

JESSE WEINER : **Stripping the Bark / Fleecing the Sheep: Rethinking *glubit* in Catullus 58.**

Glubit is one of the more infamous words in the Catullan corpus and for good reason. The verb represents a rare (at least in extant literature) piece of Roman sexual slang and it delivers the punch line for an insult poem belonging to the Lesbia cycle. Scholarship on *glubere* in Catullus has tended to focus on its vulgarity and which (if any) specific sex act the word denotes. Here, I revisit the word to interpret the implications of its agricultural origins. My own concern is not over which particular sex act the verb signifies but rather for the polysemic meanings imported by the slang metaphor's literal definition. I do not aim to challenge or supplant the efforts of others to define *glubere* but instead to suggest an additional layer of meaning to its usage. I offer that the verb *glubit* introduces the specter of violence into the poem and serves to intensify and invert dynamics of power, portraying Lesbia as an overly active, dominant, and dangerous sexual being while compromising the masculinity of the Roman men she services.

Mots-clés :

Catullus – Lesbia – *Glubere* – Sexuality – Gender – Masculinity – Agriculture – Invective poetry