

Math in Seventeen Syllables: A Folder of Mathematical Haiku

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Math in Seventeen Syllables



A Folder of Mathematical Haiku

In our July 2017 issue, we issued an open call for mathematical haiku, which we defined to be a three-line poem in the “5-7-5” syllabic form that expressed a mathematical idea or experience, and hopefully connected it to the human condition.¹ In deference to traditional Japanese haiku, we encouraged poets to consider using allusions to nature or the seasons in their work, and / or what is known as a caesura or kire represented by punctuations, space, line-break, or other grammatical break that is intended to compare two images implicitly.

At the time we wrote:

hopefully poems
will arrive like a river—
math made tangible

And indeed they did! We received haiku on an amazing variety of themes and subjects, from many different authors.

This poetry folder contains an eclectic selection of mathematical haiku, representing the diversity of mathematical ideas and experiences. We are able to publish only a fraction of the poems we received; we were surprised and (slightly but very much delightedly) overwhelmed by the interest our call sparked. We expect that there will be other similarly inspired poetry folders in the future issues of the *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*; stay tuned!

We decided to print the contributions of each individual on a different page to let each author’s individual style shine through, with the exception being a few pages which contain poems created by multiple authors. The authors are presented alphabetically by last name.

We hope you will enjoy this poetry folder of mathematical haiku.

EDITORS OF THE *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*

¹See Huber, M. and Karaali, G. “Math in Seventeen Syllables: An Open Call for Mathematical Haiku,” *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 7 Issue 2 (July 2017), pages 435–436 (available at: <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol7/iss2/31>).

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The Universe is
Chaos distilled to challenge
Till patterns emerge.

Primeval silence
Broken, then pieced together
By a new language.