

**A TALE OF TWO TREATISES
(SAGA OF THE CONQUEST OF MT EVEREST OF NUMBER
THEORY)**

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Abstract: Diophantus Arithmetica-Fermat's Marginal note- Marvellous proof - No space to write the details of proof-Futile attempts by eminent mathematicians for over 350 years- E.T. Bell's Book- The Last Problem motivates Andrew Wiles-Working for seven years on the attic of his house - Finally FLT is proved in 1995 with some participation of Richard Taylor.

Keywords and Phrases: Diophantus - Arithmetica - Pythagoras Theorem - Fermat's Last Theorem (FLT) -E.T. Bell's Book - The Last Problem -Andrew Wiles -Elliptic Curves - Modular Forms - Taniyama -Shimura Conjecture - Richard Taylor.

1. Introduction

I

William Durham said, "Students of Literature read Shakespeare, students of Music listen to Bach. But this tradition of studying the major works of the masters is, if not wholly absent, certainly uncommon in Mathematics".

Laplace exhorted us all, "Read Euler, Read Euler, He is the master of us all"

When asked how he developed his mathematical abilities, Abel replied, "By studying the masters, not their pupils"

Fermat's Last Theorem-FLT, was first conjectured by Pierre de Fermat in the year 1637 in the form of a passing comment in the margin of a page in his personal copy of the Book *Arithmetica* of Greco-Alexandrian Mathematician of the third century C.E. The first proof was released in 1993 by the Princeton University Professor Andrew Wiles and published in 1995 after its fine tuning. It took about 358 years of effort by mighty mathematicians of the world to resolve the riddle.