¹ unius assis - genitive of value - "as of one penny"

² you can translate as "a single" ?

³ neuter plural accusative

⁴ negative purpose clause

⁵ "someone" or "anyone"

⁶ subjunctive present active form of "possum"

⁷ head verb of 'esse' is 'proponis'

⁸ (dei)

⁹ translate as "to lead/conduct"

¹⁰ futurum esse =
future active
infinitive of 'esse'

VOCABULARY:

Lesbia, -ae, f.: name of Catullus' fickle girlfriend

rūmor, -ōris, m.: rumor, talk

aestimō (1): to estimate, value

as, assis, m.: copper coin of little weight, "penny" (assis = genitive of value)

occidō, -ere, -cidī, -cāsus: to fall down, set

redeō, -īre, -iī, -itus: to go back, return

semel (adverb): once

dormiō, -īre, -īvī, -ītus: to sleep

conturbō (1): to throw into confusion, put into disorder

quis (after nē) = aliquis

possit: pres. subjunctive of possum

invidēō, -ēre, -vidī, -vīsus: to envy, be jealous

prōpōnō, -ere, -posuī, -positus: to put forward, propose

sincērē (adverb): sincerely, honestly

ex animō: from the heart

possīmus: pres. subjunctive of possum

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