I am a number

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I am a number

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1 I am tall
and
one sided
like an ostrich
Pluck
the eye
of my feather
whittle
the stick
of
remembrance
bare
of
ornamentation
Alone

2 I am fat with contentment
In the arc
of survival
we win
by a hair
Kick
the less
fortunate
down the plank
to make space

3 I am prime
and conflicted
One more or one less
The spoke in the wheel
or grease that makes it go
Increase and multiply
or divide
and divorce
I am Parmenides’ many
on the edge of ancient counting:
the stars in the sky
fattened sheep of pharaoh
the dappled cows of the gods grazing under the sun
and all the grains of sand
on the seashore