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MYTH AND MATHEMATICS

by Doreen Gildroy

"The beginning of the knowledge of beings is in the beings that produce themselves." Pythagoras

1.

It was there before I came.

He did not read it, yet
proceeded on to additions and abstractions—
his hand calculated over
print and picture—
devotedly, devastatingly,
with a total lack of self-counting.
An old man, not quite a plaid shirt,
inquired if the newspaper was mine.

It takes hours of doing nothing
to get it done.

2.

If a quota has 7 and 2
which cult are you?
I rhyme most in my perversions.

Walking around in a robe
is a difficult thing.
Earth + Water sometimes equals
Cold + Dry.
Before a man
can get home,
they've sold the house—
it's not only
his imagination.

Gods like wine— so as
to be drunk, to pass through
the words until the end—
the gesture that moves back
before going forward.
The shortest distance is not always a straight line.

3.
The mind, an archeological find, at intervals,
filled with figures.
Pythagoras gave us
a tetragon for a soul.
Who knows what's gone on in there
(and for all those body cells!).
How we unlove ourselves,
even in our shapes and sizes.

Maybe my problem in life is mathematics: lack
of practice?
The soul rides older,
in musical order,
the first of the unities,
384.

4.
An octave can be half
or twice the vibrations.

How large can the hand expand,
then contract,
over a dark mass?

5.
If you think in myth,
having towed this side of the modern...
If you think in mathematics,
a big bang of revelation...

At the castle
in the greenery
lost—
a child calls to the child.
If we are not in a labyrinth—
let's get out.