

Octo π

Octo π was apparently summoned during a particularly unfortunate seminar on pure mathematics; judging from surviving notes (before said notes devolved into the traditional inhuman, babbling screams) a professor was attempting to demonstrate what pi might look like in an eight spatial-dimension space, and... well. He apparently succeeded. He just wasn't expecting Octo π to be **hungry** when it arrived.

The trouble with describing Octo π is that it apparently feeds on mathematicians' brains, and is attracted to too-accurate thoughts of, speculations concerning, and/or visualizations concerning Octo π . As a result, the people most capable of accurately describing this monster rapidly become the people *least* capable of describing this monster (or, indeed, anything at all). The best description that anybody's ever come up with came from a young security guard with dyscalculia, and she couldn't do better than "this spider thing with smoky legs and a bunch of balls of fire instead of a head." Recording Octo π is not so much difficult as it is incredibly ill-advised; the footage has a distressing tendency to come to life and chow down on the closest weight analyst.

How do you fight Octo π ? Mostly, you don't. Oh, its physical form can be handily disrupted from this plane of existence via the application of enough kinetic energy. That's straightforward enough. Unfortunately, Octo π is the malevolent, ravenous manifestation of a metaphysical concept, and applied kinetic energy often finds it *much* harder to destroy things like that permanently.

Fortunately for humanity, there's only one Octo π (that we know of), and it doesn't **have** to eat very often. Even if you are a mathematician, you can easily avoid Octo π -- as long as you don't know that Octo π exists, and aren't capable of visualizing its properties. If you **do** know and can visualize, then it can get a little messy. One must learn to regulate one's thoughts, which is difficult.

Alternatively, one could join with a number of professional colleagues in the same predicament, and make arrangements so that Octo π is placated via a regular diet of its preferred food. This is much, much easier. Not exactly congruent with traditional ethical systems, mind you; but self-preservation is a legitimate human life goal. Plus, the gathering afterwards is often quite congenial, in its way. Very useful for maintaining professional contacts, and all that.

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