

# Math Diversion 724

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This is the normal result of any idea you have in  
mathematics: It turns out they're either wrong  
or trivial or a known result.  
— Richard Bocherds

The problem is found at:

Source: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=112TshxBXYE>  
Title: Can solve this Olympiad Question ?  
Presenter: VIJAY Maths

The problem is found at:

Source: <https://www.algebra.com/algebra>  
Title: Question 22466  
Presenter: Patrick

## 1 Problem

Given the relation

$$x^3 + \frac{1}{x^3} = 18, \quad (1)$$

find the real values of

$$\phi = x^7 + \frac{1}{x^7}. \quad (2)$$

## 2 Solution

My solution plan is simple: Solve for  $x^3$  and substitute that into

$$\phi = (x^3)^{7/3} + \frac{1}{(x^3)^{7/3}}. \quad (3)$$

Now, (1) can be rewritten as

$$(x^3)^2 - 18(x^3) + 1 = 0, \quad (4)$$

which has positive root

$$x^3 = 9 + \sqrt{80} \approx 17.9443. \quad (5)$$

So

$$x^7 \approx 842.9. \quad (6)$$

Therefore,

$$\phi \approx 842.9 + \frac{1}{842.9} \approx 842.9. \quad (7)$$