[A selection of the new, thoroughly revised and corrected 2024 edition, expanded with more contemporary phrasings]

## Particularly Good Latin

A Revision of Thomas Dyche's
English Particles Latinized

2024 Edition

Claude Pavur

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## Introduction

What is a Particle? A particle is a little word of singular use in the connecting, adorning, or illustrating of sentences.

Is the knowledge of the particles of absolute necessity? The knowledge of the Latin particles is of that absolute necessity that there can be no assurance of the propriety of that language, nor a clear understanding of any Roman authors without it.

These words are drawn from the start of a wonderfully helpful compendium of Latin particle-usage, authored by Thomas Dyche (died c.1733). He himself relied on a culling of earlier efforts, particularly those of William Walker (1623-84), celebrated author of $A$ Treatise of English Particles (1655 and many subsequent editions). If Dyche's sentiments are correct, then we might wonder why our Latin courses typically do not spend much time on such particles, with much repetition to the point of solid mastery. No doubt the loss of the practices of Latin conversation and composition account for some of our misdirection. We do not practice putting our speech spontaneously into spoken Latin idiom; nor do many of us undertake the composition of communications written in Latin. Yet if we really ambition a fluent knowledge of the language, reading it smoothly with some measure of naturalness and in our understanding accurately capturing the force of various expressions in all their nuances-then we still require something like this kind of learning.

In light of this need, I have turned to Dyche's text and "revived" it for what help it can give us today. I have had to provide contemporary equivalents (without entirely rewriting the primary text) in order to illustrate our own natural idiom. So Dyche's "I fear lest I should be absent when my father comes" becomes in this edition, "I'm afraid I won't be there when my father arrives [gets here / gets there]." Typographically, this
edition has been translated to another realm of accessibility. Dyche capitalized all nouns, italicized and contracted rampantly, structured all the contents into question and answer form, tended to be quite wordy, and used terminology unfamiliar to us (e.g., he employs the phrase "casual word" to mean "a word taking a case-ending"). Thus for modern convenience, I have streamlined, modernized, and regularized the presentation. Certainly it is not useless for us to know some of old British usages, as they come up in literature we still read today (e.g., that of Shakespeare, Milton, Pope, Cardinal Newman), so I did not simply excise every obsolete phrase but tried to indicate which ones were out of use.

The great advantages of this book include not only its very strong focus on the essential connectives, structural elements, and tonal words known as particles, but also its very abundant aggregation of small and simple, non-threatening, generally conversational phrasal units. Even beginners can feel at ease about picking and choosing something that will move them along. This collection allows them to walk before they are expected to run. Particularly in the early stages of languagelearning, considerably more profit will result from the study of these phrases and their meanings than from much abstract grammatical explanation. After all, the simple, vital truth is that we learn language best by imitating good examples. This is an excellent collection of examples.

Dyche's compendium also tends to favor the dynamics of a natural order in language-learning: the concrete, physical, imaginable, sensate realm is where we more easily begin, where certain deep impressions are made. In talking about the objects and situations of our life-world, we can rise to abstractions with a progressive complexity of thought. Even where non-tangibles are involved, many of the expressions of this book are easily imaginable as real conversational communications from life.

A further advantage is that this book works from English to Latin. Students proceed from the language they know well to the one they know much less well, rather than the other way around. They will thus will not only feel more anchored in a clear ideasomething whose meaning they immediately and accurately
grasp; then they will then be able to perceive more easily the differences between English and Latin linguistic idioms. In the meantime, they will be accumulating essential vocabulary and seeing the same words and structures in different contexts. They will be thinking of meaning and they will be less likely to fall into the pitfalls of "literal" or "word-for-word" translations, or word-for-word thinking, for that matter. This book thus can also serve as something of a praxis for the art of (non-literal) translation.

This invaluable work will not only help teachers to increase their own mastery of Latin but it will also systematically highlight for all readers of Latin many important usages in a way that will deepen their feeling for the language. Students and teachers may well find that this book lowers stress, making the language more approachable in simplicity and "digestibility," even as it raises achievement by it extensive variety. For many, Particularly Good Latin offers a different, wonderfully pragmatic perspective from which students can learn to enjoy Latin as a real language, meant to communicate, not obfuscate or mystify. Particle-study (and phrase-study) is an idea whose time has returned, now more than three centuries later. At best this revision will be part of a general turn to an improved Latin pedagogy, one that makes use not just of the study of particles, but of phrasebooks of all sorts.

This 2024 edition adds many colloquial or explanatory English equivalents and corrects several typographical errors. Dyche's original publication itself required some emendations as well, sometimes typographical and sometimes translational. Note that long vowels are not always marked; when they are, it is primarily as a help for beginners.

Claude Pavur, S.J. / Saint Louis, MO, and Chestnut Hill, MA / April 25, 2013; last revisions December 30, 2023

## I: A, an

A, an = signs of common nouns: no particular parallel word in Latin

Modesty becomes a young man. [Modesty in a young person is very appealing. / Modesty looks good on a young person.]

## * Adolescentem decet Modestia.

I saw an angel.

* Vidi angelum.

He became a little milder. [He turned out a little nicer.]

* Mansuetior paulo evasit.

I must take care of [finish / settle / conclude] a certain business that I'm conducting. [...a certain matter that I have undertaken.]

* Conficiendum est mihi quoddam, quod ago, negotium.
$A=$ one: ипия
They agreed to a man (i.e., everyone of them agreed).


## * Ad unum consentiebant.

A before a verbal ending in -ing: supine in -um; participle in -rus; gerund in -dum

I am going (a-)fishing.

* Eo piscatum; eo piscaturus; eo ad piscandum.

A used to indicate something done in a length of time: the word of time preceding a verb denoting the continuing action

He's been an hour counting his money. [An hour has gone by while he's counting his money. / It's an hour that he's been counting his money.]

## * Dum nummos numerat abit hora.

The supper is a year in preparation. [The supper is taking a year to prepare.]

* Dum coena paratur, annus est.

A before a time-word, after a numeral adverb like once or twice, to indicate repetitions to be made in a space of time: ablative (of time) with or without in

Once a week they compose poems.

## * Semel in septimanâ componunt carmina.

Twice a day they read Homer. [...Homer is studied. / ... Homer is taught.]

## * Bis die legitur Homerus.

$A=$ each, every: singulus with in; in + accusative case without singulus

He set the price at twenty pounds a head.

* Viginti minas in capita statuit.

He asked sixpence an ounce for syrup of violets.

## * Pro syrupo de violis sex denarios in singulas uncias exegit.

## II: Above

Above $=$ relation to order or height of place, answered by below or beneath: supra, super

My brother sat above me, my cousin below me.

* Supra me frater, infra consobrinus accubuerunt.

At the siege of Tournay, they fought above and beneath the ground. [...above ground and under ground.]

## * Obsesso Tornaco pugnatum est super subterque terras.

Above $=$ of greater honor or excellence: prior, superior
The one is above me [ $=$ beyond me] in learning, the other is above me in honor. [ $\ldots$ is my better academically, the other my better in rank.]

## * Hic me prior est doctrinâ, ille honoris gradu superior.

Above preceding an express term of time, or number of things or persons, so that it may be varied by more or longer than: plus, amplius; magis, super, supra

When he had been sick more than [above] a year...

## * Cum plus annum aeger fuisset...

They fought [for] more than [above] four hours.

## * Amplius horas quatuor pugnaverunt.

He's more than [above] forty (years old).

## * Annos natus magis quadraginta.

[^0]I'm hardly more than fifty-four [years old].

## * Haud sum natus annos supra quinquaginta et quatuor.

Above $=$ beyond, more than with no number following: praeter, ultra, supra

She had an honest and gentlewomanly face above the rest. [had a beauty fine and noble beyond the others.]

* Erat formâ praeter caeteras honestâ ac liberali.

Beyond [above] his strength.

* Ultra vires.

Beyond what everyone will believe.

## * Supra quam cuique credibile est.

Above after over, to indicate in addition to: ad, extra, super
Over and above these losses.

## * Ad haec damna.

Over and above a thousand cavalry, four thousand troops were killed.

* Extra mille equitum, quatuor millia peditum periêre [= periêrunt].

Over and above my old schoolfellows.

* Super veteres condiscipulos.

Above after from without an object: superne, desuper
They came from above.

* Superne venerunt.

They fought from above [a higher place] out of carts [wagons].

## * Desuper e plaustris pugnârunt.

## III: About

About joined with persons or places and denoting something near or encompassing them: circa, circum

They took seats about [= around] London.

## * Domûs circa Londinum occupârunt.

Her hair was loose, hanging down, and thrown back carelessly about her head.

## * Capillus passus, prolixus, circum caput rejectus negligenter.

About within the compass of or in some part of the place expressed: with an object, circa, apud, in; without object, circa, circumcirca (adverbs)

They took their seat [ $=$ They settled] about [ $=$ all around] the island of Lesbos.

* Sedem cepêre circa Lesbum insulam.

He is about the Market upon a little business. [... at the market on a certain business matter.]

* Apud forum in quodam negotio occupatus est.

His mind is about his play. [He's focused on his play.]

* Circa ludum est animus.

All the houses round about have been reduced to ashes by lightning.

## * Omnes circa domus ictu fulminis ad cineres redactae sunt.

About with time words but without numeral adjectives $=$ at, well nigh [very close to], or almost at: sub, circa, ad, circiter.

About that time, I shall be about [ $=$ around / at] the marketplace.

* Sub id tempus circa forum sum futurus.

I desire you'll let me know about what time I may expect you. [Please inform / tell me around when I should expect you.]

## * Ad quae tempora te expectem, facias me certiorem velim.

About noon I shall be at leisure [I'll have the time] to write.

* Circa meridiem erit mihi otium scribendi.

It is about ten days since he went thence [set out from there / took off from there].

* Dies sunt circiter decem ex quo illinc profectus est.

About used with number-words, referring to persons, things, or times: quasi, ad, circiter; sometimes plus minus, and instar
About eight o'clock

* Horâ quasi octavâ.

About noon.

## * Ad meridiem.

About twelve o'clock.

* Circiter horam duodecimam.

About four months. [Four months, more or less.]

* Menses plus minus quatuor.

About eighty. [Something like eighty.]

* Instar octaginta.

About with measures $=$ same, almost, near upon that measure: instar

How small does the moon seem to us? About a foot.

## * Quantula luna nobis videtur? Quasi pedalis.

The race is about [ $=$ something like] four miles.

* Instar quatuor milliarium est cursus.

About $=$ of, concerning: circa, de, super
Tomorrow I shall have the free time to see you, and to talk about your business activities here.

## * Crastino die otium mihi erit te videndi, ac de tuis hic negotiis colloquendi.

About $=$ ready $:$ future in - rus
He came to me when I was about to come home.

* Venit ad me quando rediturus eram domum.

About (not directly expressed in Latin): sometimes part of the verb
Time, that subdues all things, will bring it about at last.

* Efficiet tandem tempus, quod omnia subigit.

I must dispatch [finish off / finish up / bring to an end] the work I am (busy) about.

* Conficiendum est mihi opus, quod ago.


## IV: Abroad

Abroad $=$ away from bome, not within the house, not in private: foris, sub dio, in publico, etc.

He supped abroad. [He ate out.]

* Foris coenavit.

To do something abroad. [To set about doing something out in the open.]

## * Sub dio moliri aliquid.

I met him abroad [ $=$ on the street / around town], and at the market.

## * Obviam mihi venit in publico, et in foro.

Abroad $=$ motion from within, or out of privacy: foras; in lucem, in publicum, etc., mostly by a verb starting with pro-
He himself comes abroad [... comes out / outside].

## * Ipse exit foras.

He goes abroad full of wine. [He goes out in public...]

## * Procedit in publicum vini plenus.

To bring a thing abroad. [To publicize something. / To make something widely known.]

## * In lucem aliquid proferre.

Abroad $=$ having relation to foreign parts: peregre
After you have done what you list abroad. [After you have done in foreign locations what you have wanted to do.]

* Ubi peregre, tibi quod libitum fuerit, feceris.

Abroad $=$ dispersion, spreading, scattering: add lâtê or passim to words expressing the idea of dispersion
Your fame will spread abroad [all around / far and wide].

## * Fama tua longe lateque vagabitur.

These things are by no means to be spoken about abroad [uttered publicly / mentioned in public / spread around].

## * Haec nullo pacto divulganda sunt.

## V: Accord

Accord $=$ something done freely and voluntarily: ultro, sponte, voluntate

He came to me of his own accord [ $=$ on his own / on his own initiative].

## * Ultro ad me venit.

If he be not mad enough of his own accord [on his own], provoke him.

## * Si hic non insanit satis suâ sponte, instiga.

Of his own accord [= of his own free will], without any compulsion.

## * Ex voluntate suâ, nullâ vî coactus.

Accord as in "with one accord": uno animo, concorditer, unanimiter With one accord they chose him. [They chose him unanimously.]

* Uno animo hunc elegerunt.

They all continued with one accord [in one mind].

* Omnes concorditer [unanimiter] perdurabant.

Accord $=$ substantive, meaning agreement: consensus, concordia, or consensio.

He was made general by the accord of all the soldiers.

* Dux constitutus fuit consensu omnium militum.

There was never greater accord between the queen and people.

* Nunquam inter reginam et populum concordia major.

Accord $=$ intransitive verb: consentio, concordo, et convenio
They all accord with one voice.

## * Omnes uno ore consentiunt.

Their judgment and opinions accord [agree].

## * Judicia opinionesque concordant.

Accord $=$ transitive verb: various verbs
To make accord between enemies. [To reconcile enemies.]

## * Lites componere inter inimicos.

## VI: According

According to: ad, de, e, ex, secundum
He adapts himself (according) to his master's wishes. [He adjusts to his master's decision.]

* Ad arbitrium magistri se accommodat.

He said he would act according to his advice.

## * Aiebat de ejus consilio sese velle facere.

According to your own dignity, and the dignity of your ancestors.

* Ex tua majorumque tuorum dignitate.

I commended him according to his deserts.

## * Collaudavi secundum merita.

According to my own custom.

* Pro mea consuetudine.

According as: prout, perinde ut, pro eo ac, pro eo ut
According as every man's custom is.

* Prout cujusque mos est.

According as it proves fair [If the weather is clear], he will take his journey.

## * Perinde ut serenum est coelum, iter facturus est.

He behaved himself according as [just as] it became him. [He acted just as he should have.]

* Pro eo ac debuit, se gessit.

According as [As much as / As far as] the shortness of the day suffered [allowed]. To the extent that the day's brevity allowed.

## * Pro eo ut diei brevitas tulit.

According within the sense of a verb: that verb alone
To have according to his deserts. [To get what he merited.]

## * Quod meritus est ferre.

It is according to our wish. [The matter fits our desire.]

## * Voto convenit res.

To change according to the times. [To adjust to the setting / surroundings.]

* Scenae servire.


## VII: After

After before a noun other than the subject: a, ab, post (for personal nouns); post, ex (for place of dignity or office)
After supper.

* A coena.

After this argument (he said) not one word.

## * Ab hoc argumento ne verbum quidem.

After that time he applied himself diligently to his study.

## * Ex eo tempore diligenter studiis incubuit.

After sunrise.

## * Post exortum solis.

He was made mayor immediately after him.

## * Hic praetor proximus post illum creatus est.

He died nine years after my consulship.

* Mortuus est novem annis post consulatum meum.

After his reign, he retired [withdrew] into a monastery.

* Ex regno ad monasterium se recepit.

After before the subject and its verb: ut, ubi, cum postquam, posteaquam; sometimes by an ablative absolute
After I departed from your house.

* Ut a vobis discessi.

After he heard the cock crow.

## * Ubi galli cantum audivit.

After we had said our lessons, we had leave [permission / the okay / approval] to play.

* Cum lectionem reddidimus, concessa erat venia ludendi.

After I had once heard it.

## * Postquam id semel audiveram.

After he had come.

* Posteaquam venerat.

After the event has taken place, all men are wise. [After it is over, everyone is wise (= knows what should have been done).]

* Re praeterita, omnes sapiunt.

After following a noun of time (day, year, time, while, long, little, etc.): adverbial post and quam; with a verb before or after, it is often included in the meaning of the Latin verb.

The Law was abrogated the year after it was made.

* Lex anno postquam lata sit abrogata est.

Four days after I saw him.

* Quarto die quam vidi.

A very few days after.

* Diebus sane pauculis post.

After $=$ according to, especially followed by manner, sort, fashion, etc.: de, ad, in or ablative of manner without a preposition

He calls him after his grandfather.

## * Avi de nomine dicit.

He made it after this manner [...in this way].

## * Ad hunc modum fecit.

After the fashion of an egg. [In the shape of an egg.]

* In morem ovi.

Let me live in the meantime after my own fashion.

* Sine nunc meo me vivere interea modo.

After referring to proximity of degree, order, or succession: juxta, proxime, secundum, sub.
Next after Virgil he is the best poet.

* Juxta Virgilium optimus est poeta.

He came next after the king in honor [literally, next to the king in rank / honor].

* Proxime accedit regi dignitate.

Next after you, nothing is more grateful to me than solitude.

* Secundum te, nil est mihi amicius solitudine.

After the cavalry had finished engaging. [Around the end of the cavalry's fight.]

* Sub equestris finem certaminis.

After $=$ afterwards, after that time, or from thenceforward: exinde, postea

When I had heard we were going to play after dinner, I could focus after that neither on any class nor book.

* Cum audiveram nos a prandio lusuros, nec potui exinde animum ulli lectioni attendere, nec librum inspicere.

I never saw (him) after.

## * Nunquam (eum) vidi postea.

## VIII: Again

Again $=$ repetition of an act: denuo, rursus, iterum, de integro
Say [it] again.

* Recita denuo.

When they had lifted themselves up again.

* Cum se rursus extulissent.

He'll make some bustle [put up some argument, fight] again.

## * Hic iterum aliquam pugnam dabit.

Beginning again. [Starting fresh. / Starting all over.]

* De integro ordiens.

Again = back, (e.g., come back, call back, fetch back, bring back): Usually implied in verbs prefixed by re- .

To call again; to repeat again.

* Revocare; repetere.

Again $=$ hereafter: posthac, postea, post.
We must take care the same thing doesn't happen again.

* Id ne unquam posthac accidere possit, providendum est.

You will not see him again.

* Illum postea non es visurus.

If ever I find you [come across you / bump into you] here again.

## * Si in hoc loco te offendero post unquam.

Again $=$ doing something by course and corresponding to some other action: contra, invicem, vicissim; mutuus, mutuo.
If he speaks of peace, you speak again of war.

## * Si de pace verba facit, contra tu de bello.

You are bantered [mocked / teased] by him, and again [=in turn] you banter [mock / tease] him.

## * Vos ab illo irridemini, et ipsi illum vicissim eluditis.

I ask you to love me, if you know that I'll do that again [do the same back (to you) / return the feeling].

* Te ut diligas me, si mutuo me facturum scis, rogo.

Again and again: iterum or etiam, repeated with a conjunction. I'll ask you again and again.

## * Iterum iterumque rogabo.

Admonish [correct, remind] her again and again.

* Illam etiam atque etiam moneto.


## IX: Against

Against $=$ for sometbing to be done by or at some set future time expressed: in + accusative; but if only a verb and subject with no time-word after: dum

Against tomorrow [For tomorrow].

## * In crastinum.

They made ready the gift against my master came [for my master's arrival].

## * Interea parabant munus dum veniret praeceptor.

Against with over and referring to the opposition situation of some thing, person, or place: e regione, ex adverso

Over against the sun.

## * E regione solis.

The prince was sitting over against you.

## * Princeps ex adverso ibi sedebat.

Against $=$ something done or said to the detriment of another:
adversus, adversum, in
They fought against their king.

## * Adversus regem pugnaverunt.

He armed himself against his enemies.

## * Adversus inimicos se armavit.

Spoken against the philosophers.

* In philosophos dictum.

Against $=$ cross or contrary to: adversus, contra; sometimes by praeter, with mind, thought, will, love, manner, custom, right, just, good, etc.; but when conflict with the will of the agent is expressed, invitê and invitus

To sail against the current [sail upstream].

* Adversus flumen navigare.

We must not strive against the stream. [We must not go against the flow.]

## * Contra torrentem non est nitendum.

He did it against the laws of God and Man.

* Praeter legem divinam et humanam fecit.

He had married her against his will.

## * Ille invitus illam duxerat.

Against $=$ block, oppose, refuse, binder: various phrases of similar meaning

I am not against it.

## * Non recuso.

It may very easily be done [ $=$ It is very easy to do], if the teacher is not against it.

* Facillimum factu est, non aspernante magistro.

Against = Preservation or defence: adversus, a, ad, contra
He defended himself bravely against his enemies.

* Se fortiter adversus inimicos defendit.

I defend myself against the cold.

* Defendo a frigore memet.

Against the biting of dogs [For (protection against) dog-bites].

* Ad morsus canum.

I realize that you are defending me against my enemies.

* Scio me a te contra hostes defendi.

Against following a verb of motion: in, ad
To run against drawn swords.

* In strictos enses incurrere.

To raise up a ladder against a wall.

* Erigere scalas ad moenia.


## X: All

All $=$ the number of many things: universus, cunctus, omnis in the plural
This is spoken of all in general.

* Hoc de universis fertur.

He consulted the pilot about all the stars.

* Rectoremque ratis de cunctis consulit astris.

Eveybody [all the people] said all good things.

* Omnes omnia bona dicere.

All = the whole of any singular thing: totus, integer; universus, omnis, cunctus in the singular

I have not seen a book all day.

* Hodie toto die non vidi librum.

He may take the whole prey. [...all the spoils.]

* Integram praedam habeat.

You may take away all that.

* Id tu universum auferas.

All that while [ $=$ For that whole time] I was at Rome.

* Eo omni tempore Romae versabar.

France and all England.

* Gallia cunctaque Anglia.

All = only: solus, unus
They live all [= entirely, only] upon love. [They are living upon love alone.]

* Amore solo vivitur.

He is all for himself. [He his tending to himself alone.]

* Sibi consulit uni.

All as much as, so much as, how much soever, whatsoever:
quantumcunque; quod, quicquid with the genitive, quantum, quam put for quantum
All (that is, whatsoever / howsoever much) I can.

## * Quantumcunque valeam.

All the foolishness they had in their youth, they've left behind [ $=$ they've given up].

* Quod stultitiae in juventute erat, reliquerunt.

All the business I had.

## * Quicquid habuerim negotii.

Let him make all the haste he can. [He should hurry as much as he can.]

## * Quantum poterit festinet.

I'll endeavor all I can to withdraw myself from all troubles [...to get out of all my difficulties].

## * Nitar quantum possum me ab omnibus molestiis abducere.

I sent to [sent a message to] the steward to bring you all the money he had.

## * Ad dispensatorem misi, ut quod haberet pecuniae ad te duceret.

At all used with nothing: nibil, omnino, prorsus, quicquam
We must trust the French in nothing at all.

## * Nihil omnino Gallis credendum est.

He said nothing at all.

* Nihil prorsus dixit.

Nothing at all is pleasant to me in this life.

* Nihil quicquam mihi in hac vita jucundum.

At all used with no or none: omnino with non, nequaquam; nullo modo, ne quidem, ne vix quidem; prorsus with nullus, or nullo modo; minime

I do not at all endeavor to tarnish your reputation. [I am not at all trying to diminish / take anything away from your reputation.]

## * Famam tuam omnino non conor eripere.

I'm not at all angry with you.

## * Omnino tibi nequaquam succenseo.

It can hardly, or not at all, be done.

* Vix, aut nullo modo, fieri potest.

They were hardly, or not at all, seen.

* Vix, aut ne vix quidem videbantur.

I don't understand anything at all.

## * Nil prorsus intelligo.

I don't at all agree to that.

* Nullo modo prorsus assentior.

That which my teacher did not like at all.

* Id quod minime probavit praeceptor.

At all used with never: omnino with nunquam
He never saw me at all.

* Hic me omnino nunquam vidit.

At all with nowhere: omnino with nusquam
He is found nowhere at all.

* Omnino nusquam reperitur.

All after [obsolete English usage] = accordingly as: proinde, exinde, with ac or ut

All after as [= Just as] a man lives.

* Proinde ac quisque vitam agit.

All after as a man has his health.

## * Proinde ut quisque valetudine fruitur.

All after as [According to the way] things are.

## * Exinde ut res se habent.

All one $=($ various $)$
It is all one to me [It matters nothing] what he said.

* Meâ nihil refert quid diceret.

Selection taken from Particularly Good Latin ( paperback / digital )

This is all one with that.

## * Hoc unum et idem est atque illud.

It was all one to the thief whether.... [The thief had no interest in whether...]

## * Non interfuit furis, utrum...

I reckon it all one, as if he had said it.

## * Perinde censeo, ac si ille dixisset.

It is all one.

* Idem est.

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