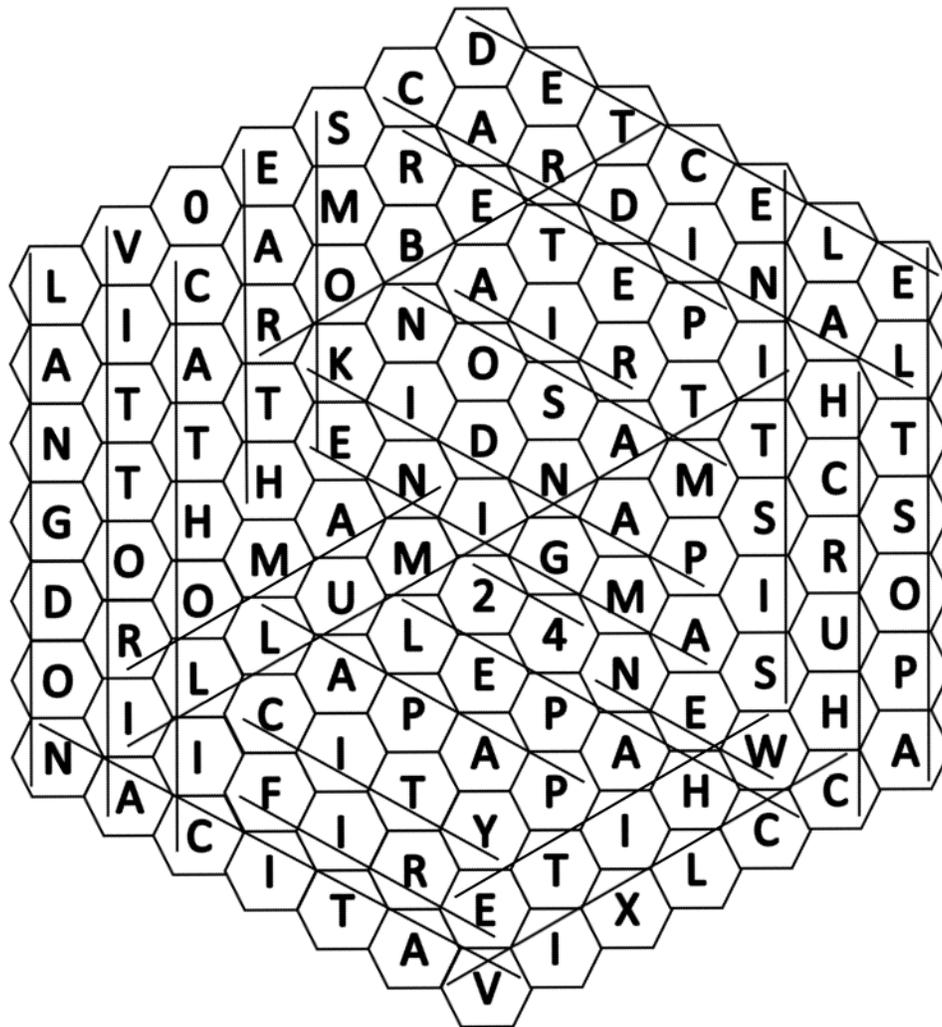


Solution to Angels & Demons

By Pranjal Gupta



This is an enigma.

The answer to the ultimate question of life (A), the universe, and everything is 42.

The four essential elements of life (A) are air, water, fire and earth.

Secret societies - Freemasons and Illuminati (B).

Pope (C) is the head of Roman Catholic Church.

Vittoria and Robert Langdon solve the mystery of Illuminati (B) to locate the kidnaped cardinals (D).

White Smoke at Sistine Chapel in Vatican City means cardinals (D) elected a new Pope (C).

The CCLXIV (read 264th) successor of Aposlte Peter - Cardinal Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger (E)

Papal name of Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger (E) is BENEDICT XVI (F). (BENEDICT is also acceptable as answer.)

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Key observations to solve this puzzle:

- The number of blanks (27) are exactly equal to the number of lines (27) in the Hexagon grid.
- Every line in the hexagon represents a word which fits in one of the blanks.
- Every word in the hexagonal grid is **underlined**, i.e. the line in the hexagonal grid is always below the word.
- All the words are from the novel "Angels & Demons".
- The Regular Expressions around the grid are not sufficient to fill the whole grid, you need clues from the answers to the blanks below to fill some part of it.

Note: To make these observations a little more obvious, one of the blanks is filled with the word "ENIGMA" and the same is shown in the hexagonal grid.

The answers to the blanks in the first three questions are very straight forward (they are meant to be that way) which will give you the following words:

42, Air, Fire, Earth, Illuminati and Mason

There is only one place where "42", "fire" and "illuminati" can fit in the grid because of the conditions on length of the word and regular expressions.

If you fill these words, then regular expressions will make more sense and will give you the next few words:

Roman, Church, Catholic, kidnap, etc.

If you keep filling the words back in the grid, regular expressions will make more sense and you will find more words.

The places marked with an alphabet for example (A) is **Life**, are to be determined by the solver on their own.

When you fill more of the grid, you will find words like

White, Smoke, Sistine, Chapel, Vatican, City, etc

which are related to a very recent event which everybody knows :) This will help fill the next few blanks in the puzzle.

Pope Francis is the 265th successor of the Apostle Peter but the number in the grid is 264 in Roman Numerals. Therefore, the final answer is the Papal name of Cardinal **Joseph Aloisius Ratzinger** which is **BENEDICT XVI**.