## Adalogical Ænigmas

No. 62

Gentle solver,

As we enter the winter holidays, a time when the annual darkness is descending *simultaneously* with our being able to share increased time with dear friends and family, I am struck by how very *convenient* is that juxtaposition: we are weighted down with dreary shadows just as we are provided with those who can best help us endure them, by *sharing* that burden!

The ænigma presented here was born of my ruminations along these lines.

In the grid below, each circle represents a *person*, about to encounter the winter's darkness. Your job, playing the rôle of Nature, is to distribute that darkness about, by *blackening* some of the circle-less squares around and between the people. A number within a circle represents the *capacity* of that person to carry the darkness around them: please arrange that each such circle is horizontally or vertically adjacent to a set of blackened regions whose combined area *precisely* matches the given number. *Unnumbered* circles impose no constraint on their surroundings.

Once you have completed your grid, you may move on to finding the final answer to my ænigma. In all the *unblackened* and circle-less squares, shift the given letter forward in the alphabet (wrapping around from Z to A if necessary) by the total area of that unblackened, circle-less region. Reading the resulting letters in left-to-right, top-to-bottom order will reveal a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!

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