

(Download pdf ebook) A Mathematician's Apology

# A Mathematician's Apology

*G. H. Hardy*

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**G. H. Hardy : A Mathematician's Apology** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised A Mathematician's Apology:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Not the real, original text (keep searching)By PabloThis is not the actual version of the original GH Hardy book. It is a condensed and highly edited version, spanning only 51 pages (the real one is 154 pages long). That one can be found here in , and indeed in the product description this one states the true length, but when you are shopping here you really don't read those details. All the insights and depth of Hardy's original work are lost in this one, as it seems to have been edited for somebody that needed to cheat on a math test.6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A Non Mathematician's apologyBy Riccardo AudanoAs Hardy himself makes clear in the beginning, he would never have written such a book if his mathematical powers had not failed him in old age. I do feel like this book is more an apology for not being a mathematician anymore than for having been one. As for all true loves, the time for judging and summing things up comes only when the joyful days of passion are over. I was hoping this book would give me an inspired first person view of what is higher mathematics and what is like to be a real mathematician. I found that it is not a good book for that, it doesn't even try it. What it accomplishes instead is giving a precise, objective, cruel, mathematically clear picture of the drive, the ambition, the passion for excellence in any activity, be it a sport or a science that makes the life of the ones who dedicate their life to it so more pure and meaningful. It also poses some tough, fundamental questions regarding how much of your life one can dedicate to one single "abstract" passion without having to go through some really bitter times and regrets in old age. My personal answer is that what really counts, in the end, is how much you loved and, what was sorely missing in

Hardy's life, how much you express that love. But for some people, gifted and cursed at the same time, that is still not enough. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. An accessible perspective on the mind of a pure mathematician from the pen of the great Mathematicians of the early 20th century By FredexSplendid! An accessible perspective on the mind of a pure mathematician from the pen of the great Mathematicians of the early 20th century. The introduction by C. P. Snow is essential reading to have a perspective on Hardy's life (as well as its melancholy conclusion) and the life of an Oxbridge Don at that time. A quick but fascinating read!!!!

A Mathematician's Apology is the famous essay by British mathematician G. H. Hardy. It concerns the aesthetics of mathematics with some personal content, and gives the layman an insight into the mind of a working mathematician. Indeed, this book is often considered one of the best insights into the mind of a working mathematician written for the layman.

.com A Mathematician's Apology is a profoundly sad book, the memoir of a man who has reached the end of his ambition, who can no longer effectively practice the art that has consumed him since he was a boy. But at the same time, it is a joyful celebration of the subject--and a stern lecture to those who would sully it by dilettantism or attempts to make it merely useful. "The mathematician's patterns," G.H. Hardy declares, "like the painter's or the poet's, must be beautiful; the ideas, like the colours or the words, must fit together in a harmonious way. Beauty is the first test: there is no permanent place in the world for ugly mathematics." Hardy was, in his own words, "for a short time the fifth best pure mathematician in the world" and knew full well that "no mathematician should ever allow himself to forget that mathematics, more than any other art or science, is a young man's game." In a long biographical foreword to Apology, C.P. Snow (now best known for The Two Cultures) offers invaluable background and a context for his friend's occasionally brusque tone: "His life remained the life of a brilliant young man until he was old; so did his spirit: his games, his interests, kept the lightness of a young don's. And, like many men who keep a young man's interests into their sixties, his last years were the darker for it." Reading Snow's recollections of Hardy's Cambridge University years only makes Apology more poignant. Hardy was popular, a terrific conversationalist, and a notoriously good cricket player. When summer came, it was taken for granted that we should meet at the cricket ground.... He used to walk round the cinderpath with a long, loping, clumping-footed stride (he was a slight spare man, physically active even in his late fifties, still playing real tennis), head down, hair, tie, sweaters, papers all flowing, a figure that caught everyone's eyes. "There goes a Greek poet, I'll be bound," once said some cheerful farmer as Hardy passed the scoreboard. G.H. Hardy's elegant 1940 memoir has provided generations of mathematicians with pithy quotes and examples for their office walls, and plenty of inspiration to either be great or find something else to do. He is a worthy mentor, a man who understood deeply and profoundly the rewards and losses of true devotion. --Therese Littleton 'Generations of readers, both in and out of mathematics, have read Apology as one of the most eloquent descriptions in our language of the pleasure and power of mathematical invention.' The New Yorker 'Great mathematicians rarely write about themselves or about their work, and few of them would have the literary gift to compose an essay of such charm, candour and insight ... a manifesto for mathematics itself.' The Guardian 'Hardy's book is carefully reasoned, beautifully written and very stimulating; ... it can profitably be read by anyone.' New Scientist 'A beautiful book written by a leading mathematician of the time.' BBC Focus