



Universal Magic

by Philip Z Loh

After solving all five pre-event puzzles, how does one crack the pre-event metapuzzle? Also, what meme does this puzzle reference?

Solvers first map the five elemental magics (EARTH, FIRE, METAL, WATER, WOOD) to their corresponding positions in the Chinese Wu Xing element (ref: elemental magic) phase diagram (土, 火, 金, 水, 木). From here, solvers map these elements to the Solar System planet (ref: let's plan it, universal magic) that is associated with it.

Solvers who speak multiple languages or who love mythology may already know that the days of the week (ref: this week, check your calendar) are strongly tied to a few Solar System planets and celestial bodies. Sunday is named after the Sun, Monday is named after the Moon, but everything else that follows after that doesn't look super intuitive in English only because the Germanic languages referenced the Norse mythos (e.g., Thursday is named for Thor, as in the lightning-shooting god, as in Jupiter). Some languages like French or Japanese make the connection very apparent to modern-day speakers (e.g., Mardi for Mars on Tuesday, or 水曜日 for 水星 (Mercury) on Wednesday).

Element	Puzzle answer	Planet	Day of week
Fire	CONSOLE	Mars	TUESDAY
Water	TACTICIAN	Mercury	WEDNESDAY
Wood	TEATIMES	Jupiter	THURSDAY
Metal	OSPREY	Venus	FRIDAY
Earth	KILOGRAM	Saturn	SATURDAY

The puzzle answers share the same length with the corresponding day of the week, and overlap in one spot. Reading those overlapped letters in calendar order gives the answer **SATYA**.

Someday, perhaps you can meet the head wizard of Microsoft, Satya Nadella. For now, visit <http://www.microsoft.com/university>

ANSWER:

SATYA

P.S.: The meme referenced here is "5/7" – since a week has seven days but we're actually only looking at five days.

P.P.S.: Given the Chinese Wu Xing system and possible Japanese weekly calendar interpretation, we are actually "5/7 with rice".