

# Exploring Infinities

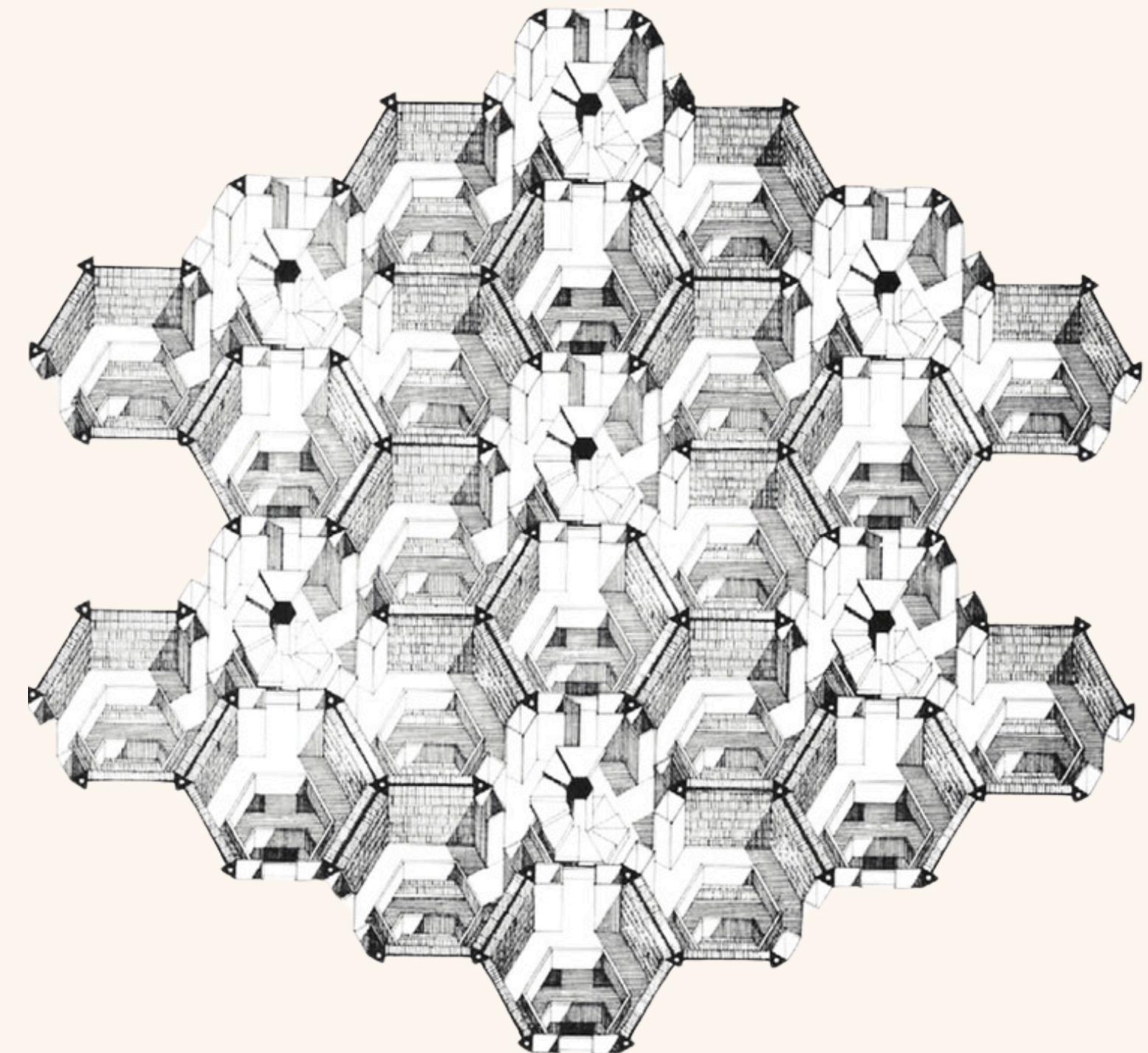
through the works of Jorge Luis Borges

Shikhar Soni

# The Library of Babel

*“By this art you may contemplate the variation of the 23 letters....*

- The universe contains of an infinite expanse of adjacent hexagonal rooms.
- In each room, there are four walls of bookshelves, an entrance on one wall, the bare necessities for human survival on another wall.
- “Each wall of each hexagon is furnished with 5 bookshelves; each bookshelf holds 32 books identical in format; each book contains 410; each page, 40 lines; each line, approximately 80 black letters.”
- The inhabitants believe that the books contain every possible ordering of just 25 basic characters (22 letters, the period, the comma, and space).



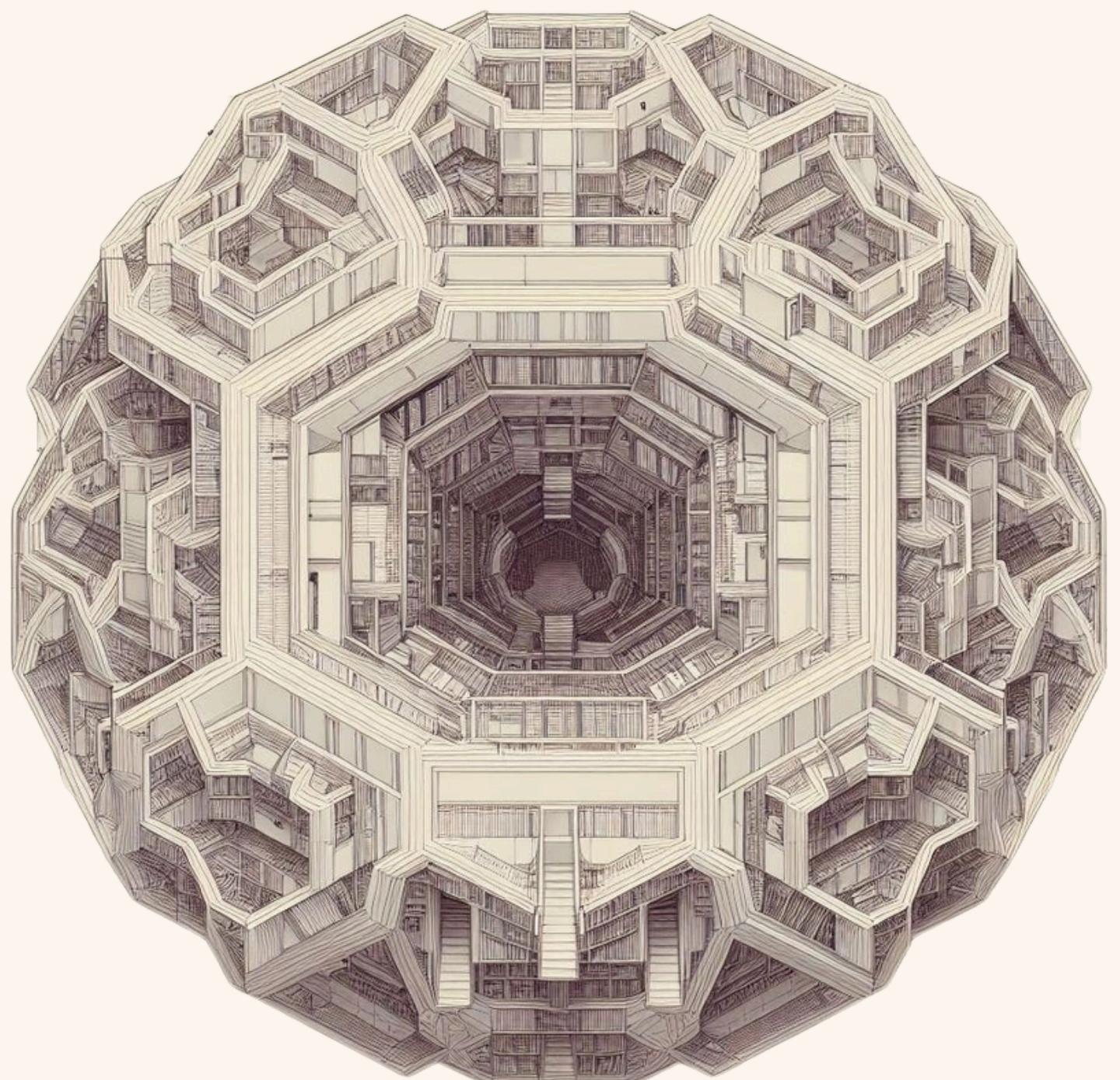
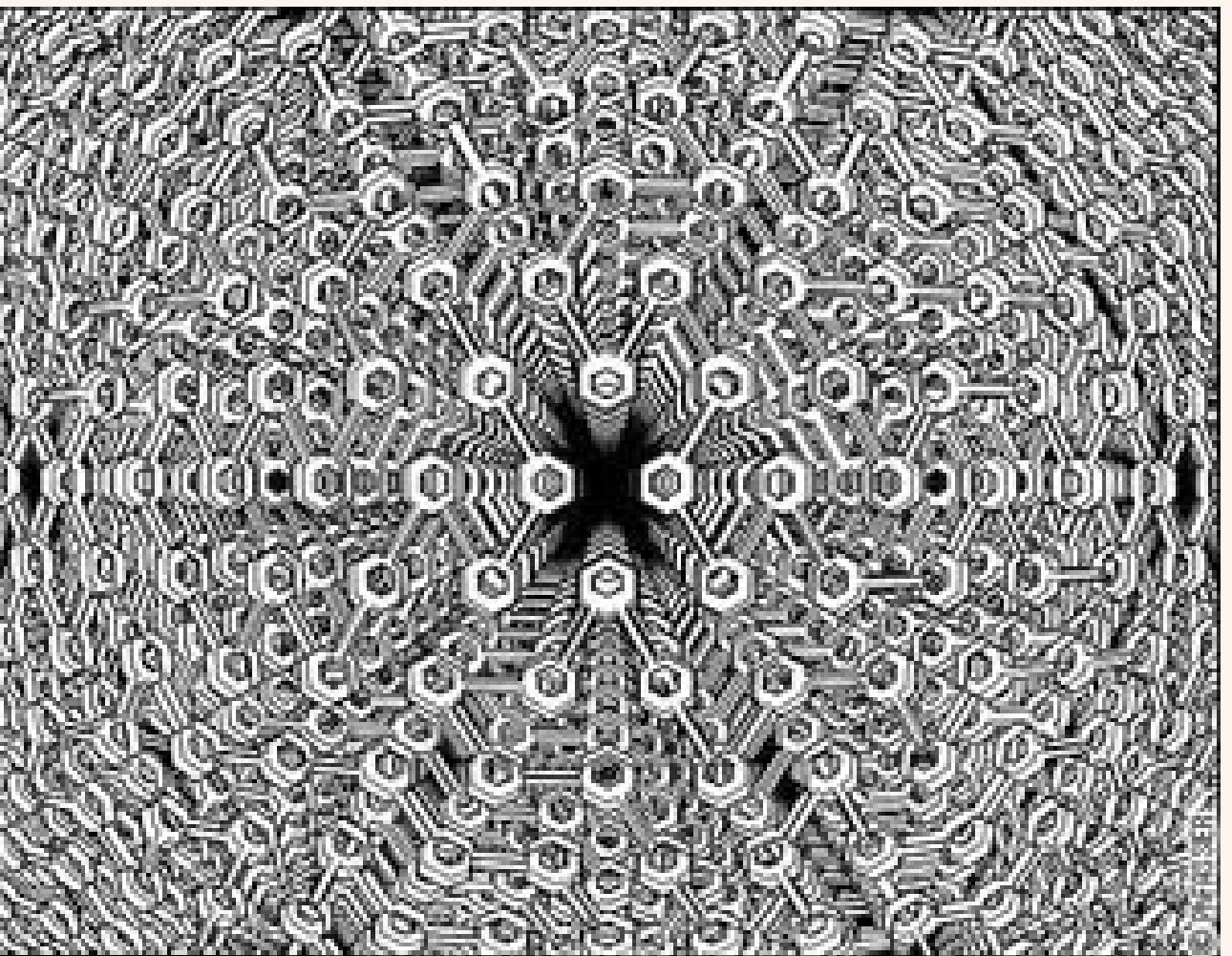
“.....the librarian deduced that the Library is "total"—perfect, complete, and whole—and that its bookshelves contain all possible combinations of the twenty-two orthographic symbols...”

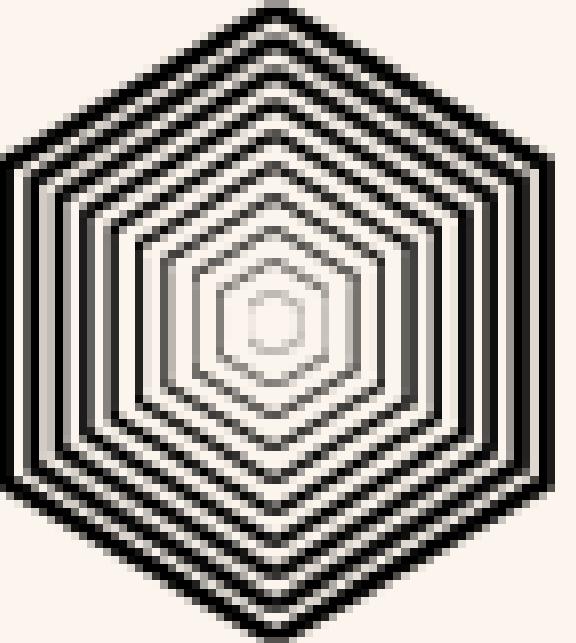
“...All –the detailed history of the future, the autobiographies of the archangels, the faithful catalog of the Library, thousands and thousands of false catalogs, the proof of the falsity of those false catalogs, a proof of the falsity of the true catalog, the gnostic gospel of Basilides, the commentary upon that gospel, the commentary on the commentary on that gospel, the true story of your death, the translation of every book into every language, the interpolations of every book into all books, the treatise Bede could have written (but did not) on the mythology of the Saxon people, the lost books of Tacitus.”



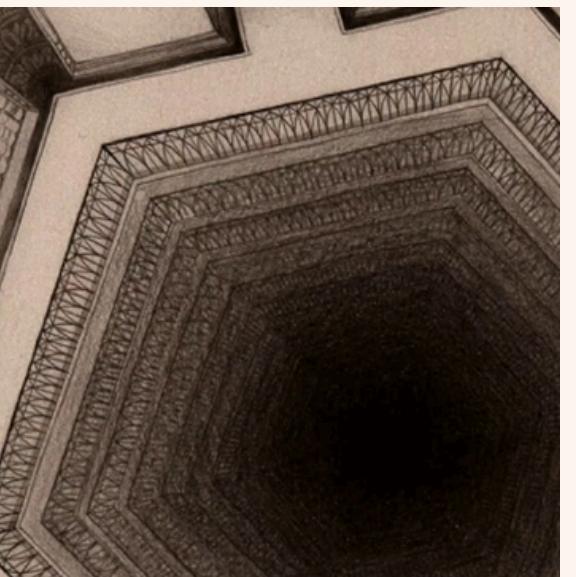
“...there must exist a book that is the cipher and perfect compendium of all other books...”

“The Vindications—books of apologia and prophecies that would vindicate for all time the actions of every person in the universe”





<https://libraryofbabel.info/>



<https://soundbabel.jakim.i/>

1v8q6eq0ra8we  
wjaid2djvru4d  
2xh906jorqeup  
...-w3-s5-v27

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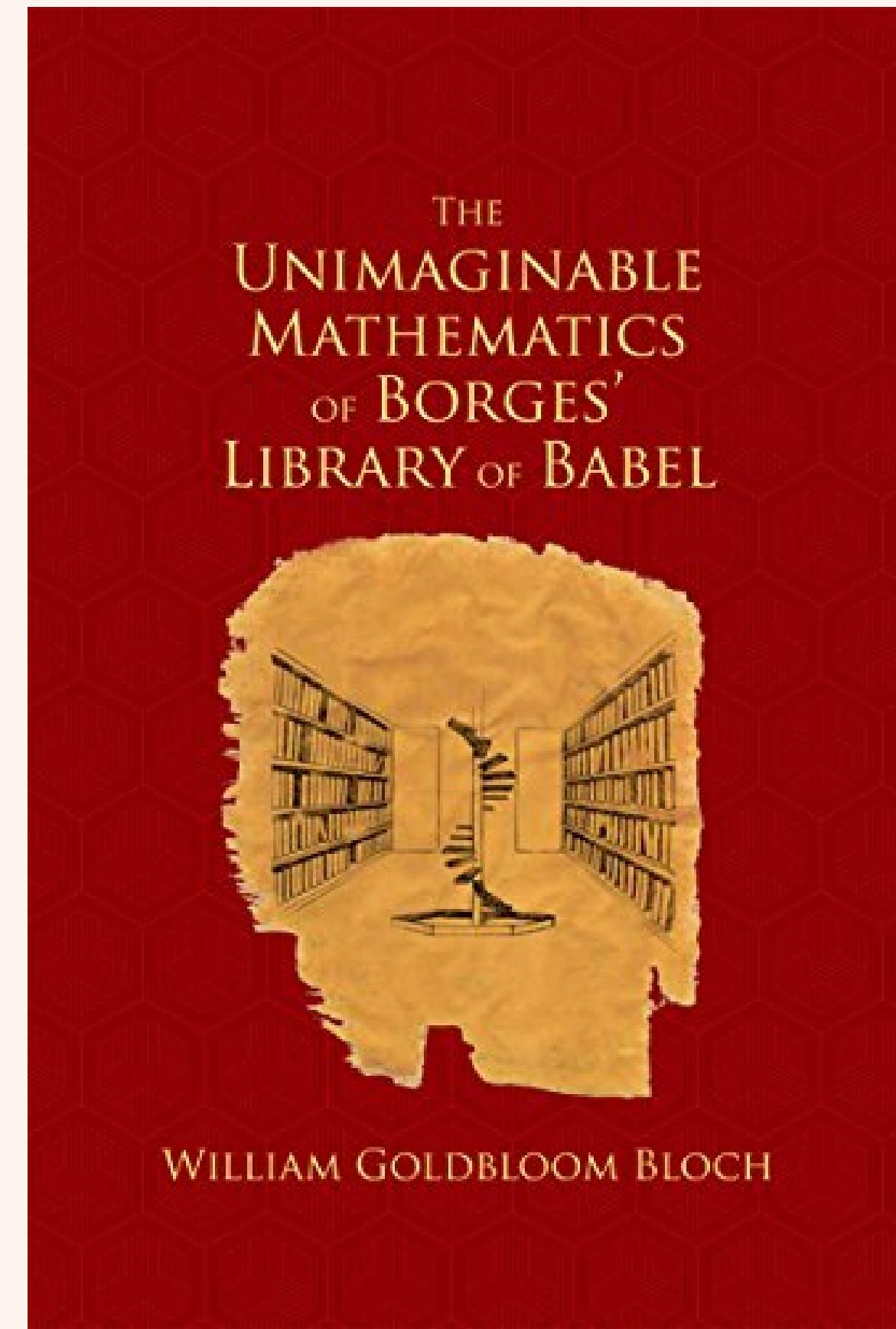
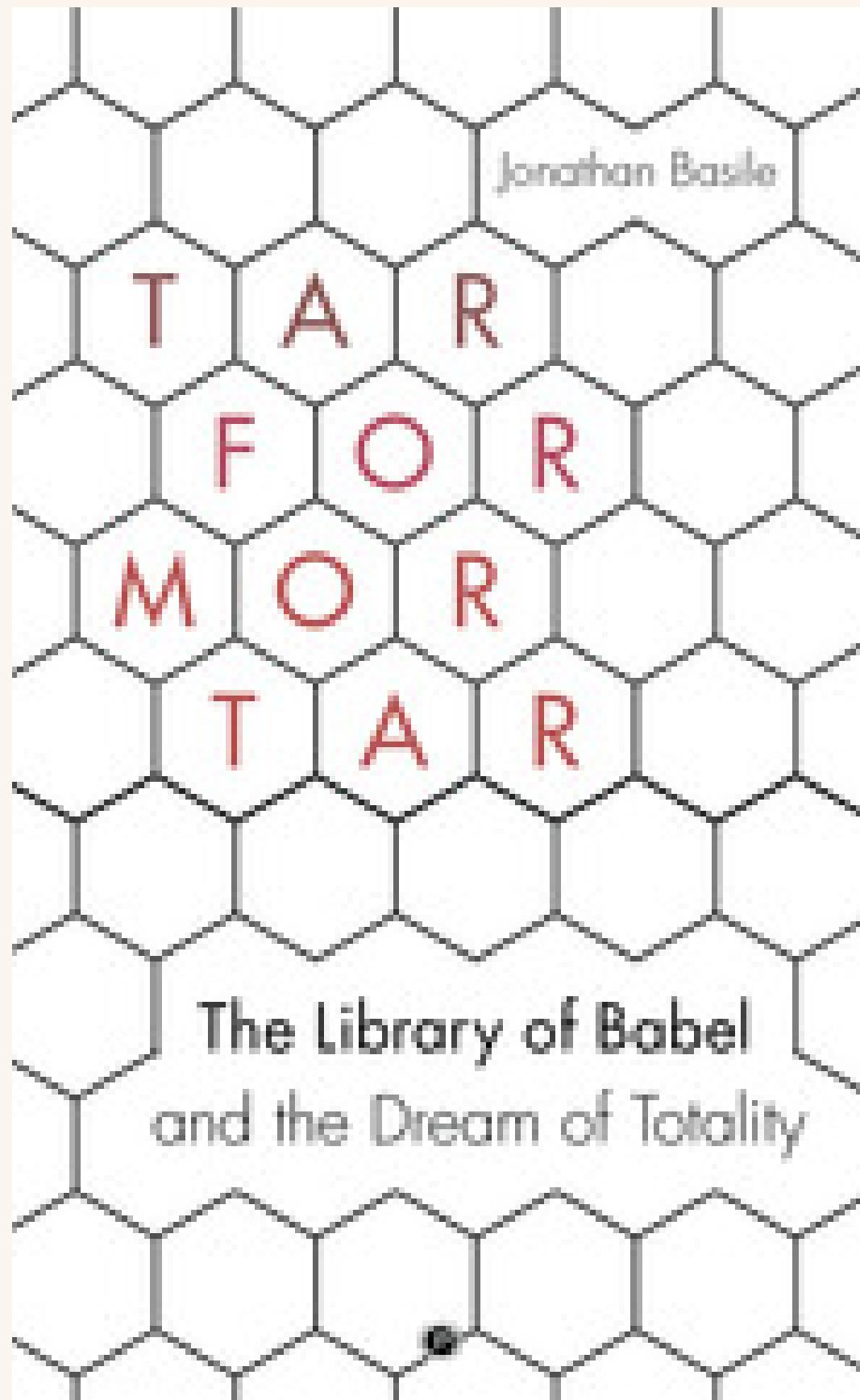
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“here's my new book i just wrote”

“lol shut up you aint wrote that shit i read in  
on babel like 2yrs ago”

# Funes, the Memorious

*"I, myself, alone, have more memories than all mankind since the world began," he said to me.*

*“What's the time, Ireneo? Without consulting the sky, without a second's pause, the boy replied, Four minutes till eight, young Bernardo Juan Francisco”*

Paralyzed after having been thrown from a horse, Funes lived physically within the confines of one room.

*“For nineteen years, he said, he had lived like a person in a dream: he looked without seeing, listened without hearing, forgetting everything, almost everything.”*



*“I recall him holding a dark passionflower in his hand, seeing it as it had never been seen, even had it been stared at from the first light of dawn till the last light of evening for an entire lifetime.”*

*“Instead of seven thousand thirteen (7013), he would say, for instance, "Máximo Pérez"; instead of seven thousand fourteen (7014), "the railroad"; other numbers were "Luis Melián Lafinur," "Olimar," "sulfur," "clubs," "the whale," "gas," "a stewpot," "Napoleon," "Agustín de Vedia. Instead of five hundred (500), he said "nine."*

*“I suspect that he was not very capable of thought. To think is to forget differences, generalize, make abstractions. In the teeming world of Funes, there were only details, almost immediate in their presence.”*

## FUNES EL MEMORIOSO



Por  
Jorge Luis Borges

*“With one quick look, you and I perceive three wineglasses on a table; Funes perceived every grape that had been pressed into the wine and all the stalks and tendrils of its vineyard. He knew the forms of the clouds in the southern sky on the morning of April 30, 1882, and he could compare them in his memory with the veins in the marbled binding of a book he had seen only once, or with the feathers of spray lifted by an oar on the Rio Negro on the eve of the Battle of Quebracho.”*

**“Can you start from the beginning?”**

**Funes:**



# Interesting Facts

- He became completely blind by the age of 55. Scholars have suggested that his progressive blindness helped him to create innovative literary symbols through imagination.
- As his eyesight waned, he increasingly focused on writing poetry, since he could memorize an entire work in progress.
- When he was 39 years old, Borges had a severe head injury; during treatment, he nearly died. While recovering from the accident, Borges began exploring a new style of writing for which he would become famous.
- He mentioned that his image of paradise is that of an infinite library
- He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 1964.
- His full name is Jorge Francisco Isidoro Luis Borges Acevedo.



Jorge Luis Borges  
in 1967



Borges with his cat Beppo