

Our Binary World

Simona Carini

University of California, San Francisco

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm>



Part of the [Mathematics Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Carini, S. "Our Binary World," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 9 Issue 2 (July 2019), pages 337-337. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.201902.28 . Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol9/iss2/28>

©2019 by the authors. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License.

JHM is an open access bi-annual journal sponsored by the Claremont Center for the Mathematical Sciences and published by the Claremont Colleges Library | ISSN 2159-8118 | <http://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/>

The editorial staff of JHM works hard to make sure the scholarship disseminated in JHM is accurate and upholds professional ethical guidelines. However the views and opinions expressed in each published manuscript belong exclusively to the individual contributor(s). The publisher and the editors do not endorse or accept responsibility for them. See <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/policies.html> for more information.

Our Binary World

Simona Carini

simosite@mac.com

I learned to count as incantation,
grasping unity with one hand, duality
with the other, bringing them together into
one universe, two trillion galaxies, one body,
37.2 trillion cells (double that, if counting resident microbes),
individual, dual and myriads.

I learned to count in binary to touch again
the magic, an effort not to lose count, not to miss
the trail of crumbs that is life:

0
1
10
11
100
101
110
111
1000
1001
1010, decimal 10 duplicated—incantation again.

Only 0 and 1, dual—not “us versus them”
rather, the complement of you and I among myriads.

By 1 and 0 we cover the distance between the dream
of the other and the tie that binds us at the heart.
“1,” I say, “0,” you respond, and we laugh until resonance
shatters memories of couples past, undams love.

0, can you pick up the mail? 1, can you take out the garbage?
Of 0's and 1's is our life together made, of small tasks
and hours with or without them. The stream pushes onward
to meet the ocean.