## Adalogical Anigmas

No. 28

Gentle solver,
On my daily nature walks, I have oft been struck by the apparently random quality of the vegetation I see there. I was thus quite excited when I recently learnt of the practice of forest planning. Upon investigation, however, my excitement turned to disappointment, for their conception of planning fell so far short of my own ambitions.

This ænigma asks you to discover my personal forest plan.
In the grid below, blacken some squares to represent the trees of my forest. To avoid unsightly crowding, no two trees are placed horizontally or vertically adjacent to one another. Circled numbers represent vista points within the forest: from each one, looking horizontally and vertically, you can see exactly the indicated number of squares, including the one on which you are standing, before encountering trees or the forest edge. (Obviously, no tree has been planted coincident with a vista point.)

My forest would be quite useless to me if I could not readily walk within it, so every unblackened square is connected, horizontally and/or vertically, to every other such square.

Once you've reconstructed the plan of my forest, you may move on to finding the final answer to the ænigma. First, identify those two vista points requiring the longest walk between them. (If there is ambiguity here, pray choose the points with the smallest numbers.)

Then walk the shortest path between those points, beginning at the lesser number. (Wherever there are multiple shortest paths, please prefer the one that delays turning from your present course for as long as possible.)

As you walk, advance each letter forward in the alphabet (wrapping around from Z to A as necessary) by the number most recently encountered. Reading the resulting letters in order will reveal a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!



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## Example



Need assistance with Ada’s ænigma? Hints and other help are available at www.pavelspurzles.com/aenigmas/28


Send your answer to aenigma@pavelspuzzles.com to enter the drawing for a free physical puzzle and to earn a $10 \%$ discount at
Pavel's Puzzles! Full details are at www.pavelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/ 28.

