AELINDROMES

\[ \varphi - \pi - \sqrt{2} \]

Anthony Etherin
Old, rational ways gleam
pictures I coil and frame
in detained
theorems
and in the new score.

In space,
read the worth,
read vines now as lines.

Now a sad view or thread,
thin space renews cores
and,
in the ore, mined.

Theme in detail
and fractures, I compile
an always-gold ratio....
I nest a cone’s apex,
angles in veer;
a concave
penta-tangential,
or a pit hypotenuse.

Up, we closet here
phrase or line,
a plane,
or, linear, a sphere....

We close,
then use up,
a pithy potential,
or a tangent—
cave, per a convex angle,
sines,
a penta-cosine....
\[ \sqrt{2} \]

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Matrix:
In deal,
in omen,
abide gold with me.

Log
arithmetic,
so early,
kind estimates
move approximates.

Modestly kinetic,
so earth me,
logarithm-wide,
golden:
a binomial
index,
a trim....
The ‘aelindrome’ is a palindromic variation I developed during the autumn of 2012, following some experimentation with ‘palindromes by pairs’ (or, ‘2-letter unit palindromes’—such as, ‘Intense ion, Einstein!’ and ‘Reside in desire’).

The concept behind aelindromes is that their units of palindromism are heterogeneous: While both letter palindromes and ‘palindromes by pairs’ employ a consistent, homogeneous unit (1 or 2), in ‘heterogeneous palindromes’*, letters are parsed according to premeditated numerical sequences. For instance, the phrase ‘Melody, a bloody elm’ is palindromic in 1234, since ‘[m]_1[el]_2[ody]_3[a blo]_4’ reflects backward as ‘[a blo]_4[ody]_3[el]_2[m]_1’.

The three poems included here are aelindromes heterogeneously palindromic in the decimal expansions of, respectively, the golden ratio (φ), pi (π), and the square root of two (√2).

– A.E., June 2017

*Heterogeneous palindromes’ was my original name for the species, before the eponymic A.E.-lindromes (suggested to me by the poet Christian Bök) took its place.
An early draft of the aelindrome in **II** featured in the Fall 2016 edition of *The Account Magazine* (November, 2016).

Cover image taken from Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa’s *Libri tres de occulta philosophia*. (Agrippa depicts man upon a pentagram, a circle, and a cross whose arms are of equal length, thereby connecting reflectional symmetry with the three numbers explored in this leaflet.)

Anthony Etherin is a UK-based writer of experimental poetry and music. His poems have appeared online in *The Account*, *Five:2:One*, and *Nagari* magazines, among others, and he has had leaflets or chapbooks published by No Press, Penteract Press, Spacecraft Press, and The Blasted Tree. Find him on twitter, @Anthony_Etherin, and via his website, anthonyetherin.wordpress.com.