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Medieval Number Symbolism (Paperback)

By Hopper

Dover Publications Inc., United States, 2011. Paperback. Condition: New. Reprint. Language: English . Brand New Book. For Dante and other people in the Middle Ages, numbers had a different set of connotations than they do for moderns. The symbolism of numbers was both widespread and profoundly ingrained in the culture. In this classic study, a noted scholar reveals how deeply rooted in medieval thought was the consciousness of numbers, not as mathematical tools, nor yet as the counters in a game, but as fundamental realities, alive with memories and eloquent with meaning. For example, the number three -- linked to the Trinity -- was of special significance, and endowed every repetition of the number three with a richness of meaning which can be but dimly grasped by the modern reader. Numbers derived from constellations, planets, stellar revolutions, and other astronomical phenomena were also thought to have divine associations. These and many other aspects of the topic are illuminated here. In the first three chapters, the author examines the three main sources of number symbolism; basic, elementary symbols derived from man's struggles to count and identify such natural groupings as fingers and toes; the ancient Babylonian science of astrology; and...



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