Critique Paper: The Man Who Knew Infinity

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# Introduction

As a math teacher, there is nothing quite amusing and inspiring than watching a movie – based on true events – about a famous mathematician. In this case, the life story of Mr. Srinivas Ramanujan. I have encountered him in teaching number theory. Little did I know that his story is quite a story. It is a tragic one. It showed his struggles with his culture and beliefs, his being Indian, his being “ill-educated”, and his sickness which, after his success took his life. Nonetheless, the movie showed how he succeeded despite all of these struggles. And from these, I was trully inspired.

# Issues

In explaining his notes to his wife, he said that it is “like a painting with colors you cannot see.” He further explained to his wife that there are patterns in everything – the color in light, the reflections on water – and that these patterns reveal themselves in mathematics in the most incredible form and that it is quite beautiful. This is a Pythagorean way of seeing things.

His ideas and formulae – brilliant they may be – lacked proofs and this is what Mr. Hardy and Mr. Littlewood wanted him to learn and incorporate in his works. This proved to be a difficult task for Mr. Ramanujan. Mr. Littlewood speculated that Mr. Ramanujan did not like proofs because they may be disagreeable to his formulae. Mr. Ramanujan think that doing proofs is a waste of time. He argues that he has the formulas and that the only thing left to do is publish his claims. This is an issue of HPS. Mr. Ramanujan who did not have any degree and who I suppose don’t have any background on HPS did not know the importance and the place of proofs in his works, formulae and claims.

# Conclusion

# Recommendations

# References