

Math Diversion Problem 579

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No mystery is closed to an open mind.
— Sightings TV show

The YouTube video is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08rdQyUzhgU>
Title: Harvard University Admission Interview Tricks
Presenter: Super Academy

1 The Problem

Given the relation

$$6 = 216^{8^{3x-1}}, \quad (1)$$

find all real values of x .

2 The Solution

(Note: $216 = 6^3$.)

Let's rewrite (1) into the form:

$$6 = 6^{3 \cdot 8^{3x-1}}, \quad (2)$$

On equating exponents, we get

$$3 \cdot 8^{3x-1} = 1, \quad (3)$$

or

$$8^{3x-1} = \frac{1}{3}. \quad (4)$$

Then we take the natural logarithm, to get

$$3x^{-1} \ln 8 = \ln 1/3 = -\ln 3. \quad (5)$$

Solving for x , we get

$$x = -\frac{3 \ln 8}{\ln 3} = -\frac{9 \ln 2}{\ln 3}. \quad (6)$$