

THE POLYHEDRON ON DUERER'S "MELENCOLIA I"

Tine Kurent

The polyhedron with triangular and pentagonal faces on the Durer's "MELENCOLIA I" engraving is said to be a cube with two opposite corners cut off.¹ A cube has 6 faces, 12 sides and 8 corners. A cube with two truncated tips has 8 faces, 18 sides and 12 corners. In the above numbers, the prime factors 2 and 3 are implied. The numbers 2 and 3 are symbols for human beings, male and female.² The solid is a symbol for humanity. Men and women can be affected with melancholy.

If, however, one more corner of the crystal is cut off on its hidden side, the resulting solid has 9 faces, 21 sides and 14 corners. In numbers 9, 21 and 14, the prime numbers 2, 3 and 7 are implied. Hence the numbers 237, 273, 327, 372, 723, 732. Their sum is equal to 2664.

The number 237 is one of the important gematrical cyphers.³ The essential ideas of the "MELENCOLIA I" are hidden in the number 237 and in its gematrical equivalents:

1. Number 2446 is 4-times larger than the number of the beast⁴ 666. It is also 3-times larger than the number 888, equal to the most holy name of Jesus in the Greek gematria:⁵

$$IH\Theta OY\text{C} = 10+8+200+70+400+200 = 888.$$

2. The Greek name of the print, MEΛEΓXOΛIA, is equal to 790.⁶ Number 79 is the prime factor of the number 237:

$$MEΛAΓXOΛIA = 40+5+30+1+3+600+70+30+10+1 = 790.$$

¹ *The Complete Engravings, Etchings and Drypoints of Albrecht Durer*, Edited by Walter L. Strauss, Dover Publications Inc., New York, 1973.

² cf. Rabelais, *Le Tiers Livre*, III.

³ Kurent, T., Plečnik in genius loci.-*Zbornik ljubljanske šole za arhitekturo*, 1982.

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idem, Število 237 v Gallusovi gematrični kompoziciji "VI. Gallus amat Venerem.Cur?".-*Rast*, april 1993.

⁴ Revelation 13, 18.

⁵ Doelger, F., Das Octogon und die Symbolik der Achtzahl.-*Antike und Christentum*, Band IV, Heft 3, Aschendorffsche Verlagsbuchhandlung, Muenster in Westfalen, 1934.

⁶ Kurent, T., Die Gemetrie von Duerers "MELENCOLIA I".-*Acta neophilologica*, 1992.

3. Aristotle's wonderment, why all the people, excelling in philosophy or in politics or in poetry or in arts, are melancholical, is equal in the Greek gematria to 9401 or to 119x79.⁷ (See illustration)

In the Latin gematria, the name of ARISTOTEL equals 119.

$$\text{ARISTOTEL} = 1+18+9+19+20+15+20+5+12 = 119.$$

4. The name of AGRIPPA VON NETTESHEIM is gematrically equal to 237.

$$\text{AGRIPPA VON NETTESHEIM} = (1+7+18+9+16+16+1) + (22+15+14) + (14+5+20+20+5+19+8+5+9+13) = 237.$$

5. The Melancholy is personified with the black angel. The Hebrew angel Rahal⁸ is worth 237:

$$\text{רהאל} = 30+1+5+1+200 = 237$$

6. A contrast to the black angel is the Virgin Mary.

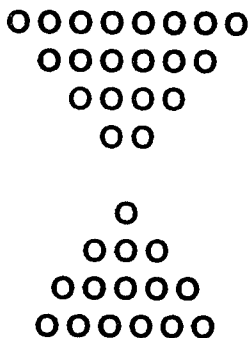
$$\text{VIRGO DEI GENITRIX MARIA} = (22+9+18+7+15) + (4+5+9) + (7+5+14+9+20+18+9+24) + (13+1+18+9+1) = 237.$$

7. A prayer, part of Psalm 137, is equal to 237:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{IN CONSPECTU ANGELORUM PSALLAM TIBI,} \\ &\text{ADORABO AD TEMPLUM SANCTUM TUUM,} \\ &\text{ET CONFITEBOR NOMINI TUO} = (9+14) + (3+15+14+19+16+5+3+20+21) \\ &+ (1+14+7+5+12+15+18+21+13) + (16+19+1+12+12+1+13) + (20+9+2+9) \\ &+ (1+4+15+18+1+2+15) + (1+4) + (20+5+13+16+12+21+13) + \\ &(19+1+14+3+20+21+13) + (20+21+21+13) + (5+20) + \\ &(3+15+14+6+9+20+5+2+15+18) + (14+15+13+9+14+9) + (20+21+15) \\ &= 948 = 4 \times 237 \end{aligned}$$

The last sentence, CONFITEBOR NOMINI TUO, equals 237.

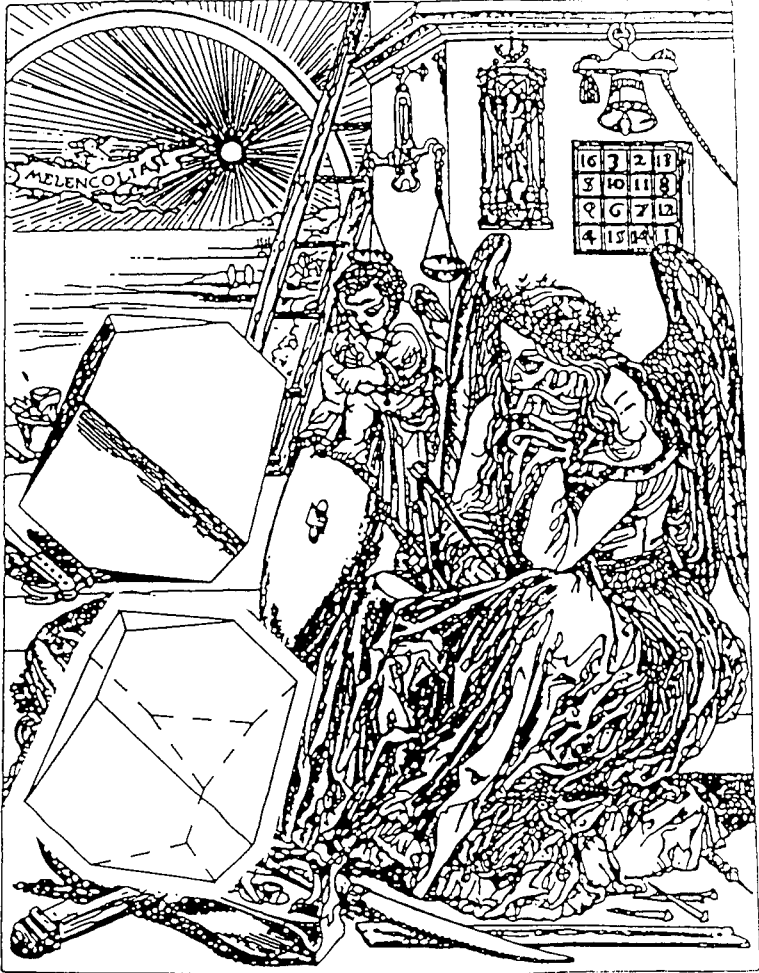
Illustrations



Even numbers are forming the female triangle. Odd numbers are forming the male triangle. The number 5, as the sum of numbers 2 and 3, is symbol of ΓΑΜΟΣ.

⁷ Aristotle, *Problemata* 30,1. See also: Kurent, T., The Melancholy according to Aristotle in the Magic square on the Durer's "MELENCOLIA I".-*Acta neophilologica*, 1993.

⁸ Crowley, A., *Sepher Sephiroth*, Edited by Israel Regardie, Samuel Weiser, Inc., York Beach, Maine, 1973.



The polyhedron on Durer's Melancholy with its three corners cut off is gematrically equal to the number 237. Since one of the truncated corners is hidden, the gematric messages, hidden in the number 237, are well concealed.

Διὰ τί πάντες ὅσοι περιττοὶ
γεγόνασιν ἄνδρες, ἢ κατὰ
φιλοσοφίαν, ἢ πολιτικὴν, ἢ
ποίησιν, ἢ τέχνας, φαίνονται
μελαγχολικοὶ ὄντες . . .

Δ	4	Γ	3	Φ	500	Π	80	Μ	40
Ι	10	Ε	5	Ι	10	Ο	70	Ε	5
Α	1	Γ	3	Λ	30	Ι	10	Λ	30
Τ	300	Ο	70	Ο	70	Η	8	Α	1
Ι	10	Ν	50	Σ	200	Σ	200	Γ	3
Π	80	Α	1	Ο	70	Ι	10	Χ	600
Α	1	Σ	200	Φ	500	Ν	50	Ο	70
Ν	50	Ι	10	Ι	10	Η	8	Λ	30
Τ	300	Ν	50	Α	1	Τ	300	Ι	10
Ε	5	Α	1	Ν	50	Ε	5	Κ	20
Σ	200	Ν	50	Η	8	Χ	600	Ο	70
Ο	70	Δ	4	Π	80	Ν	50	Ι	10
Σ	200	Ρ	100	Ο	70	Α	1	Ο	70
Ο	70	Ε	5	Λ	30	Σ	200	Ν	50
Ι	10	Σ	200	Ι	10	Φ	500	Τ	300
Π	80	Η	8	Τ	300	Α	1	Ε	5
Ε	5	Κ	20	Ι	10	Ι	10	Σ	200
Ρ	100	Α	1	Κ	20	Ν	50		
Ι	10	Τ	300	Η	8	Ο	70		9401
Τ	300	Α	1	Ν	50	Ν	50		
Τ	300			Η	8	Τ	300		
Ο	70					Α	1		
Ι	10					Ι	10		

Aristotle's sentence on melancholy (*Problemata* 30,1).