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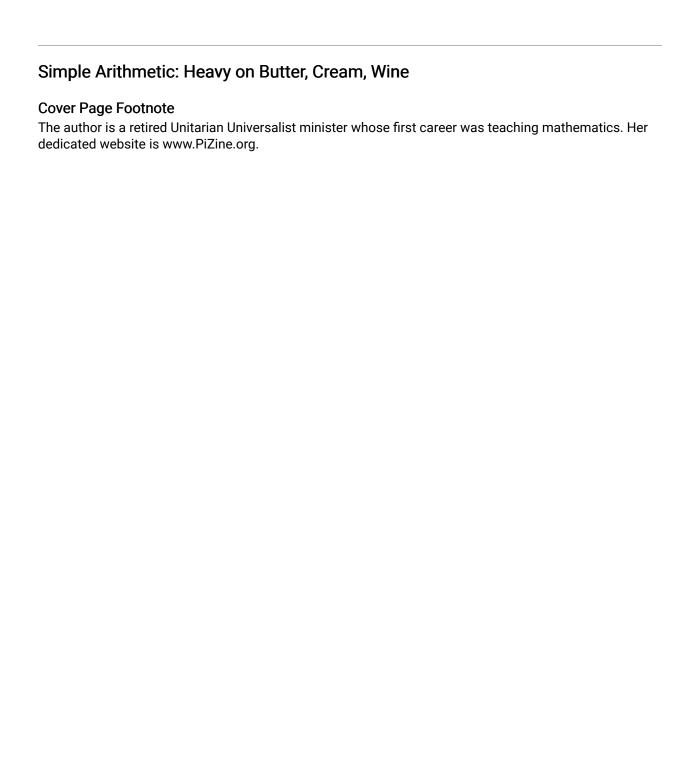
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Simple Arithmetic: Heavy on Butter, Cream, Wine

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Synopsis

The language of poetry is one way to offer perspective on ethical issues and social behavior. The language of mathematics is another. The piece herein combines both these ways.

Not long ago, the government of the people for the people needed 700 billion dollars to help Freddie Mac and the Mae sisters.

Three hundred million people lived in the United States then.

If each person put one dollar into a central pot, the pot would contain one third of one billion dollars

not even a pinch of salt in the bail-out soup.

To fill the pot, each person needed to contribute \$2000, a fantasy since few have a spare \$2000, plus consider the cost to the 74 million

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then under 18 who presumably needn't think about such obligations, let alone

own them. More than 6.7 billion people lived in the Mac and Mae global world. If each person donated \$100, the global pot might have saved

the floundering Maes and Mac with real rather than virtual money.

but 2.6 billion people lived on less than \$730 per year back then and half the world's adults made less than \$2200, so at least

half the world's adults were poor sources for a rescue pot. Still, there's good news!

The richest 1% own 40% of global assets. High grade butter. Subtracting the world's 2.2 billion children from the world's 6.7 billion people

leaves about 4.5 billion adults in the world, which is a lot.

Collectively, 1%, 45 million, own 40% of the world's coins. Cream. Imagine that this thriving 1% donates 40% of the needed dollars.

If the 9% with 45% of global riches also donates 45% of the 700 billion

the pot would need just another 105 billion, and if the remaining 90% of the world's adults split that \$105 billion evenly, it's only a 2.5 cent

contribution per grown-up. Count me in! Heck, I'll throw in a whole dollar

and pay for 39 more of the world's citizens who won't, or can't, contribute even two cents to a country whose wealth and mismanagement

are both so blatant. Fine wine down the drain.