



2. Turning now to *pariter*, the problem is that ‘equally’ seems very bland. I believe Juvenal wrote *obiter*, ‘on the way’. The scene he sketches is something like a game of Telephone, with the story getting more garish as it passes from the *libarius* to the *archimagirus* (or *archimagiri*, if you like) to the *carptores*. It is not entirely like the modern game, because the slaves are not even trying to repeat the tale accurately, rather knowingly embroidering it with ever more lurid details as they pass it on. How the story Naevolus has already told the narrator could possibly be made more twisted or degrading or cruelly amusing, even by the most enthusiastic slanderers, is a good question, perhaps one of those things we’re better off not knowing. Nor is it obvious how the *libarius* heard what was up in Virro’s bedroom, or how the *carptores* got the news to the nearest inn. I suppose a lot of menials would be going in and out of a great man’s house and up and down the halls early in the morning. None of these uncertainties affect my main point, which is that *obiter* seems much better than *pariter*.