

CAIUSCOUNTING

(a few annotations)

- 282.29: caiuscounting in the
- 282.30: scale of pin puff pive piff, piff puff pive poo,
- 282.31: poo puff pive pree, pree puff pive pfoor, pfoor
- 282.32: puff pive pippive, poopive, Niall Dhu,
- 283.1: Foughty Unn, Enoch Thortig, endso one, like
- 283.2: to pitch of your cap, pac, on to tin tall spilli-
- 283.3: cans.

The "arithmetic passage" starting from FW 282.6 is one of the most enlightening examples of Joyce's literary pyrotechnics. I have heaped up a lot of annotations, but here I'll limit myself to pointing out a couple of hints which – methinks: please, correct me if I am wrong - have not yet been taken into due account.

Usually the interpretation of this "problematical" (what else?) passage turns around the arithmetic operations in order to find what number (or numbers) come out of them - each scholar more or less satisfied with his own "accounting". But what is almost totally left out is the "theatrical" visualization of the scene, which I find very amusing and which can explain many cryptic allusions, especially the "puff pive" crux. So, let's try to imagine a little child - hardly able to speak, who expresses himself in his own mumbling baby language - playing with the fingers of his hand, repeating ad infinitum (282.25 : by rota - rota: wheel) the elementary arithmetic operations which are innate in himself (282.10 "knowed from his cradle").

In his baby language the five numbers are: piff, poo, pree, pfoor, pive (a sequence of "p" – "pee"s). The baby looks at the "pins" (282.30 - the scale of pin) of his hand; there are "pive" of them. And he starts counting them. "piff" is the first one out of five (**p of five - pof five - puff pive**), "poo" is the second "p of five / puff pive) and the same for "pree" and "pfoor". But when he reaches the last one we may hear his shout of joy "**pippive!**", since the game has ended with his "pin pive". The baby looks at the five fingers of his hand (the right one, the good one - 282.5 "Boon

on begyndelse" - boon – French “bon” - Italian “buono” Latin - “bonus”). Then he looks at his other hand (poopive - "poo" is "two"), his left (sinistrous), "dirty" hand; the hands that points [FW 283.08-09] to "lechery" (sexes), gluttony (supper), impudence (oglers), idle gossip literature (novels), gambling (dice). It is the same "pickpocket" hand shown in 282.15. So the baby looks at the "villanous" hand and starts a new game, the two opposing hands fighting each other. The RH says to the LH:

*“You (Dhu) are a zero, a Nihil (Niall),
though you are convinced you are a brave warrior
(the Fighting One - Foughty Unn), the number one of warriors;
but you are wrong, since "I" am the "highest", since I
(Enoch) am placed on the thirthiest (Thortig) floor.”*

["Enoch" is similar to the Semitic "anak/anok" meaning "I", and we trace the German "ich" (I) in "Thort-ig". And of course he is the biblical patriarch who "walked with God: and he was no more; for God took him", (Gen 5:22-29)



the legend saying that he ascended to heaven.]

Or we may detect another concurrent interpretation, where "Niall" is Njal Thorgeirson, son of Thorgeir, so: a foreign invader, a "fucked (Foughty) Hun (Unn)".

[Latin futuere, "to fuck", Italian "Unno" (hun) - and if we read "Unn" as

"Ann" we may pick a nasty "mother fucker" as well.]

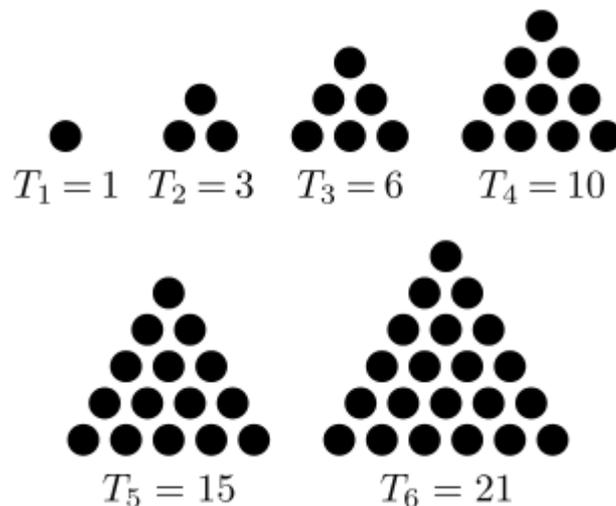
Whereas he himself is "Thor", both the God and Njall's father "Thor-geir". So the "fucked son" cannot compete with the godlike father. And then he hits his adversary's head (283.2 : pitch of your cap) - we can even hear the comic-strip sound "pac" on the head ["poopive" can in fact be Popeye] - with a spillikan, that, though a "toy" (German "Spiel"), turns his enemy into a bloodied "pelican".

[With a lot of contradictory meanings, which I leave aside.]

In this passage we may detect, though, another very amusing allusion in the arithmetical scenery. It regards the already treated "puff pive", which, in a strict mathematical context, may be read as a distorted (baby language) "plus five". But we should not read it as "add five", but as a substitute for "make a sum of the five fingers". Thus: piff (sum) poo (sum) pree (sum) pfoor (sum) pive = pippive!

Or, in numbers : $1 + 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 = 15$

Now, this series is defined by mathematicians as a "triangle number"



which seems to me a very clear (though as yet unconscious) allusion to the female DELTA we'll soon meet on page 293!

[By the way: if we *imagine* the exclamation mark (!), the joyful shout after "pippive", we have a "5!", a factorial of five which is 120, pointing to

283.05 Mumtplay of course and carry to their whole
283.06 number.

“Factorial” hint which will be exploited soon after p. 284-285.]

The "delta" missing in "puff pive". In fact, we may see in "puff" a metaphor for "smoking" and in "pive" the Protoslavlic "pivo/piva" (beer), so "drinking". Thus we have drink and smoke of the Hendiatris : “Wine, women and smoke”, in Italian “Bacco, Tabacco e Venere”, but with a missing Venere (Venus), another amusing touch regarding the “chaste” and “intellectual” Kev / Shaun.