

“Koreatown Bok Choy, Pt. 3”
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Quadratic Mode: >75%
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(3) Abstract
(n/a)

In American folklore it's often posited that “second place” is actually “the first loser.” While scholars of various stripes have conflicting opinions on the accuracy of such claims, the reality is, at least according to the general populace of the world's greatest country, the saying is functionally viewed as true. The second cousin, strictly defined, is the child of the first cousin in relation to the child of another first cousin, first cousins of course being the respective children of siblings. The number 2 is, in theory, the beginning of all multiplicity, the primal source of a multitude. Without the number 2 there would be no linear single-digit path to 3 and 4 or even 5. In fact all evenness itself is defined, in theory, by an ability to be divided by this number 2. Even binary code, while only consisting of 0s and 1s is still comprised of 2 numbers (0 and 1). And all duality is derivative of the number 2. The number is at times associated with Ceres or Demeter, a goddess of agriculture and fertility, an alleged sister of Zeus. In certain forms of Neo-Pythagoreanism and/or Neo-Platonism, a certain indefinite dyad is an originator of the entire universe, emanating from an ineffable One, whereas certain cosmologies, such as Gnosticism and Manichaeism, are notable for their dualist structures, placing a duality as a first principle, which are in sharp contrast to the more monist constructions found in Akbarism and other orders.

3.1 (.764)

Enzo told Daria
how he was considering
that it was perhaps
with a tyrannical exactness
that he proceeded
about his life,
right up through
his weekly high fades,
that he considered
a latent geometrical tyranny
to be possibly
ruthlessly guiding his life
as he took quick note
of a quite sizeable posterior
in light blue jeans
that was walking
right past him
as he approached
the large brick building
that contained
the Department for
Economic Development
on a quaint
Friday afternoon
at four pm on the dot.

Daria was aware
Enzo walked there
to try and slip the clerk
a quick so-called
business registration form

but before she could confirm
what she already knew
for a fact
Enzo went on to note that
it turned out
the city clerks' offices
closed half an hour early
for their so-called
summer hours,
which as it
so happened
was exactly at
four pm.

Enzo muttered
what the fuck
before continuing on
to note he was wearing
his new tan Walmart mesh
basketball shorts
with his white vans
as the voluptuous woman
walked past,
by contrast,
wearing wire rimmed glasses
on the tip of her thin nose,
surrounded on three sides
by curly black locks.

According to him
sometimes it was
just preferable
to sit on a roof
with your shirt off
and think about fucking nothing

for a little bit
even if it
was five fifteen
on a Friday afternoon,
there was, after all,
repetition and number,
he noted to Daria,
but did all numbers
actually repeat?

Daria noted
she'd been noticing
an insane amount
of five fifty fives
and two twenty twos
plus eleven elevens
and even one elevens of late
but to date
she'd refrained
from any attempt
to google an explanation.

But wasn't it the case,
Enzo interjected,
since they'd gotten
onto the topic
of sequences of integers anyway,
wasn't it the case
that the second cousin
as a conceptual artifice
was collectively accelerating
the downfall of their country,
I mean, Enzo said,
second cousins
are in aggregate

all basically cunts, right?

In Enzo's mind
it was clearly the case
that the second cousin
was basically objectionable,
a pitiful clinging
to a so-called bloodline
that was, even when
more potent,
still somewhat ambiguous
if not nonsensical.

What was blood anyway?

Daria, for her part,
didn't have a particularly strong
opinion on the concept
of the second cousin
one way or the other,
but she admitted
that she didn't
have as big of a family
as Enzo,
which perhaps played a part
in her quizzical nonchalance?

No, Enzo went on,
the second cousin
was something indicative
of a structural rot,
in fact it was something
that probably needed
actual legislation
to be properly combatted,

because these second cousins,
they wouldn't just rescind
of their own accord.

No,
Enzo and Daria both,
they needed to start
petitioning local representatives
to abolish this concept
of the second cousin.

3.12 (.756)

It was abundantly clear
to Enzo that there was
a recurring splitting
into two
that was perhaps
the most nefarious act
of all,
that the first of this or that
inevitably'd become extended
to the so-called second
of the same substrate,
but why?

It was this counting,
this lurid linear extension
that perhaps offended
Enzo the most,
to which Daria,
thinking about her bok choy
with an unerring sense of dread,
was only partially paying

attention to.

They'd fundamentally forgotten
something essential
about number, Enzo said,
they'd become addicted to
dividing and adding,
extending and subtracting,
instead of focusing
on concepts more
steeped in purity.

Enzo felt as though
they were destined to recall
something essential about number,
but now, somehow,
that'd become impossible
for them, that they'd forgotten
for perpetuity
an essential aspect of number,
which made every situation
they encountered
immeasurably more bleak.

The second cousin itself
was little beyond a symptom
of a far greater sickness,
the common cold of counting numbers,
of becoming unitary until
they reached infinity.

Nothing was more infinite
than the unitary,
yet the unitary becoming infinite
was utterly absurd!

Everything was split into two,
or split into three,
all around them
were doppelgangers and trinities
of what was what.

Multiplicity
couldn't exist this way!

Enzo continued
as Daria simultaneously
considered bringing up
a few concerns she had
with an employee
she'd contracted specifically
in a botanical manner,
but who, given his unorthodox methods,
had started to concern her
given some of his more
licentious habits.

Of course botany
and personal matters
were probably,
in most cases, considered
completely separate issues,
but due to the specific nature
of this particular job
it had begun to bother
Daria just slightly.

Enzo, for his part,
had an entire pack of cigarettes
in his drawer, he said to Daria,

because he'd bought
a whole pack the other day,
just purely out of spite.

Did she want to go
out onto the deck
and whack a puff or two from one?

Was she drunk enough
yet?—to smoke a quick cig?

Because she clearly wasn't
listening to any
of the fucking shit he was saying
about integers
or second cousins,
about the nonsensical division
of everything all around them!

No Daria was,
she was listening (kind of ...),
it was just that
she was just a tad
preoccupied, even before
coming by she'd been
walking through
a small courtyard in the city,
taking note of the big trees
growing next to the large brick
condo buildings,
contemplating connecting
with nature,
but also with inanimate objects
as well?

It was one thing
to connect with nature
and trees and plants,
that was almost cliché,
but what about
connecting with inanimate objects
made of plastic
by wage slaves
in East Asia?

She'd recently attended
divine liturgy
for the first time in ages,
she told Enzo,
and while occasionally
staring up at the series
of icons people
would have
indiscriminately killed
people for worshipping
just a few short centuries ago,
she could have sworn
a set of voices
were speaking to her,
solely within her mind,
comforting her
but also informing her
that there'd be an upcoming time
that they'd snap their fingers
and she'd finally return to them,
as if that was where
she actually belonged,
in this plane
she could hardly comprehend,
yet communicated directly

to her with no problem.

She exited her body
just momentarily,
filled with pure relief,
then the beings reiterated
a time would arrive
when they would
snap their fingers,
then she'd return, finally,
to them.

Perhaps
she'd have discounted
the encounter
if she hadn't,
with complete caprice,
she told Enzo,
decided to go up to take
communion with her dad,
and as her turn
finally arrived
to imbibe
the blood of Christ Himself,
she noticed sitting calmly
to the left of the priest
was a Wind Tunnel
brand floor fan.

The exact same floor fan she'd,
after taking entirely too
many mushrooms one
particular evening eons ago,
engaged in an extended
conversation with

regarding the true nature of things,
during which a certain clarity
descended upon her,
finally understanding,
with the utmost purity,
her true origin and, in turn,
the primal source of all things.

Footnotes

3.1 Enz[o] t[o]ld Daria [h]ow [h]e was [c]on[s]i[d]ering that it [w]as [p]erh[a]ps [w]ith a tyr[a]n[ni]c[al] ex[a]c[t]n[ess] th[at] h[e] [p]ro[c]l[ee]d[ed] about his l[i]f[e], [r]i[gh]t up th[r]ough [h]is w[ee]kl[y] [h]i[gh] f[a]des, that he [c]on[s]idered a l[a]tent geome[t]r[i]c[al] [t]y[r]anny to [b]e [p]o[s]si[b]l[y] [r]uthl[e]s[s]l[y] gu[i]ding his l[i]fe as he [t]ook [q]ui[c]k note of a [q]u[i]te [s]i]zeable [p]o[s]terior in [i]i[gh]t b[l]ue jeans that [w]as [w]al[k]ing [r]i[gh]t [p]ast him [a]s he a[p]proached the large [b]r[i]c[k] [b]u[i]l[d]ing that [c]ontained the [D]e[p]art[m]ent [f]or E[c]ono[m]i[c] [D]evelo[p]m[en]t on a [q]u[ai]nt [F]ri[d]ay [a]fternoon [a]t [f]our [p]m on the [d]o[or]. [D]aria [w]as a[w]ar[e] Enzo [w]al[k]ed th[er]e [t]o [t]ry and [s]l[i]p the [c]l[er]k a [q]u[i]c[k] [s]o-c[al]led [b]u[sin]e[s]s [r]egist[r]ation [f]or[m] [b]ut [b]e[for]e she [c]ould [c]onf[ir]m what she already k[n]ew [f]or a [f]act Enz[o] went on [t]o [n]o[te] th[at] it [t]ur[n]ed out the [c]ity [c]l[er]ks' o[ff]i[c]es [c]l[os]ed hal[f] an ho[ur] [ear]l[y] [f]or their [s]o-c[al]led [s]ummer hours, wh[i]ch [a]s [i]t [s]o h[a]ppened [w]as [e]x[a]ctly [a]t [f]our pm. [E]nz[o] m[u]ttered [w]h[at] the [f]u[c]k b[e]f[or]e [c]on[t]inuing on [t]o [n]o[te] he [w]as [w]earing his [n]ew [t]an [W]al[m]art [m]esh [b]as[k]et[b]all shorts [w]i[th] h[i]s [w]hite [v]a[n]s [a]s the [v]oluptuous [w]oman [w]al[k]ed p[ast], by [c]ont[r]ast, [w]ea[r]ing [w]ire [r]immed gl[asses] on the [t]ip of her th[in] nose, [s]u[r]rounded on th[er]e [s]i]des [b]y [c]ur[l]y [b]l[ack] [l]o[c]ks. A[c]cording to him [s]ometimes it w[as] j[ust] p[r]e[f]e[r]a[b]le to [s]it on a [r]oo[f] with your shirt o[ff] and think a[b]out [f]u[c]k[ing] [n]o[th]ing [f]or a l[i]ttle b[it] [e]ven [i]f [i]t was [f]i]ve [f]i[ft]h[een] on a [F]ri[day] a[ft]er[n]oon, there was, [a]fter all, [r]e[p]etition and [n]um[b]er, he [n]oted to [D]aria, [b]ut [d]id all [n]u[m]b[er]s [a]ctually [r]e[p]ea[t]?

[D]a[r]ia [n][o]ted she'd [b]een [n][o]ti[c]ing a[n] i[n][s]ane amount of [f][i]ve [f]i[f]ty [f][i]ves and [t][wo] [t]wenty [t][wo]s p[lu]s [e][l][e]ven [e][l][e]v[en]s and e[ve]n one [e][l][e]vens of [l]ate but to date she'd [r]e[fr]ai[n]ed [f]rom any a[tt]empt [t]o g[oo]gle an explan[ati]on. B[ut] w[as]n't it the [c][a]se, Enzo in[t]erje[c]ted, [s]in[c]e they'd g[ot]ten [o]nto the [t][o]p[i]c of [s]e[que]n[c]es of in[t]egers any[w]ay, [w]asn't it the [c][a]se [th]at [th]e [s]e[c]ond [c]ousin as a [c]on[c]eptual art[i]f[i]ce was [c]o[l]l[e]ctive[l]y a[cc]e[l]e[r]ating the down[f]all of their [c]ount[r]y, I mean, Enzo [s]aid, [s]e[c]ond [c]ousins [a]re in a[gg]re[g]ate [a]ll b[as]i[c]ally [c]u[nt]s, r[i]ght? In Enzo's m[i]nd it was the [c][l]ear[l]y the [c][a]se [th]at [th]e [s]e[c]ond [c]ousin was [b]as[i]cally obje[c]tiona[b]le, a p[i]t[i]ful [c][l]i[n]g[i]ng to a [s]o-[c]alled b[l]ood[l]ine that [w]as, even [w]hen more potent, [s]till [s]o mewh[at] am[b]i[gu]ous i[f] [n][o]t [n][o]n[s]en[s]i[c]al. [W]hat [w]as [b]lood any[w]ay? [D]a[r]ia, for her p[ar]t, [d]i[d]n't have a p[ar]ti[c]u[l]ar[l]y [s]trong o[p]inion on the [c]on[c]e[p]t of the [s]e[c]ond [c]ousin [o]ne [w]ay or [th]e [o]ther, [b]ut she adm[it]t[ed] that she [d]i[d]n't have as [b]i[g] [o]f [a] family [a]s Enzo, which p[er]h[ap]s p[lay]ed a p[ar]t i[n] her [q]u[i]zz[i]c[al] n[on]ch[a]l[an]ce? N[o], Enz[o] went on, the [s]e[c]ond [c]ousin w[as] [s]omething i[n]d[i]c[at]ive of a [s]tru[ct]u[r]al [r]ot, in f[act] it was [s]omething th[at] p[ro]b[ab]l[y] n[eed]ed a[ct]ual l[e]gisl[ati]on to [b]e p[ro]p[er]l[y] [c]o[m]b[ina]tted, [b]e[c]ause these [s]e[c]ond [c]ousins - they wouldn't just [r]e[s]cind of their [o]wn a[cc]ord. [N]o, Enz[o] and Da[r]ia [b]oth, they n[eed]ed to [s]tart p[re]t[er]i[t]i[on]ing l[oc]al [r]e[p]r[es]enta[t]ives [t]o [a]b[ol]i[sh] this [c]o[n]c[e]pt of the [s]e[c]ond [c]ousin.

η/ω 583:763 .764

3.12 It was [a]b[u]ndant[ly] [c][l]ear to Enz[o] [th]at [th]ere was a [r]e[c]u[r]r[ing] s[p]i[rit]u[al] [i]n[t]o [t]h[at] was [p]erh[a]p[s] the m[o]st nef[ar]ious [a]ct of all, [th]at [th]e [f]irst of [th]is or [th]at in[e]vita[b]ly'd [b]e[c]ome [e]x[t]ended [t]o the [s]o-c[al]led [s]e[c]ond of the [s]ame [s]u[b]st[r]ate, [b]ut why? It was th[is] counting, th[is] [l]ur[er]y [i]n[e]ar [e]xt[en]sion that [p]erh[a]p[s] off[e]nd[ed] [E]nz[o] the m[o]st, to which [D]a[r]ia, th[is]nk[ing] a[b]out her [b]ok choy with [a]n un[e]r[r]i[ng] s[e]nse of [d]r[e]ad, was on[ly] [p]artial[ly] [p]aying a[t]tention [t]o. They'd [f]undam[en]tally [f]orgotten [s]ometh[ing] [e]ss[en]tial a[b]out n[um]b[er], [E]nz[o] [s]aid, they'd be[c]ome a[d]di[ct]ed to [d]ivi[ding] [a]nd [a]dd[ing], ex[t]end[ing] [a]nd sub[t]ra[ct]i[ng], in[s]tead of fo[c]u[s]ing on [c]on[c]e[pt]s more [s]t[ee]p[ed] in [p]ur[ity]. [E]nz[o] f[e]lt as [th]ough [th]ey were d[e]s[t]ined to [r]ecall [s]ometh[ing] [e]ss[en]tial a[b]out [n]u[m]b[er], [b]ut [n]ow, [s]omeh[ow], that'd [b]e[c]ome im[p]os[s]ible [f]or [th]em, [th]at [th]ey'd [f]or[g]otten [f]or [p]er[p]etuity [a]n [e]ss[en]tial a[s]p[ect] of num[b]er, which [m]ade [e]very [s]itu[ation] they [e]n[c]ountered i[m]m[e]asura[b]ly [m]ore [b]e[ar]k. The [s]e[c]ond [c]ousin it[s]e[f] was [l]ittle beyond a [s]ymptom of a [f]ar greater [s]i[c]k[n]ess, the [c]o[m]mon [c]old of [c]ounting [n]u[m]bers, [o]f [b]e[c]o[m]ing u[n]i[t]a[r]y un[t]il they [r]eached [i]nfi[n]ity. [N]othing was [m]ore [i]nfi[n]ite [th]an [th]e u[n]i[t]a[r]y, [y]et the [u]ni[t]ary bec[om]ing [i]nfi[n]ite was [u]tterly [a]bs[ur]d! Eve[r]ything was [s]p[irit]u[al] [i]n[t]o [t]h[at], or [s]p[irit]u[al] [i]nto th[is], [a]ll [a]r[ound] them were [d]o[pe]l[g]a[ng]ers [a]nd [t]ri[un]ph[er]s of [w]h[at] [w]as [w]h[at]. Mul[t]iplic[ation] [c]oul[d]n't ex[ist] th[is] way! Enzo [c]on[t]inued as [D]a[r]ia [s]imul[t]aneou[s]ly [c]on[s]id[er]ed b[ri]ng[ing] up a

few [c]on[c]erns she h[a]d with [a]n [e]m[p]loyee she'd
 [c]on[t]r[a]c[t]ed [s][p]e[c][i]f[i]c ally in a bo[t][a][n]i[c]al
 m[a]n[er], but who, g[i]v[e]n h[i]s unorthodox methods,
 had [s]tarted to [c]on[c]er[n] h[er] given [s]ome of his
 [m]ore li[c]entious ha[b]its. Of [c]our[s]e [b]o[tan[y] and
 [p]er[s]onal [m]atters were [p][r]o[b]a[b]l[y], in [m]ost
 [c]a[s]es, [c]on[s]idered [c]om[p][i]te[l]y [s]e[p]ar[ate]
 [i]ssues, but [d][ue] t[o] the [s][p]e[c][i]f[i]c nat[ur]e of
 th[i]s [p]ar[t]i[c]ular job it had [b]egun to [b]other [D]aria
 just [s][i]ghtl[y]. Enzo, for his [p]ar[t], had [a]n [e]n[t]ire
 [p]ack of [c]iga[r]ettes [i]n h[i]s [d][r]awer, he [s]aid to
 [D]aria, [b]e[c]ause he'd [b]ought a whole [p]a[c]k [th]e
 o[th]er [d]ay, ju[s]t [p]urely out of [s]p[ite]. [D]id she [w]ant
 [t]o go [o]ut [o]n[t]o the [d]e[c]k and [w]ha[c]k a puff or
 [t]wo f[r]o[m] [o]ne? Was she [d][r]u[n]k en[ou]gh yet?
 To [s]mo[k]e a [q]u[i]c c[i]g? Be[c]ause she [c][l]earl[y]
 wasn't [i]nte[n]ing to a[n]y of the fu[c]k[i]ng sh[it] he was
 [s]aying a[b]out int[e]gers or [s][e]c[on]d [c]ousins,
 a[b]out the non[s]e[n]s[i]c al d[i]v[i]s[i]on of [e]ve[r]ything
 [a]ll [a]r[ound] them! No Daria [w]as, she [w]as
 [i]st[e]ning ([k]ind of ...), it was [j]ust th[at] she was [j]ust
 a t[ad] [p]r[oc]u[p]ied, [e]ven [b]efore [c]oming [b]y
 she'd [b]een wal[k]ing through a [s]mall [c]ourtyard [i]n
 the [c]i[ty], [t]a[k]ing [n]ote of the [b]i[g] [t]r[ees]
 g[r]o[w]ing [n]ext to the large [b]r[i]c[k] [c]ondo
 [b]u[i]ldings, [c]ont[e]mpl[ate]ing [c]o[n]n[e]c[t]ing with
 [n]a[t]ure, but also w[i]th [i]n[n]a[n]i[m]ate obj[ec]ts as
 [w]e ll? It [w]as [o]ne thing to [c]o[n]n[e]c[t] with [n]ature
 and trees [a]nd [p]l[ants], th[at] was almost [c][l]i[c]he,
 [b]ut what a[b]out [c]o[n]n[e]c[t]ing w[i]th [i]n[n]a[n]i[m]ate
 objects [m]ade of [p]l[astic] by w[a]ge s[la]ves in
 East [A]sia? Sh[e]d r[e]centl[y] a[t]tended d[i]v[i]ne
 [i]turgy [f]or the [f]irst [t]i[m]e in ages, she [t]old Enz[o],
 and while [o]cc[asion]ally [s]ta[r]ing u[p] at the [s]er[ies] of
 [i]c[ons] [p]eop[le] would have [i]nd[i]s[c]r[i]m[i]nately

[k][i]lled [p]eo[p]le [f][or] w[or][sh][i][pp]ing just [a] [f]ew [sh][or]t [c]enturies [a]go, she [c]ould have [s][w]orn a [s]et of voi[c]es [w]ere [s]pea[k]ing to her, [s][o]lely w[i]th[i]n her [m][i]nd, [c]om[f]or[ti]ng [h]er but all[s][o] in[f]or[m]ing [h]er [th]at [th]ere'd be an u[p]c[om]ing t[i]me [th]at [th]ey'd [s][n]a[p] their [f]ingers and she'd [f]i[n]al[l]y re[t]urn [t]o them, [a]s if th[at] [w]as [w]here she [a]ctual[l]y be[l]onged, [i]n th[is] p[l]ane she [c]ould [h]ard[l]y [c]om[p]r[e]h[en]d, yet [c]o[m]muni[c]at[ed] di[r]e[c]tly to her with no [p]r[o]b[le]m. She [e]xited her [b]o[d]y just [m]o[m]enta[r]i[l]ly, f[i]lled w[i]th [p]ure [r]e[l]ief, [th]en [th]e b[e]ings [r]e[ite]r[ate]d [a] t[i]me wou[ld] [a]rr[i]ve [w]hen they [w]ou[ld] s[n]ap [th]eir [f]ingers, [th]en she'd [r]e[t]urn, [f]i[n]ally, [t]o [th]em. [P]erh[a]ps she'd h[ave] [d]i[s]c[ou]nted the en[c]o[un]ter if she h[adn't], with [c]om[p]e[te] [c]a[p]r[i]ce, sh[e] [t]o[d] Enz[o], [d]e[c]i[d]ed to g[o] up [t]o [t]a[k]e [c]o[m]munion with her [d]ad, [a]nd [a]s h[er] t[ur]n f[i]nally a[r]r[i]ved to im[b]e the [b]lood of [C]h[r]i[s]t Him[s]elf, she [n]ot[i]c[ed] [s]i[t]t[ing] [c]alm[l]y to the [l]e[f]t of the p[r]iest [w]as a [W]ind Tun[n]el b[r]a[n]d [f]l[oor] [f]a[n]. The [e]x[a]ct same [f]l[oor] [f]a[n] she'd, [a]fter [t]a[k]ing [e]n[t]irel[y] [t]oo [m]an[y] [m]u[sh]rooms [o]ne par[t]i[c]ular [e]vening [e]ons ago, [e]ngag[ed] [i]n [a]n [e]x[t]e[n]d[ed] [c]o[n]vers[ati]on w[i]th [r]egar[d]ing the [t]rue n[at]ure of things, [d]u[r]ing which a [c]ertain [c]l[ar]it[y] [d]e[s]cen[d]ed [u]p[on] her, final[l]y [u]n[d]e[r[s]tan[d]ing, with the [u]t[m]ost [p]u[r]ity, her [t]rue o[r]i[g]in and, [i]n [t]urn, the [p]r[i]m[al] [s]our[c]e of all things.

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