

## PIGEON - HOLED

***"In that great brain of his everything is pigeonholed" [BRUC]***

*If you're not into cryptography, codes can be vexing.*

*In all fairness, that's what they're designed to do.*

*And we know of a number of times codes or ciphers are used in the Sherlock Holmes stories.*

*Indeed, in "The Adventure of the Dancing Men," Holmes himself tells us*

*"I am fairly familiar with all forms of secret writings, and am myself the author of a trifling monograph upon the subject, in which I analyze one hundred and sixty-three*

*separate ciphers."*

*But when the uninitiated are on the other end of a code, cracking that code can seem a nearly impossible task.*

*Of course, the creator of the code likely thinks its foolproof, as Abe Slaney did in DANC.*

*But Holmes reminded him there's always a way: "What one man can invent, another can discover."*

*Young Stamford, Watson and Holmes find out quite the same thing...*

**WHAT ARE YOU WORKING ON,  
JOHN? YOU LOOK WORRIED?**

**HOLMES LEFT ME AN URGENT  
CODED MESSAGE I NEED TO BREAK.  
TROUBLE IS, I AM NOT QUITE  
FAMILIAR WITH THIS DESIGN...**



**SO WHAT IS THE PROBLEM? I THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE PROVIDED A DECIPHER FOR THE MESSAGE.**

**WELL HE DID, IT IS JUST HE WAS IN A HURRY, IT SEEMS... I CANNOT FIGURE OUT SOME OF THE CHARACTERS, WHICH LOOK THE SAME...**



LIKE THIS ONE...  
I AM NOT SURE  
IF IT MEANS  
'PIGEON' OR  
'RELIGION'...

I AM SURE I HAVE  
NOT SEEN THIS  
CODE BEFORE. IS  
SHERLOCK USING  
A NEW FORM FOR  
THIS MESSAGE?



AT LAST CHECK,  
HE HAS USED  
APPROXIMATELY  
TWO DOZEN THIS  
SCHOOL YEAR...

REALLY, THAT'S  
IMPRESSIVE. HOW  
LONG HAVE YOU  
BEEN WORKING ON  
THIS URGENT CODE?



**IT FEELS LIKE HOURS, BUT I DON'T  
THINK IT HAS BEEN THAT... OH...**

**huh? IS SOMETHING  
WRONG, JOHN?**



**OVER AN HOUR. IN  
RETROSPECT, I THINK THIS  
CODE WILL BE RETIRED,  
NEVER TO BE USED AGAIN...**



SHOULD I ASK?

I KNOW I'M  
NOT...





WELL, I GUESS WE KNOW  
WHAT THIS ALL MEANS...

YES, I THINK  
WE DO...



THAT SYMBOL IS DEFINITELY  
'PIGEON', NOT 'RELIGION.'

AT SECOND GLANCE,  
PIGEON DOES MAKE MORE  
SENSE. THE NEXT SYMBOL  
MUST BE 'ROOST.'

