Adalogical Ænigmas
No. 32

Pavel's Puzzles

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Gentle solver,

I recently invited a new acquaintance along on one of my habitual nature walks. Much to my surprise, however, he *declined*, and for what I found an even *more* surprising reason: he sincerely *feared* that we might chance to cross paths with a snake! He was entirely deaf to my carefully reasoned arguments, holding fast to his apparently *irrational* fright, and thus baffling me utterly.

This ænigma was made as a kind of *therapy* for him, hoping to aid him by way of *repeated* exposure to the objects of his fear.
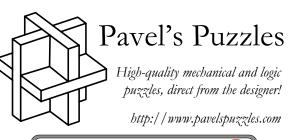
I ask him (and you) to populate the grid below with a collection of *snakes*, each represented by a sequence of five horizontally or vertically adjacent *white* squares, labeled one-by-one with the digits 1 through 5 in order. Clues in *black* squares specify the first digit visible in the indicated direction, before reaching the next black square or the edge of the grid. A '0' clue implies that *no* digits are visible.

Snakes are *not* social animals, so please do not place two snakes directly adjacent to one another. Also, you mustn't allow any snake to *see* another snake: the head of each snake is represented by its '1' square, and it is facing *away from* its '2' square. (Its view extends only to the next black square or to the edge of the grid.)

Once you have placed all of your snakes, you may move on to finding the final answer to my ænigma. Note the letters in the squares representing the head or tail (i.e., '1' or '5') of each snake. Reading those letters, left-to-right, top-to-bottom, advancing each in the alphabet by the digit in its square (wrapping around from Z to A if necessary), will reveal a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!

Ada

Example

N + 5 = S   I + 5 = N
D + 1 = E   O + 5 = T
M + 5 = R   D + 5 = I
O + 1 = P   M + 1 = N
D + 1 = E   D + 1 = E

Answer:
SERPENTINE

Need assistance with Ada's ænigma? Hints and other help are available at *www.pavelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/32*

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/32*.