

HUMANE MATH: Short Overview

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The simple arithmetic that we are taught in school does not work in the real world. Simple logic is even more confused. Math anxiety is not your fault, the problem is math itself! School mathematics trains us to ignore common sense, to disassociate from our bodies, and to believe in out-of-this-world fantasies. Zero? Nonsense! Look around, there is no nothing to be found in this world. Infinity? A miraculous fabrication!

In *Humane Math*, Dr. William Bricken reveals the twentieth century formalist agenda to distance math from human intuition and from natural understanding, to make math unteachable and unlearnable. The pivotal change occurred a century ago when meaning (reality) was separated from representation (virtuality).

We are withdrawing from the physical world of authentic experience into a virtual world of digital information, communication and entertainment. We are letting our imaginations run away not only with ourselves but with the very foundations of our existence. We are committing the ultimate act of alienation, not by losing our minds but by losing our bodies. At the center, mathematical thinking weaves a web of metaphysical concepts that blind us to the material nature of the Earth.

Dr. Bricken describes a new approach to simple math that can help us to reclaim authentic experience. *Iconic math* looks like what it means, it is visually obvious. It provides a way of understanding math that is not only simpler and more intuitive, but that also permits greater clarity in thinking about math, greater accuracy in using math, and greater humanity living with math in a technological world. This simple shift reconnects the tools of abstraction to our physical bodies, and reconnects the process of thinking to our physical activities.

Read this book if you have ever experienced math anxiety, if you love math but don't know why, if you teach math but don't feel legitimate, if you want to trust your number sense again, if you wonder how technology has managed to separate us from authentic experience, if you are bonded to electronic media but feel like something is lacking, or if you care about how to reclaim direct experience of the earth from the abstract fantasies of our minds.