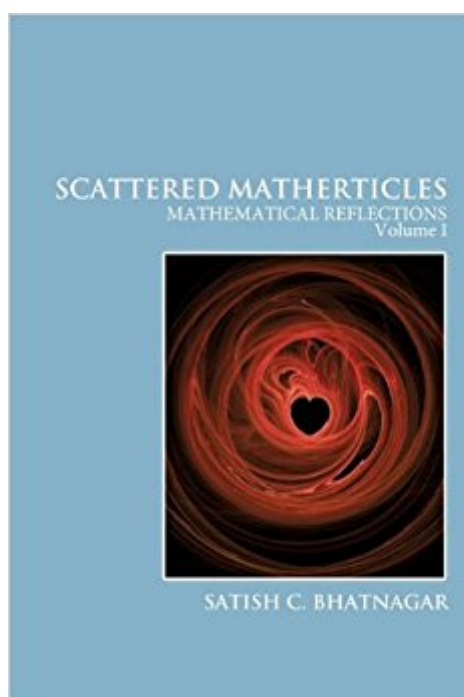


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Scattered Matherticles: Mathematical Reflections Volume I



Synopsis

The volume comprises author's mathematical writings through the year, 2006. Though nearly 80 % of Mathematical Reflections were written since 2003, a few, modified from certain articles, go back to the 1980's. However, the subjects are time independent. The kernels of the Reflections are drawn from everyday classrooms to mathematical conventions attended. The style is compact wrapping a couple of strands around a central theme. Some of the Reflections, like Calculus Defines Civilization, have been widely circulated. A few have been published in the Focus, the newsletter of the Mathematical Association of America. They are all fine-tuned after getting feedback from 100-strong readers on my e-mailing list. The Rise of Bernoullis and Hopitals has a predictive element in it, as it is very common today in the academe where research, over teaching, carries all the marbles. A few Reflections are centered on individuals including my colleagues, students, and teachers. Perhaps, one or two may be mathematically x-rated. There is a unique blend of mathematics as a language with English of which the author has his own stamp. The book is an easy reading for its small bites. However, it is the chewing part of a Reflection that uncovers its soul.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a very well written book. I enjoy reading every page of this book. I also like the setting of each section of the book. Each section from the book is independent of the other, and reader can just open any page and start reading. I would recommend this book to all my friends.

Perhaps the first thing that would strike one who is in the casual perusal of Professor Satsih C. Bhatnagar's book, "Scattered Matherticles," is that its relevance is confined to those, who, like

himself, ensconced in the hallowed halls of academe, are engaged in the discipline of mathematics at its highest echelons. However, a slower and more carefully paced reading would clearly indicate that Prof. Bhatnagar succeeds in stretching the boundaries of mathematics to the extent that they breach the domains of other disciplines and walks of life, and, by thus doing so, serve to create an exciting blend of the sublimity of an academic discipline with the mundanities of everyday life. Anyone engaged in the teaching profession, in whatever subject and at whatever level, cannot help but resonate with the "three C's" - Competence, Communication and Compassion - which Prof. Bhatnagar cites as the governing principles of his pedagogical philosophy (p.9). It is Prof. Bhatnagar's gift as an outstanding teacher which most readers will see shining forth as the dominant theme throughout the pages of this compendium. Prof. Bhatnagar furnishes the reader with astonishing insights into the connection of mathematics with, what would appear to the average reader, areas totally divorced from this highly cerebral academic pursuit: mathematics and boxing (pp.19 - 24 & pp.95 - 97), mathematics and the theatrical arts (pp.25 - 26), mathematics and music (pp.32 - 33), and mathematics and football (pp.91- 92). While demonstrating certain comparisons between mathematics and art (pp 59 & 60), the writer also indicates his awareness of the contrasts appertaining to these disciplines by explaining that no matter how innately gifted one may be in mathematical ability, a full blossoming of the learner's skills in this subject can only occur within the context of formal educational teaching structures (pp. 57 & 58). In the catching alliterative title "Mystique of Mathematics and Madness" (ppp 93 & 94), Prof. Bhatnagar explores the bizarre territory which bestraddles the thin line separating mathematical genius and mental stability. And the exciting application of mathematical principles in the areas of philosophy and psychology are laid out in the chapter entitled "Philosophy Turning Mathematical" (pp 120 - 122). No-one should be intimidated by the title "Scattered Matherticles," for whether or not one has a mathematic bent, there will most assuredly be a number of things which can be teased out of the pages of this work and seen as relevant to life's rich and varied tapestry.

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