



From the desk of Pierre Beaudry



HOW ARCHYTAS STUNNED THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE ORACLE OF DELPHI.

by Pierre Beaudry, 5/28/2007 Memorial Day.



[In memory of the great fighter, Yudl Rosenberg, who wrote *{The Astonishing Story of the Torah That Fell to the Floor on Yom Kipper}*, in *{The Golem}*, Yale University Press, 2007.]

Legend has it that in ancient Greece, around 360 BC, the great Pythagorean geometer, Archytas, made famous for having discovered the solution for the doubling of the cube, was invited by the high priest of Apollo to come to the Oracle of Apollo at Delphi in order to explain to him how he had been able to make his discovery.

Before the turn of the fourth century, the priesthood of Apollo on the nearby Island of Delos was seeking relief from a terrible plague by asking help from the Oracle of Apollo at Delphi. The high priest of Delphi told the Ionians that Apollo would be pleased to relieve them of the plague under one condition, that they doubled the volume of the cubic altar of Apollo in their city. It was Archytas who discovered the solution of that excruciating problem by means of intersecting three solids of revolution, a Cone, a Torus, and a Cylinder. With that discovery, Archytas truly became the greatest Delian Hero.

Although the high priest of Delphi had diligently investigated the matter of doubling the cube, himself, he was not successful in discovering a solution to what rapidly appeared to him as an impossible problem. He was at his wits end when, out of desperation, he finally requested the presence of the only authority that could give him the answer he wished to have. He had asked the Pithy many times, and no matter how much he would drug her, she remained completely baffled, herself.

When Archytas arrived at Delphi, the high priest immediately brought him to the Oracle and asked him: "What is the method of this doubling of the cube?" Archytas answered in a sort of riddle requiring an interpretation that the high priest had no doubt

some familiarity with. Archytas' reply was a sort of jumble of words and letters that appeared to make no sense at all at first glance: "YOU SEE H. D. SNAF DINK LLA."

The high priest was stunned and seemed very upset with Archytas. "How can you give me such an answer," asked the high priest, "I use this method myself all the time with people who come here to ask for answers? You and I, my friend, we are birds of a feather. You don't have to use this language with me."

"On the contrary," replied Archytas, "we do not speak the same language. You give riddled answers to gullible people, and not a method for acquiring true knowledge. You make believe that the truth lies in sense perception. I use sense perception to show that words are merely shadows and that truth lies in the invisible domain of mind. What I am giving you is different. I am not simply giving you an answer; I am giving you the principle of my method!

"What method," asked the high priest, in a failed attempt to calm his anger?

"The following," said Archytas: "Write all of the 19 letters of my answer separately on pieces of paper and reconstruct the sentence in such a manner that it makes sense to the mind and not to your perception.

"I see," said the high priest, "the ordering of letters, when joined together differently, will make a phrase easy to read and whose meaning the mind will comprehend."

Thus, the Oracle high priest, being a well-trained Satanist, used his old inversion trick and started to look at the language in reverse. After a few minutes, the high priest was all smiles and came up with the following answer: "SEE YOU ALL KIND FANS, D. H.

There you have it, Delian Hero, I now know that you have been using the same method that I use to trick people into doing what I want them to do. So, now that you have had your laugh, I know by your answer that there is no real solution to the doubling of the cube, as I always suspected, but that you have concocted a very subtle and crafty way of giving people an intuitive sense that it is doable simply by rotating a Cone, a Torus, and a Cylinder. And, thus, you are able to give the impression that you have invented the imaginary idea of a complex domain. That is very good!"

"No," said Archytas. "You are wrong! That does not make any sense, and that is pure sophistry. There is an inversion, all right, but it is not that one. My inversion can only be discovered if you do the construction yourself, and if it is not based on what someone else tells you is the intuitive answer. As I told you before, my answer is not an answer, but a principle of method. And, if you arrange those 19 letters properly, you will discover that my principle of method simply says: SEEK AND YOU SHALL FIND!"

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