

Math Diversion Problem 439

P. Reany

February 28, 2025

I love it when a plan comes together.

— Hannibal Smith, *The A-Team*

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bU0-PYjyPPQ&t=1s>

Title: A Really Cool Exponential Equation

Presenter: SyberMath

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$(\log x)^{\ln x} = x, \quad (1)$$

find the values of x .

2 The Solution

The natural action to begin with is to take the logarithm across (1):

$$(\ln x) \ln (\log x) = \ln x, \quad (2)$$

which has the trivial solution $x = 1$, but we have to reject it because it won't work in (1).¹ Therefore, we can divide through by $\ln x$, to get

$$\ln (\log x) = 1. \quad (3)$$

Now, we raise e to the power of this last equation to get

$$\log x = e^1 = e. \quad (4)$$

Finally, we raise 10 to the power of this last equation to get

$$x = 10^e. \quad (5)$$

¹We can't have 0^0 .