

Hypatia, the last Alexandrian mathematician

mathematical introduction to philosophy
includes understanding of the division of objects
into discrete and continuous

*say, lions act separately, each on its own
the same for a philosopher finding a way
through the inexplicable
whereas a mob is multiple bodies with a single mind
provided a mob has a mind and a conscience*

hence the division of mathematics into arithmetic
geometry, harmonia and spherica and discussion
on the significance of these subjects for philosophical study

*she taught Platonic philosophy in Alexandria
wrote commentaries to Diophantus and Apollonius
not a lion herself
in her name one can hear a hint of a horse:
hippo – Hypatia*

arithmetic is the first of them all for it was conceived
by the demiurge as a cosmic model and exemplary design
for all things and sciences

the creator relied on it to produce
and arrange everything else to perfection
*perfect order and desire for scientific knowledge
was lost by her time
the library once famous for its collection
was desolated near to chaos
Hypatia worked in the only remaining
library at the Serapis temple*

at the same time it is the last and the final
because no other science without arithmetic is possible
with its disappearance they all disappear
while it remains even after their disappearance
they came from nowhere

*they came from rough desert
radicals and fanatics
led by a lector named Peter
called to the city by the bishop Cyril
of course they thought her a witch
huge number of them against one wise old woman*

the objects mathematics studies
are ideal and at the same time material
because they are meditated in the ideal world
also existing real and forever in the material one

*they pulled her out of the carriage
dragged her along the street to an old pagan temple
converted into a church
and killed her violently as if she was the greatest villain
as if they were shearing a sheep*

numbers are the ordered basis of everything

number one is the beginning, the root, seed and mother of all
numbers, odd and even, prime and compound, perfect, friendly
figurate: triangular, polygonal, pyramidal, plane and volume ones

*her death shocked the empire
philosophers turned away from the church
the last library was destroyed
and Alexandrian mathematics ended there*

ascending from perceived things to eternal and unchanging ideals
comprehensible only through reasoning

one climbs the stairs from corporal feelings to the realm of soul and mind
the rational part of the soul instructs its unreasonable part
binds straight impulses and attracts the soul to the eternal identity
this is the goal and virtue for a rational man
or woman