

Martial, *Epigrams* 6.1

Sextus mittitur hic tibi libellus,
inprīmīs mihi cāre Mārtiālis:
quem sī terseris aure dīligentī,
audēbit minus ānxius tremēnsque
magnās Caesaris in manūs venīre.

Vocabulary:

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| libellus, libellī, m. | <i>liber parvus</i> |
| inprīmīs | especially |
| tergeō, tergēre, tersī, tersus | to wipe, clean |
| auris, auris, f. | ear |
| dīligēns, dīligentis | careful, scrupulous |
| minus | less |
| ānxius, -a, -um | anxious, uneasy |
| tremēns, trementis | trembling, fearful |

Background:

Marcus Valerius Martialis, born in Spain ca. 38–41 CE. Died AD ca. 101–104 CE.
Best known for *Liber de spectaculis* (a collection of poems about the opening of the Flavian Amphitheatre [aka the “Colosseum”]) and *Epigrammaton libri XII* (books of epigrams, about 1175 poems in all). Many of Martial’s poems are devoted to the Flavian emperors, Titus and Domitian.

For more, see the *Oxford Classical Dictionary* under “Martial, Latin poet.”

Note:

- The poet and the addressee share a cognomen; their relationship, if any, is unclear.