

Journal of Humanistic Mathematics

Volume 10 | Issue 1

January 2020

Perfect (a poem)

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Recommended Citation

Chaney, J. "Perfect (a poem)," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 10 Issue 1 (January 2020), pages 540-540. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.202001.30 . Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol10/iss1/30>

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JHM is an open access bi-annual journal sponsored by the Claremont Center for the Mathematical Sciences and published by the Claremont Colleges Library | ISSN 2159-8118 | <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/>

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Perfect (a poem)

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Mathematicians call six a perfect
number. Twenty-eight is another one.
Such a number is equal to the sum
of its proper positive divisors.
It shows an inward beauty, a trimness
of package: numbers containing other
numbers they keep whole. I'm happy to know
that unseen intellects puzzle over
such matters, in love with numbers and what
they do, while in your eyes, my love, fervent
life multiplies inwardly; and I ply
my discipline, admiring as you
talk or laugh, struggling to comprehend
your forms and powers and untold numbers