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Poem in Arithmetic Space

Larry Seagull
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The Most Humanistic Mathematician: Florentin Smarandache

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Florentin Smarandache was introduced to members of the Humanistic Mathematics Network, when two of his poems were published in Issue #7 of this Journal (April 1992).

Recently Smarandache was featured in an article entitled "The Most Paradoxist Mathematician and Philospher of the World." Written by Charles T. Le, it appeared in the *Bulletin of Number Theory*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (March 1995), Number Theory Association, Tucson. The abstract for the article introduces this humanistic mathematician as follows:

Florentin Smarandache, a Romanian mathematician and poet, exiled in the United States, used his talents in wrong directions: poetical skills in mathematics and mathematical skills in poetry! He published in mathematics a collection of "Only Problems, Not Solutions!" A function in number theory related to an infinity of unsolved problems has been called "the Smarandache Function." And in literature, we find his name on a book of poems called "NonPoems," and another called, "The Sense of NonSense." He has established and led a mathematical (but very contradictory) Paradoxist movement in literature.

"Country of Animals," a drama written by Smarandache, was staged at an international science fiction convention in Glasgow in August 1995.

The following poem, by Larry Seagull of Glendale Community College, conveys some of the spirit of Smarandache.

Poem in Arithmetic Space

Larry Seagull
Glendale Community College

There exist some sequences defined as "Smarandache" sequences of numbers.*

Smarandache consecutive sequence: 1, 12, 123, 1234, 12345, 123456, 1234567, 12345678, 123456789, 12345678910, . . . A number in this sequence is called a "Smarandache consecutive number."

Smarandache circular sequence: 1, 12, 21, 123, 231, 312, 1234, 2341, 3412, 4123, 12345, 23451, 34512, . . . A number in this sequence is called a "Smarandache circular number."

Smarandache symmetric sequence: 1, 11, 121, 1221, 12321, 123321, 1234321, 12344321, 123454321, 1234554321, . . . A number that belongs to this sequence is called a "Smarandache symmetric number."

Smarandache deconstructive sequence: 1, 23, 456, 7891, 23456, 789123, 4567891, 23456789, 123456789, 1234567891, . . . A number that belongs to this sequence is called a "Smarandache deconstructive number."

Smarandache mirror sequence: 1, 212, 32123, 4321234, 543212345, 65432123456, 7654321234567, . . . A number that belongs to this sequence is called a "Smarandache mirror number."

THE SMARANDACHE PARADOXIST NUMBERS

A number n is called a "Smarandache paradoxist number" if and only if n doesn't belong to any of the Smarandache defined numbers.

Dilemma
Find a Smarandache paradoxist number sequence.

Solution (?)
If a number k is a Smarandache paradoxist number, then k doesn't belong to any of the Smarandache defined numbers; therefore k doesn't belong to the Smarandache paradoxist numbers either!

If a number k doesn't belong to any of the Smarandache defined numbers, then k is a Smarandache paradoxist number; then k belongs to a Smarandache defined numbers (because Smarandache paradoxist numbers is also in the same category) — a contradiction.

Question
Is the Smarandache paradoxist number sequence empty??

THE NON-SMARANDACHE NUMBERS

A number n is called a "non-Smarandache number" if and only if n is neither a Smarandache paradoxist number nor any of the Smarandache defined numbers.

Dilemma
Find a non-Smarandache number sequence.

Question 1
Is the non-Smarandache number sequence empty, too ??

Question 2
Is a non-Smarandache number equivalent to a Smarandache paradoxist number??? (This would be another paradox!! ...because a non-Smarandache number is not a Smarandache paradoxist number).

THE PARADOX OF SMARANDACHE NUMBERS

Any number is a Smarandache number, the non-Smarandache number too. This is deduced from the following paradox**: "All is possible, the impossible too!"

REFERENCES

[1] Arizona State University, Hayden Library, "The Florentin Smarandache Papers" Special Collection, Tempe, AZ 85287-1006, USA, Phone number: (602)965-6515 (Carol Moore, librarian), E-mail: ICCLM@ASUACAD.BITNET.

[2]** Charles T. Le, "The Smarandache Class of Paradoxes", in <Bulletin of Pure and Applied Sciences>, Bombay, India, 1995, and in <Tempus>, Editor Geo Stroe, Bucharest, No. 2, 1994, and in <Abracadabra>, Salinas, CA, 1993.

[3]* "The Encyclopedia of Integer Sequences", by N. J. A. Sloane and S. Plouffe, Academic Press, 1995; also online, E-mail: superseeker@research.att.com (SUPERSEEKER by N. J. A. Sloane, S. Plouffe, B. Salvy, ATT Bell Labs, Murray Hill, NJ 07974, USA).

Haiku

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A haiku is a special form of poetry having three lines, with a 5-7-5 pattern of syllables. In Japan, a haiku master is usually a very learned person who can read the various nuances and innuendos captured in the haiku.

My haiku is about my geometry class. Here are some of the thoughts embedded within the words.
• eager: my geometry students hungry for learning.
• chewing: we have a saying that if we want to think something over, we will "chew" on it. I chose "chewing" to indicate that learning is a process of activity taking place, not something static or confined. I also chose "chewing" because it implies wolves or animals. Animals are not predictable. They may nuzzle up and be willing and ready to work and think, but sometimes they have other things than school on their minds and cannot pay attention. Also, if they do not feel satisfied, they can tear you apart.
• tales: their lessons. A haiku typically includes a season: spring, summer, winter, or fall. I teach in a year-round school so that we do not start school in September, as is often usual. The word "tales" is meant to convey a sort of "old-fashioned" sense that makes the season one that stretches from ancient history to the present.
• giants: a famous mathematician said that he could accomplish much because he "stood on the shoulders of giants" (i.e., previous mathematicians' achievements).
• earth-measure: this is the definition of geometry, and one of the earliest uses to which mathematics was put.
• angles: allusion to Euclidean geometry, to Euclid, and to his predecessors.
• waves: allusion to modern geometry, which includes the study of periodic occurences.
• pattern: allusion to the whole of mathematics, which some conceptualize as a "pattern".

HAIKU

Eagerly chewing
Tales of Giants' Earth-Measure:
Angles, Waves, Pattern.