THE BOOK OF SAND
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Abstract
The title of this essay belongs, of course, to Jorge Luis Borges. Can you remember? The narrator receives a visit from a weird fellow. The stranger offers him a book. At first, the narrator is skeptic. He browses the book and finds the pages in a terrifying disarray. He is informed that the visitor had received the book a long time ago, in a slum in Bikanir, from an illiterate guy, in exchange for a copy of a modern bible. Eventually, he accepts the transaction. He offers the stranger some money and the heretic bible of John Wyclif. He then realizes that he had received an infinite book, that doesn't have neither a first page nor a last one. In the contents of this book of sand, there is, therefore, no beginning and no end. The infinite book resembles the universe: it is eternal. Unlike one of saint Augustine's books, a short polemic work. It was edited on one of the walls of a church that had been visited by a heretic community of the donatists, to forever remind them their error. Against the author's hope, the temple didn't survive (and maybe neither did the memory of the mistake). Saint Augustine's book, as well as the walls of the church, turned to dust. Nobody remembers it. As a conclusion, sand can suggest infinity. That was Borges' thought. But the same sand could suggest instability and the perishable. And that was my thought.

Keywords
late Antiquity; Saint Augustine; donatist heresy; history of book

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"The Book of Sand" (Spanish: El libro de arena) is a 1975 short story by Argentine writer Jorge Luis Borges. It has parallels to the same author's 1949 story "The Zahir" (revised 1974), continuing the theme of self-reference and attempting to abandon the terribly infinite. The story was first published in 1975, in Spanish, as the last of 13 stories in a book of the same name. The first English translation – by Norman Thomas di Giovanni – was published in The New Yorker; the entire volume The Book of Explore releases and tracks from Book Of Sand at Discogs. Shop for Vinyl, CDs and more from Book Of Sand at the Discogs Marketplace. Book Of Sand. Profile: Anarchist experimental black metal band from Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA, formed in 2009. The titular "Book of Sand" is the Book of all Books, and is a monster. The story tells how this book came into the possession of a fictional version of Borges himself, and of how he ultimately disposed of it. On opening the book, Borges finds that the pages are written in an indecipherable script appearing in double columns, ordered in verses as in a Bible. When he opens to a page with an illustration, the bookseller advises a close look, since the page will never be found, or seen, again. This Book of Sand has no beginning or end: its pages are infinite. Each page is numbered, apparently uniquely but in no discernible pattern. The bookseller indicates that he acquired the book in exchange for a handful of rupees and a Bible, from an owner who did not know how to read.