

# Journal of Humanistic Mathematics

---

Volume 3 | Issue 2

July 2013

---

## my mathematics

Karen Morgan Ivy  
New Jersey City University

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



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

---

### Recommended Citation

Morgan Ivy, K. "my mathematics," *Journal of Humanistic Mathematics*, Volume 3 Issue 2 (July 2013), pages 144-146. DOI: 10.5642/jhummath.201302.12 . Available at: <https://scholarship.claremont.edu/jhm/vol3/iss2/12>

©2013 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.

## my mathematics

karen morgan ivy

---

when i want to reach you  
i always know that i can speak to you  
through my mathematics  
because you see  
my mathematics is the closest  
anyone can ever get to really knowing me

i can't bare my soul specifically  
so i paint its reflection whimsically  
onto your walls  
brush-stroking  
heart-provoking codes  
fifty-five digits at a time  
composing cadences of inordinate rhyme

i said i can't bare my soul specifically  
so i tattoo its scent onto your olfactory nerves  
welcoming the cohesion of realism and abstraction  
enclosed in elliptic curves  
because you see  
my mathematics is the closest  
anyone can ever get to really knowing me

no, my mathematics isn't always the greatest translation  
but think of it like emancipation  
like a civil right  
a "we the people" fight  
understanding that the enlightenment  
only manifests and beckons the call  
when there is liberty and justice for all

my mathematics isn't always my feelings  
but it is the way that i bleed  
so i seed  
it and hope it sprouts in your mind  
because sometimes the war crimes  
that we have committed  
against our spirits  
refuse to be fitted  
casually into conversation

i gather them and bury them  
beneath my most artistic-mathematical creations  
in hopes that your fascination  
with deciphering things leads you there  
and everywhere  
that you encounter a mathematical sentence  
accept that as my personal defense  
that with hating mathematics comes repentance

my mathematics is one of my favorite things  
one of my best things  
the way through which i hotwire  
the world and if you inquire  
too much beyond that  
you might miss the fact  
that i am not really insane  
i simply feign  
for mathematics

you see...i just remain that poetic feminine energy  
digging mathematical synergy  
hello my name is karen  
and i am a mathoholic  
i dwell among the suspended  
symbolic images of  
iota mu epsilon  
revealing the real I mu E a.k.a. me  
who resurrected from the remains of pantheons

the real I mu E a.k.a. me  
who sometimes hesitates to speak  
but never keeps silent  
because my mathematics is brave  
and shouts about revolution  
all while my fingers slave  
as a matter of fact  
i'm writing this piece in between keystrokes  
while my thoughts are making minimum wage

thoughts linked to my mathematics  
inked onto pages and pages  
sonnets, theorems, haikus, and equations  
solidifying conscious thought-invasions  
i keep plenty of ammunition in my arsenal  
free verse words as meaningful and powerful as they are artful  
peer through the stained glass of my temple  
and you will see  
that i am nothing and yet everything  
the manifestation of all that my mother dreamed

in keeping with my mathematical state of mind  
i offer my mathematics in hopes you will discover  
that speaking mathematics  
doesn't require living and loving undercover  
and this becomes the way that i reach you  
when i want to speak to you  
i always know that i can speak to you  
through my mathematics  
because you see  
my mathematics is the closest  
anyone can ever get to really knowing me