Adalogical Ænigmas

Gentle solver,

No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent.

Would that the great poet John Donne's words were more widely remembered! We, all of us, are *more* than merely ourselves: are we not also the *sum* of those around us, added to by each other person, the accumulated result of all our shared interactions and mutual experiences?

I certainly believe this myself, and was inspired by these thoughts to create the present ænigma.

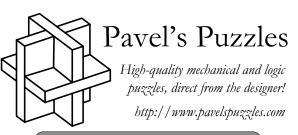
In the grid below, I wish you to take this philosophy to heart, entering into each empty square a digit betwixt 1 and 5, such that within each boldly outlined 7-by-7 *sub-grid*, there is placed exactly one of each digit in every row and column.

These digits represent the diversity of individuals with whom we daily come in contact. Each of *us*, then, is represented by a black square, the number in which must therefore equal the *sum* of the up-to-8 digits entered in immediately surrounding squares. A black square that lies within multiple sub-grids specifies the sum of its neighbors as calculated *separately* for each sub-grid.

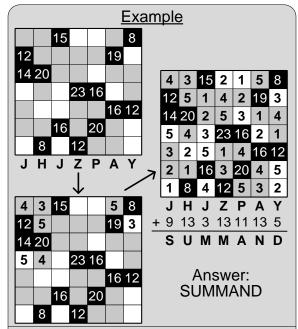
Once you have completed filling the grid, you may move on to finding the final answer to my ænigma. Pray continue your *additive* exercises as follows: At the bottom of each column, there is a letter; advance that letter in the alphabet (wrapping around from Z to A if necessary) by the sum of the digits entered into *shaded* squares in that column. Reading the resulting letters from left to right will then reveal a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!

Ata



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Need assistance with Ada's ænigma? Hints and other help are available at *nnn.parelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/52*

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