

miners to dig it out. (*He shows them a huge "g" twice as high as the MATHEMAGICIAN.*)

MILO. No, that's not what I mean. Can you show me the longest number there is?

MATHEMAGICIAN. Sure. (*Opens another door.*) Here it is. It took three carts to carry it here. (*Door reveals an "g" that is as wide as the "g" was high.*)

MILO. No, no, that's not what I meant either. (*Looks helplessly at TOCK.*)

TOCK. I think what you would like to see is the number of the greatest possible magnitude.

MATHEMAGICIAN. Well, why didn't you say so? (*He busily measures them and all other things as he speaks, and marks it down.*) What's the greatest number you can think of? (*Here, an appeal can also be made to the audience or MILO may think of his own answers.*)

START

MILO. Uh . . . nine trillion, nine hundred and ninety-nine billion, nine hundred ninety-nine million, nine-hundred ninety-nine thousand, nine hundred and ninety-nine. (*He puffs.*)

MATHEMAGICIAN. (*Writes that on the pad.*) Very good. Now add one to it. (*MILO or audience does.*) Now add one again. (*MILO or audience does so.*) Now add one again. Now add one again. Now add . . .

MILO. But when can I stop?

MATHEMAGICIAN. Never. Because the number you want is always at least one more than the number you have, and it's so large that if you started saying it yesterday, you wouldn't finish tomorrow.

HUMBUG. Where could you ever find a number so big?

MATHEMAGICIAN. In the same place they have the smallest number there is, and you know what that is?

MILO. The smallest number . . . let's see . . . one one-millionth?

MATHEMAGICIAN. Almost. Now all you have to do is divide that in half and then divide that in half and then divide that in half and then divide that . . .

MILO. Doesn't that ever stop either?

MATHEMAGICIAN. How can it when you can always take half of what you have and divide it in half again? Look. (*Pointing offstage.*) You see that line?

MILO. You mean that long one out there?

MATHEMAGICIAN. That's it. Now, if you just follow that line forever, and when you reach the end, turn left, you will find the Land of Infinity. That's where the tallest, the shortest, the biggest, the smallest and the most and the least of everything are kept.

MILO. But how can you follow anything forever? You know, I get the feeling that everything in Digitopolis is very difficult.

MATHEMAGICIAN. But on the other hand, I think you'll find that the only thing you can do easily is be wrong, and that's hardly worth the effort.

MILO. But . . . what bothers me is . . . well, why is it that even when things are correct, they don't really seem to be right?

MATHEMAGICIAN. (*Grows sad and quiet.*) How true. It's been that way ever since Rhyme and Reason were banished. (*Sadness turns to fury.*) And all because of that stubborn wretch Azaz! It's all his fault.

MILO. Maybe if you discussed it with him . . .

MATHEMAGICIAN. He's just too unreasonable! Why just last month, I sent him a very friendly letter, which he never had the courtesy to answer. See for yourself (*Puts the letter on the easel. The letter reads:*)

END