Journal of Humanistic Mathematics

Proof Theory

Stan Raatz
None

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Stan Raatz

sraatz@gmail.com

After Denise Levertov

A theorem's proof is not
found as a sequence of easy propositions,

or as an unearned
gift, an immediate solution.

It is a struggle,
a hundred attempts that lead nowhere,

failed lemma after failed lemma,
abstractions, transformations, and morphisms

that yield nothing,
until at last a logical edifice emerges.

It is found by a seeker
climbing the rocky stairs of a complex hypothesis,

one mathematical step after another,
until finally the wings of intuition

brush past her,
and the theorem ascends.