

Introduction

My Dear Nicholas,

It is with mixed feelings of embarrassment and regret that I am writing to inform you of the death of your uncle Tiberius. His passing will be of some relief to a number of his relatives given the shame of his last days, but I know that you were close and will undoubtedly be saddened by his passing.

Before his death he instructed me to tell you that you are his chosen heir, and I would love to tell you what it is that you have inherited. Unfortunately this is not possible. Tiberius, with his customary infuriating insistence on security has encrypted his Last Will and Testament, and in his instructions he makes it clear that he wants you to assist me in deciphering the text. It will be my responsibility to ensure the accuracy of your decryption.

A cursory examination of the will suggests that it is encyphered with a variety of methods, some more challenging than others and that these fall naturally into eight sections. I suggest that we examine each in turn and compare our answers.

Tiberius was a wealthy man and I very much hope that you will inherit much of his estate. Perhaps we will in time be able to forget his disgrace.

Yours affectionately
Charles

You can cut and paste the cipher text from your browser and you will be able to use a word processor or spreadsheet to play around with the text and to help you decipher it.

The answer to this challenge will be announced on our blog section on Tuesday 13 October at 3pm. Please remember to submit your answers before Monday 12 October at 12 noon at <http://alturl.com/tafb7>

Good luck and have fun,

Challenge 1A

Saddened and perplexed

Ciphertext

UG LMIZ KPIZTMA,

Q PIDM LMKGXPMZML BPM NQZAB AMKBQWV WN UG CVKTM'A EQTT IVL Q IU LMMXTG
AILLMVML IVL XMZXTMFML JG QB. Q PIL PWXML BPIB QB EWCTL MFXTIQV BPM AIL
KQZKCUABIVKMA WN PQA LMIBP IVL ITTWE UM BW ZMUMUJMZ PQU EQBP BPM INNMBQWV Q
ZMKITT NZWU UG KPQTLPPWL. WN KWCZAM Q SVME BPIB BQJMQCA PIL JMMV MVOIOML QV
AMKZMB OWDZMVMVB EWZS XZQWZ BW BPM EIZ, JCB Q PIL ZMNCAML BW JMTQMDM BPIB PM
KWCTL PIDM PIL IVGBPQVO BW LW EQBP BPWAM NWCT VME EMIXWVA BPIB AW AKIZZML UG

OMVMZIBQWV. Q IU VWB ACZM BPIB Q EIVB BW ZMIL BPM ZMAB WN PQA TMBBMZ BW UM.
JMNWZM Q ZMIL QB Q KWCTL VWB PIDM IKKMXBML BPIB PM PIL KWTTIJWZIBML EQBP BPM
MVMUG, JCB Q PIL VWB ZMITQHML BPIB PM EIA IKYCIQVBML EQBP PIPV, I NIKB Q ZMIL EQBP
LQABIABM, IVL PQA KTIQU BW PIDM UIQVBIQVML BPIB ZMTIBQWVAPQX IB BPM ZMYCMAB WN
BPM OWDMZVUMVB QA BPM EWZAB AWZB WN AMTN-RCABQNQKIBQWV.

Q IU XCHHTML JG BQJMZQCA'A ABZIVOM QVABZCKBQWV BPIB Q APWCTL LMKGXPMZ BPM
LWKCUMVB. QB

AMMUA I BZQDQITQHQVO, QN VWB BW AIG NZQDWTWCA, ZMYCMAB. QB QA PIZL BW AYCIZM
BPQA EQBP BPM ACQQLM VWBM WN I BZIQBWZ, JCB XMZPIXA Q PIDM JMMV PMZM WV UITBI
NWZ BWW TWVO. QB QA UIVG GMIZA AQVKM Q AXMVB BQUM QV BPM KWUXIVG WN NZQMVLA
WZ ZMTIBQDMA IVL, BPWCOP Q NQVL BPM AWTQBCLM KWVAWTQVO, QB UISMA UM I XWWZ
RCLOM WN KPIZIKBMZ.

Q IU AWZZG BW AIG BPIB Q IU IAPIUML WN UG CVKTM IVL Q PIDM LMKQLML VWB BW
KWVBQVCM EQBP BPQA CVXTMIAIVB OIUM. Q EQTT PIDM VWBPQVO UWZM BW LW EQBP PQU,
JCB Q AMM VW VMML BW ILL BW BPM MUJIZZIAAUMVB WN PQA NZQMVLA IVL NIUQTG IVL Q
EWCTL IAS GWC BW UIQVBIQV BPM OZMIBMAB LQAKZMBQWV QV GWCZ KWUUCVQKIBQWVA
KWVKMZVQVO BPQA LQAIXXWQVBQVO LWKCUMVB, IA Q PIDM LWVM QV MVKZGXBQVO BPQA
TMBBMZ.

GWCZA AQVKMZMTG,

VQKPWTIA

CHALLENGE 1B

Being of sound mind

V, GVOREVHF UNJXFZBBE, ORVAT BS FBHAQ ZVAQ, UREROL ERIBXR NYY BGURE JVYYF NAQ
PBQVPVYF V ZNL CERIVBHFYL UNIR RKRPHGRQ. GUVF QBPHZRAG VF ZL SVANY QRPYNENGVBA BS
VAGRAG SBE GUR QVFCBFNY BS NAL NFFRGF GUNG ERZNVA HAQRE ZL BJAREFUVC NAQ PBAGEBY,
NAQ VF ZL SVANY BCCBEGHAVGL GB FRG GUR ERPBEQ FGENVTUG PBAPREAVAT GUR NJSHY RIRAGF
BS GUR YNFG SVSGRRA LRNEF. VG VF NYFB ZL SVANY YRGGRE GB LBH, QRNE AVPUBYNF.
V PBHYQ ORTVA VA NAL AHZORE BS JNLF, OHG CREUNCF V FUBHYQ FGNEG ONPX VA AVARGRRA
GUEVRRA, JURA V ERPRVIRQ NA VAIVGNGVBA SEBZ CEBS.

BGGB UNUA GB NGGRAQ N ZRRGVAT BS GUR QRHGFURA PURZVFPURA TRFRYYFPUNSG MH OREYVA. GUR FBPVRGL JNF GB OR NQQRFFRQ OL CEBS. RZVYR SVFPURE BA UVF JBEX PBAPREAVAT PBEEBFVIR TNFRF NAQ GURVE RSSRPGF BA GUR UHZNA OBQL. GUVF JNF N FHOWRPG GUNG V SBHAQ CREFBANYYL QVFGNFRSHY OHG CEBSRFFVBANYYL BS CEBSBHAQ VZCBEGNAPR, FVAPR V BJARQ NAQ BCRENGRQ N AHZORE BS SNPGBEVRF ZNAHSNPGHEVAT PURZVPNY CEBQHPGF, NAQ V GBBX GUR FNSRGL BS GUBFR CYNAGF NAQ ZL RZCYBLRRF IREL FREVBHFYL. GUR IVFVG JNF CEBQHPGVIR NAQ V YRNEARQ N YBG, CREUNCF ZBER GUNA JNF TBBQ SBE ZR.

BA ZL ERGHEA V JNF ZRG SEBZ GUR OBNG VA FBHGUNZCGBA OL GJB TRAGYRZRA SEBZ NA BETNAVMNGVBA GURL PNYRQ IREBAN - IBYHAGRRE RAGRECEVFRF, EBLNY BEQANAPR NFFBPVNGVBA. GUVF GBC-FRPERG TBIREAZRAG NTRAPL JNF ERFCBAFVOYR SBE ERPEHVGAT YRNQREF BS GUR ZNAHSNPGHEVAT VAQHFGVRF GB FHCCBEG GUR QVCYBZNGVP NAQ ZVYVGNEL RSSBEGF BS GUR SBERVTA BSSVPR, NAQ GURL NFXRQ ZR GB CEBIVQR GURZ JVGU N ERCBEG BA SVFPURE'F JBEX. V UNQ QRRC ERFREINGVBAF, OHG V ERPBTAVFRQ GUR TEBJVAT GUERNG BS JNE NAQ V JNF VAPERNFVATYL NSENVQ GUNG PURZVPNY JRNCBAF ZVTUG OR HFRQ. VA NAL PNFR GUR GJB TRAGYRZRA, JUB, SBE BOIVBHF ERNFBAF, V AVPXANZRQ INYRAGVAR NAQ CEBGRHF, JRER IREL CREFHNFVIR. V YRNEARQ YNGRE GUNG GURL ORYBATRQ GB N TEBHC JVGUVA IREBAN XABJA NF GUR SNOHYVFGF, QRQVPNGRQ GB JUNG JR JBHYQ ABJ PNYV VASBEZNGVBA JNESNER. GURL JRER FXVYRQ CEBCBARAGF BS CEBCNTNAQN NAQ ZVVASBEZNGVBA, NAQ ZNFGREF BS N JUBYR CNABCYL BS ZRGUBQF BS CREFHNFVBA.

XABJVAT BS LBHE BJA QERNQSHY RKCREVAPRF V NZ NFUNZRQ GB NQZVG GUNG V SBHAQ ZLFRYS NGGENPGRQ OL GUR ARJ PUNYYRATRF BS JBEX JVGU GUR NTRAPL. NG GUNG FGNTV V JNF NYZBFG RAGVERYL PBAPREARQ JVGU VAIRFGVTNGVAT ZRGUBQF BS CEBGRPGVBA NTNVAFG GUR ENINTRF BS PUYBEVAR NAQ ZHFGNEQ TNF NGGNPXF NAQ V JNF PBAIVAPRQ GUNG ZL JBEX PBHYQ FNIR YVIRF. V ERQVFPBIRERQ N YBIR SBE GUR QNVYL EVGHNYF BS GUR YNOBENGBEL NAQ RAWBLRQ GUR PYBFR PBYRRTVNY NGZBFCURER VA GUR FRPERG JBEYQ BS IREBAN. NG GURVE ERDHRFG V ZNVAGNVARQ ZL PBAGNPGF JVGU GUR TREZNA FPVRAVFGF, PBAIVAPRQ GUNG QVNYBT ZVTUG CERIRAG GUR SHYY UBEEBEF BS GUR PBZVAT JNE, OHG VA WHAR AVARGRRA SBHEGRRA N PBAIREFNGVBA JVGU I NAQ C YRQ GB ZR GB ERNYVFR GUNG, OL CEBIVQVAT BHE NEZL JVGU CEBGRPGVBA SEBZ GUR RSSRPGF BS GURFR GREEVOYR JRNCBAF, ZL ERFRNEPU PBHYQ CERPVCVGNR GURVE HFR OL BHE BJA FVQR.

SEVTUGRARQ OL GUVF NAQ OL GUR TEBJVAT CBYVGVPNY VAFGNOVYVGL VA RHEBCR V ERFVTARQ VZZRQVNGRYL SEBZ GUR NTRAPL NAQ ERGHEARQ GB GUR YNOBENGBEVRF BS GUR PBZCNAL V UNQ SBHAQRQ. GUR GJB TRAGYRZNA BS IREBAN JRER, GB FNL GUR YRNFG, HAUNCL, OHG V PBAIVAPRQ GURZ GUNG ZL SNPGBEVRF JRER FGVYV IVGNY GB OEVGVFU RPBABZVP VAGRERFGF NAQ SBE N JUVYR GURL YRSG ZR NYBAR. GUVF FGBEL ZVTUG UNIR RAQRQ GURER VS V UNQ ABG ERPRVIRQ GUR GRYRTENZ SEBZ LBHE ZBGURE BA WNAHNEL SVSGU, AVARGRRA SVSGRRA.

