

READING 4

Poem 13 combines an invitation to a dinner party with the theme of male friendship. In his invitation to Fabullus, Catullus inverts the idea of serving as host by suggesting that his good friend cater the dinner party himself, while Catullus volunteers to supply extraordinary perfume. This delightful poem ends on a humorous and surprising note.

AN INVITATION TO FABULLUS

CATULLUS CARMEN 13

Meter: Hendecasyllable

- 1 Cēnābis bene, mī Fabulle, apud mē
paucīs, sī tibi dī favent, diēbus,
sī tēcum attuleris bonam atque māgnam
cēnam, nōn sine candidā puellā
- 5 et vīnō et sale et omnibus cachinnīs.
haec sī, inquam, attuleris, venuste noster,
cēnābis bene; nam tuī Catullī
plēnus sacculus est arāneārum.
sed contrā accipiēs merōs amōrēs
- 10 seu quid suāvius ēlegantiusve est:
nam unguentum dabō, quod meae puellae
dōnārunt Venerēs Cupīdinēsque,
quod tū cum olfaciēs, deōs rogābis,
tōtum ut tē faciant, Fabulle, nāsūm.

NOTES AND VOCABULARY

Line 1: cēnō (1) to dine

mī: the vocative singular form of *meus*, -a, -um in the masculine

Fabullus, -ī, m. Fabullus, friend of Catullus

apud, *prep.* + *acc.* at the house of

Line 2: dī = *dei*

paucīs . . . diēbus: translate “in, within a few days”; ablative of time within which

faveō, *favēre*, *fāvī*, *fautum* (+ *dat.*) to favor

© Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc.
www.BOLCHAZY.com

©2016 Bolchazy-Carducci Publishers, Inc. this sample was created
for Texas Proclamation 2017 adoption preview not for distribution.
This document will expire May 31, 2017.