

Adalogical Ænigmas

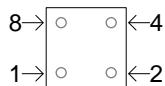
No. 3

Gentle patron,

For many, each new year is a time of renewal, a fresh start, a promising beginning. Although I can understand that position, my own thoughts tend in a more melancholic direction, as I contemplate post-holiday weeks of unrelieved winter darkness. Reflecting the mood of the coming dreary days, I've concocted this shadowy ænigma.

Darken some of the *empty* squares in this grid so as to leave each number *isolated*, in a connected white region whose size is equal to that number. Thus, a region labeled '4' must contain *exactly* four squares. Each white region must contain a number. Please note that the darkened squares are really *quite* important: they must all form a *single* connected group, and there may not anywhere exist a 2×2 area that is *all* darkened.

Once you've finished the grid, you can move on to finding the final answer to this ænigma. You see those little dots in each square? Those represent binary bits; empty dots are off and filled dots are on. Each dot has a different value, as shown in the diagram



In each white region, sum up the values of only the *filled* bits, and then translate that sum into a letter (1 = A, 2 = B, etc.). Finally, read out those letters in left-to-right, top-to-bottom order, as if you'd replaced each region's number with its letter, for a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!

Ada



Example

18 = R 4 = E 5 = E
 1 = A 2 = D 2 = R
 5 = E 3 = R 3 = R

Answer: READER

Need assistance with Ada's ænigma? Hints and other help are available at <www.pavelspuzzles.com/adas/3>

Fill in your answer and give to a cashier for your prize.

This month's prize: **one free non-alcoholic drink!**

(Limit one per solver. Offer available through 1/31/2014.)
