

Competition 3.2: Reading the runes

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By utilising the first translated set of runes, I first translated these runes into:

“_e reticent volcano ceeps his never slumbering blan confided in his broiects binc to no brecharious man”

Which is of course, complete gibberish.

In this first translation I assumed that the rune that translated to ‘u’ could also be translated to ‘v’ as

with Latin. I also assumed that this rune: **H** could be translated to ‘h’.

After this I realised the first rune looked familiar and after finding out it is called ‘thorn’ I discovered it is the Icelandic letter for ‘th’. Thanks to this I realised the first word was ‘The’. Next, I assumed ‘reticent’ was incorrectly translated but instead learnt that ‘reticent’ is indeed an English word, meaning “not readily revealing one’s thoughts or feelings”. After this I looked to ‘ceeps’ and realised the runes for ‘c’ and ‘k’ are essentially the same. I also made the assumption that the rune that translated to ‘b’ could also translate to ‘p’, as not only did it make sense here, but it would fix some other words later. With this, the phrase became:

“The reticent volcano keeps his never slumbering plan confided in his broiects binc to no precarious man”

Much better, but still not there yet. 'broiects' was my next target. Due to it looking similar to the word projects I changed the 'b' to 'p' in order to get 'proiects' which I then found was Romanian for projects. And finally, 'binc'. This could be any choice of: 'binc', 'bink', 'pinc' or 'pink'. I couldn't seem to find any translations that made sense, 'bink' means twinkle in Dutch and 'pinc' means pink in Welsh, neither of which fit the sentence. The best result I could find was the Scottish use of 'bink' to mean 'a bank of Earth'. This kind of works for the beginning of the sentence, but doesn't really fit with the 'to no precarious man' ending, but it's the best I've got. Therefore, the sentence finishes as:

"The reticent volcano keeps his never slumbering plan confided in his projects bink to no precarious man"