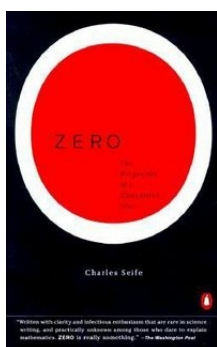


ZERO: THE BIOGRAPHY OF A DANGEROUS IDEA

The Babylonians invented it, the Greeks banned it, the Hindus worshipped it, and the Church used it to fend off heretics. For centuries, the power of zero savored of the demonic; once harnessed, it became the most important tool in mathematics. Zero follows this number from its birth as an Eastern philosophical concept to its struggle for acceptance in Europe and its apotheosis as the mystery of the black hole. Today,...



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Author	Charles Seife
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In Cantor's mind there were an infinite number of infinities-the transfinite numbers-each nested in the other. Aleph 0 is smaller than Aleph 1, which is smaller than Aleph 2, which is smaller than Aleph 3, and so forth. At the top of the chain sits the ultimate infinity that engulfs all other infinities: God, the infinity that defies all comprehension. Charles Seife, Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea

The body, the house of the spirit, is under the power of pleasure and pain, explains a god. And if a man is ruled by his body then this man can never be free. Charles Seife, Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea

Reader's Opinions

0 + (It's a book about math. And I read it.) - (It took me nine months.)= 0For three weeks after I finished Zero: The Biography of a Dangerous Idea, its central figure looked out ominously at me. In that way, Charles Seife was entirely successful in this piece of pop-nonfiction, weaving together the creation of the "zero", its role...