

CATULLUS CARMEN 51, CONTINUED

lingua sed torpet, tenuis sub artūs

10 flamma dēmānat, sonitū suōpte

tintinant aurēs, geminā teguntur

lūmina nocte.

ōtium, Catulle, tibi molestum est:

ōtiō exsultās nimiumque gestīs:

15 ōtium et rēgēs prius et beātās
perdidit urbēs.

NOTES AND VOCABULARY

Line 9: **torpeō, torpēre, torpuī** to be numb, be stiff

tenuis, tenue thin, slender

artus, artūs, m. joint, limb

Lines 9–12: Note the ASYNDETON.

Line 10: **dēmānō** (1) to flow down

sonitus, sonitūs, m. sound

suōpte: emphatic form of *suus* = *suō* + *opte*; note the SIBILANCE.



BY THE WAY

In line 11, the sound of *tintinō* suggests the actual sound of ringing. This figure of speech is called ONOMATOPOEIA. The “t-” sound in *tintinant*, coupled with that in *sonitū suōpte*, enhances the ONOMATOPOEIA.

Line 11: **tintinō** (1) to ring

auris, auris, f. ear

geminus, -a, -um twin, both

tegō, tegere, tēxī, tēctum to cover

Line 12: **lūmen, lūminis, n.** light; here, “eye”



BY THE WAY

Although *geminā* (line 11) is in the ablative case and thus agrees with and modifies *nocte* in line 12, it should be taken with *lūmina* (line 12). This is an example of a figure of speech called a TRANSFERRED EPITHET. The effect is to emphasize the notion of night/death by making this image quite vivid.

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