**Meter:** elegiac couplet (see Catullus 70).

1. **Dicēbās**: translate lines 1–2 in the following order: *Dicēbās quondam té Catullum sōlum nōsse nec [tē] lovem prae mé tenère velle. nōsse: = nōvisse.*

2. **prae [+ abl.], instead of, before.**

3. **lovem:** from *luppitēr, lovīs* (*m*).

4. **diligō, diligere** (*l*), *dilēxi, dilēctum,* to esteem, cherish, love. **nōn tantum,** not only. **ut vulgus amicam:** supply *diligit.* What does *ut* mean when it is not followed by a subjunctive?

5. **gnātus, -i [m], son. gener, generī [m], son-in-law.**

6. **impēnsus, -a, -um,** strong, vehement, grievous. What degree of the adverb is *impēnsius?* *ūrō, ūrere* (*l*), *ūssī, ūsum,* to burn, [passive] be on fire [with love].

7. **multō . . . vilior:** “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. *vilis, -is, -e,* cheap, common. *levis, -is, -e,* light, of little worth, fickle, contemptible.

8. **qui (adv.), how. potis, -is, -e,* possible. **Qui potis est:** “How is this possible?” “How can this be?” amantem: from the noun *amāns, amantis* (*m*).

9. **talis, -is, -e,* such, of this kind.

10. **bene velle,** to be fond of, like, respect.
CATULLUS 72

"Now I know you."

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

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 dicit to dicebās 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 cognōvi (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 cognōvi 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 dilēxi, ūror, amāre, and bene velle.

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