

1135-H5-911

Satish C. Bhatnagar* (bhatnaga@unlv.nevada.edu), 308 CAVALLA STREET, HENDERSON, NV 89074-5976. *Life Values and Mathematics*.

The humanistic side of mathematics blooms only when mathematics is consciously practiced – whether through teaching, research, or service. However, it does take a couple of decades before mathematics and its humanistic side integrates in one’s everyday life. Every concept and definition in mathematics can take on a humanistic ride – be it that of point, line, limit, continuity and differentiability, integration, linearly independence and dependence, groups, bases, and so on. In teaching at lower division level, the first challenge is to be able distil the humanistic side of a mathematical idea. A bigger challenge is about imparting it, as the students in these course are under stress of tight syllabi, homework, quizzes, and tests. They find any direct reference to some philosophy and/or history of mathematics unacceptable. Humanistic mathematics borders on psychology. In this paper, the example of Proper Choices of Axes, as introduced in analytic geometry and pre-calculus, is taken for the pedagogy of its humanistic values. It has to be done in 60-90 seconds! One must seize upon that humanistic moment and use one’s communication skills to make a connection and then smoothly get back on the track – leaving some students wondering. (Received September 16, 2017)