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POETRY

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THE ALLEGORY OF PYTHAGORAS

TWO said the symbol one
for the sake of some fun,
and the jester two said three,
his reason: what can, shall be.
Four and five looking aghast
studied the past.
They thought of six
and noticed the mix,
the misidentity
that surely could not be.
So merrily they proposed some sequiturs
which rapidly led to the Wars.
All died in the fray
and now what they say
as they lie kind of sane
is that the Rule was inane!
And the one was the trouble
for trying to double.

RICHARD M. AUGUST

A STATISTICAL DEATH

Each day in the cannibalistic Congo
the sun sets and sinks in this stagnant rivulet;
and each day slinks into anonymity
while a thousand black bodies
gaze at the sunset
and then blend with the black night.
And each morning a thousand black faces following the sun
go to the rivulet
where now some thought, some divine plan, some reaction,
some accidental possibility
stirs to action a thousand different shapes
in the water.