

## *Latere Ecfututa: Homoeroticism in Catullus 6*

Much, possibly all, of the scholarship available on Catullus's sixth *carmen* has assumed that the lover of Flavius whose existence Catullus posits would have been female; it is this paper's contention that, whatever the biases of a modern reader may be, the language used by Catullus demonstrates that he does not rule out the possibility that Flavius's lover is male, and may even suspect this to be the case. Not only is the language used by Catullus to refer to Flavius's lover gender neutral (something which this paper contends transcends mere coincidence into the realm of being purposeful), but also no part of the situation described in the poem excludes the possibility of a male lover – to the contrary, the poem explicitly allows for this, and potentially for a lover who has assumed the penetrative role in his relationship with Flavius. This paper, to that end, examines this possibility and its potential impact within the context of the relationship of Catullus and the other *neoteroi* to traditional Roman masculine identity and sexual mores (Skinner 2007, Janan 1994, Wray 2001). Of particular import is the following: the nature of *scortum* as a gender-neutral word (Williams 2010), the implications of Catullus's description of Flavius's bedchamber in lines 7-11 (Kilmer 1993), and the implications of the description in lines 12-14, particularly the use of the word *stupra* and the meaning of the phrase *tam latera ecfututa pandas* (Williams 2010, Adams 1982).

### Bibliography

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