

1. Ō preti|ōsa|| pi(a)| uxor| jūnct(a) ani|mō me(ō) e(ō)| annō,
- υ υ | - || υ υ | - - | - υ υ | - υ υ | - -

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

2. Tū qu(am) in| līmine| rēx|| cae|lōr(um) ab|scīderat| ā mē,
- - | - υ υ | - || - | - - | - υ υ | - -

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

3. Nunc nō|bīs ūn|īs || rūr|sus, men|tem me(am) eg(o)| ōrem:
- - | - - | - || - | - - | - υ υ | - -

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

4. Dīv(ī) homi|nēs|| mū|tantibus| quandō|cumque pla|cet īs
- υ υ | - - || - υ υ | - - | - υ υ | - -

The gods changing humans whenever it pleases them,

5. Mox fī|(am) in fē|līn(um) et| tū|| quoqu(e) ab| assidu|īs dīs.
- - | - - | - - | - || υ υ | - υ υ | - -

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

6. Nōn cul|tōrēs| quībimus| ac|| simul|ācra de|ōrum.
- - | - - | - υ υ | - || υ υ | - υ υ | - -

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.
- - | - - | - υ υ | - || - | - υ υ | - -

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 crē|dō|| hoc² esse t(am) 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(ī) homi|nēs statu|īs pos|sint dare| cumque.

- ∪ ∪ | - || ∪ ∪ | - ∪ ∪ | -- | - ∪ ∪ | - ∪

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

10. Ergō,| quand(ō) homi|nēs || nōs| fēlī|nōs speci|ent hīc,

-- | - ∪ ∪ | - || - | -- | - ∪ ∪ | --

Therefore, when humans will see us cats here,

11. Nōbīs| plus|| ver|sūtīs| fēlī|nō gener(e)| omnī,

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Us being more clever than any cat by birth,

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

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They will give us the honour of a king.

13. Et rati|ōn(e) hāc| d(ī) et|| nōs| gaudē|bunt magis| immō.

- ∪ ∪ | -- | - || - | -- | - ∪ ∪ | --

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

14. Dī quia| laudā|buntur| per|| nōs| optim(ē) in| orbe

- ∪ ∪ | -- | -- | - || - | - ∪ ∪ | --

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

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

15. Nōs ip|sī quia| nōbīs|c(um) et || sine| cūr(a) era|mus sīc.

-- | - ∪ ∪ | -- | - || ∪ ∪ | - ∪ ∪ | --

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

16. Tam mag|n(um) est|| hoc| concili(um)| ut iam| quaesie|r(im)³ Hēram

-- | - || - | - ∪ ∪ | -- | - ∪ ∪ | --

This plan is so great that I already asked Hera

17. Mōlī|r(ī) hoc⁴ et| dīxit| nōs|| fact(ī)| īr(ī) in e(am)| hōram

-- | -- | -- | - || - | - ∪ ∪ | --

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

18. In fē|līnōs.| Tē|| ō|rārem| prīm(um) uti|nam pr(ō) hāc!

-- | -- | - || - | -- | - ∪ ∪ | --

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

19. Ant(e) in|clāmās| tū|| mihi,| mē sine| dīcere| nunc hoc:

-- | -- | - || ∪ ∪ | - ∪ ∪ | - ∪ ∪ | --

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

20. Mau mau| mau mau| mau|| mau| mau mau| mau mau| mau mau.⁵

-- | -- | - || - | -- | -- | --

Meow meow meow meow meow meow.

³ Rare poetic form of *quaesiverim*.

⁴ Note that the *c* in *hoc* 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>.