

Re: Zen and...Math??

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- *From:* "galathaea" <galathaea@xxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 29 Oct 2006 17:37:07 -0800
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Ioannis wrote:

"Gaster" <godelian@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:8818713.1162001381389.JavaMail.jakarta@xx>

It's empirically obvious
that anything must be either in S or in N.

It makes sense that the adjective autological is autological.
It also makes sense that the adjective autological is heterological.
On the other hand it doesn't make sense that autological can be both
autological and heterological at the same time. Looks like an intersection

of S and N.

Sounds to me like a variant of Russell's Paradox. Here's another one: The word "short" is short (or reasonably so), but the word "long" is not. So "short" is self-descriptive and "long" is not. Yet another example: "English" is English, but "German" is not (it's English). So call an adjective homological (in the same spirit as your "autological") if it's self-descriptive, otherwise heterological. Then try "heterological". Either case traps you into a contradiction.

Besides the fact that these lead to obvious contradictions, there may be something seriously wrong with your circumstantial conviction of the "it makes sense" in the above example. What does it mean "/it makes sense/ that the adjective autological is autological"? It may make sense to you, it doesn't to me, because you are mixing logical levels. The phrase "autological is autological" is nonsense. The phrase "autological' is autological" may make SOME sense, depending on how you define "autological", after you properly quote it and differentiate between levels. What does it mean "/it makes sense/ that the adjective autological is heterological"? In short, the whole paragraph quoted above, is nonsensical to me, without proper qualifiers and quotes. And even when you add those, the whole scheme leads to a contradiction.

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The same thing happens with the famous card trick, with one side of the card having the statement "The statement on the other side of the card is false" and the other side