



HIGHER MATHEMATICS IN HELM

TWO WISE men of Helm lay sweating in the steam bath one day. To drive away the boredom of doing nothing they began to discuss deep mathematical problems.

The first one said, "If, for instance, it takes four hours to drive to Dvinsk with one horse, wouldn't it be right to say that if I drove with two horses it would only take me two hours?"

"Correct as gold," answered the other sage, filled with admiration.

"Now, why couldn't I drive to Dvinsk with four horses so I'd get there in no time?" continued the mathematician.

"Why trouble to go to Dvinsk at all?" exclaimed the other. "Just harness your four horses and stay right here."

From A Treasury of Jewish Folklore.