

Vivamus

GAIUS VALERIUS CATULLUS, *Carmina 5* (1st century BC)
translated by ADAM F MCCUNE

Original Latin

Vivamus, mea Lesbia, atque amemus,
rumoresque senum severiorum
omnes unius aestimemus assis.
soles occidere et redire possunt:
nobis, cum semel occidit brevis lux,
nox est perpetua una dormienda.
da mi basia mille, deinde centum,
dein mille altera, dein secunda centum,
deinde usque altera mille, deinde centum,
dein, cum milia multa fecerimus,
conturbabimus illa, ne sciamus,
aut ne quis malus invidere possit,
cum tantum sciat esse basiorum.

English Translation

My lady, let us live and love;
Though grim old men may disapprove,
Rumor is talk, and talk is cheap.

Suns may set and rise each day,
But when our brief light fades away,
Night is our everlasting sleep.

Give me a thousand kisses, then,
A thousand and a hundred, too,
Always another thousand when
Another hundred come from you.

Once many thousands we create,
We'll cook the books, so no one knows
(Lest envy should turn into hate)
How high the count of kisses grows.