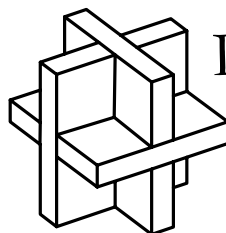


Adalogical Ænigmas

No. 76



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Gentle solver,

As my very most *regular* correspondents might recall, some nine months ago my ænigma was inspired by the common aphorism, “good things come in threes.” More recently, an acquaintance opined that “variety is the spice of life,” and it occurred to me that these two bits of folk wisdom might *combine* rather nicely. That idle thought birthed the ænigma that follows.

In the grid below, within each boldly outlined *region*, please place three *shapes*: one circle, one triangle, and one square. I have already placed some of these shapes for you. Pray take care, however: no two squares containing the *same* shape may touch, not even diagonally. Additionally, I should like it if the full set of squares containing shapes forms a single horizontally and vertically *connected* area.

Once you have finished your grid, you may move on to finding the final answer to my ænigma. First, identify those squares that do not contain a shape; ignoring region boundaries, these squares form a set of connected *groups*. At each such square within a group of size *less than three*, advance its letter in the alphabet (wrapping around from Z to A as necessary) by the size of its group. Reading the resulting letters in left-to-right, top-to-bottom order will reveal a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!

Ada

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Example

▲	H	Z	O	K	V	D
S	S	▲	J	C	L	■
Q	E	Y	F	▲	N	D
●	L	H	G	G	N	S
G	K	A	I	G	F	N
R	O	M	S	E	D	P
J	Q	A	L	▲	X	Q

↓

▲	H	Z	O	K	V	D
S	S	▲	J	C	L	■
Q	E	Y	F	▲	N	D
●	L	●	G	G	N	S
G	K	A	I	G	▲	N
R	O	M	●	E	D	P
J	Q	A	L	▲	X	Q

S + 1 = T	N + 1 = O
Q + 1 = R	R + 2 = T
G + 2 = I	M + 2 = O
A + 2 = C	L + 1 = M
G + 1 = H	X + 1 = Y

Answer:
TRICHOTOMY

Need assistance with Ada's ænigma? Hints and other help are available at www.pavelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/76

■	F	O	Z	A	F	L	X	T	I	Q	■	Q	Z	W	M	W	U	Y	D	●
B	E	E	B	H	Z	Q	S	W	F	Q	Z	E	D	B	H	A	O	R	J	W
T	B	N	M	N	L	D	G	I	C	R	J	S	U	Q	Z	P	A	E	J	G
F	I	I	L	Z	M	K	H	H	A	O	F	D	Z	K	P	B	M	F	A	Z
L	●	Q	W	E	Y	D	W	Z	F	B	C	Q	J	T	V	■	L	W	L	S
▲	A	C	D	R	O	M	▲	U	J	●	S	Q	B	Z	O	C	V	D	▲	N
Z	K	R	A	D	B	I	G	N	K	S	A	●	■	S	L	R	N	K	Z	●
J	F	Z	N	J	N	E	L	T	R	Z	H	W	B	C	X	E	N	K	B	E
Z	G	D	M	O	Q	P	F	U	H	W	J	Z	L	Y	D	P	Z	I	D	M
W	L	H	M	A	R	B	I	X	C	X	P	H	R	J	S	D	B	X	H	A
H	H	S	Q	R	R	G	O	G	A	C	W	B	X	O	B	F	E	N	Q	B
▲	K	L	R	E	K	S	Y	F	●	F	Y	Q	J	■	F	L	D	U	D	■

Send your answer to aenigma@pavelspuzzles.com by 2/29/2020: you'll earn a **10% discount** at Pavel's Puzzles and could win a **free physical puzzle!** Details at www.pavelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/76.