

# Madam, I'm Adam<sup>1</sup>

Due Wednesday, February 18, 1998, 9 a.m.

## *A Little History:* <sup>2</sup>

This Latin palindromic square, which was found on a Roman wall in Cirencester, Eng., and in Pompeii, Italy, may be translated: "Arepo the sower holds the wheels with care." As late as the 19th century it was graven on amulets and charms and laid upon pregnant women to ensure safe delivery. Like the sign of the fish (an acrostic: Greek ichthys, "fish," happens to have the first letters of the Greek words for Jesus Christ, God's son, Saviour), the square may have been used to identify fellow Christians in the days of persecution, for its letters form a cross with the word tenet and can be arranged in the cross

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P
A
T
E
R
PATERNOSTER
O
S
T
E
R

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with four letters remaining: A, O, A, and O. These, placed at the extremities, can represent alpha and omega. Though some, because of the early date of the eruption that destroyed Pompeii (AD 79), suggest a Jewish origin, the threefold Christian symbols, cross, prayer, and quotation, seem to confute them; moreover, the letters of the square can be rearranged to spell Oro Te, Pater; oro Te, Pater; sanas: "I pray to thee, Father. Thou healest." Thus the palindrome, now merely a game, had a serious beginning.

## *Beat These:*

I didn't write these, so somebody else must have too much free time...

- A man, a plan, a canal – Panama!
- A man, a plan, a cat, a canal – Panama!
- A man, a plan, a cat, a ham, a yak, a yam, a hat, a canal – Panama!

<sup>1</sup>As the first man said to the first woman: "Madam, I'm Adam." She responded: "Eve." – Mark Twain

<sup>2</sup>*palindrome*. Britannica Online. <http://www.eb.com:180/cgi-bin/g?DocF=micro/448/54.html>. accessed February 11, 1998.

- A man, a plan, a canoe, pasta, heros, rajahs, a coloratura, maps, snipe, percale, macaroni, a gag, a banana bag, a tan, a tag, a banana bag again, or: a camel, a crepe, pins, spam, a rut, a Rolo, cash, a jar, sore hats, a peon, a canal – Panama!
- A man, a plan, a caret, a ban, a myriad, a sum, a lac, a liar, a hoop, a pint, a catalpa, a gas, an oil, a bird, a yell, a vat, a caw, a pax, a wag, a tax, a nay, a ram, a cap, a yam, a gay, a tsar, a wall, a car, a luger, a ward, a bin, a woman, a vassal, a wolf, a tuna, a nit, a pall, a fret, a watt, a bay, a daub, a tan, a cab, a datum, a gall, a hat, a fag, a zap, a say, a jaw, a lay, a wet, a gallop, a tug, a trot, a trap, a tram, a torr, a caper, a top, a tonk, a toll, a ball, a fair, a sax, a minim, a tenor, a bass, a passer, a capital, a rut, an amen, a ted, a cabal, a tang, a sun, an ass, a maw, a sag, a jam, a dam, a sub, a salt, an axon, a sail, an ad, a wadi, a radian, a room, a rood, a rip, a tad, a pariah, a revel, a reel, a reed, a pool, a plug, a pin, a peek, a parabola, a dog, a pat, a cud, a nu, a fan, a pal, a rum, a nod, an eta, a lag, an eel, a batik, a mug, a mot, a nap, a maxim, a mood, a leek, a grub, a gob, a gel, a drab, a citadel, a total, a cedar, a tap, a gag, a rat, a manor, a bar, a gal, a cola, a pap, a yaw, a tab, a raj, a gab, a nag, a pagan, a bag, a jar, a bat, a way, a papa, a local, a gar, a baron, a mat, a rag, a gap, a tar, a decal, a tot, a led, a tic, a bard, a leg, a bog, a burg, a keel, a doom, a mix, a map, an atom, a gum, a kit, a baleen, a gala, a ten, a don, a mural, a pan, a faun, a ducat, a pagoda, a lob, a rap, a keep, a nip, a gulp, a loop, a deer, a leer, a lever, a hair, a pad, a tapir, a door, a moor, an aid, a raid, a wad, an alias, an ox, an atlas, a bus, a madam, a jag, a saw, a mass, an anus, a gnat, a lab, a cadet, an em, a natural, a tip, a caress, a pass, a baronet, a minimax, a sari, a fall, a ballot, a knot, a pot, a rep, a carrot, a mart, a part, a tort, a gut, a poll, a gateway, a law, a jay, a sap, a zag, a fat, a hall, a gamut, a dab, a can, a tabu, a day, a batt, a waterfall, a patina, a nut, a flow, a lass, a van, a mow, a nib, a draw, a regular, a call, a war, a stay, a gam, a yap, a cam, a ray, an ax, a tag, a wax, a paw, a cat, a valley, a drib, a lion, a saga, a plat, a catnip, a pooh, a rail, a calamus, a dairyman, a bater, a canal – Panama!<sup>3</sup>

*Extra Credit:*

If you already know Java, then this program is pretty darned simple. If you want a challenge (and for some reason, have the time), here's the rub:

**Write a program with characteristics identical to the one for the assignment, except that it not only recognizes entire palendromes, it will find any palendrome on the input line longer than three characters (again, ignoring spaces, punctuation, and capitalization). The output should be a list of all palendromes your program finds. If you're a real hotshot, they'll be alphabetized (this is non-trivial, and don't try it unless you have absolutely nothing else to do).**

You'll get extra credit for this, but make sure the main assignment works first. If the main assignment doesn't work, you don't get any extra credit. Leave this program in your group's prog1 directory as subpal.java. The entire program, extra credit included, is due at 9 a.m. on February 18, 1998 (next Wednesday). **Extra credit submissions will not be graded if any part of the assignment is submitted after the first deadline.**

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<sup>3</sup>Dan Hoey