



The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity

By Amir D. Aczel

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel

From the end of the 19th century until his death, one of history's most brilliant mathematicians languished in an asylum. The Mystery of the Aleph tells the story of Georg Cantor (1845-1918), a Russian-born German who created set theory, the concept of infinite numbers, and the "continuum hypothesis," which challenged the very foundations of mathematics. His ideas brought expected denunciation from established corners - he was called a "corruptor of youth" not only for his work in mathematics, but for his larger attempts to meld spirituality and science.

 [Download The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbala ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabba ...pdf](#)

The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity

By Amir D. Aczel

The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel

From the end of the 19th century until his death, one of history's most brilliant mathematicians languished in an asylum. The Mystery of the Aleph tells the story of Georg Cantor (1845-1918), a Russian-born German who created set theory, the concept of infinite numbers, and the "continuum hypothesis," which challenged the very foundations of mathematics. His ideas brought expected denunciation from established corners - he was called a "corruptor of youth" not only for his work in mathematics, but for his larger attempts to meld spirituality and science.

The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel
Bibliography

- Rank: #1482149 in Books
- Published on: 2000-10-04
- Ingredients: Example Ingredients
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .93" h x 5.84" w x 8.59" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 304 pages



[Download The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbala ...pdf](#)



[Read Online The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabba ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

The search for infinity, that sublime and barely comprehensible mystery, has exercised both mathematicians and theologians over many generations. Jewish mystics, in particular, labored with elaborate numerological schema to imagine the pure nothingness of infinity, while scientists such as Galileo, the great astronomer, and Georg Cantor, the inventor of modern set theory (as well as a gifted Shakespearean scholar), brought their training to bear on the unimaginable infinitude of numbers and of space, seeking the key to the universe.

In this sometimes technical but always accessible narrative, Amir Aczel, author of the spirited study *Fermat's Last Theorem*, contemplates such matters as the Greek philosopher Zeno's several paradoxes; the curious careers of defrocked priests, (literal) mad scientists, and sober scholars whose work helped untangle some of those paradoxes; and the conundrums that modern mathematics has substituted for the puzzles of yore. To negotiate some of those enigmas requires a belief not unlike faith, Aczel hints, noting, "We may find it hard to believe that an elegant and seemingly very simple system of numbers and operations such as addition and multiplication--elements so intuitive that children learn them in school--should be fraught with holes and logical hurdles." Hard to believe, indeed. Aczel's book makes for a fine and fun exercise in brain-stretching, while providing a learned survey of the regions where science and religion meet. --*Gregory McNamee*

From Publishers Weekly

Aczel's compact and fascinating work of mathematical popularization uses the life and work of the German mathematician Georg Cantor (1845-1918) to describe the history of infinity of human thought about boundlessly large numbers, sequences and sets. Aczel begins with the ancient Greeks, who made infinite series a basis for famous puzzles, and Jewish medieval mystics' system of thought (Kabbalah), which used sophisticated ideas to describe the attributes of the one and infinite God. Moving to 19th-century Germany, mathematician Aczel (*Fermat's Last Theorem*) introduces a cast of supporting characters along with the problems on which they worked. He then brings in Cantor, whose branch of mathAcalled set theoryA"leads invariably to great paradoxes," especially when the sets in question are infinite. Are there as (infinitely) many points on a line as there are inside a square or within a cube? Bizarrely, Cantor discovered, the answer is yes. But (as he also showed) some infinities are bigger than others. To distinguish them, Cantor used the Hebrew letter aleph: the number of whole numbers is aleph-null; the number of irrational numbers, aleph-one. These "transfinite numbers" pose new problems. One, called the continuum hypothesis, vexed Cantor for the rest of his life, through a series of breakdowns and delusions: others who pursued it have also gone mad. This hypothesis turns out to be neither provable, nor disprovable, within the existing foundations of mathematics: Aczel spends his last chapters explaining why. His biographical armatures, his clean prose and his asides about Jewish mysticism keep his book reader friendly. It's a good introduction to an amazing and sometimes baffling set of problems, suited to readers interested in mathAeven, or especially, if they lack training. B&w illustrations not seen by PW. 5-city author tour; \$30,000 ad/promo; 30,000 first printing.

Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Adult/High School-Aczel tells of mathematicians struggling with absolute infinity and some of its mind-bending ramifications. The crown jewel of this struggle was conceived more than a century ago by Georg

Cantor and remains an enigma to mathematicians. Cantor spent his life going back and forth between trying to prove and disprove his continuum hypothesis. In the Kabbalah, the aleph "represents the infinite nature, and the oneness, of God." Cantor deliberately picked this symbol for use in his equations: to him, trying to understand the absolute infinite was like trying to touch the face of God. About 50 years after his death, another mathematician definitively showed that the continuum hypothesis cannot be proven valid or invalid by any known means. Aczel provides a good history leading up to and past Cantor's work. Personal stories of people such as Pythagoras, Galileo, Newton, and G"del are mixed in with well-put explanations of the concepts they pondered. A brief history of the Kabbalah and highlights of some of its concepts help readers understand Cantor's work. The author writes cleanly and clearly on a complex subject, and readers don't have to be good at math to enjoy this book. It's perfect for analytically minded students who love to ponder big questions. Those who enjoyed the popular cosmology books by Stephen Hawking are likely to devour this one as well.

Sheila Shoup, Fairfax County Public Library, VA

Copyright 2001 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Donald McLaughlin:

The feeling that you get from The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity will be the more deep you rooting the information that hide inside the words the more you get thinking about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity giving you joy feeling of reading. The article author conveys their point in particular way that can be understood through anyone who read the idea because the author of this e-book is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your own personal vocabulary increase well. It is therefore easy to understand then can go to you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity instantly.

Jacquelyn Lopez:

This book untitled The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity to be one of several books that will best seller in this year, this is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this kind of book in the book store or you can order it by means of online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quickly to read this book, because you can read this book in your Mobile phone. So there is no reason to your account to past this guide from your list.

Charity Reulet:

Beside this The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity in your phone, it might give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or facts. The information and the knowledge you

might got here is fresh from your oven so don't always be worry if you feel like an previous people live in narrow village. It is good thing to have The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity because this book offers for you readable information. Do you sometimes have book but you rarely get what it's about. Oh come on, that won't happen if you have this with your hand. The Enjoyable option here cannot be questionable, such as treasuring beautiful island. Techniques you still want to miss that? Find this book and read it from at this point!

Steven Perez:

What is your hobby? Have you heard which question when you got pupils? We believe that that question was given by teacher for their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everybody has different hobby. And also you know that little person including reading or as examining become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important and book as to be the point. Book is important thing to add you knowledge, except your teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update concerning something by book. Amount types of books that can you choose to use be your object. One of them is The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity.

Download and Read Online The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel #OJFR63YVUM7

Read The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel for online ebook

The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel books to read online.

Online The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel ebook PDF download

The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel Doc

The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel MobiPocket

The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel EPub

OJFR63YVUM7: The Mystery of the Aleph: Mathematics, the Kabbalah, and the Search for Infinity By Amir D. Aczel