Adalogical Ænigmas

No. 53

Pavel's Puzzles

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Gentle solver,

As you have no doubt gleaned from many of my earlier missives, my moods are never of the *sunniest* during these dreadful, dark days of winter. Even taking that into account, however, it sometimes seems to me that the world exhibits ever greater *disarray* with each new day's dawning.

Rather than yield to *dismay*, however, I have pledged myself rather to *take on* the world's disorder, at least symbolically, in the form of the ænigma here presented.

In the grid below, the circles are scattered *higgledy-piggledy* across the page, and I desire that you should gather them together into neat little bundles. Slide each circle horizontally or vertically, without turning, to form rectangular *groups* of adjacent circles. Each group must contain more than one circle, but may otherwise have *any* width and height. Groups may touch, but *only* at corners.

A circle with a number must slide *exactly* that many squares, and a circle with a zero mayn't slide at all. Unnumbered circles may slide any distance you like, including *not at all*. The paths of two circles' slidings are not permitted to share any grid squares.

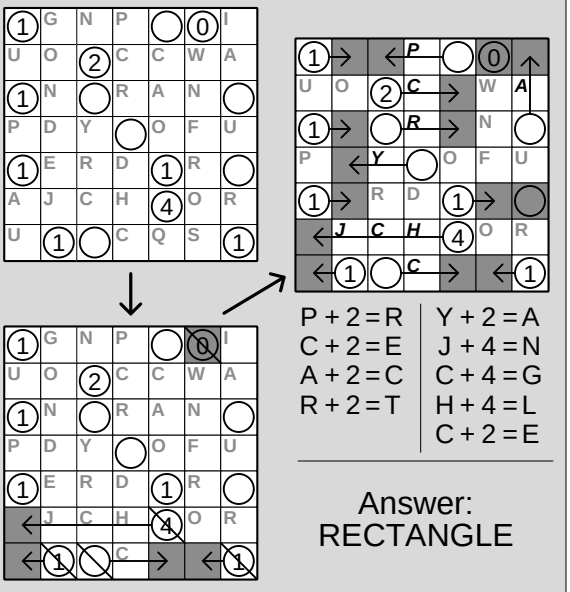
If I may presume, you may find it advantageous to *shade in* each square that is the final resting place of some circle.

Once you have completed your grid, you may move on to finding the final answer to my ænigma. Pray identify those letters that appear in squares through which a circle moved without stopping, and advance each such letter in the alphabet (wrapping around from Z to A if necessary) by the length of the corresponding circle's movement. Reading the resulting letters in left-to-right, top-to-bottom order will then reveal a clue to your final answer.

Good luck!

Ada

Example



P + 2 = R
C + 2 = E
A + 2 = C
R + 2 = T

Y + 2 = A
J + 4 = N
C + 4 = G
H + 4 = L
C + 2 = E

Answer: RECTANGLE

Need assistance with Ada's ænigma? Hints and other help are available at *www.pavelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/53*

N	I	1	0	C	O	D	O	G	◯	L	2	C	A	R	E	N	1	1	I	E
J	◯	D	L	0	◯	H	H	L	R	2	I	H	S	F	0	◯	O	K	◯	N
Z	2	Q	P	R	L	◯	L	D	E	Q	L	S	W	2	E	A	B	E	◯	W
N	T	0	I	R	X	4	N	P	E	L	J	A	W	4	K	E	W	3	M	J
R	G	K	E	2	L	A	2	◯	M	2	J	◯	◯	H	V	2	N	L	L	A
◯	◯	M	M	S	2	S	Y	K	1	J	◯	D	M	G	3	P	E	X	1	◯
3	◯	J	O	J	2	E	S	D	◯	B	◯	H	R	P	2	J	A	Z	◯	◯
B	A	I	K	2	H	B	2	◯	I	◯	S	◯	◯	O	G	2	N	Z	A	V
P	M	1	E	R	K	4	C	O	S	M	O	W	E	4	A	Y	J	1	D	R
O	◯	E	H	O	W	◯	E	E	S	U	E	P	E	4	K	T	S	E	2	O
B	◯	I	U	0	◯	Y	E	U	E	1	H	H	I	J	3	◯	E	M	◯	V
K	C	◯	0	P	R	N	P	K	3	D	1	S	S	W	E	H	4	1	N	V

Send your answer to *aenigma@pavelspuzzles.com* by 3/31/2018: you'll earn a **10% discount** at Pavel's Puzzles and could win a **free physical puzzle**! Details at *www.pavelspuzzles.com/aenigmas/53*.

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