Dalrymple Lecture in Mathematics

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Primes and Zeros: A Million Dollar Mystery

A prime number is an integer greater than one whose only positive divisors are 1 and itself. In 1859 G. F. B. Riemann proposed a way to understand how the prime numbers are distributed among the natural numbers. More than 150 years later mathematicians still have not proven Riemann's Hypothesis. The stature of this problem has continued to rise so that today it is widely regarded as the most important unsolved problem in all of mathematics. In this talk I will describe some of the colorful history that surrounds this question.