

# From the Desk of Our Puzzle Master



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**Tom Houston**  
Puzzle Master

Dear Epoch VIP (and Puzzler!),

Thank you for subscribing to The Epoch Times and for supporting our journey of providing the world with truthful, uncensored journalism as well as analysis of world events, especially in China.

My journey with The Epoch Times actually began in 2009 when I discovered the publication's outstanding coverage of events in China, something of which I had studied for over 30 years principally as a linguist and China analyst. The Epoch Times' coverage was unique and included many aspects and facets of Chinese life under the Chinese Communist Party that were either not covered or were entirely avoided by the mainstream press. After reading this coverage, I felt compelled to “climb aboard” and support The Epoch Times on its journey toward truthful reporting that would not be beholden to any kind of censorship, whether it's from a government or commercial entity.

After discussions with the editor-in-chief on what the newspaper actually most needed and what I personally could do to support the paper, **I published my first puzzle page on Jan. 4, 2010—over ten years ago.** Since then, my Epoch Times journey has been eventful, to say the least. I have learned and grown a great deal, and so has our puzzle page! It's grown from a single page of puzzles in a 16-page edition to two pages of puzzles (and a half page on the Wednesday “For Kids Only” page) in what is now a 52-page paper!

Along the way, hundreds of puzzlers have reached out through our [feedback@epochtimes.com](mailto:feedback@epochtimes.com) email to comment on the puzzles, send me pictures of their unique solutions, ask questions, point out my mistakes (I've made many!), pass along a compliment or constructive criticism and offer to help. I've benefited greatly from the many relationships and friendships

formed making the puzzle pages better and better with each passing year.

Thank you, readers! We wouldn't be where we are today without you! **Each and every one of you who has subscribed, advertised, or who has sent in encouraging words, constructive comments, or ideas has helped to make The Epoch Times what it is today.**

One reader, “Coder Chang,” climbed aboard as well and volunteered to produce our 4 Numbers puzzle—and he has done so for years now. Alan Morgan has provided Puzzles for Peace and Outside the Box, which will soon be returning to our daily lineup! Kannan, an Epoch Times staff member has consistently produced our Sudokus for years! Various readers have submitted crossword puzzles (most recently N.M. Tilson, thank you!). We are currently working with a reader and supporter who has volunteered to develop a weekly chess piece. Another reader has offered a variety of new mazes which we are considering.

**In short, seeing people genuinely moved by The Epoch Times' commitment to journalism and truthful reporting of events, often glossed over or “slanted” by other media outlets, has been a heartwarming experience for me.**

I hope that your journey with The Epoch Times will be as educational, satisfying, and fulfilling as mine has been. And, please, always feel free to drop us a line at [feedback@epochtimes.com](mailto:feedback@epochtimes.com). We appreciate your insight, and who knows—I could always use a few more hands in the puzzle workshop.

*In truth and tradition,*

Tom Houston  
The Epoch Times

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