A poem should not mean / but be.
*Ars Poetica*, Archibald MacLeish

A theorem should be clear and elemental
as a diamond or crystal,
smart,
as a necklace at the arts,
formal, as a tiara
worn by the Queen of Sciences at an opera,
 terse, as when a topologist says,
*trivial*.

A theorem should be logical as a syllogism,
as colored light from a prism,
assembled lemma by lemma into a mathematical artifice,
timeless as concrete and bricks,
leaving open conjectures and questions,
mysteries like the Riemann Hypothesis.

A theorem should be equal to:
in mathematics, true.

For all the history of proof theory,
from Pythagoras’s harmony to Cantor’s infinity,
a theorem should not be, but say
Q.E.D.