

18. Non-fiction – New Age

MATH FOR MYSTICS by Renna Shesso

From the Fibonacci sequence to Luna's labyrinth to the golden section and other secrets of sacred geometry

A large portion of math history comes to us directly from early astrologers who needed to be able to describe and record what they saw in the night sky. Notably, most math-history books refer to them as astronomers, but astronomers and astrologers were one and the same. Everyone needed math: whether you were the king's court astrologer or a farmer making the best time for planting, timekeeping and numbers really mattered. Mistake a numerical pattern of petals and you could poison yourself. Lose the rhythm of a sacred dance or the meter of a ritually told story and the intricately woven threads that hold life together would be spoiled. Ignore the celestial clock of equinoxes and solstices, and you'd risk being caught short of food for the winter.

Math for Mystics unveils and demystifies some of the many concepts our distant ancestors knew and used based on many generations of observation and record keeping, sky watching, folk wisdom, and ever-more-complex calculations. Shesso's friendly tone, delightful "math lore", and clear information makes the math "go down easy" in this marvelous book that begins with the simplest lunar and planetary math and then tackles the most enigmatic of numerical esoterica such as magical squares, the Golden Section, Luna's Labyrinth, and Benjamin Franklin's favorite way to pass the time. The Durer Square.

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