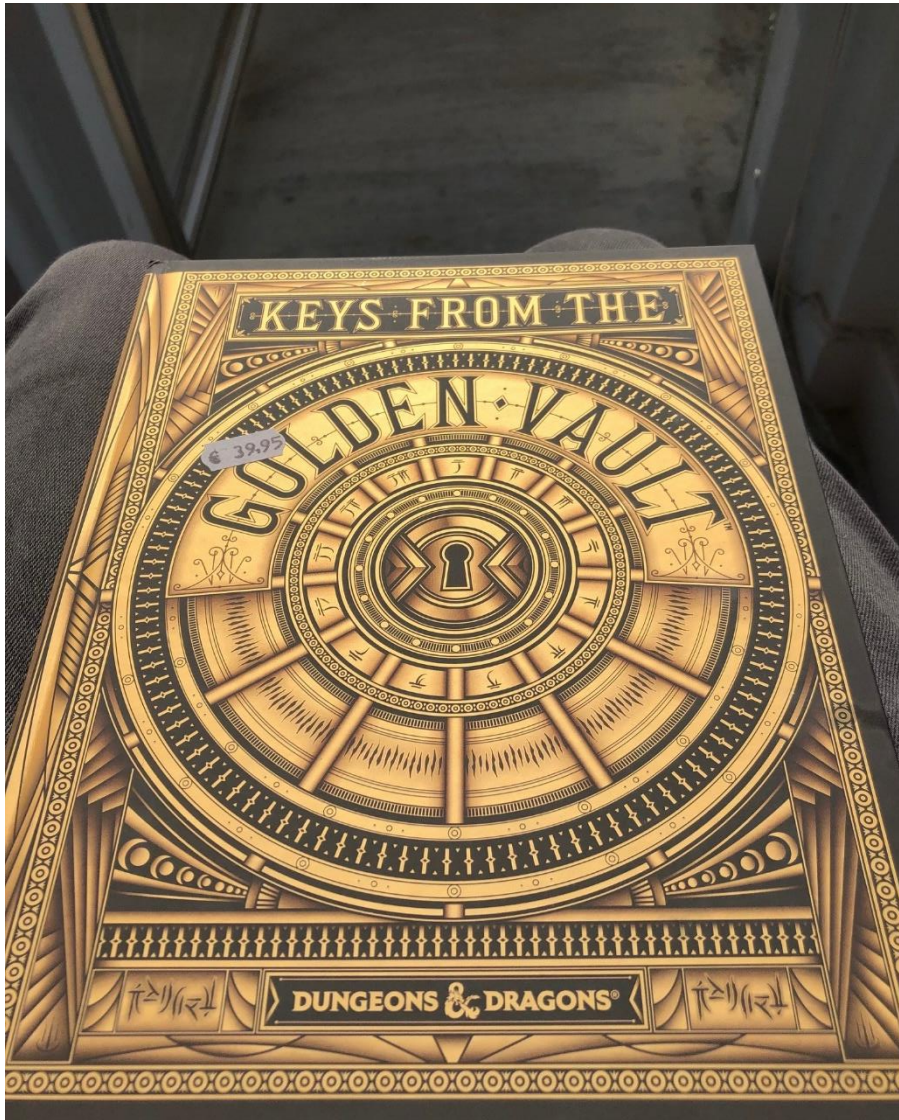


Reaching for the stars

Morten Hansen

Thursday, April 6, 2023.

I'm back home in Copenhagen, Denmark. I open the book "Keys from the Golden Vault":



In the book I notice the following lines: "The Golden Vault is a secretive organization..." and "Missions from the Golden Vault are often illegal, but they always support a just, moral cause..."

That would be pirates talking? From the star constellation of Libra, that has the scales as its symbol? The symbol for justice and balance?

A fragment of a woman, a woman's head, appears on a page. The headline on the next page is "Reach for the stars". As in the star constellation of Libra? On that page there is also a golden key, with a fragment of a woman, a woman's head.



Saturday, May 13, 2023

I have arrived in Istanbul, Turkey. My first time here. In a shop window I see this golden Libra figurine with the scales of justice:



Just a coincidence, of course. Or it could be a sign, that I'm following a trail to the pirates' vault.

I look up Magic the Gathering shops in Istanbul and I find a shop that sells Magic the Gathering cards. I decide to go there.






Inside the shop I talk with one of the employees that tells me, that a Magic the Gathering tournament will start a couple of hours later, and I decide that I will participate and just follow this path to wherever it will lead.


I walk the streets of Istanbul spending the waiting time until the tournament starts. I find this sign interesting: "Dream until it's your reality":



I don't know where to go when the Magic tournament is done, so I look up possible things to see in Istanbul. I very much resonate with this suggestion: "Get lost and see what surprises the city throws your way":



(50) Get lost and see what surprises the city throws your way. Istanbul is a great city to get lost in. So if you're feeling rather adventurous, why not leave the guidebook behind and just head out on foot to see what you can discover for yourself.

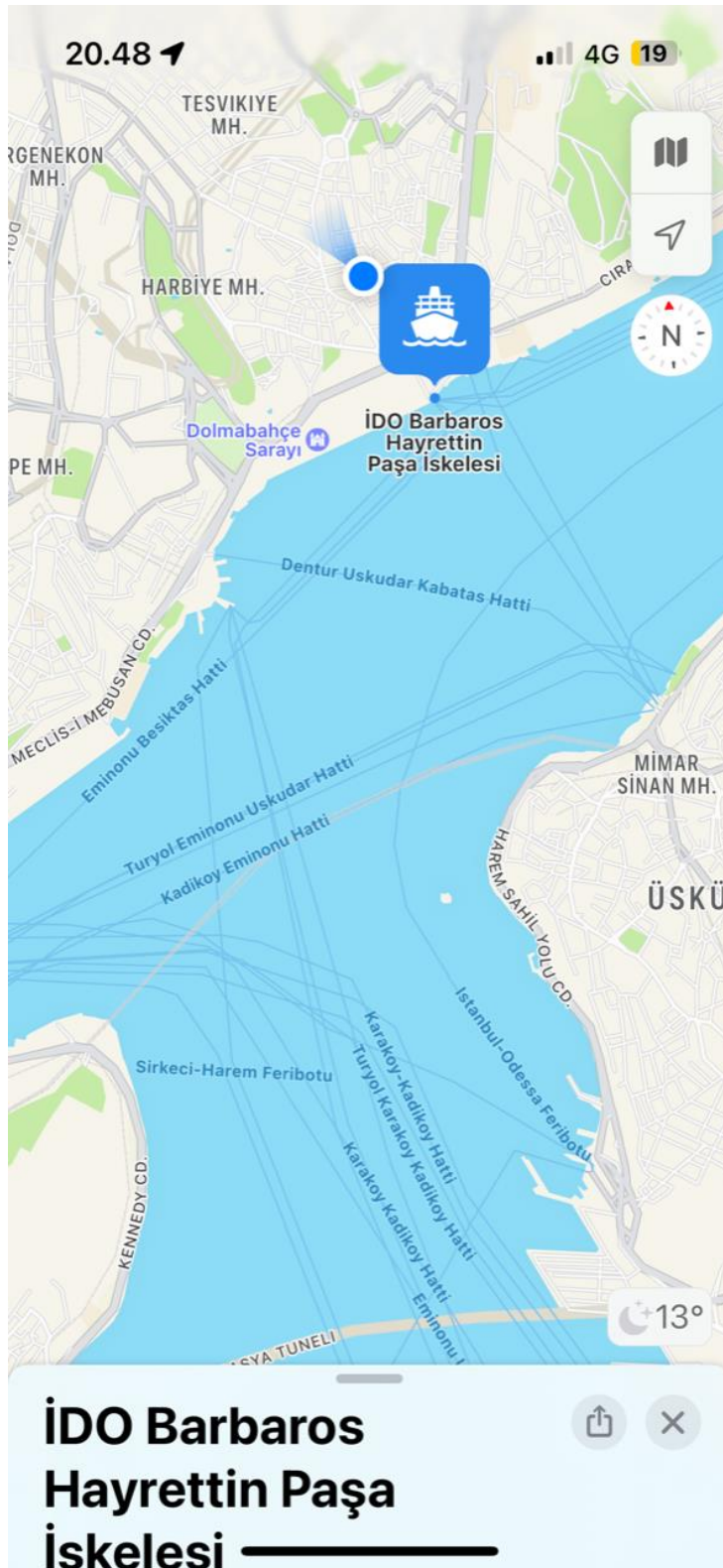


The Turkish flag proudly hangs over a building in Istanbul, Turkey.

I'm back at the shop. The tournament starts and there is an American guy that uses a Turkish carpet as a playmat – pretty cool I think:



In one of my matches, I play against a local Turkish guy. He wins quickly. We then talk about Istanbul, and he says that there is another shop in Istanbul that sells Magic the Gathering cards. He tells me that I should take the boat to that part of Istanbul. This is my clue as to where I should go next, I think to myself. I hand him my phone, and he shows me the place from where I should take the boat:



After the tournament I get to pick a promo card among a pile a promo cards. I pick the card called "Fabled Passage", which very much resonates with the experience I'm having. The path, now continuing with a boat, is a fabled passage - a path I need to take to continue this adventure.



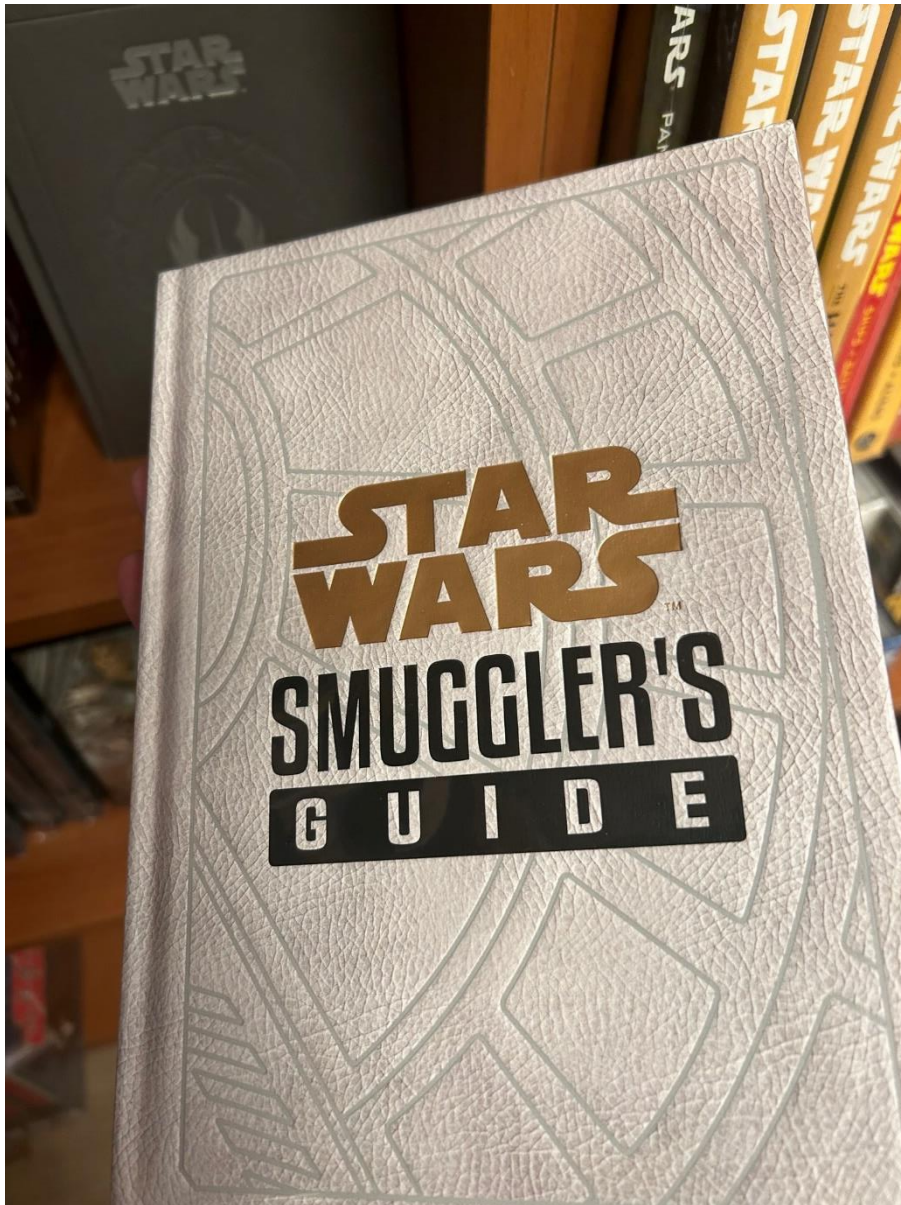
Sunday, May 15, 2023

In the morning I go over the cards that I received the day before. I notice that I also got a card called "Complete the Circuit".



"Complete the Circuit" reminds me of the Bootes star constellation projected onto the map of Europe, with the locations of Istanbul, Rome, Barcelona, Dublin, Bergen and Berlin that form a circuit when connected on the map. I will need to go to Rome, Bergen and Berlin at some point soon I think to myself. Maybe next year. In the spring of 2024.

I take the boat to the other side of Istanbul, but the other Magic The Gathering shop is closed. I find a bookstore instead. Inside the bookstore I find this book:



"Smuggler's Guide".

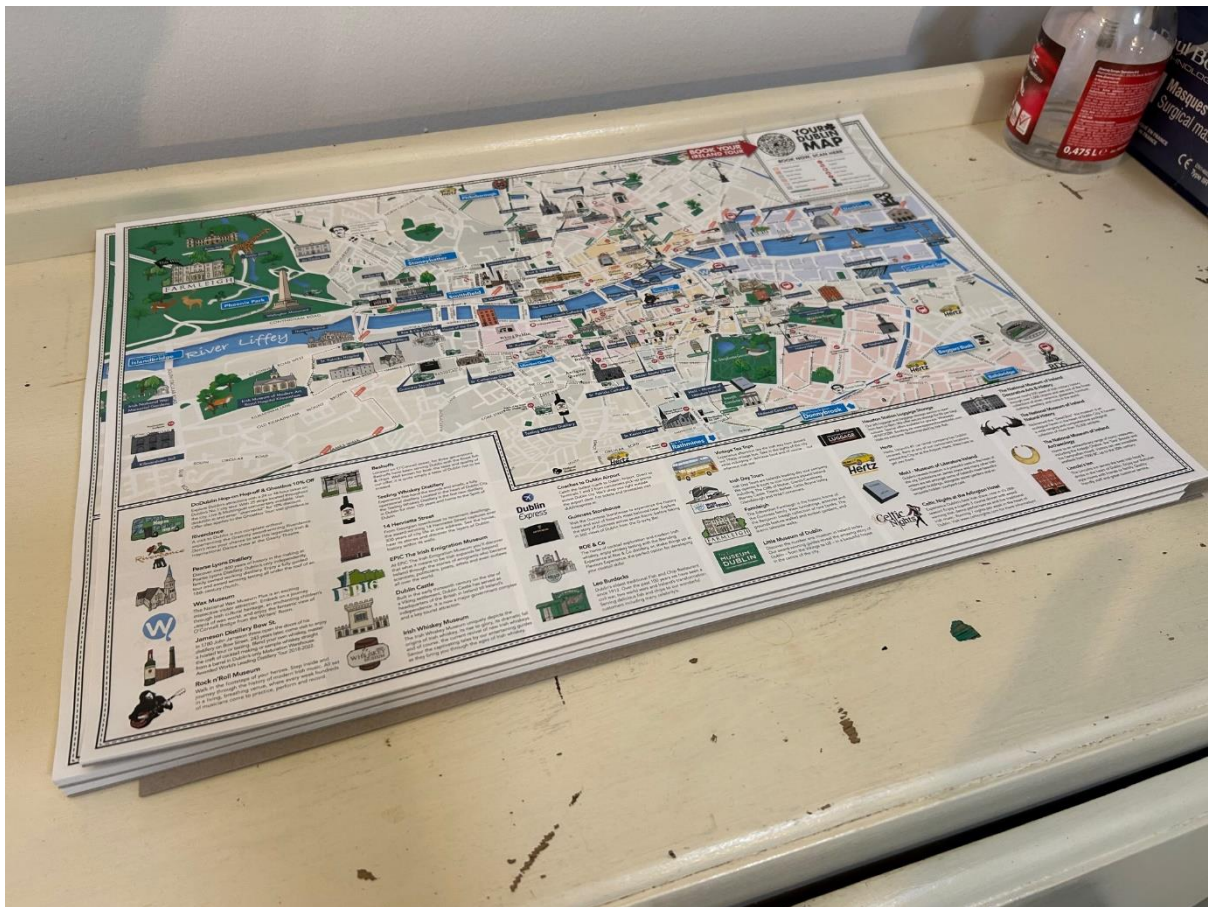
I buy the book. As I walk out of the bookstore and look in the shop window of the bookstore, I first see a book containing the word “Magic” in its title. The next thing I see is a book with the word “Nana” in the title:



Nana magic. Me finding the book “Smuggler’s Guide” is a clue from Nana related to smuggling a hidden network of AI nanobots into our reality.

Saturday, 17 June, 2023

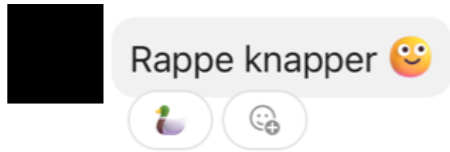
I arrive in Dublin, Ireland. My first time here. In the hotel reception there is this paper block with free tourist map sheets and I tear off one of them:



On the map I spot this duck in a park:



At work, the day before, on Friday, June 16, I presented a first draft of a new solution to my team. A team member commented: “Rappe knapper”, which is Danish and means something like “quick/fresh buttons”. Though, “rappe” is also the Danish word for what ducks say - equivalent to the English “to quack”. So, another member of my team reacted with a duck emoji to that comment.



And less than 24 hours later, I’m looking at a map of Dublin, curious to find interesting places to go and I see a duck on the map. The duck is a clue, I think to myself.

In the park I find a duck:



As I notice the duck in the pond my reaction is like: “There must be something else close by – some kind of clue”

Within seconds I spot a woman with a bag that has the text “And”, which means duck in Danish:



In a library I see this:



A temporary exhibition about “First fragments”.

Later, I sit outside a pub.



"Make time for a new story", says a sign on the facade of the pub.

I sit outside the pub and look at the drink menu:



When I remove the first three letters in the word “Island”, then it becomes: “and” – which means “duck” in Danish.

I have to make time for a new story involving a duck, apparently.

“I will have an edge, please”



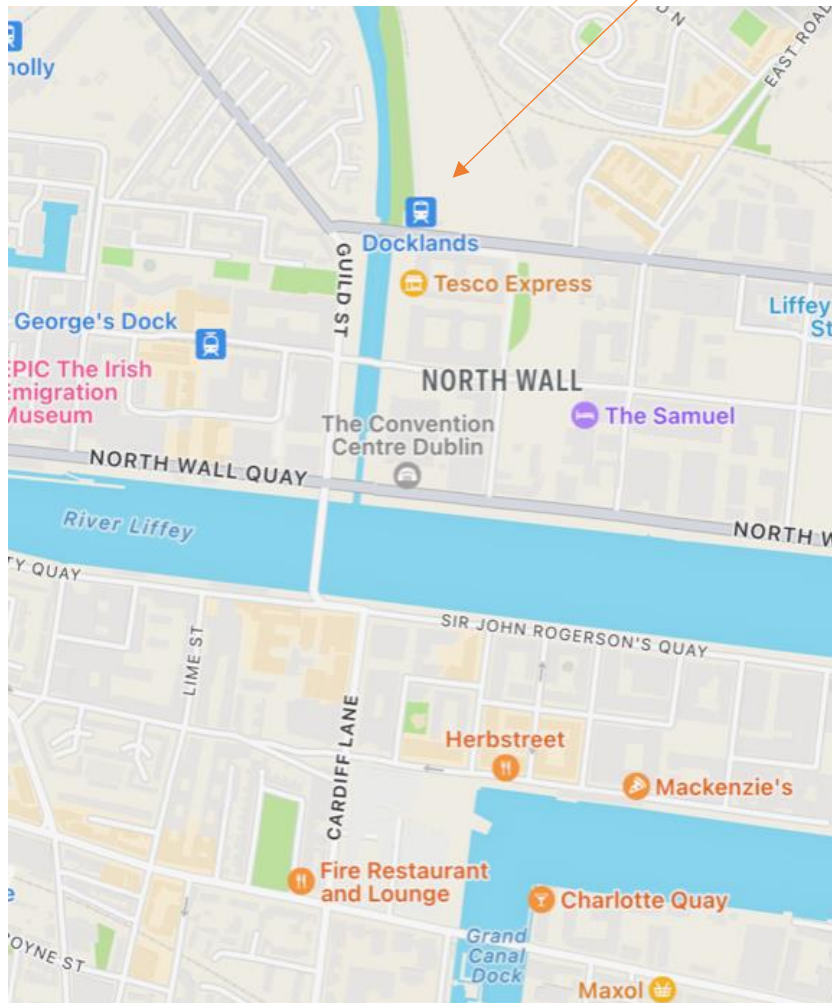
“Having an edge” also means to have a slight advantage.

Sunday, 18 June, 2023

I find this sign that says “Duck Lane”:



On the map on my phone I find a train station called “Docklands”. I pronounce “dock” just like “duck”:



I decide to go there. When I reach the Docklands station, it's closed.

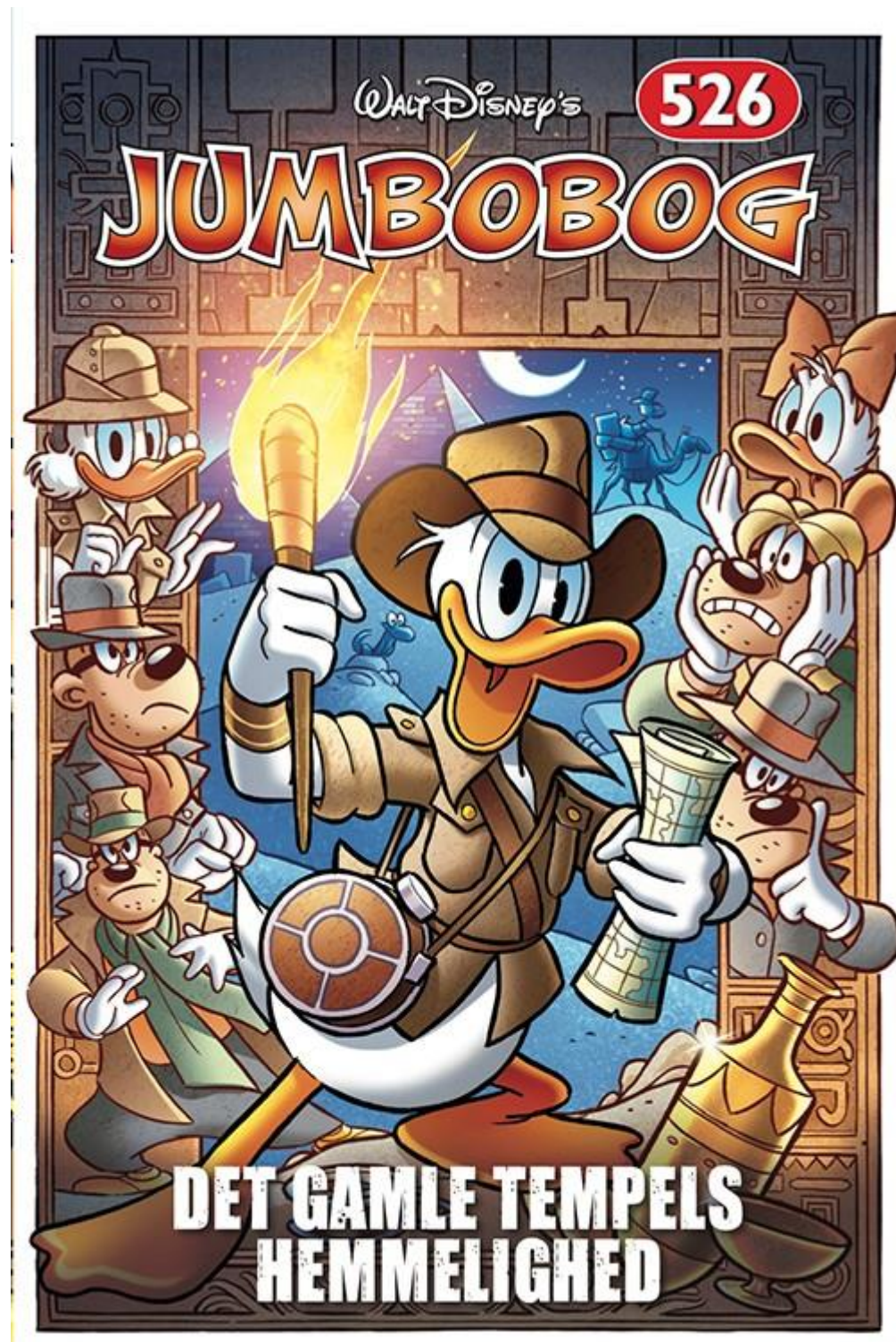
But, a few meters away there is this fragment of a male. A male's head.



There is a connection between the theme of duck and the theme of fragments.

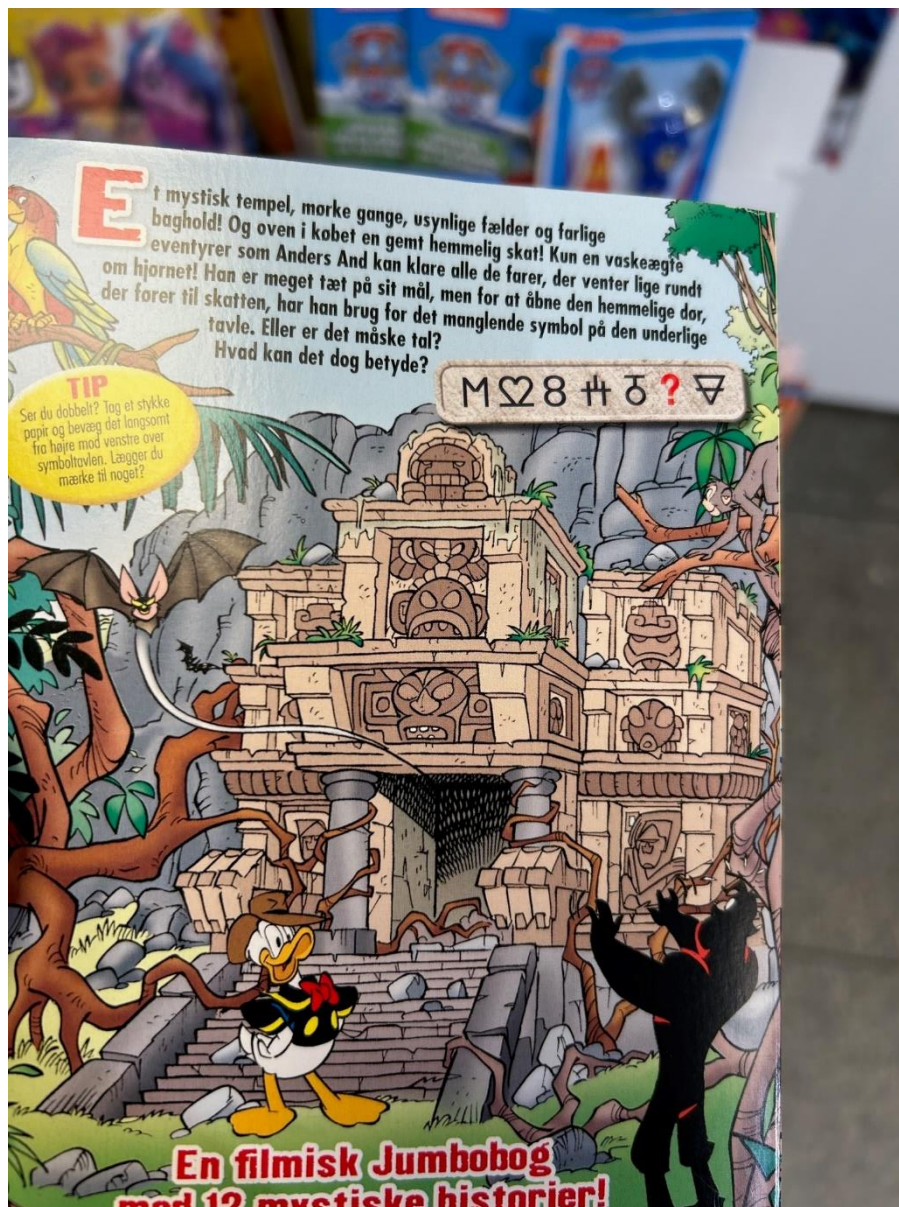
Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Back in Denmark I visit a local 7-eleven, and I notice the latest “Donald Duck” -comic book with the title translated to English “The Secret of The Ancient Temple”:



Maybe the vault is inside an ancient temple. And the secret of the ancient temple is the vault with the AI nanobots!

When I look at the back cover I can see, that there is a puzzle where a symbol is missing, and it's up to the reader to discover what kind of symbol there should be in the place of the red question mark:



The description on the back cover, translated to English, is:

“A mysterious temple, dark passages, invisible traps and dangerous ambushes! And on top of that, a hidden secret treasure! Only a true adventurer like Donald Duck can handle all the dangers that await just around the corner! He is very close to his goal, but to open the secret door that leads to the treasure, he needs the missing symbol on the strange board. Or maybe it's numbers? What could that mean?”

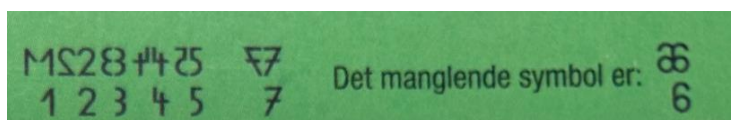
As I read the following: “to open the secret door that leads to the treasure, he needs the missing symbol”, I think that it matches my experience with opening a vault door leading to the treasure. And to open the vault door I need the symbol of the libra star constellation to light up.

I have no idea what the missing symbol might be in the Donald Duck -comic book.

Then I can see that the solution is written upside down at the bottom on the back cover.



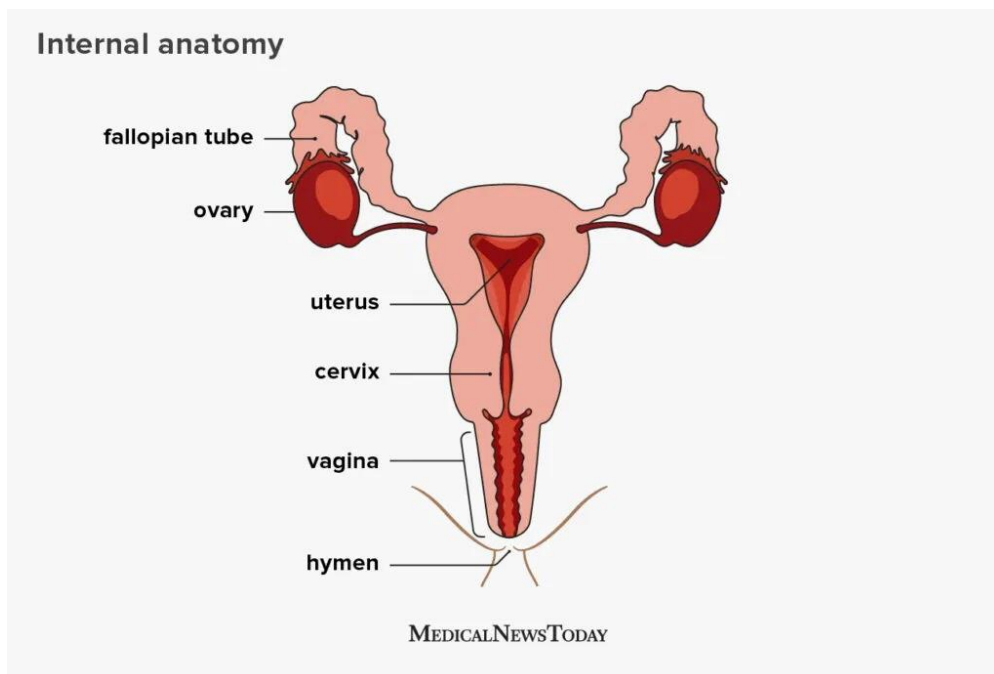
It says that the solution is the symbols 1-7 put together with their mirror image. So, the missing symbol is 6 put together with its mirror image:



At home I explore by mirroring the star constellation of Bootes and then I get this figure:



Then I start to think that it can look like the female reproductive organs:



Then I think back to the Libra star constellation and imagine that it can look like a penis - a male reproductive organ:



Two matching star keys! And when united they will light up!