METER: elegiac couplet (see Catullus 70).

1 **Dīcēbās**: translate lines 1–2 in the following order: **Dīcēbās quondam tē Catullum sōlum nōsse nec (tē) Iovem prae mē tenēre velle. nōsse**: = **nōvisse**.

2 **prae** (+ *abl.*), instead of, before.

2 **Iovem**: from **Iuppiter, Iovis** (*m*).

3 *****dīligō, dīligere** (3), **dīlēxī, dīlēctum**, to esteem, cherish, love. **nōn tantum**, not only. **ut vulgus amīcam**: supply **dīligit**. What does **ut** mean when it is not followed by a subjunctive?

4 **gnātus, -ī** (*m*), son. **gener, generī** (*m*), son-in-law.

5 **impēnsus, -a, -um**, strong, vehement, grievous. What degree of the adverb is **impēnsius**? *****ūrō, ūrere** (3), **ussī, ūstum**, to burn, (passive) be on fire (with love).

6 *****multō . . . vīlior**: "cheaper by much," "much cheaper." Adjectives in the ablative, such as **multō** and **parvō**, can be used with the comparative to express the degree of difference. **vīlis, -is, -e**, cheap, common. **levis, -is, -e**, light, of little worth, fickle, contemptible.

7 **quī** (*adv.*), how. *****potis, -is, -e**, possible. **Quī potis est**: "How is this possible?" "How can this be?" **amantem**: from the noun **amāns, amantis** (*m*). *****tālis, -is, -e**, such, of this kind.

8 *****bene velle**, to be fond of, like, respect.

. . . sed pater ut gnātōs dīligit et generōs.

CATULLUS 72

"Now I know you."

In this poem Catullus probes deeper into his complex feelings for Lesbia.

1   Dīcēbās quondam sōlum tē nōsse Catullum,
2   Lesbia, nec prae mē velle tenēre Iovem.
3   Dīlēxī tum tē nōn tantum ut vulgus amīcam,
4   sed pater ut gnātōs dīligit et generōs.
5   Nunc tē cognōvī: quārē etsī impēnsius ūror,
6   multō mī tamen es vīlior et levior.
7   Qūi potis est, inquis? Quod amantem iniūria tālis
8   cōgit amāre magis, sed bene velle minus.

1. Compare the opening couplet of this poem to the opening of poem 70. What are the similarities? What does the change of tense from *dīcit* to *dīcēbās* suggest?

2. What do you notice about word placement in the first couplet? Where are the important words?

3. What was the nature of the poet's affection for Lesbia according to the second couplet? What will become of his affection by the end of the poem?

4. Describe the bond that existed between a Roman father and his son, and between a Roman father and his son-in-law. Why does Catullus single out these bonds for comparison with that between a crowd and its mistress (3–4)?

5. The verb *cognōvī* (5) recalls *nōsse* in line 1. Both verbs may be used to describe intellectual as well as carnal knowing. Explain the meaning of *nunc tē cognōvī* in each sense.

6. What dilemma does Catullus face in lines 5–6 and how does he account for it in lines 7–8? What is the *iniūria*? As you understand it from this poem, describe clearly the difference between the expressions *dīlēxī, ūror, amāre,* and *bene velle.*

7. How does Catullus use time effectively in organizing this poem? Be specific in your answer.