

The Rotation Cipher



This cipher is based around re-using glyphs to mean different letters when oriented in different ways. In order to solve this cipher, you need to first figure out which order the glyphs go in, and then figure out how the different orientations correspond to different letters.

The golden coin on the left of the image gives the clue about glyph ordering. The coin shows the image of a rainbow, and each of the seven cards has one of the colors of the rainbow, commonly known as ROYGBIV. If you place the glyphs in the order of the rainbow, you will have their correct positions relative to each other. Some cards are partially hidden, and one is entirely hidden, but by comparing the parts of the glyph you can see to the letters in the message, you can figure out which is which. Additionally, you can tell which side is “neutral” for each glyph by using the circle visible on each card.

This is the correct order and orientation for the seven glyphs:



Now that you know the glyphs that you will be using, you can start figuring out what they mean. This is where the second gold coin comes in. The symbol on the coin has the appearance of a modified compass, with arrows pointing in each direction. One of the large arrows has a circle on the top, just like the cards, which indicates that the circle-tipped arrow is connected to the “neutral” orientation of the glyphs. The other large arrows have a number of circles on them: two, three, and four, respectively. This is the indication that each glyph corresponds to four different letters of the alphabet. Between each large arrow is a small arrow, which have their tips bent so they point clockwise instead of upwards, which reveals that each glyph’s rotations are measured in a clockwise manner.

Putting all of this together will reveal the solution: rotating a glyph clockwise will move it forward one letter of the alphabet. For example, the letter A, represented by ▲, can be rotated once clockwise to become the next letter of the alphabet, B, or ►. Continuing on in this manner shows that C and D become ▼ and ◀. Once a glyph has been rotated each of the four directions, the next letter will use the next glyph in the sequence; in this example, the next letter E becomes ◻.

There are a few pieces of this cipher that are not visible in this puzzle, but are present in the downloadable font. Capital letters have a line above them to denote capitalization, so ◻ becomes ◻̄. Additionally, various punctuation marks have their own symbols, such as periods being ∽, commas being ∽, and dashes being ∽.

Cipher created by Patrick Roughan, ©2020

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