

DNH2

Fifth Edition  
Fantasy

Part Two of the  
Haunting of Hastur Series

# The Buried Zikurat - Book of Puzzles

by L. Kevin Watson

An Adventure for Characters Levels 6-8



The Buried Zikurat is an adventure for 3-7 characters level 6-8 and designed for use with most versions of the best known fantasy roleplaying game. It is optimized for the fifth edition and for 5 characters at level 7.



Dark Naga Adventures  
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Printed in USA

# The Buried Zikurat - Book of Puzzles





# DNH2: The Buried Zikurat - Book of Puzzles

## Dark Naga Adventures

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## Book of Puzzles

Many of the doors and desks are secured with puzzle locks. The puzzles presented in this book are symbolic of the challenges of the locks. If the wrong answer is submitted three times, or if the lock is forced, the puzzle will be replaced by guardians who rise from the lock and attack. The response is proportional to the difficulty of the puzzle.

There are twice as many puzzles as the GM will need to complete the adventure in this book. Feel free to replace these with puzzles that might be more optimized for your players' ability and preferences.

If puzzles are not attractive to your party, allow a **single** Intelligence (Arcana) check per puzzle (the Intelligence (Arcana) check consumes all of the attempts) with the following DC targets:

Easy Puzzle Lock	15
Medium Puzzle Lock	20
Hard Puzzle Lock	25
Very Hard Puzzle Lock	27

### Locations of the magic puzzle locks

**Formene Level 1** – 4 Desks, Easy.

Areas 46, 52-54

**Formene Level 2** – 6 Doors, Medium

Areas 59, 62, 63, 66, 67, 70

**Formene Level 3** - 4 Doors

2 Hard - Areas 71, 73

2 Medium - Areas 74, 78

**Surface Level 2** – 6 Doors, Easy

Areas 10, 15-17, 19, 22

**Surface Level 3** – 4 Doors

2 Hard - Areas 4,8

2 Medium - Areas 2,7



## Riddles (Easy Puzzles)

Answer is in bold.

There are multiple potential answers, their acceptability is at the GM's discretion. Each utterance to the GM counts as an attempt.

1. Give me food, and I will live. Give me water and I will die. What am I? **(Fire)**
2. What has four fingers and a thumb, but is not living? **(Glove, Gauntlet, or any answer that fits)**
3. I am always there, some distance away. Somewhere between land or sea and sky I lay. You may move toward me, yet distant I'll stay. What am I? **(The horizon)**
4. Which word in the lexicon is spelled incorrectly? **(Incorrectly)**
5. What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years? **(The letter 'M')**
6. I can only live where there is light, but I die if the light shines on me. What am I? **(Shadow)**
7. What flies when it's born, lies when it's alive, and runs when it's dead? **(Snow, Sleet, Hail)**
8. What gets wet when drying? **(Towel)**
9. I am a mother and a father, but have never given birth. I am rarely still, but I never wander. What am I? **(Tree)**
10. We hurt without moving. We poison without touching. We bear the truth and lies. We are not to be judged by our size. What are we? **(Letters)**
11. You eat something you neither plant nor plow. It is the son of water, but water kills it. What is it? **(Ice or Salt)**
12. Turn us on our backs and open up our stomachs. You will be the wisest of men, though at start a lum-mox. What am I? **(A book)**
13. A cloth poorly dyed and an early morning sky. How are they the same? **(They change color easily)**
14. Never ahead, ever behind, yet flying swiftly past; for a child I last forever, for adults I am gone too fast. What am I? **(Childhood)**
15. First will be last, last will be first, and all in between I will also curse. Open the door and I will be there. So be careful and beware! What am I? **(Death comes for all mortal beings)**
16. A leathery snake with a stinging bite. I'll stay coiled up unless I must fight. What am I? **(A Whip)**
17. What has roots nobody sees, is taller than trees, up, up it goes, and yet it's never seen to grow? **(Mountain)**
18. Thirty-two white horses on a red hill, first they champ, then they stamp, then they stand still. What are they? **(Teeth)**
19. Voiceless it cries, wingless it flutters, toothless it bites, mouthless it moans. What is it? **(Wind)**
20. A box without hinges, key or lid, yet golden treasure inside is hid. What is it? **(An egg or orange)**



## Medium Puzzles (Numbers)

Each solution attempt allows only 90 seconds.

Any answer is an attempt unless the players are clearly talking between themselves.

1. Solve the puzzle below:

$$6 + 4 = 210$$

$$9 + 2 = 711$$

$$8 + 5 = 313$$

$$5 + 2 = 37$$

$$7 + 6 = 113$$

$$9 + 8 = 117$$

$$10 + 6 = 416$$

$$15 + 3 = 1218$$

Then what is  $18 + 8 =$  \_\_\_\_

Answer: (1026) The answer is the second number subtracted from the first, followed by the sum of the two numbers

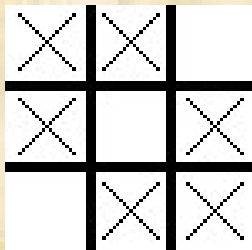
2. How would you accomplish the task below:

You must cut a birthday cake into exactly eight pieces, but you're only allowed to make three straight cuts, and you can't move pieces of the cake as you cut. How can you do it?

Solution: Use the first two cuts to cut a "+" in the top of the cake. Now you have four pieces. Make the third cut horizontal, which will divide the four pieces into eight. Think of a two by two by two Rubik's cube. There's four pieces on the top tier and four more just underneath it.

3. Complete the task below:

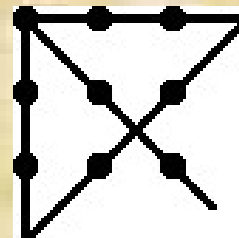
Can you place six X's on a Tic Tac Toe board without making three-in-a-row in any direction? (When the sixth X mark is placed or a mark is removed, an attempt is recorded)



Solution:

4. Complete the task below:

Nine dots are arranged in a three by three square. Connect each of the nine dots using only four straight lines and without lifting your pen from the paper. (When the fourth line is completed or a line is erased, even if time remains on the timer, an attempt is recorded)



Solution:

5. What would you say to the proposal below:

A wizard wants to hire a stonemason to build a new tower, but it must be built in 30 days. The wizard offers him reasonable wages, but the stonemason suggests an alternative. For the first day of work, he will be paid a grain of rice. For the second day, two grains. For the third day, four grains. The salary for each subsequent day will be double the previous day's, until the one-month term is over. Would it be a good idea to accept the potential employee's proposal?

Solution: Not at all. He'll earn 536,870,912 grains on the thirtieth day alone.

6. Complete the task below:

Arrange the numbers 1 through 9 on a tic tac toe board such that the numbers in each row, column, and diagonal add up to 15. When the ninth square is populated, an attempt is recorded

4	3	8
9	5	1
2	7	6

Solution:

7. Solve the problem below:

There are several chickens and rabbits in a cage (with no other types of animals). There are 72 heads and 200 feet inside the cage. How many chickens are there, and how many rabbits?

Solution: There are 44 chickens and 28 rabbits in the cage.

8. Answer the question below:

On a man's tombstone, it is said that one sixth of his life was spent in childhood and one twelfth as a teenager. One seventh of his life passed between the time he became an adult and the time he married; five years later, his son was born. Alas, the son died four years before he did. He lived to be twice as old as his son did. How old did the man live to be?

Solution: The man lived  $\frac{1}{12}$  of his life as a teen.  
Seven teen years.  $7 \times 12 = 84$ .

There is more than one way to get this answer.

The puzzle assumes childhood is the first fourteen years of life. Accept any reasonably thought out answer.

9. Solve the problem below:

What two numbers have a product of 48 and, when the larger number is divided by the smaller, a quotient of 3?

Solution: 4 and 12.

10. Solve the question below:

You own a pet store. If you put in one canary per cage, you have one canary too many. If you put in two canaries per cage, you have one cage too many. How many canaries and cages do you have?

Solution: There are four canaries and three cages.

11. Answer the question below:

Two alligator breeders were talking one day, and in the course of their conversation they noticed a curious coincidence. If alligator breeder #1 were to sell alligator breeder #2 seven alligators, then breeder #1 would have exactly as many alligators as breeder #2. On the other hand, if alligator breeder #2 were to sell alligator breeder #1 seven alligators, then breeder #1 would have exactly twice as many alligators as breeder #2. How many alligators did each breeder have?

Solution: Alligator breeder #1 had 49 alligators, and alligator breeder #2 had 35.

12. Answer the question below:

A drove of sheep and chickens have a total of 99 heads and feet. There are twice as many chickens as sheep. How many of each are there?

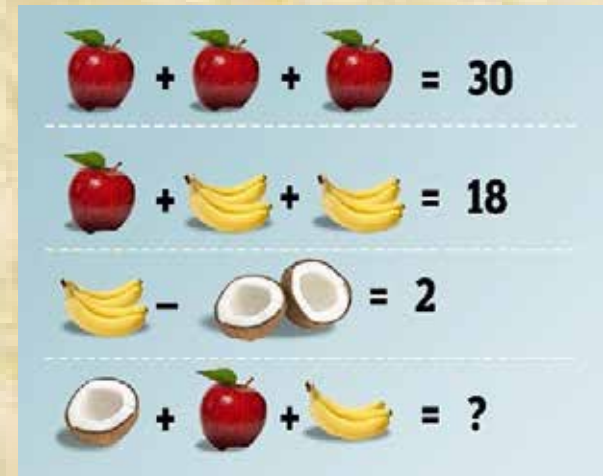
Solution: There are nine sheep and eighteen chickens.

13. Solve the puzzle below:

Solution: 16 (apple = 10, banana = 4, coconut = 2)

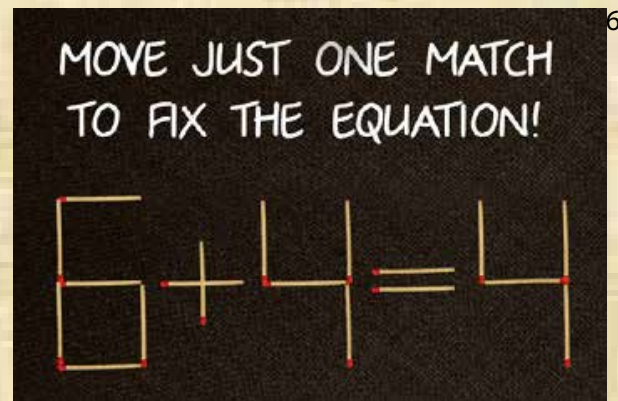
14. Solve the puzzle below:

Lay it out on the table with 18 matches or toothpicks. When a match is picked up, an attempt is recorded, however, the attempt



is over after 90 seconds or a match is placed down somewhere (on or off the puzzle)

Possible Solutions. "Move" could mean put a match elsewhere or could mean take it off.



can become a zero

6 can become a 5 and the solution 4 to 9

take the vertical from the plus sign to make the 6 become an 8.

Accept any solution that makes the equation work

15. Identify this Four Digit Number:

What is the four-digit number in which the first digit is one-third the second, the third is the sum of the first and second, and the last is three times the second?

Solution: 1349

16. Solve this Logic Poem:

The following verse spells out a word, letter by letter. "My first" refers to the word's first letter, and so on. What's the word that this verse describes?

- My first is in fish but not in snail
- My second in rabbit but not in tail
- My third in up but not down
- My fourth in tiara not in crown
- My fifth in tree you plainly see
- My whole a food for you and me

Solution: Fruit

17. Solve this riddle of the Twin Brothers:

Protecting this lock are the avatars of twin brothers; one which always tells the truth and one which always lies. You must identify the truthful twin to solve this lock. What single yes/no question could you ask to either brother to figure out which one is the truthful twin?

Solution: "Would your brother say that you tell the truth? (The honest brother would answer no, and the dishonest brother would say yes)

18. Develop a method to find the heaviest of the twelve marbles:

Given twelve marbles that are identical in size, shape, and color, determine which single marble is heavier in weight than the others. You are supplied with a balance and must conclude your determination in three measurements.

Solution: First, weigh all 12 marbles, 6 on each side of the scale (weighing #1). Whichever side is heavier, take those 6 marbles and weigh 3 on each side (weighing #2). Again, whichever side is heavier, take those 3 marbles, placing 1 to the side, and weighing the other 2, one on each side of the scale (weighing #3). During this weighing, if one marble weighs heavier than the other, the answer is obvious, and so too, if they balance perfectly, then the marble you put to the side is the heavier marble!

19. Identify what is in the three chests:

There are three chests, one contains only gold coins, one contains only silver coins, and one contains both gold and silver coins. The chests have been incorrectly labeled such that no label identifies the actual contents of the chest it labels. Opening just one box, and without looking in the chest, you take out one coin. By looking at the coin, how can you immediately label all of the chests correctly.

Solution: The chest that must be opened is the one labeled "gold and silver." By definition, whichever coin is inside, is the only type of coin that that chest contains. Let's say that you found a silver piece in that chest that was labeled with both gold and silver; because you know it must therefore only contain silver, then you conclude that the chest that is labeled "gold" cannot contain only gold, as all chests have been said to be mislabeled. Thus, the chest labeled "silver" must contain both gold and silver, leaving the chest labeled "silver" to contain only gold.

20. Solve this delima concerning socks

A drawer contains 10 black and 10 brown socks that are all mixed up. What is the fewest number of socks you can take from the drawer without looking and be sure to get a pair of the same color?

Solution: 3



## Medium Puzzles (Numbers)

### Player's View

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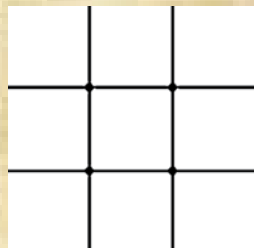
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You must cut a birthday cake into exactly eight pieces, but you're only allowed to make three straight cuts, and you can't move pieces of the cake as you cut. How can you do it?

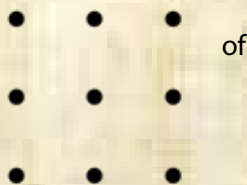
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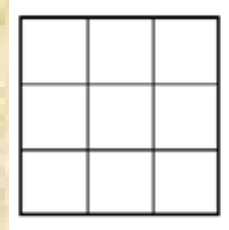
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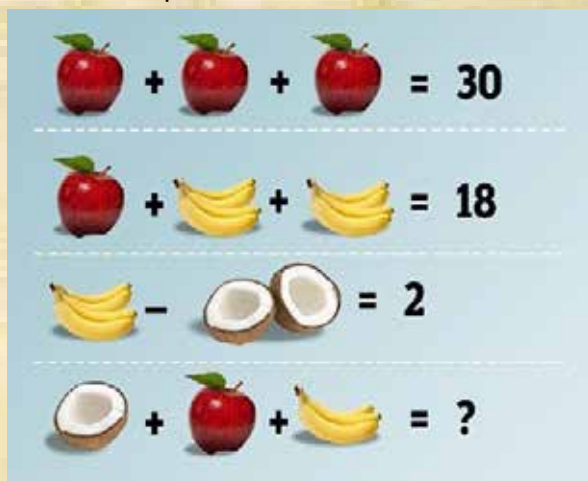
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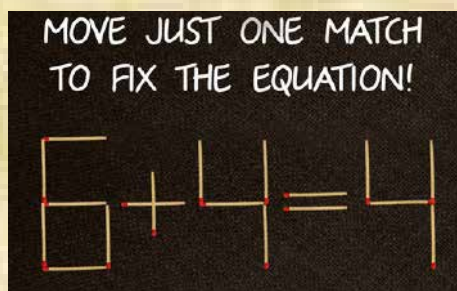
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## Hard Puzzles

### 1. Solve the puzzle below.

A solo dice game is played where, on each turn, a normal pair of dice is rolled. The score is calculated by taking the product, rather than the sum, of the two numbers shown on the dice. On a particular game, the score for the second roll is five more than the score for the first, the score for the third roll is six less than that of the second, the score for the fourth roll is eleven more than that of the third, and the score for the fifth roll is eight less than that of the fourth. What was the score for each of these five throws?

Solution:

10 is the score for the first roll.

15 is the score for the second roll.

9 is the score for the third roll.

20 is the score for the fourth roll.

12 is the score for the fifth roll.

### 2. Solve the puzzle below:

You are reducing ingredients for a potion and the recipe calls for five gallons of water. You have a well giving you all the water you need. The problem is that you only have a four-gallon bucket and a seven-gallon bucket and neither has graduation marks. Find a method to measure five gallons.

Solution: Pour the four-gallon bucket filled with water into the empty seven-gallon bucket. Fill the four gallon bucket up again and pour as much as you can into the seven-gallon bucket until the seven-gallon bucket is full. Now there is one gallon left in the four-gallon bucket. Empty the seven-gallon bucket and transfer the one gallon of water into the seven-gallon bucket. Fill the four-gallon bucket one more time, then pour the four gallons into the seven-gallon bucket which already has one gallon in it, making a total of five gallons.

### 3. Figure out who has what color roses:

At the recent spring fete, four keen gardeners were displaying their fine roses. In total there were four colors and each rose color appeared twice. From the clues below can you tell who had which color roses?

- Each gardener had two roses.
- Mr Anderson had a yellow rose.
- Mr Baker did not have a red one.
- Mr Reid had a blue rose but not a green one.
- Mr Butcher did not have a yellow one.
- One gardener with a red rose also had a green one.
- One gardener with a yellow rose also had a blue one.
- One of the gardeners with a green rose had no red.
- Neither of the gardeners with a yellow rose had a green one.
- No gardener has two roses of the same color.
- No two gardeners had the same two color roses.

Solution:

Name	Rose1	Rose2
Mr Butcher	red	green
Mr Anderson	yellow	red
Mr Reid	blue	yellow
Mr Baker	blue	green

### 4. Sort which bungalow is made of which material:

There are four bungalows in our cul-de-sac. They are made from these materials: straw, wood, brick and stone.

- Mrs Scott's bungalow is somewhere to the left of the wooden one and the third one along is brick.
- Mrs Umbrella owns a straw bungalow and Mr Tinsley does not live at either end, but lives somewhere to the right of the stone bungalow.
- Mr Wilshaw lives in the fourth bungalow, whilst the first bungalow is not made from straw.



Who lives where, and what is their bungalow made from?

#1	Mrs Scott	stone
#2	Mrs Umbrella	straw
#3	Mr Tinsley	brick
#4	Mr Wilshaw	wood

5. Can you solve this challenge:

A farmer wants to cross a river and take with him a wolf, a goat, and a cabbage. There is a boat that can fit himself plus either the wolf, the goat, or the cabbage. If the wolf and the goat are alone on one shore, the wolf will eat the goat. If the goat and the cabbage are alone on the shore, the goat will eat the cabbage. How can the farmer bring the wolf, the goat, and the cabbage across the river?

Solution:

Farmer takes Goat across (leaving Wolf and Cabbage behind)

Farmer returns alone

Farmer takes Wolf across

Farmer returns with Goat

\* We now have the Farmer, the Cabbage and the Goat on one side and the Wolf on the other side

Farmer takes Cabbage across

Farmer returns alone

Farmer takes Goat across

6. Can you direct the assistant to the required result:

The alchemist has posed a problem to her assistant: you must boil the eye of newt for exactly nine minutes and you have only these two timers. A four-minute hourglass, a seven-minute hourglass, along with a pot of boiling water. How will you do it?

Solution:

To start, flip both hourglasses over and put the eye in the water. When the four-minute hourglass runs out, flip it back over immediately. When the seven-minute hourglass runs out, flip that back over immediately too. One minute later, the four-minute hourglass will run out again. At this point, flip the seven-minute hourglass back over. The

seven-minute hourglass had only been running for a minute, so when it is flipped over again it will only run for a minute more before running out. When it does, exactly nine minutes will have passed, and the eye is done.

7. Solve the problem below:

The inscription states that the door will open if exactly 4 gallons of water are in the large jug when the counter reaches zero. There is a 5-gallon jug, a 3-gallon jug and a stream of water present. The runes count down from 180 (after 180 seconds, the water ceases to flow, and the lock measures the results).

Solutions (There are two known valid solutions)

Method #1

Fill the 3-gallon jug and pour the water into the 5-gallon jug.

Refill the 3-gallon jug and pour the water into the 5-gallon jug until the 5-gallon jug is full, leaving 1 gallon in the 3-gallon jug.

Empty the 5-gallon jug and pour the 1 gallon of water from the 3-gallon jug into the 5-gallon jug.

Fill the 3-gallon jug again and empty it into the 5-gallon jug, leaving exactly 4 gallons in the 5-gallon jug.

Method #2

Fill the 5-gallon jug and pour that water into the 3-gallon jug until the 3-gallon jug is full, leaving 2 gallons in the 5-gallon jug.

Empty the 3-gallon jug and pour the 2 gallons of water from 5-gallon jug into the 3-gallon jug.

Refill the 5-gallon jug and pour that water into the 3-gallon jug until the 3-gallon jug is full, leaving 4 gallons in the 5-gallon jug.



## Very Hard Puzzles (Cryptoquotes) GM View

Below are two quotes that have been encrypted. Part of the encryption key is below.

Can you crack the encryption and translate the quotes? (Note not all characters need to be solved to complete the quote.)

1.

TGTPU FMPNDK NDF NHWC OT CTNBCTQ DC  
e-e-y ---m-- m-- m--t -e tem-te- -t  
CENTW CM WBEC MF IEW IDFQW, PHF HB CIT  
t-me- t- ---t -- h-- h---, --- -- the  
OKDSA, DFQ OTJEF CM WKEC CIPMDCW.  
---ck, --- -e--- t- ---t th---t-.

I. K. NTFSATF

h. -. me-cke-

Cypher Text			s		t	n		i			a		n					c				u	
----------------	--	--	---	--	---	---	--	---	--	--	---	--	---	--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--

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

TGTPU FMPNDK NDF NHWC OT CTNBCTQ DC  
CENTW CM WBEC MF IEW IDFQW, PHF HB CIT  
OKDSA, DFQ OTJEF CM WKEC CIPMDCW. I. K.  
NTFSATF

Solution: Every normal man must be  
tempted at times to spit on his hands,  
run up the black, and begin to slit  
throats. H. L. Mencken



2.

EIJG QVFPIJV N'R FDPHGNE UHHY YHVJS'G

j--- --ca--- -'- chao--c goo- -o----'-  
RVPS N DPOV GH QV FDPHGNE SNFV!"

--a- - ha-- -o -- chao--c --c-!"

HIM DPCKCNSU FCVMNE XCPWVM GH

o-- ha-----g c-----c --a--- -o

HIM YBPMK KNUDGVM

o-- --a-- --gh---

<b>Cypher Text</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>f</b>			<b>u</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>l</b>			<b>h</b>								
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<b>Clear Text</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>
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"EIJG QVFPIJV N'R FDPHGNE UHHY YHVJS'G  
RVPS N DPOV GH QV FDPHGNE SNFV!" HIM  
DPCKCNSU FCVMNE XCPWVM GH HIM YBPMK  
KNUDGVM

Solution: "Just because I'm chaotic good  
doesn't mean I have to be chaotic nice!"  
our halfling cleric player to our dwarf  
fighter

## Very Hard Puzzles (Cryptoquotes) Player View

Below are two well known quotes that have been encrypted. Part of the encryption key is below.

Can you crack the encryption and translate the quotes? (Note not all characters need to be solved to complete the quote.)

1.

TGTPU FMPNDK NDF NHWC OT CTNBCTQ DC  
e-e-y ---m-- m-- m--t -e tem-te- -t  
CENTW CM WBEC MF IEW IDFQW, PHF HB CIT  
t-me- t- ---t -- h-- h----, --- -- the  
OKDSA, DFQ OTJEF CM WKEC CIPMDCW.  
---ck, --- -e--- t- ---t th---t-.

I. K. NTFSATF

h. -. me-cke-

Cypher Text			s		t	n		i			a		n					c				u	
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Clear Text	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
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TGTPU FMPNDK NDF NHWC OT CTNBCTQ DC  
CENTW CM WBEC MF IEW IDFQW, PHF HB CIT  
OKDSA, DFQ OTJEF CM WKEC CIPMDCW. I. K.  
NTFSATF

2.

EIJG QVFPIJV N'R FDPHGNE UHHY YHVJS'G

j--- --ca--- -'- chao--c goo- -o----'-  
RVPS N DPOV GH QV FDPHGNE SNFV!"

--a- - ha-- -o -- chao--c --c-!"

HIM DPCKCNSU FCVMNE XCPWVM GH

o-- ha-----g c-----c --a--- -o

HIM YBPMK KNUDGVM

o-- --a-- --gh---

<b>Cypher Text</b>	<b>p</b>	<b>f</b>			<b>u</b>	<b>d</b>	<b>e</b>	<b>l</b>			<b>h</b>								
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<b>Clear Text</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>H</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>J</b>	<b>K</b>	<b>L</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>Q</b>	<b>R</b>	<b>S</b>	<b>T</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>V</b>	<b>W</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>Y</b>	<b>Z</b>
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"EIJG QVFPIJV N'R FDPHGNE UHHY YHVJS'G  
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DPCKCNSU FCVMNE XCPWVM GH HIM YBPMK  
KNUDGVM





*The clay mining operation at Caford has discovered a large step pyramid, or zikurat. This imposing structure was buried completely in the clay sheet they have been mining for decades to make brick and other ceramic products. The local miners see what they think is an obvious entrance, but cannot get past the slab of stone. A call for aid is sent to the capital city of Meawold, and the party is sent to investigate.*

*Could this be one of the Nexuses that traded goods from the subterranean Land of Night to the surface world?*

*Places where treasures of the subterranean kingdoms, like mithril weapons, were traded for surface goods. Bastions of trade that were lost during the fall of the First Age of Man. Why has it been dormant for almost two millennia? What lies within? Is it a threat to Caford, or the Kingdom of Meawold as a whole?*

*If they can get inside, the party will have to navigate millennia old magic locks and security sentinels to find answers to these questions and more within The Buried Zikurat.*