

### **13. Invitation: to Fabullus**

You'll dine well, in a few days, with me,  
if the gods are kind to you, my dear Fabullus,  
and if you bring lots of good food with you,  
and don't come without a pretty girl  
and wine and wit and all your laughter.

I say you'll dine well, and charmingly,  
if you bring all that: since your Catullus's  
purse alas is full of cobwebs.

But accept endearments in return for the wine  
or whatever's sweeter and finer:  
since I'll give you a perfume my girl  
was given by the Loves and Cupids,  
and when you've smelt it, you'll ask the gods  
to make you, Fabullus, all nose.

### **12. Stop Stealing the Napkins! : to Asinius Marrucinus**

Asinius Marrucinus, you don't employ  
your left hand too well: in wine and jest  
you take neglected table-linen.  
Do you think that's witty? Get lost, you fool:  
it's such a sordid and such an unattractive thing.  
Don't you believe me? Believe Pollious  
your brother, who wishes your thefts  
could be fixed by money: he's a boy  
truly stuffed with wit and humour.

So expect three hundred hendecasyllables  
or return my napkin, whose value  
doesn't disturb me, truly,  
it's a remembrance of my friends.  
Fabullus and Veranius sent me the gift,  
napkins from Spain: they must be cherished  
as my Veranius and Fabullus must be.