

The Solipsist's First Paper

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Recommended Citation

Sabrina Sixta, "The Solipsist's First Paper," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 12 Issue 1 (January 2022), pages 503-503. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.202201.38. Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol12/iss1/38>

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The Solipsist's First Paper

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My first paper will be
Irrefutable.
Because, with probability one
it will be incomprehensible.

It will cite from books
found in the library of Babel¹
With explanations
that will just be rabble.

It will include many topics,
That it will expand,
But no single mind
will fully understand.

While the topics will be quadrivial,
The most important theorems
will be assigned the proof
“It's trivial.”

The results of my paper will be a mystery.
Its relevance already is history.

¹Jorge Luis Borges, “The Library of Babel” (“La biblioteca de Babel”), short story originally published in 1941 as part of his book *The Garden of Branching Paths* (*El jardín de senderos que se bifurcan*). The Spanish original can be read at <https://www.literatura.us/borges/biblioteca.html>; as of January 20, 2022, an English translation is available at https://web.stanford.edu/class/history34q/readings/textualizingscience/library_of_babel.html.