# The Golden Section: Nature's Greatest Secret

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**The Golden Section: Nature's Greatest Secret** Scott Olsen
The Golden Section—otherwise known as *phi*, the golden mean, or the golden ratio—is one of the most elegant and beautiful rations in the universe.

Defined as a line segment divided into two unequal parts, such that the ratio of the shorter portion to the longer portion is the same as the ratio of the longer portion to the whole, it pops up throughout nature—in water, DNA, the proportions of fish and butterflies, and the number of teeth we possess—as well as in art and architecture, music, philosophy, science, and mathematics.

Beautifully illustrated, *The Golden Section* tells the story of this remarkable construct and its wide-ranging impact on civilization and the natural world.

## The Golden Section: Nature's Greatest Secret Details

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# From Reader Review The Golden Section: Nature's Greatest Secret for online ebook

## Rebekah Gamble says

I really enjoyed this overview, especially the appendices, but there was sometimes introduced language that needed defined and wasn't anywhere. A glossary would have been very helpful considering the limited space for defining text.

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## Tomas says

Že aká Nádhera! Zlatý Rez, jedným šmahom vedený rovno cez krk Svätého Fibona?iho.
Alebo aj inými slovami - Predražený, Mysteriózny, Špiri?uálne zlataný nárez, skrz-naskrz cez geometrickú, numerickú aj harmonickú prdel Všehomíra. Au!

Budha ?íkal "t?lo je oko". Ve stavu kvantové koherence vyvolané p?ítomnosti Φ (?ítaj fí, asi že pod?a pôvodného fí-ha) je možné zažít samádhí, v?domou kosmickou identifikaci s v?domím samého vesmíru.
...
A práv? v tom spo?íva ono záhadné tajemství p?írody. Zlatý ?ez je vetkán do samé struktury naší existence a poskytuje nám nástroj, jímž můžeme rezhovnovat a naládovat se na stále širší úrovn? vlastní identity a poznávat sebe sama na stezce návratu k Jednomu ... šak oné, vieš ?o ...

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## Jenette says

If you want a book that stimulates and stretches the brain and imagination, this is one I recommend. You'll delve into what Plato and Da Vinci and others knew about the structure of nature, art, and the universe. This explains the workings of Phi in fibinacci, Lucas, pathagorean, and the indefinite dyad number patterns. The patterns of symmetry and asymmetry are discussed in everything from DNA, leaf structure, planetary orbits, insects, our body, water, music, art, architecture, and more. However, I think the author does go a little overboard with the "golden ratio" and tries to force it into natural occurrences where I do not believe this ratio occurs or exists.

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## Sondra says

Brilliant introduction to The Golden Mean, its application in architecture and discoveries in nature. A mathematician I'm not so the numbers were off-putting at first, but once I did a crude sketch or two myself I was up and running with the program. Truly an amazing phenomenon and I'm fascinated. It gave me a grasp of how minute we are in this vast universe and in the words of Monty Python, "How amazingly unlikely was our birth." Some of the illustration's corresponding reference numbers and letters were hard to read, and I understand it was a limitation of the format of the book's size, but that's why I gave it 4 rather than 5 stars. But it was an excellent way to ease into the basic concepts of a flawless natural design seen in shells, in the Parthenon, in Leonardo Da Vinci's paintings. . . The examples are endless.

## Christian says

A very fascinating book from start to finish that explores the occurrence of the golden ratio or section in nature such as in subatomic particles masses as functions of $\Phi$ and $1/\Phi$, in architectural designs from ancient Egypt to ancient Greece to modern-day design/manufacture of common household items like pens, coffee pots, radios, books, tables, and computer screens among others. You will also learn about the presence of $\Phi$ and its multiples in the structure of music as composed by Beethoven, Haydn, Chopin, Schubert, and Mozart among others.

I really like the following quote from the book:

"In the Platonic tradition, the intention was to lift the soul out of the realm of mere opinion (doxa), by attunement with the ratios and proportions contained in the harmonies and rhythms of music. This allows the soul to pass into the Intelligible realm of knowledge (episteme), moving through the realm of mathematical reasoning (dianoia) up into direct intuition (noesis) of the world of pure Forms, the ratios themselves." (pg. 38)

## Sally says

just requested ILL --> library bought it!

"Wow, let's do that again!" - Donkey from Shrek

Sometimes a book is much better than you thought it could be, and what a wonderful surprise. Only a math geek (like me) would call this rollicking good fun, but even the math-haters would find this lovely, beautiful and eye-opening. You see, math is simply the language of the Universe, and we're all a part of its beauty.

## Conchita says

A nice intro to the subject, with very good illustrations.

## Rebeka says

Το πιο μικρ? και περιεκτικ? βιβλ?ο που ?χω διαβ?σει μ?χρι τ?ρα (και ομολογουμ?νως ?χουν περ?σει πολλ? απ? τα χ?ρια μου). ?να βιβλ?ο που μπορε? να πε?σει τον καθ?να πως ο κ?σμος μας ε?ναι γεμ?τος με Μαθηματικ? περ?εργα και αξιοθα?μαστα, μαθηματικο? τ?ποι και σχ?ματα που μπορο?με να παρατηρ?σουμε απ? ?να π?νακα ζωγραφικ?ς, το κομπιουτερ?κι μας, ?να τραπουλ?χαρτο, ?να στυλ? μ?χρι και ?να πακ?το τσιγ?ρα.
Απ?στευτο και ?μως αληθιν?, μπορε? τα Μαθηματικ? να μην χρησιμοποιο?νται στην καθημεριν? ζω? και τις συναλλαγ?ς μας ?μως βρ?σκονται παντο? γ?ρω μας και ομορφα?νουν τον κ?σμο!!!

Το συστ?νω ανεπιφ?λακτα σε ?λους !!!

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**Sasha Katzenjammer says**

Don't even bother if you major in humanities.

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**Monty says**

Fascinating little book with great illustrations that demonstrate the crossroads where art and science meet. Specific shapes and proportions occur throughout nature, and these have been imitated by the great artists down the ages. I now understand Fibonacci numbers for the first time in my life, and why that series is important. Readers of this book will subsequently look at everything from flowering plants to animal faces to recognize geometrical forms in faces and bodies, and repeating series of leaves, branches, petals, etc. in nature. The concept of proportion is addressed as well, and why some artistic compositions grab the eyes, and others do not. This is a gem of a book.

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**Devora says**

Scott spoke at the south central retreat of the Theosophical Society in May. Fascinating speaker. First guy who every explained Fibonacci numbers and sacred geometry in a way that made sense.

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**Hattie says**

Extremely interesting, although I'm not going to pretend I understood it.

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**Laurie says**

I believe this is a great book, but I gave it three stars, because I did not understand a lot of it. As much as I love the *concept* of (sacred) geometry, I am confused with the philosophy of the geometry and arithmetic it is based on. I did, however, finally grasp the Fibonacci Sequence....finally! And for that, the read was worth it. The book is highly illustrated with classical and contemporary images of art; they are beautiful to look at, even if the reader cannot fully appreciate the sequencing of the golden ratio.

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**jeremy says**

a slim work in the wooden books series, *the golden section* offers a very cursory introduction into the golden ratio, (aka the golden mean or φ, phi) - considering the fibonacci sequence on the way, as well. scott olsen traces the history of the golden ratio, as well as its preponderance throughout nature, science, art,

architecture, aesthetics, music, and mathematics.

as with other books in the series, while beautifully illustrated, it is light on actual substance. jacket copy describes *the golden section* as "the most accessible and appealing guide to the subject ever assembled" - offering 1.6180339887 times more hyperbole than anticipated. for a quick, mostly visual primer on the golden ratio, it's a decent read, but surely not a book that leaves one feeling like they've learned anything of real depth or consequence.

> *we have come a long way, from a divided line to the essence of consciousness. the stated intention was to provide you with new vision and insight through examination of nature's greatest secret, the golden section, the most simple but profound asymmetric cut. perpetuated throughout the cosmos at all levels, it marries endless variety with ordered proportional symmetry, unifying parts and whole from the large down to the little and back up again in a eurythmic symphony of form.*

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**Phillias says**

inspiration and reference

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