

The Lady or the Tiger?

Here's a tip to keep in mind when you are solving "Lady or Tiger" puzzles. When you encounter signs that contain more than one criteria with the conjunction "either...or," it means that if either of the criteria is true, then the sign is true. For example, supposing I said, "Either a lady is in Room I or a lady is in Room II," then if a lady is in either room, that statement is true. If neither criterion is true, then the sign is false.

On the other hand, if you have a sign containing two criteria with the conjunction "and," then both statements must be true to make the sign true. For example, "A tiger is in this room and a lady is in the other" means that both criteria must be true to make that statement true. If either criterion is false, then the sign is false.

STOP. Don't read any further unless you have come to the Twelfth Trial, sincerely worked with it, and absolutely need help.

The Twelfth Trial: Remember, the prisoner could not solve the puzzle until the king told him whether or not Room VIII was empty. That's obviously an important clue! What does it tell you? If Room VIII was empty, would knowing that help any (remember, if it's empty, the sign may be true or false)? Could Room VIII contain a lady (remember, it would have to be true if it contains a lady)? Once you have drawn a conclusion about the contents of Room VIII, read the sign again, and determine what that tells you. Follow the clues, beginning with Room VIII, from each room to the one it refers to next. This should take you on a path that will ultimately give you the final answer.