

## Shapely Sums

Why do numbers mystify  
When they should be our slaves?  
We all can add and multiply,  
Division's slightly harder.  
But decimals drive us to our graves  
And fractions to the larder.

Then geometry, Pythagoras,  
You can't avoid square roots –  
You cannot write some down, alas,  
Their decimals never end.  
They cause philosophers' disputes  
From a plain right-angled bend.

A circle: find the distance round  
And measure across the middle.  
The ratio Pi can then be found  
Dividing one by t'other.  
But writing Pi's another riddle:  
Digits always go one further.

Now simple numbers aren't enough  
To glimpse the truths of nature.  
We must think Shapes to give us rough  
Accounts of how things work.  
Not just circles and squares await your  
Attention, but shapes that lurk

In many forms around our world  
In three dimensional space.  
And now we say this space is curled,  
With time and motion blending.  
All this with Number we must embrace –  
A game that's never-ending.

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