

## **The Problem of Points**

Pascal and Fermat are sitting in a cafe in Paris and decide to play a game of flipping a coin. If the coin comes up heads, Fermat gets a point. If it comes up tails, Pascal gets a point. The first to get ten points wins. They each ante up fifty francs, making the total pot worth one hundred francs. They are, of course, playing "winner takes all." But then a strange thing happens. Fermat is winning, 8 points to 7, when he receives an urgent message that his child is sick and he must rush to his home in Toulouse. The carriage man who delivered the message offers to take him, but only if they leave immediately. Of course, Pascal understands, but later, in correspondence, the problem arises: how should the 100 Francs be divided? Justify your solution.