

B.4 Circular Logic



Puzzle by: Stephen Irrgang
Difficulty: Medium

cisra Puzzle Competition 2007
<http://puzzle.cisra.com.au>

Back at your ship, you lock onto the signature of a two-way transmission you are certain is being beamed to Dr Glass. It only takes a few seconds for your ship's crypto-computer to break the audio encryption. You flip the audio feed on, while the computer continues working on the video encryption.

"... been exploring star systems in the tropic of Taurus. As you can see, I've found a wholly remarkable planet. Had I not seen it with my own eyes, I would not believe a planet of this shape to be possible."

"Amazing..."

"On the planet are the remains of an ancient alien civilisation. I have decided to call its inhabitants the Tauroids. I believe them to have been a savage, war-like race."

"How do you know this?"

"Because of the planet-wide civil war which destroyed their civilisation."

"How do you know that war was the cause of their destruction?"

"Because they were a war-like race. What's surprising is that they lasted as long as they did..."

"I see..."

"Stand by for geographical transmission... Over and out."

A string of jumbled characters plus an annotation flip onto your screen, as your system intercepts the data transmission. Finding no reason to believe that a civil war wiped out this planet, you study the data carefully, looking for clues. What caused the demise of the Tauroids?

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lrrnnnrbbbrl11111lrrnnrbbbrl11111lrrrbbbrl11111lcbbbbbrrl  
1111rrrbbbbbbrl111rdrerbbbbbbrl111rddreerbbbbbrrrrrrrrrrrrriir  
sssraaarrririirsrbrartttrtrrirsrbrartttrrrrrcbbbcrrrrrrnnnr  
bbrrrrnnnnnnnrbbbrl111lrrnnnnnnrbbbrl111r
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[The Tauroids built six great cities, and a vast road system connecting each city to each other city. The roads divided the planet into a number of provinces. Plans were found for a seventh city and six more great roads, but a terrible war started between the provinces bordering the region where the city was to be built.]



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