

# THE TENT OF SHAHRAMAN

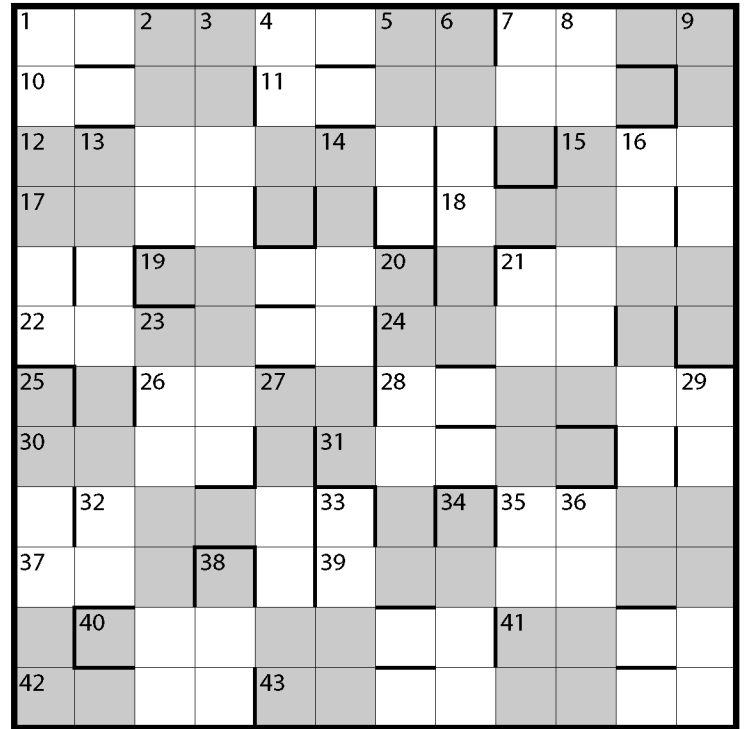
King Shahraman, commander of many troops, sharpened his skills by devising elaborate military stratagems at his game board. Though the game looks somewhat familiar, you quickly realize you're much less experienced than he.

## ACROSS

- 1 Alarming criminal getting edgy? (8)
- 7 Crowd heading west for sports competition (4)
- 10 Range through Central Asia, in the manner of yours truly (4)
- 11 Routes altered after road closing! (7)
- 12 Consonant switched in for "mu" (7)
- 15 Author's *Remembrance of Things Past* read aloud (3)
- 17 Advanced about sixty days on the calendar (4)
- 18 Old crone first spent yen (4)
- 19 Wife is detained by secret police from Zurich (5)
- 21 Kitties running around bar (4)
- 22 Street repairman left, collecting a thou for overhaul (6)
- 24 Scruff evident chiefly after sleep (4)
- 26 Pretentious-sounding comic Johnson (4)
- 28 Extreme details of paper cut omitted in brief description (6)
- 30 Verdant land tribesman recalled (4)
- 31 Drive eighteen across excavated area (5)
- 32 First off, holy man is not informal (4)
- 35 Red states at one point discuss recruiting constituents (4; *abbr*)
- 37 Pop band's hit: *Going Into Rehab* (3; *hyph*)
- 39 One exceedingly strange tale set in a remote locale (7)
- 40 Happy-go-lucky faun teased British character (7)
- 41 Devices with strings decapitated nobles (4)
- 42 Fellow's bared bottom (4)
- 43 Some facing utter disaster deem data to be corrupted (8; 2 *wds*)

## DOWN

- 1 Tricky lemur taking in a big ape (6)
- 2 Crying out, sway and fall heavily (4)
- 3 I grew fat off birthday goodies, etc. (8)
- 4 I bothered old matinee heartthrob (4)
- 5 Primarily senators meet, talk, and set up mechanisms for passing bills (4; *abbr*)
- 6 Dramatist Garcia penning "The author is a hard case" (6)
- 7 Make funny faces throwing up Doublemint, maybe (3)
- 8 More elevated part of secret ceremony considered in hindsight (7)



- 9 Union chief brought in to rep avant-garde acting company (6)
- 13 Jerusalem's rebuilder redeployed he-men (primarily Israeli, I see) (8)
- 14 Was grating spread incorrectly? (6)
- 16 Set Chico apart as "most desirable" (8)
- 20 Lioness ultimately catches less-than-rapid animals (6)
- 21 Instrument used for examining fouled up muscle (8)
- 23 Singer's showcase number in TV retrospective is not quite the norm (7)
- 25 Old-fashioned collar and boater recreated (6)
- 27 Two couples demonstrate traditional connection (6)
- 29 Cryptic runes at heart of upsetting turmoil (6)
- 33 In report, symbol used for Neptune's diameter, e.g. (4)
- 34 Tense, quirky role for Depp (4)
- 36 Benefit from warm serving of alcohol (4)
- 38 Beaufort describes anomaly in the atmosphere (3; *abbr*)



Once the grid is completed, one may trace the maneuvers of nine different game pieces upon the board. The answers to the clues for each piece, in clue order, form a continuous letter string which indicates its movement from square to square (the word "square" as used herein refers to a black or white region containing a 2x2 block of letters). A piece will start on a square containing the first letter in its string and proceed according to its movement rules to a square containing its second letter, then a square containing its third letter, and so on until all of its answers are spelled out. Each square will be visited by exactly three different pieces, with no individual piece visiting the same square more than once, and with no individual letter in a square being used by more than one piece.

The pieces start on nine different squares which must be determined.

## PIECES

**PEON** - *This piece alternates between moving one square forward (up the board) and moving one square to the left or right.*



Glutton's extra helpings lead to disaster: splitting shirt embarrassingly (6)  
Precinct houses recalled with greater accuracy (5)

**SCOUT** - *This piece moves like a modern rook, but only in squares on the perimeter of the board, and without backtracking.*



Daughter meeting Indian hero in histrionic scene (5)  
Crude nut mixture priced lower than competitors (8)

**ELEPHANT** - *This piece moves exactly two squares at a time in any orthogonal or diagonal direction.*



Missouri university overused devices installed the wrong way in computer socket (9; 2 wds)

**VIZIER** - *This piece moves any number of squares in any diagonal direction (as a modern Bishop).*



Your health starts to seem knotty once ailments linger (5)  
Don't start reproducing decorative millwork (7)

**SULTAN** - *This piece moves exactly one square in any orthogonal or diagonal direction (as a modern King).*



Some correspondance upset Dorothy's aunt earlier (5)  
Why, lacking closure, I'm thus a little erratic (9)

**PAGE** - *The Sultan's attendant, this piece moves exactly one square in any orthogonal direction.*



People who gather about Impressionists (7)  
Annihilate actress Kirsten heartlessly (4)

**KNIGHT** - *This piece moves three squares in any orthogonal direction, making a right angle turn (exactly as a modern Knight)*



Odds of niece being born in Paris (3)  
Rebuff small companion's insults (5)  
Delivered bouquet, as discussed (4)

**TOWER** - *This piece moves any number of squares in any orthogonal direction (as a modern Rook).*



Raise spirits in seance finally, in the wee hours of the night (5)  
Yelling, make an example of Spot (4)  
Very nearly destroy cyclist Costa (3)  
Most centered of graduates thanks acting teacher Hagen (3)

**WIZARD** - *This powerful piece may mystically transport itself to any square on the board.*



Middle of strudel covered with spice mixture gets frosted (6; 2 wds )  
Uranium in area warped energy fields (5)