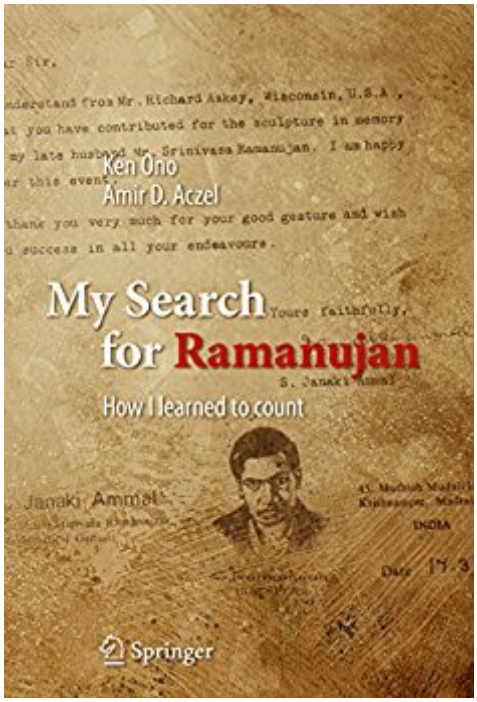
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# My Search For Ramanujan: How I Learned To Count




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## Synopsis

"The son of a prominent Japanese mathematician who came to the United States after World War II, Ken Ono was raised on a diet of high expectations and little praise. Rebelling against his pressure-cooker of a life, Ken determined to drop out of high school to follow his own path. To obtain his fatherÃ¢â ¬â„¢s approval, he invoked the biography of the famous Indian mathematical prodigy Srinivasa Ramanujan, whom his father revered, who had twice flunked out of college because of his single-minded devotion to mathematics.Ono describes his rocky path through college and graduate school, interweaving RamanujanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s story with his own and telling how at key moments, he was inspired by Ramanujan and guided by mentors who encouraged him to pursue his interest in exploring RamanujanÃ¢â ¬â„¢s mathematical legacy.Picking up where others left off, beginning with the great English mathematician G.H. Hardy, who brought Ramanujan to Cambridge in 1914, Ono has devoted his mathematical career to understanding how in his short life, Ramanujan was able to discover so many deep mathematical truths, which Ramanujan believed had been sent to him as visions from a Hindu goddess. And it was Ramanujan who was ultimately the source of reconciliation between Ono and his parents.OnoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s search for Ramanujan ranges over three continents and crosses paths with mathematicians whose lives span the globe and the entire twentieth century and beyond. Along the way, Ken made many fascinating discoveries. The most important and surprising one of all was his own humanity."Ã Â

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In his courageous and fascinating memoir, Ken Ono elegantly traces three lives moving in odd synchronicity through time and space: his own, his fatherÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s, and famous Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan. The thread that ties them together is a prodigious talent for mathematics that only begins to flourish under the mentorship of an established authority.RamanujanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s case is archetypal. His solitary mathematical development in India and his eventual collaborations with Cambridge mathematician G. H. Hardy are the stuff of myth. OnoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s story is just as compelling but much more accessible because he is willing to share his painful struggles as a kid of immigrant Japanese ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“tiger parentsÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, his uncertainties about his lifeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s path, and his own eventual flourishing as a creative mathematician and teacher. It is his search for Ramanujan and the compulsion to understand the man and his mathematics that drives OnoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s considerable success. And that success leads Ono to finally understand his own father and the forces that drove him to be the parent he was.This is fascinating reading: personally moving and intellectually compelling.PS: Ono is too good a storyteller to let the math slow the narrative. It is easily compartmentalized. Be not afraid.

I have been following Ramanujan as an amateur mathematician for several decades. So when I came across Ken’s book, I grabbed it. Wondeful color photos in middle. It is more of Ken’s life and how he found Ramanujan. This is not a Ramanujan’s biography to be clear, though there is lot of details about the mathematical geniu’s life. I have hardcopies of Ramanujan’s printed notebooks from TIFR, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research. It is an enigma and will require lifetime to understand. I always wonder what would have happened if Ramanujan lived till 80 years old like his wife. That would have produced a boatload of mathematical theorems. What would have happened if he lived in this Internet age? Ken’s book is a great and I give to my daughter to motivate her. Fascinating read. Very well written and gripping.

This book is one of the most interesting motivational books I have ever read. It is a must read for those who feel they did not find their path in life yet or those who feel that difficulties are prohibiting

them from achieving their goals. The personal struggle of one of the world's prominent mathematicians, Ken Ono, that started at an early age (having tiger parents) could have definitely destroyed his life if it wasn't for certain events and certain decisions at certain times motivated by certain people. Few people that dealt with him at the right time in the right place helped him get where he is right now; Ramanujan (the inspiration), Basil Gordon (the self-confidence), Erika, his spouse (safety and support) in addition to other minor players. No one who is familiar with the mathematical work of Ken Ono will believe that this successful guy has passed through all of this in his life.

What a delightful, inspirational book! Ono provides a courageous, candid perspective about his life and the struggles he has overcome to find his destiny. In a compelling, gripping prose, he will help you reflect on your own past, your goals and dreams, the fragility of the human condition, and the unpredictability of our future.This must-read book is a fascinating, moving account of Ono's life as first-generation immigrant, rich in details about his parents' lives in Japan and the life-changing events that helped them emigrate to the US, and of course Ramanujan's story of unbelievable genius in early-twentieth-century India and his collaboration with G.H. Hardy--all of them weaved together through the passion for mathematics. Please note, however, that the few mathematical technicalities are in no way an impediment to enjoy and be absorbed by the book if you don't have the mathematical background. The story flows seamlessly if you skip the few math formulas and ideas, and most of them are presented in an appendix.Compelling, inspirational, gripping--a must-read!

A difficult childhood left Prof. Ono crave a sense of belonging and acceptance, despite his loyalty to his family and to mathematics. The curious and mysterious beacon of Ramanujan's life and work gradually worked into this desire, until it became a guiding light for his life. This led to much fulfillment in his life, and represents a very inspirational story. The sad life of Ramanujan together with his mysterious, profound and beautiful sense of mathematics represents certainly one of the wondrous and poignant incidences in the long and colorful history of mathematics. In a way, his life and work stands as a beacon of wonder and beauty for us all. It is not surprising that it had a profound influence in Prof. Ono's life, and helped him to achieve a distinguished career in mathematics. I thought this was a very inspirational tale of courage and loyalty in the face of much discouragement initially.

I bought this book since I have been fascinated with the life of Ramanujan from the time I read Robert Kanigels book on his life and his interaction with Hardy. The author writes about his life (autobiography) and the life of Ramanujan and connects it through the common experiences of first generation immigrant like his father, and how it reflected on his upbringing. I found the biography of Ramanujan more easy reading than the auto biography of the author which occupies most of the book. Nevertheless it was interesting to note the focus of the author on becoming a professional mathematician despite hardships. Eye opener for all tiger moms and dads.Good reading.

I enjoyed the CONTENT of this book, but the way it was implemented as an e-book made it endlessly frustrating to read on my iPad. It was necessary to manually re-size EACH page to fill my screen with readable sized print. A seemingly non-standard implementation of a print book, converted for sale in e-book form. Too bad! The CONTENT was excellent!

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