1. Ō preti|ōsa|| pi'| uxor| jūnct' ani|mō me' e'| annō,

O precious, pious wife joined to me soul this year,

2. Tū qu' in | līmine | rēx | | cae | lōr' ab | scīderat | ā mē,

You whom the king of the skies took from me in the begining,

3. Nunc nō|bīs ūn|īs || rūr|sus, men|tem me' eg'| ōrem:

Us now being one again, let me speak my mind:

4. Dīv' homi|nēs|| mū|tantibus| quandō|cumque pla|cet īs

The gods changing humans whenever it pleases them,

5. Mox fī|am fē|līn' et| tū|| quoqu' ab| assidu|īs dīs.

Soon I should/will be made into a cat, and so should/will you, by the perpetual gods.¹

6. Non cul|tores| quībimus| ac|| simul|ācra de|orum.

We will not be able to be worshippers, yet we will be able to be likenesses of the gods.

7. Scīs. Iam | fēlī | nōs homi | nēs | | trac | tant quasi | sēsē.

You know. Humans already treat cats like themselves.

¹ The ambiguous conjugation of *fiam* is meant to foreshadow the narrator's revelation on line 16.

8. Et $cr\bar{e}|d\bar{o}||hoc|^2$ esse t' ho|nōrem| quī meli|or quam

And I believe this to be such an honour, an honour which is better than

9. Ūllus ho|nor || qu' homi|nēs statu|īs pos|sint dare| cumque.

Any honour which humans might ever be able to give to statues.

10. Ergō, | quand' homi | nēs | | nōs | fēlī | nōs speci | ent hīc,

Therefore, when humans will see us cats here,

11. Nōbīs | plus | | ver | sūtīs | fēlī | nō gener' | omnī,

Us being more clever than any cat by birth,

12. Dōnā|bunt nō|bīs|| nī|mīrum| rēgis ho|nōrem.

They will give us the honour of a king.

13. Et rati|on' hac| d' et|| nos| gaude|bunt magis| immo.

And in this way both we and the gods will certainly be more pleased.

14. Dī quia | laudā | buntur | per | | nōs | optim' in | orbe

² Note that the c in boc counts as a double consonant.

The gods because through us they will be praised best in the world.

15. Nos ip|sī quia| nobīs|c'et || sine| cūr'era|mus sīc.

We ourselves because we will indeed be together and without care.

16. Tam mag|n' est|| hoc| concili'| ut iam| quaesie| r^{2} Hēram

This plan is so great that I already asked Hera

17. Mölī|r' hoc4 et | dīxit | nōs | | fact' | īr' in e' | hōram

To initiate it and she said that we are to be made within this hour

18. In fē|līnōs. | Tē|| ō|rārem | prīm' uti | nam pr'hāc!

Into cats. If only I asked you first instead of her!

19. Ant' in clāmās tū | mihi, mē sine dīcere nunc hoc:

Before you yell at me, let me say this now:

20. Nau nau| nau nau| nau| nau nau| nau nau| nau nau. 5

Meow meow meow meow meow.

³ Rare poetic form of *quaesīverim*.

⁴ Note that the *c* in *boc* counts as a double consonant.

⁵ See John Amos Comenius, *The Orbis Pictus*, trans. Charles Hoole, ed. Charles William Bardeen (Syracuse, New York: C. W. Bardeen, 1887), accessed April 24, 2025, https://www.gutenberg.org/files/28299/28299-h/28299-h.htm.