

THE SKEWER

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Feature 02
"Adventures of an
Adventurer"

Hvalross Bæsj 05
"-30k"

Horoscopes 07
"March Horoscopes"

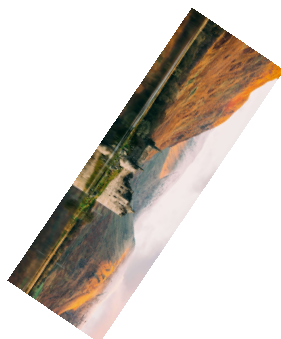
Puzzles 09
Puzzles!



“Adventures of an Adventurer”

By Señor Wookie
Co-Head in Training

Twice upon a few times, there was an adventurer. They loved to adventure. It's sort of in the name. And they loved to adventure in the best place there is to adventure: Scotland. From now on, let's simplify this person to AP, standing for Adventurer Person. Not to be confused with the advanced placement system. Back to Scotland.



(Above: A picture of one Super Supreme Court Justice, B”DfrDgR33P{_4h_+0) MMMCMXCIX)

So AP named themselves Athol Islay Ainsley Mac an Fleisdeir. Athol was their great great grandfather, Islay was the name of their favorite cookie brand, Islay’s Insane Cookie Corp™, Ainsley after the famous Ainsley Harriott, British chef and television producer, and Mac an Fleisdeir, the last name lost long ago by a many times great grandparent (who rather resembled a billy goat) who decided that “Arseface-Crapper” was a better name.

So Athol Islay Ainsley Mac an Fleisdeir lived out a relatively normal life for the next 17 years, adventuring around the world, meeting friends old and new, trying out new cuisine, studying artwork and architecture, and collecting a hefty sum of souvenirs. One day, Athol was in the remarkable country of Liechtenstein when they bought a big mac at the lovely town of Ober MÖlihholz from the McDonald’s there (don’t believe me? look it up) and they found a spatula sticking out of it. It wasn’t a large spatula, næ, it were quite small.



De repente, they felt a wee prick at the base of their leg as a small but mighty rat held a toothpick fashioned into a small but mighty sword high in the air. “Give meh back meh spatula!” it cried (with impeccable english, might I add) as it kept slashing and poking Athol’s leg. “Gee, mister, I’m so very sorry”, said Athol. “Didn’t know that this belonged to you.” And the mighty rat responded with a gruff “I suppose I should keep a closer eye on my kitchen utensils. Thanks for that, mate, might you help meh with another quick little chore?” And the two compadres walked back into the kitchen, where the rat instructed Athol to grab a giant wheel of cheese off the shelf and roll it outside. “Thanks a bunch, friend. Say, is there anything I could do for you?” Athol responded with a polite “No, but do you have a phone number I might hold onto for a wee while?”

So the two chums kept in touch for a while afterwards, even once Athol went back home to Springfield (yes, they had moved from Scotland to abide there) and resumed their work at the local Chipotle-Panda Express hybrid restaurant as the third head chef and head Black Bean Spring Roll assembler. And that’s where we will leave our story for now, the story of the Adventures of an Adventurer.

One day, a Thursday, AP was exploring a random castle. They had recently bought a new kilt and set of bagpipes from eBay, and they had brought them to Castle Bungee. This castle was located 500 miles inland from the coast of the Scotland Coast. It’s made out of Bungee cords. Suddenly, their kilt got hooked on a stray bungee cord and it was set free! They were flung out through the top of the castle, and sailed over Europe and Asia, and landed somewhere in America. Let’s label it as Springfield, for simplicity.

Now, the people in Springfield realized that this person’s name was AP, and AP was a system that schools do, and they took it to court because they wanted the money damages. Long story short, it went to the Supreme Court, but they couldn’t figure it out, so they went to the Super Supreme Court (which is in space, duh) and they said that they needed to change their name and the advanced placement system also needed to change their name, so that nobody is disappointed.



“-30k”

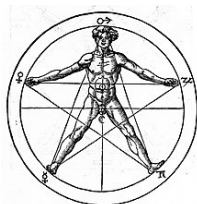
By Señor Wookie & Fred the Møose
Leaders in Training

We are starting a new segment, Hvalross Bæsj, where we will dissect, examine, and theorize about a new and absolutely hilarious meme every issue. Today, we have the meme titled “-\$30k”, by Imgflip user Morpeko. This meme uses the template “Pentagon Hexagon Octagon Meme” and has four main parts to it, each with a separate 2 sub-sections. Each part is made up of an image and one word.

The Pentagon

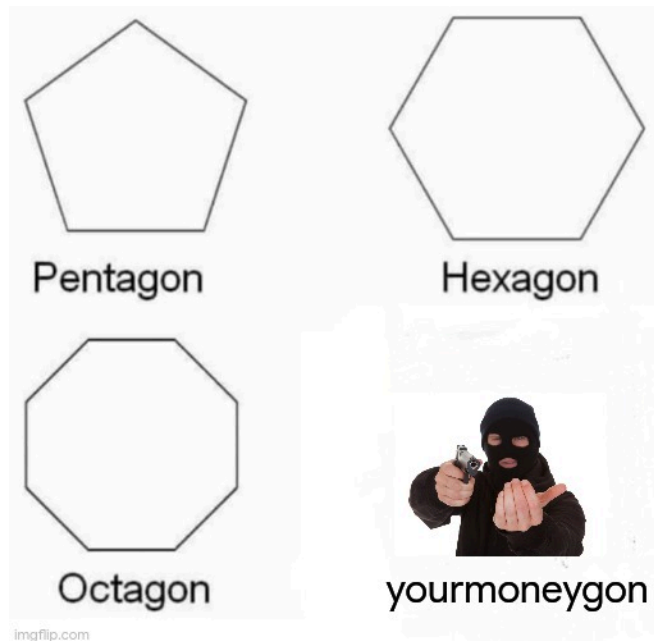
In the first part, the image is of a pentagon, a 5 sided shape, and in this case, this pentagon has congruent sides and angles. Since each angle is congruent, each angle measure is equal to 108 degrees. In Hindu tradition, according to wikipedia, “the Mukhya Shivaganas (attendants of Shiva) are 108 in number and hence Shaiva religions, particularly Lingayats, use malas of 108 beads for prayer and meditation.”

On a side note, the prefix “penta” is mostly used with things containing 5 of something. Another word commonly used with a prefix of “penta” is, of course, the pentagram. According to wikipedia, “Christians once commonly used the pentagram to represent the five wounds of Jesus”. Another use of the pentagram is the all-famous image of a man in the Three Books of Occult Philosophy, by Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa.



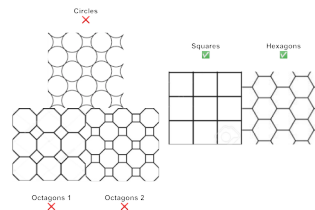
The five points on this image “represent the 5 visible planets in astrology”, and the books “deal with elemental, celestial and intellectual magic. The books outline the four elements, astrology, Kabbalah, numerology, angels, names of God, the virtues and relationships with each other as well as methods of utilizing these relationships and laws in medicine, scrying, alchemy, ceremonial magic, origins of what are from the Hebrew, Greek and Chaldean context”.

All of this leads me to believe that this all has to do with religion, and the origins of the earth, humans, and knowledge. And all religions start with prophets transcribing their revelations on paper and sharing it. But who’s to say that they didn’t just make up a story to make a few bucks? They could have ranted on and on about something that they actually cared surprisingly little about, just for some attention. Huh. So this all boils down not to religion anymore, but now the universe itself. But let’s put that aside for now, don’t forget it, and let’s move on to the hexagon.



The Hexagon

The hexagon is a complicated shape, six sided, yet able to withstand angle measures of 120 degrees. Gov, that’s what I bake me cakes at, in celsius, of course, bruv. I’m bri-ish, bo’ohw’o’wo’er, long live the queen. Oh wait. A hexagon is a special type of shape that squares and kites and rhombi and some other fancy shapes that can repeat infinitely without leaving any gaps.



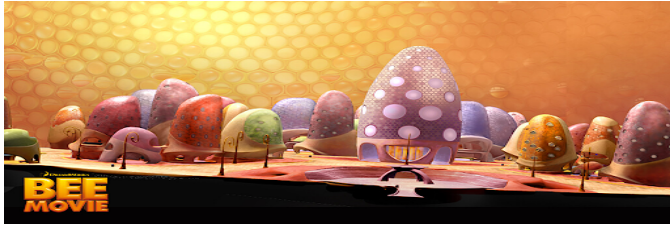
Three sided, four sided, and six sided shapes can do this, which makes six sided shapes the most complicated. And what else does this sort of thing? Or maybe should I say who? Neo. And Agent Smith is like the little gaps. Neo is the most complicated, round character in the matrix, and he eliminates the bad guys no matter how many there are, because he’s so great. The hexagon sees all. The hexagon is the jail warden with a perfect record. The dirphiglambe with no extra burgophigi. The athlete with only gold medals.

By now, you probably are a bit skeptical. So I’m going to prove it to you in two other ways, mostly unrelated to the first point. Catan and The Bee Movie. You probably understand why Catan is an example if you’ve ever played it, because the tiles on which you play on are all made up of hexagons. This is very reminiscent of Civilization, or Civ, a game that works not entirely unlike Catan. The goal of both games is to conquer land and develop your civilizations. Pretty simple. Now, The Bee Movie is a bit different. Bee hives are made up from hexagons. Simple enough, but skip most of the movie and you get to the part where all of the flowers are not pollinated any more and they’re dying. Then, Barry gets some alive flowers and hooks them all up with some of that yellow powder. He spreads his stuff all over the world.

“-30k”

By Señor Wookie & Fred the Møose

Leaders in Training



All three of these things have one big thing in common. They involve one person holding the power and said person dominating the world, or sort of. Neo is the chosen one, and he defeats Agent Smith. In Catan, you gain resources and defeat your opponents. Barry is the bee with the most powerful voice and he spreads his pollen everywhere. The hexagon is about power and conquering the world. But we're getting ahead of ourselves. We've got to talk about the octagon. Hold onto your butts.

The Octagon

The octagon is an 8-angled, 8-sided, and 2-dimensional shape. This shape is often used in the form of a red octagonal sign known as a “stop sign”. According to Wikipedia, “A stop sign is a traffic sign designed to notify drivers that they must come to a complete stop and make sure the intersection is safely clear of vehicles and pedestrians before continuing past the sign.” These stop signs were invented in Michigan and later spread throughout the US and the world.

While most countries around the world use an octagonal stop sign, a few countries, including Cuba, use circular stop signs. These stop signs resemble an American “yield” sign, but are circular and say “Pare”, which is Spanish for “Stop”. Cuba is one of the only remaining countries that uses a form of communism, with the others being China, North Korea, Vietnam, and Laos.



On another note, octopuses (yes, this is a correct word) have 8 arms, similar to the octagon's 8 sides and angles. In American political cartoons, an octopus often represents a monopoly, which occurs in systems of capitalism. Capitalism is widely spread throughout the world, but it is not present in Cuba, which also has the absence of octagonal stop signs! Stop signs symbolize capitalism, and also symbolize its spread throughout the world. Since the octopus is often an antagonistic representation of capitalism, Morpeko likely does not support the global spread of capitalism.



The Yourmoneygon

The yourmoneygon is the punchline of this joke, adding “gon” to the end in order to make it sound like a shape, but sound like “gone”, as in the money is no longer there. Without it, this whole meme would mean nothing. But thankfully, the yourmoneygon is rich with lore and depth. The caricature in the image is wearing a ski mask, holding a revolver, and gesturing to give money.

The ski mask, in several pieces of literature that I will not credit, represents greed and unrestrained wanting. The revolver is an object that is used for inflicting harm upon an outside object or entity. This likely symbolizes that this character or idea is dangerous and can cause harm. And the greed for money can represent a number of things. Money can buy things such as ice cream, cats, and excavation machines. Caterpillar (CAT) is a famous mining and excavation equipment manufacturer, and if you combine all of these things, we get cat ice cream mining, or in other words, the latest NFT. Most NFT's are worth little to nothing, but those are lame, the best NFT's are worth a lot of money. Below is a picture of the Bored Apes NFT's.

Another potential meaning of the yourmoneygon caricature taking money could be a relation to communism. In a system of communism, all property is owned by the government and is public-owned. This is similar to the socialist practice of income tax of the wealthy, which takes away their money. Portraying communism as a robber with a gun makes it seem like a malevolent force, meaning that the creator is likely opposed to communism and theft, and believes that communism is a harmful system full of greed and a threat to humanity.

The Connections

Based on what we have gathered so far, the pentagon represents the vast universe, the hexagon represents power, the octagon represents capitalism, and the yourmoneygon represents communism. Putting the pieces together, you can see a much bigger picture. Allow me to explain. Morpeko is trying to convey that capitalism (octagon) and communism (yourmoneygon), are fighting over the power (hexagon) to control the universe (pentagon). This may seem like something far in the future, or never at all, but this very thing happened for half of the 20th century. Enter the Cold War.

The United States and the Soviet Union were in an intense rivalry to see who could have a bigger army, more powerful weapons, smarter scientists, better hockey teams, and a greater influence upon the world. Each side had a major goal: spread their political systems throughout the world. Both sides succeeded to an extent, with the US rebuilding western Europe with capitalist democracies and the Soviet Union setting communist “democracies” in the eastern European bloc.

Based on the ideas expressed in this meme, it seems that Morpeko opposes the clash between capitalism and communism and believes that someday it will doom the world as we know it.

The Big Reveal

Now that that's all out of the way, I think it is safe to say that this hilarious meme is secretly an allegory to the Cold War and the danger of the struggle between capitalism and communism for control over the world. You're allowed to laugh, now that you understand it

“No Taxation Without Representation”

By Fred the Møose
Skewer Head in Training

Imagine this scenario: you are attempting to buy the brand new Apple Vision Pro at the local Best Buy. It costs \$3,500, but luckily you were able to scrape together just enough money in order to buy it. You go to the checkout, knowing that you have finally acquired your dream prize, but the cashier tells you that you are short on money! You are confused, but the cashier tells you that while the Apple Vision Pro was \$3,500, there is also \$10,000 in sales tax! Outraged by this revelation, you storm out of the store and decide to write to your congressman to complain about this outrageous tax, but wait, YOU DON'T HAVE A CONGRESSMAN! That's right, in this dystopian scenario, the federal government has supreme power over every person and state, and the people no longer have a voice in politics. The government can raise taxes to as high as they like, and nobody can stop them. Fruit taxes make bananas a luxury, sugar taxes make Swedish Fish an afterthought, and income taxes now take 110% of your monthly income! The solution to this is ending taxation without representation and setting a system of checks and balances.

be able to have a say in what taxes they pay and how much they are taxed. This issue is literally why our country became independent in the first place! Representation equals freedom, plain and simple.

Back in 1765, the British Empire enacted the Stamp Act upon its 13 American colonies. It required colonists to pay a tax of one penny per sheet of paper or other document and needed a stamp in order to prove it. The British needed to tax the colonies in order to help pay off the debt from their earlier war with France, but the colonists were furious. They thought it was ridiculous that they had to pay for a war that England fought in. They also were pissed about the fact that Parliament could tax the colonies however they pleased, and the colonies could not do anything about it. This is where the phrase “No taxation without representation” was created. American colonists did not want to be taxed by the British without having a say in what those taxes were. The British, however, didn't care and continued to tax the colonies. This growing tension eventually led to the American Revolution and the Revolutionary War, which ended with American independence from the British Empire.

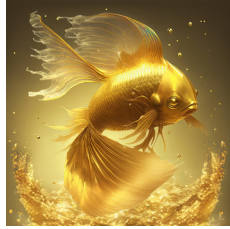
You're probably thinking, “That's terrible, but at least that system doesn't exist anymore!” Sadly, you are wrong. Many places in the world still suffer from taxation without representation, and the most famous example is our nation's capital, the District of Columbia. While D.C. is US soil, it is not a state and does not have representation in Congress. However, they still have to pay federal taxes! US territories such as Puerto Rico and Guam also have no representation, but they don't have to pay all federal taxes, and D.C. must. D.C. residents couldn't even vote in presidential elections until 1961, when the 23rd amendment was passed, allowing D.C. residents to vote for president and vice president. However, to this day, they can not vote for representation in Congress and must pay federal taxes that are set upon them. In 2000, D.C. license plates came out with a "Taxation without representation" slogan on them, showing that residents care about this and find it stupid that the capital of the United States still suffers from the oppressive rule that the Founding Fathers suffered from 250 years ago.

Taxation without representation gives the government too much power over the citizens of the country, and leads to oppression and exploitation. In order for democracy, freedom, and equality to work, citizens must have proper representation in government. People should

“No Representation Without Taxation”

By Señor Wookie
Co-Head in Training

Have you ever been given something for free that may be too expensive to be giving out? Like a metal water bottle, 17 free samples, an ice pack made of goofy orbeez, or a trout made of solid gold? Yeah, me too. And didn't it seem too fair to the people giving it to me. Like, they had to pay for these gilded gills and I'm not even going to buy their insurance, or laxative, or whatever it is. So, like anyone else would do, I give them my wallet, car keys, credit card, date of birth, mother's maiden name, social security number, you know, the basics, and now I have a five pound fish. Made of solid gold. Guilt free.



Anyway, I know it's kind of a roundabout way of saying it, but I guess the whole point I'm tryin' to make here is: nothing in life comes for free, right? You know the classic trope, there's an ad in a satirical newspaper (hey!) that says that if you go to a certain place on a certain day at a certain time, they might give you a completely free platypus made of, I don't know, titanium? So you stop time, break some laws of thermodynamics, somehow conserve your brain cells, go to the certain place, and take your metal mammal and go back home. You've just successfully gotten something for free! You haven't wasted time, energy, or brain cells. You could've just teleported it to you but this method doesn't change the overall word count of a piece of writing in a newspaper in a positive manner, now, does it? Well, does it?! But that did.

And now, to break up that wall of words, here's a few absolutely hilarious dad jokes. Because your brain is rotting from social media. Just imagine someone doing minecraft parkour in the background. Entertainment isn't free, either, is it? But that's another topic, now jokes.

What's E.T. short for?

Because he's got really small legs!

Where did Napoleon keep his armies?

In his sleeves!

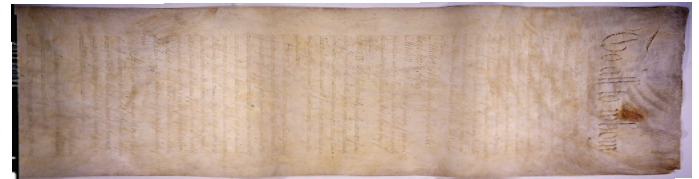
Did you hear about the kidnapping at school?

It's fine, they woke up now.

You're welcome for that.



Fun fact, what I if told you... you that read wrong. That one too. Man, you suck at this. You know what else you suck at? Realizing that we need to accept the fact that nothing is free in this world. Wait, what do you mean that the representation was their logo printed on the side, and the fancy fish itself was them taxing themselves? I answer you with another question: who's writing this? Thanks. Now, I'm gonna talk a little bit about a funny little thing called the Articles of Confederation. If you can open the sarcophagus of the sophomore part of your brain, you might remember that it was basically the beta Constitution. One of the most fatal flaws in this was that ol' Congress couldn't get money because only the States (only like 13 at the time I think) could tax people. And when they did, they didn't let ol' Congy have any of it. As wikipedia puts it, "The absence of a tax base meant that there was no way to pay off state and national debts from the war years except by requesting money from the states, which seldom arrived."



Think about it this way: Congress was the little sibling without a job and the States were the older sibling who worked in the Tickle-Me-Elmo sweatshop. Lil' Congy wanted the all-new super duper hyper mega ultra extra alpha giga neo meta Rutabaga Man™ action figure, but they were super whiny and annoying and never got it, so they made a new contract that basically made them swap roles, sort of. And look how long that's lasted so far. And while Congress was the little sibling, without taxation, they had.. Wait for it... No representation! Whoa! Full circle! Now, let's take a deep breath, and keep going, you got this, I believe in you. No representation without taxation. They needed the taxes in order to have a voice in the world.

According to Gitnux (never heard of them before, but cool name so I trust), in a span of 8 years, over 4,000 people were charged with tax fraud, and the DoJ charges ~79% of tax frauders. That means that there were a bit over 5,000 in total. And yet, all of the people who commit tax fraud go to jail and are never heard from again. They aren't represented because they weren't taxed. Wow. Crazy. So do your taxes, folks. I'll thank you. You'll thank you. The IRS will thank you. And so will your mother. And you wouldn't let her down, would you?

Sources

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Articles_of_Confederation#Revision_and_replacement

<https://gitnux.org/tax-fraud-statistics/>

Images from I actually don't really know.

MARCH HOROSCOPES

By Fred the Møose
Resident Psychic & Co-Head in Training

Aquarius: You will make a bet with Jay Leno on how high a Norwegian Desert Tortoise can jump. After the tortoise jumps 24 inches off the ground, you will lose the bet and be forced to light your favorite pair of SpongeBob Squarepants socks on fire with a cigarette lighter.

Pisces: You are now a Libra. Deal with it.

Aries: You will buy a copy of GTA 6 on Temu for \$0.69! However, upon opening it, you will be shocked to realize that the disc was replaced with the director's cut of Shrek Forever After.

Taurus: You will gain +50 Social Credit!

Gemini: Your sleep paralysis demon will dismember live woodchucks over your bed while you can only watch and try to scream.

Cancer: Ozzy Osbourne will poison you with a bat's liver. Don't ask where it came from...

Leo: MrBeast will choose you to be in his new "FNAF in REAL LIFE for \$100,000!!!" video. Sadly, you will get killed off by Bonnie in the first 28 seconds with a corn muffin.

Virgo: You will breathe at least once.

Libra: You are now a Pisces. Deal with it.

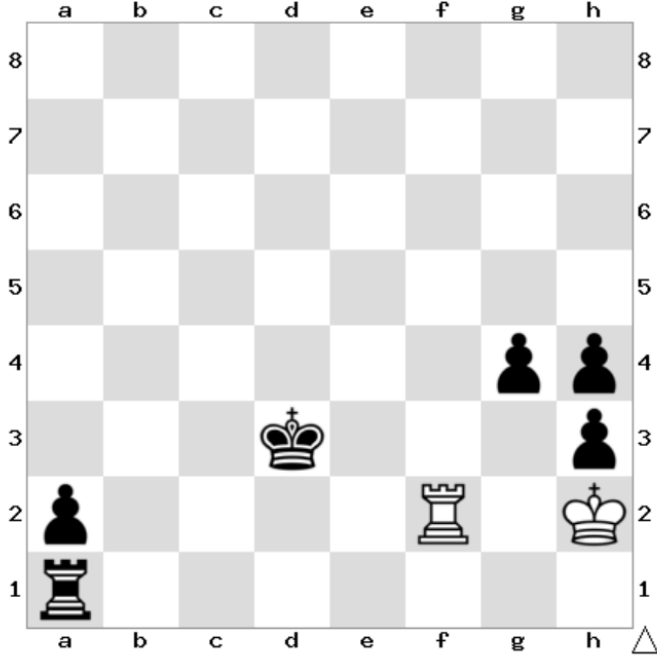
Scorpius: Eminem will drop a new diss track all about you! Listen on Spotify. Click the banner to learn more.

Sagittarius: You will permanently lose the ability to say the word "cuttlefish".

Capricorn: You will become a master at solving puzzles.

Staler Than Old Croutons - by Fullpetal Alchemist

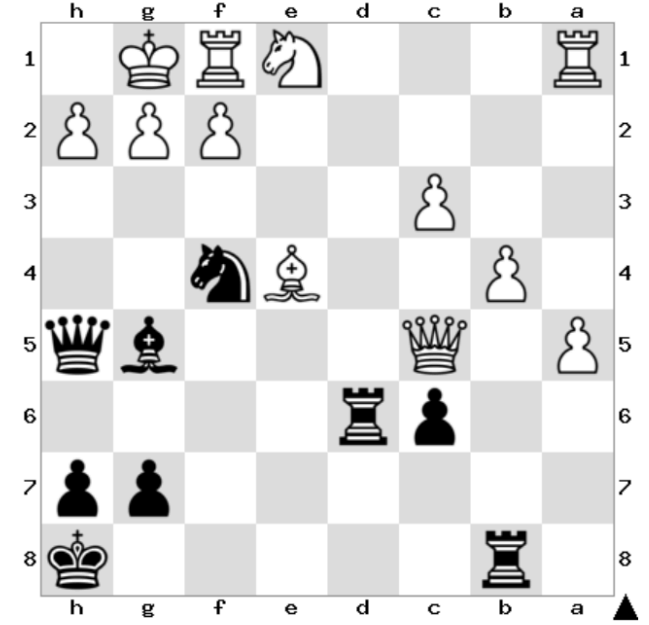
White to move and force a draw (theoretically perpetual position).



Difficulty: trick

Killer Kingside Knight - Irina Andrenko - Olga Kalinina, 2007

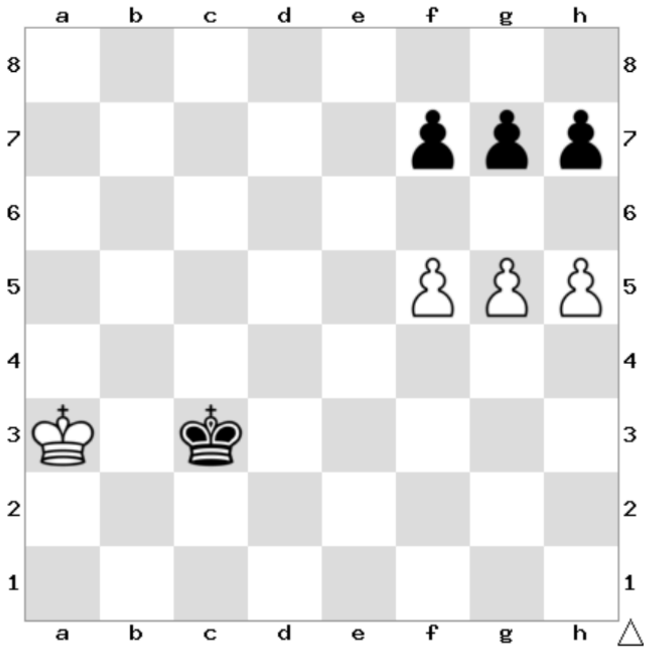
Black to play and checkmate in 3.



Difficulty: medium

Breakthrough - by Fullpetal Alchemist

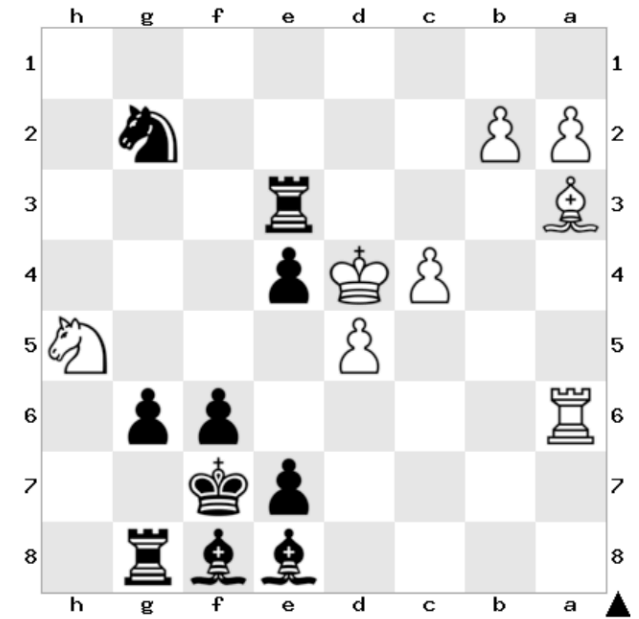
White to move, and promote a pawn in (at most) 5.



Difficulty:

Mate In One - by C. Near

Black to play and force checkmate upon themselves in one.



Difficulty: trick

10 PUZZLES

Friday, March 29th, 2024

A Madman Breaks Into A Window - Credit: Lenzoli

SUDOKU: Place the digits 1-9 in each row, column, and boldly-lined box.

WINDOKU: Digits cannot repeat within each of the four grey 3x3 regions.

KILLER CAGES: Digits cannot repeat in a cage. Within a cage, the digits sum to the number in the top left corner.

ARROWS: Digits along an arrow sum to the digit in the connected bulb.

RENBAN: On a thick purple line, digits form a set of consecutive numbers in any order.

PALINDROME: On a thick grey line, digits that are equal distances away from the ends are the same.

The puzzle is a 10x10 grid with the following features:

- Grey 3x3 Regions (Windoku):** Four grey 3x3 regions are located at (row, col) coordinates: (2,2)-(4,4), (2,5)-(4,7), (5,2)-(7,4), and (5,5)-(7,7).
- RENBAN (Thick Purple Line):** A path of cells: (1,3) → (2,4) → (3,5) → (4,6) → (5,7) → (6,8) → (7,9).
- PALINDROME (Thick Grey Line):** A path of cells: (1,4) → (2,5) → (3,6) → (4,7) → (5,8) → (6,9) → (7,10).
- Killer Cages (Dashed Lines):**
 - Cage 1: (1,8)-(1,9)-(2,9) with sum 15.
 - Cage 2: (5,1)-(6,1)-(6,2) with sum 15.
- Arrows:**
 - Bulb at (1,4) points down to (2,4)-(3,4).
 - Bulb at (2,5) points right to (2,6)-(2,7).
 - Bulb at (3,5) points right to (3,6)-(3,7).
 - Bulb at (4,6) points right to (4,7).
 - Bulb at (5,2) points right to (5,3)-(5,4).
 - Bulb at (5,4) points right to (5,5)-(5,6).
 - Bulb at (6,3) points down to (6,4)-(6,5).
 - Bulb at (6,5) points down to (6,6)-(6,7).
 - Bulb at (6,7) points down to (6,8)-(6,9).
 - Bulb at (7,8) points down to (7,9).
- Pre-filled Digits:**
 - 5 at (2,7)
 - 3 at (6,2)
 - 4 at (6,7)

RIDDLE



Like always Brady Bangasser will give \$1,000 to the first person who completes the riddle

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