

TRANSFORMATIONS OF A TEXT (A LITERARY PUZZLE)

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1. This mysterious document, entitled Text B, was found among the literary remains of a famous author. It should not be confused with Minoan B, which represents an entirely different rubric.
2. Like a dilemma, the problem presented by Text B has *two prongs*:
3. You are confronted with a letter-array, as illustrated, and are required to process it, so as to make it *more informative*.
4. There are two distinct and separate solutions to this problem: Transformation A, and Transformation C. Each one proceeds in a different direction.
5. Transformation A is the one which will first suggest itself. It is tricky, but not insuperably difficult. It depends largely on a single idea, and is aided by certain language skills; in fact, some may say it is not even a challenging puzzle.
6. Solution C is completely different from Solution A, and much more difficult to reach; it is possible you may recognize it via its "theme"—*images extracted from text*.
7. One of the purposes of Text B and Solution A is to serve as an introduction to Solution C. In other words, Text B intermediates between Solution A and Solution C.
8. Analogically, Text B may be likened to the *chrysalis* of a caterpillar, which intermediates between the caterpillar and the butterfly it will become. From the outside, this chrysalis appears inert and lifeless, but within it takes place the *metamorphosis* that will transform a crawling worm into another life-form that bears no resemblance to it, yet carries every particle of its substance. This transformation has always been viewed as one of the great mysteries of nature...is it possible that a *text*—an aggregation of letters—can metamorphose in a similar way? Is it possible that a text can display two (or even three) alternate *states of existence*, each having its own meaning? This is the overall question my problem seeks to address.

Suggested Procedure:

- a. Starting from Text B (attached), attempt to develop Solution A, the recreation of a published literary work.
- b. To obtain confirmation of Solution A, mail a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Paul Maxim, P.O. Box 120, New York NY 10012-0002.
- c. You will receive, via return mail, a copy of Solution A, plus an embellished version of Text B, representing an important step toward the realization of Solution C.

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