

Math Diversion Problem 548

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Truth, like oil, will in time rise to surface.

— Charlie Chan

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hqux073_Ytc

Title: Harvard Entrance Exam Question

Presenter: Math Beast

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$\log_4 (\log_3 x)^3 = 4.5, \quad (1)$$

find the real values of x .

2 The Solution

Let's begin with some simple changes:

$$3 \log_4 (\log_3 x) = \frac{9}{2}, \quad (2)$$

or,

$$\log_4 (\log_3 x) = \frac{3}{2}. \quad (3)$$

Now, raise 4 to the last equation:

$$\log_3 x = 4^{3/2} = 2^3 = 8. \quad (4)$$

Finally, raise 3 to the last equation:

$$x = 3^8 = 6561. \quad (5)$$