



2. a) He is presenting his book (*libellum*) into the patron maiden's care. She is a deity with more power than Catullus, and because she is a virgin (*virgo*), similar to his new (*novum*) book, he offers it into her protection. Moreover it adds an element of grandness to his work.

ii)

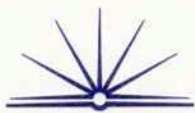
The contrast in Catullus's description of his and Nepos' works shows that he considers Nepos' own to be much grander. When speaking of his own books, he calls them '*libellum*' and '*nugas*', thus diminishing their importance, whereas Cornelius's works are learned (*doctis*) and well-worked (*laboriosis*). Moreover, Nepos' ~~own~~ <sup>in</sup> undertaking this great task is daring (*ausus*). The contrast between the '*funus Italicum*' and '*omne aevum*'



further heightens the greatness of Nepos' work. Catullus' works themselves have merely been recently polished, and are the diminutive 'libellum' compared to this. He later tells Cornelius that they are 'whatever it is, such as it is' (quidquid qualecumque) further minimising his work in comparison to Nepos'.

iii). The irony present in Catullus' poem is evident throughout. on the first line, Catullus says his new book is small (libellum) and later that it is trifles (mugas). <sup>Furthermore,</sup> ~~However,~~ it seems very insubstantial in comparison to Cornelius's works. <sup>This</sup> ~~his~~ view of his poems, however, is undermined continually. Although his book is small, it is nonetheless charming (lepidum), and this emphasises his ideals, according to the 'novae poetae'.





works, according to them, of which Catullus was  
(*anoraepoetae*).  
one, must be qualitative rather than quantitative

Hence his diminutives, and his use of  
'*epidum*'. Also, in dedicating his book  
to Cornelius, such an eminent and excellent  
writer, who also thinks his trifles to be  
of some value (line 4), he is admitting  
that his book has worth, especially since  
Cornelius appears to esteem it so greatly.

~~The~~ Catullus later addresses the patron maiden,  
and prays that his work will last more  
than an age (line 10). This final comment  
is a sharp contrast to line 1, because in  
this line he admits explicitly that his work  
is so good it deserves to last for a long  
time. Thus, despite downplaying his work,  
and praising Cornelius's work, he is also  
showing his work to be worthwhile.

The irony comes from the contrast  
between what he says and what is



Implied

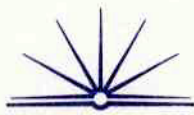
b) Catullus blatantly berates Alfenus in this poem, portraying him as a treacherous and wicked man. He himself is a pitiful soul, furthering the pathos of the situation. Lastly, by bringing in the Gods, he shows that Alfenus's deeds are indeed heinous.

In the first line, he addresses Alfenus, calling him 'inimicus' and 'falsus'. Throughout the poem he uses words such as 'duse' ~~and~~ 'perfidus' 'improbus fallacum' to describe Alfenus. These words all have negative connotations thus conveying Catullus' attitude towards Alfenus. He furthered this description of Alfenus' character through the use of pathos. He himself, by contrast is a wretch (miserium) and a diminutive friend (amiculi). This heightens the reader's awareness of the



treachery of Alfenus. Alfenus, is, in effect a wolf in sheep's clothing, as shown by 'Certe fute... quai<sup>3d</sup> tuta omnia ni forent'. The rhetorical questions (line<sup>3d</sup>, 6) furthers the sense of despair Catullus feels, and the anger and wretchedness at Alfenus's evil deeds. There is an accusatory tone throughout as shown by the 'certe' and 'idem nuce retrachis' suggesting anger on Catullus' part. This <sup>bitter</sup> tone is emphasised by the ficates (repetition of 'p', 't' and 'f' sounds) in the last line of the poem. The sounds are ~~st~~ harsh, as though Catullus were spitting out his angry words. The image of the winds and air carrying away Alfenus' deeds is effective in that it provides a visual picture of Alfenus' wicked deeds, thus highlighting his character and Catullus' attitude towards him. Finally, the use of the Gods as a judgemental





force in this poem causes Alfenus' character is be further darkened, and provides a contrast for the character. Catullus perceives the gods 'di' and Faith 'Fides' as positive entities, while Alfenus is seen as the antagonist.