04
2025
SATURDAY

JANUARY
1st Week•004-361

JANUARY 2025
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Some views on the nature of Mathematics and Numbers from Antiquity to Modern times.

1. The Greeks (Exact Truth vs Approximation)

- **Pythagoreans (6th-5th c. BCE)**: Believed "All is number." Numbers and ratios revealed cosmic truth (harmony, music, astronomy). They thought mathematics reflected reality itself.

- **Crisis of irrationals ($\sqrt{2}$)**: Shattered the belief that all magnitudes could be expressed as exact ratios. This was deeply unsettling — "quantity" wasn't as exact as they thought.

- **Plato (4th c. BCE)**: Separated ideal numbers and figures (perfect, eternal) from their practical shadows in physical measurement. For him, geometry and arithmetic studied truth beyond convention.