

We arrived in the city of Melaka in the cooler season, but it was not cool. We had just come from China where we unraveled many mysteries, and from Turkey where we had nearly been eaten by turkeys. So, it was a relaxing change to stroll beside the lapping river edge. Three days into our leisurely wanderings we discovered a curious scroll, a roll of parchment laid down by the enigmatic time-traveling caveman ‘Uwajimaya’, whose legendary excursions through time had brought us on many adventures before. This scroll seemed to be of particular importance. Etched in drunk scribbles was a riveting account, a diary. We read it carefully, tracing his steps. We knew we would need some tools: a smartphone with an app to scan QR codes, web search, a compass and a mind for puzzles. The diary read like this:

I find myself at a bend in the river of the heritage area, a multi-cultural bazaar. I stand at a small footbridge of Jalan Baru. I'm facing the river, looking at a ~~sign~~ sign that gives many directions: Boardwalk, (athay, Bazarre, Java street. I wonder if there's coffee that way. I walk along the river in the direction of Java Street (toward the sea).

Soon, across the river, paintings of buildings. A painting of a king greets me excitedly, waving. I press on. A woman in a blue shirt smiles and nods. I nod back. Two Chinese people in red look at me suspiciously. I feel nervous. Another Chinese girl, this one more friendly. She says, "hello." I return it. She pauses for a moment, then "speaks, " please ignore the dragon.... he's loopy " Dragon? Loopy? I reply. She nods. I press on and move along. Another Chinese girl says the same: "don't listen to the dragon, he's nuts, he'll lead you in circles." I reply coolly, "What dragon are you talking about? I keep walking."

Soon, upon the wall, a large face appears across the river. It's a great smiling dragon. ~~At~~ At first I am afraid and cower and shimmy and shake, as I do.

The dragon speaks: "Hello! Sir! Excuse me! I need your help!" I say, "What's the matter, dragon?" "Call me Peterhausen," says the dragon.

"Ok, cool, what's the matter Peterhausen?" The dragon snuffles and says, "I... lost my brother. My dear brother is lost! He was here, near here, but now I can't find him. Will you help me?"

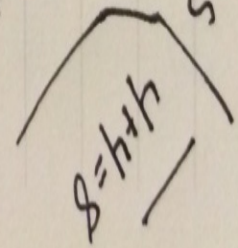
"I was told by a couple of girls to ignore you, Peterhausen." "Stupid girls. What have you got to lose? Help me and

I will give you the gift of wisdom. What do you think?" I think about it for a while and shout, "Alright Peterhausen, let's do it!" "Spectacular!" echoes

the dragon, then drifts out from the wall and effortlessly floats across the river and hovers over my shoulder. He says, "I'll help you if I can.

My intuition is good and somebody told me they left a clue to my brother's whereabouts. They said,

'Lamp posts, between 177 and 178. I don't know what it means. If we keep going along the river we'll figure it out.'

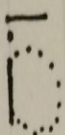






I, with the dragon Peterhausen hovering over my shoulder singing about circles, walk further along the river. Soon I find 177 and 178 and stand between them. I look across the river: A small shop setting there, they sell fruit juice. I feel strongly I need to go there. Peterhausen agrees. He whispers over my shoulder: "You will need your phone to scan a QR code"
"How do you know these things?"
"I have a strong intuition. Most dragons do."

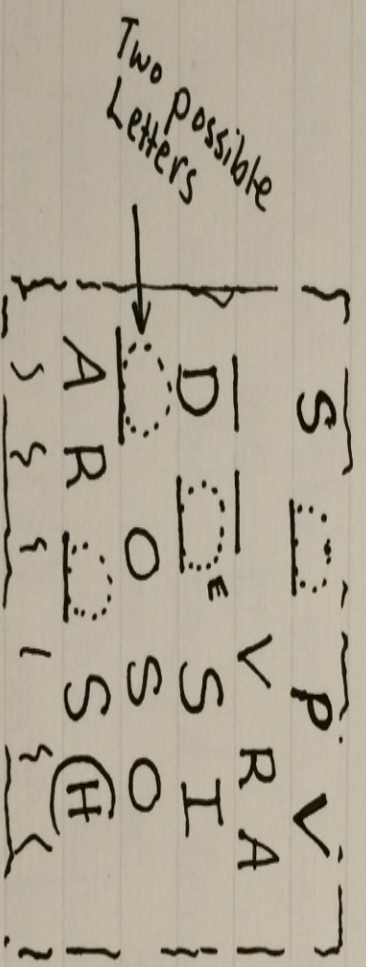
We cross the nearest bridge and walk back along the other side. Finally we reach the small shop on the other side, across from the two lamp poles. I buy a cup of fruit juice and drink it slowly. At the back of the shop, outside (close to the river) there's a small sign on a post. Behind the sign, under some leaves, is a QR code. I scan it.

"Eureka! A destination". I go directly to the location indicated in the QR code. Peterhausen is excited. I'm nervous.

At the first location I run around the main room looking at the engravings on the walls:

1.  Margaret
2. Beneath this stone is 
3. Edward 
4.  Koek
5. Mrs. Catherine  Floor

Order (1-5)



the next location, but I'm not finished here. Peterhausen, my dragon companion, tells me I need to find five numbers at the first location. He says his brother is not here, but we are on the right track (Dragons have strong intuition, and bad breath).

I reach the second location. It smells good. Peterhausen seems hopeful. "Maybe my brother is here," he says.

He tells me, "we need to find six numbers here. I'm not sure why, yet, but my intuition tells me."

There are _____ triangles (little niches) carved into the left wall of the big room (with all the statues).

The elephant-head god in the center has one-hundred-and-eight names. Bheema is his _____th name.

In one statue nook, there is a pair of gold-ish deities (statues) standing on a green cloth.

My dragon friend tells me, "see there! Above them, my relative! Indeed, there appears to be a dragon head above the pair, but not Peterhausen's brother. He says "it seems he isn't here, but

we are getting close!" Above the dragon-head is a single gold-framed deity. On his/her

head is a white rectangle with the number _____.

Brahmagupta's Brahmasputha Suddhanta relates closely with the number _____.

All the black statues have _____ colors on their brow, representing the third eye.

→ The last number is the number of cow statues here, which is _____.

I stand beside the left-most cow statue facing a curious egg-shaped statue. I ask the dragon where we should look next. He replies, "My brother is certainly not here, though some of my relatives are. We will have a better chance of finding my brother if we go to a place with more dragons. Take out your compass. I'm having an intuition."

I look at my compass, facing the egg. It says 238° SW. Peterhäusen tells me to turn to 327° NW. I do. "The third location is not far, in that direction. We may find my brother there."

So, we leave the second location and follow the road toward 327° NW. In a few minutes we come to a bend in the road. Here there are three colorful buildings of the same origin. I smell dragon breath. Peterhäusen is excited: "Many of my family here!"

I wonder which we should go into, as there are three choices. The one ahead seems uninteresting. On the right too. The dragon tells me the left building/complex is the best choice. (and this one has a colorful roof).

Peterhausen leads me in. The smell of incense is overpowering. Peterhausen calls to many of the dragons on the walls and doors. He knows them.

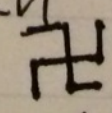
"Peterhausen. What should I do here?" He replies, "we need to find the old dragon. The old dragon can tell us if my brother is here". So, we go into the main room. Here there are three glass cases with more statues inside. We stand at the left statue. On the clothes of a golden statue is a very old dragon, who knows Peterhausen. Peterhausen asks if he has seen his brother.

The old dragon replies: "There are many of our kind here, but your brother is not. I saw him last, a week ago."

"So we are close!" shouts Peterhausen. "Yes," grumbles the elder "you need to complete the number puzzle, then the demons of the cloud will guide you to your brother."

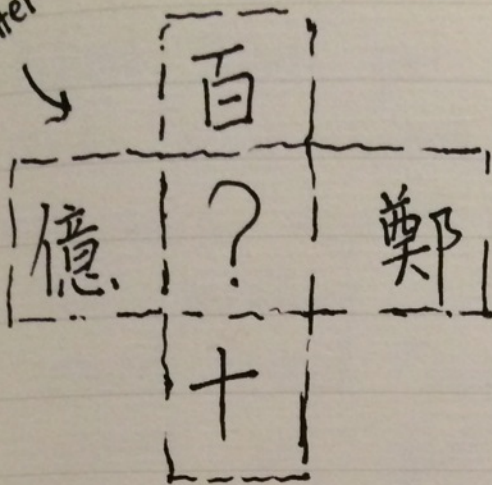
"How can we finish the puzzle?" The old dragon thinks for a moment. "You will need to find five more numbers, the last five numbers. They are all in one place, on the rising sun monolith in this very place. Good luck. You'll need this".

From his pocket he pulls out an ancient scroll and gives it to me. He tells us to use it at the monolith to find the last five numbers. We thank him and leave the main room.

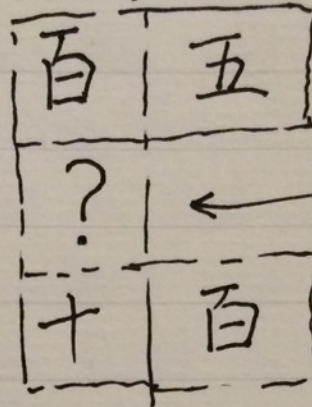
Along one side of the main room is a wing with smaller rooms. One of the smaller rooms has some large stone monoliths. On one monolith is a red rising sun, in front of which is a symbol which looks like this:  We study the monolith and consult the scroll:

center-ish

1st



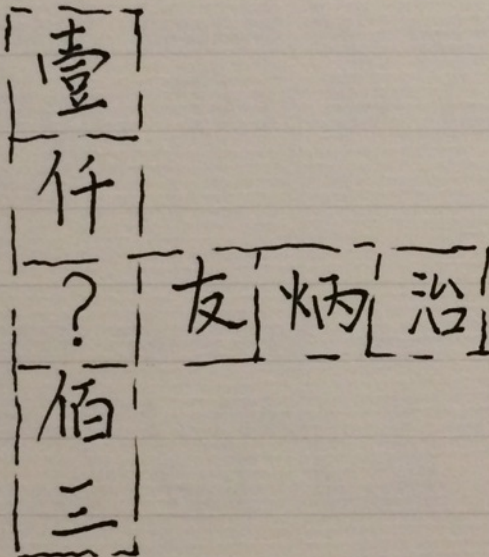
4th



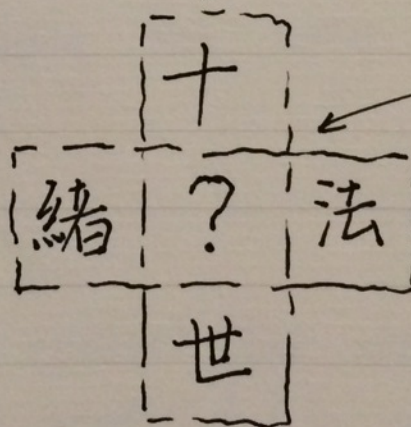
middle-left-ish

2nd

center-left



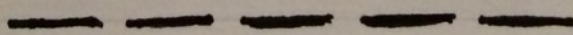
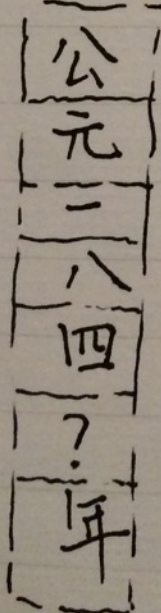
5th



Top-right

3rd

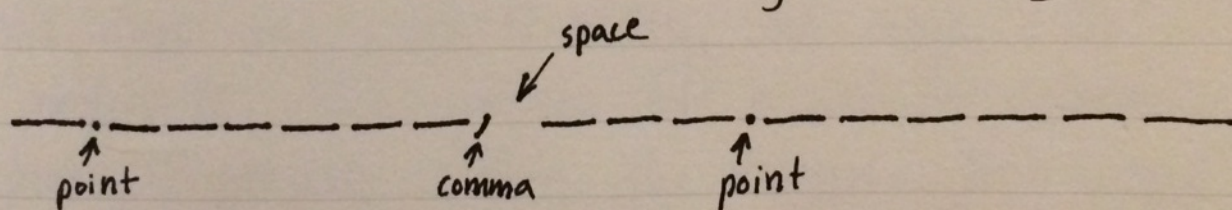
bottom-right-ish



"Eureka! I've got all the numbers!" I shouted. "Now what?"

"Great work," replied Peterhansen. We need to use the numbers to contact the demons of the cloud called "Google Maps" to find my brother." He went on, "put the numbers we've found ~~xxxx~~ in order from first to last (most recent should be last.) Put them in this form. It's the format the demons understand."

The dragon sketched out the form in the dirt with his claw. I filled in the numbers we had found along the way.



I used the coordinates to contact the demons and, lo, the final location appeared. We sprinted to the highly ironic spot. At the end of a footbridge, on the left side, just above the waterline, a small symbol. Just below it, I moved the stones, making sure nobody saw. Out from beneath the stone leapt a silver dragon, Peterhansen's brother!!