POSTLUDE
Disclaimer

Having completed this work I now look back and contemplate it. Is it all true? I've tried hard to ensure that every statement which is claimed to be true, is indeed true.

Yet if I had followed the practice of artists in certain eastern cultures, such as the carpet weavers of Iraq, I’d have deliberately woven in one or two flaws. Only Allah is perfect and if I claim to have achieved perfection I’m setting myself up in opposition to him, which may have dire consequences.

But it’s not too late. So just to be on the safe side let me include the following disclaimer.

At least one assertion in this book is false.

There, that should do it. But wait a bit. That disclaimer itself can’t help but be true. Why? Well, if it is false then that assertion is false, then every assertion in the book is true, including the disclaimer itself! But that would be a contradiction.

So the disclaimer is true and so there must be an error somewhere else in the book. But where? I've checked it most carefully, and I haven’t found an error. Yet simply by adding this disclaimer it forces me to admit that I must have made a mistake! But for the life of me I simply can’t find it.

Perhaps if logic is forcing me to have made a mistake maybe I don’t have free will after all. What’s that you say? Self-reference is not allowed? I see, it’s wrong for me to make any statement about myself.
PUZZLE ANSWER

The secret to the puzzle lies in the way you join the two shorter ends. If you bend the strip and join the ends so as to make a short cylinder with the longer edges becoming the circles at each end, you have no more chance of solving the puzzle than before.

But if you give the strip a half-twist before you join the ends then what you have is a Möbius Band. (If your strip is too short to make the half-twist use a longer strip.) And on a Möbius Band the puzzle can be solved.
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