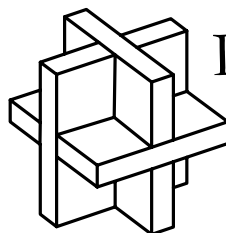


Adalogical Ænigmas

No. 99 of 100



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Gentle solver,

It seems somehow moodily *fitting* that, as the sun slowly sets on my little series, we are simultaneously entering my calendrical nemesis, the darkest time of the year. Those of you who have followed my work will be familiar with my annual struggles with this season, but I am on this occasion endeavouring to maintain my spirits for these final few pages.

The gathering gloom cannot entirely be denied, however, and thus this ænigma once again returns to the matter of *shading*.

In the grid below, please *fully* shade some of the heavily outlined *regions* such that all of the shaded grid squares form a single horizontally and/or vertically connected group. Neither darkness nor light are ever absolute, and so I ask that you avoid creating any 2×2 area that is either all shaded or all unshaded.

A number in a grid square specifies exactly how many of the horizontally or vertically adjacent squares must be shaded. This count does *not* include the numbered square itself, which might be either shaded or unshaded, as logically required.

Once you have completed your darkening, you may move on to finding the final answer to my ænigma. Pray identify those *unshaded* grid squares that horizontally or vertically abut exactly two *shaded* squares, and then advance each such square's letter in the alphabet (wrapping around from Z to A if necessary) by two. Reading the resulting letters in left to right, top to bottom order will reveal a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!

Ada

Example

B	3	U	R	B	2	D
Y	R	P	P	I	N	T
Z	A	N	E	N	U	E
Q	1	E	B	L	L	R
P	C	C	Q	A	2	D
1	W	X	1	A	H	Q
L	E	E	M	O	E	T

	3			B	2	
Y		P	P	I		T
Z						
Q	1	E		L	L	
P	C	C	Q	A	2	
1		X	1	A		Q
L						T

	3		R	B	2	D
Y		P	P	I	N	T
Z			N	E	N	U
Q	1	E	B	L	L	R
P	C	C	Q	A	2	D
1	W	X	1	A	H	Q
L	E	E	M	O	E	T

B + 2 = D	L + 2 = N
Y + 2 = A	C + 2 = E
P + 2 = R	Q + 2 = S
I + 2 = K	Q + 2 = S

Answer:
DARKNESS

Need assistance with Ada's ænigma? Hints and other help are available at www.pavelpuzzles.com/aenigmas/99

A	G	S	E	L	2	W	R	I	Y	D	D	R	H	V	Y	T	E	N	M	1
S	1	R	K	1	U	R	I	H	E	1	Y	L	T	E	E	J	L	A	D	P
L	K	A	H	B	O	J	E	T	3	Z	S	A	M	A	S	L	1	K	X	S
1	G	J	T	U	2	K	Y	Y	R	M	A	S	X	E	3	S	P	H	C	I
D	N	T	2	P	A	1	J	G	O	T	S	P	N	H	I	F	G	Z	1	X
T	I	N	A	F	H	D	V	F	F	B	1	Q	E	R	H	K	R	C	E	H
C	O	R	1	Y	O	B	O	R	E	S	F	E	C	K	1	T	H	1	F	W
M	G	M	D	B	T	A	G	2	L	J	M	R	2	O	D	M	O	L	M	K
U	E	1	I	N	I	Q	P	C	2	A	Y	E	B	T	D	I	E	U	P	O
B	R	S	C	A	F	R	1	E	M	2	M	R	A	2	F	G	F	H	R	O
Q	E	F	S	T	2	E	P	X	I	Z	A	1	C	S	E	L	G	G	2	A
O	W	S	S	D	D	H	N	V	T	L	W	C	O	E	A	R	D	C	E	L

Send your answer to aenigma@pavelpuzzles.com by 1/31/2022: you'll earn a **10% discount** at Pavel's Puzzles and could win a **free physical puzzle!** Details at www.pavelpuzzles.com/aenigmas/99.