Calvus carmen 68

Written by Jean-Yves Maleuvre Friday, 23 November 2018 16:07 -

2018.11.23

I propose in *Catulle ou l'anti-César* (Paris, 1998) to identify with Calvus the mysterious "brother" so loved by Catullus. Here is a new clue to this effect. At verse 30 of Poem 68, devoted to the death of this "brother", we read *Id, Malli, non est turpe, sed magis miserum est* ("It's not a shame, Mallius, but rather a misfortune"). Clear and poignant echo to these words of Calvus, that Seneca the Elder has transmitted to us (*Controv.*

7,4-8):

Credite mihi, iudices, non est turpe misereri

. Strangely enough, no commentator, to my knowledge, had mentioned it.