

# Ignore the Impossible!

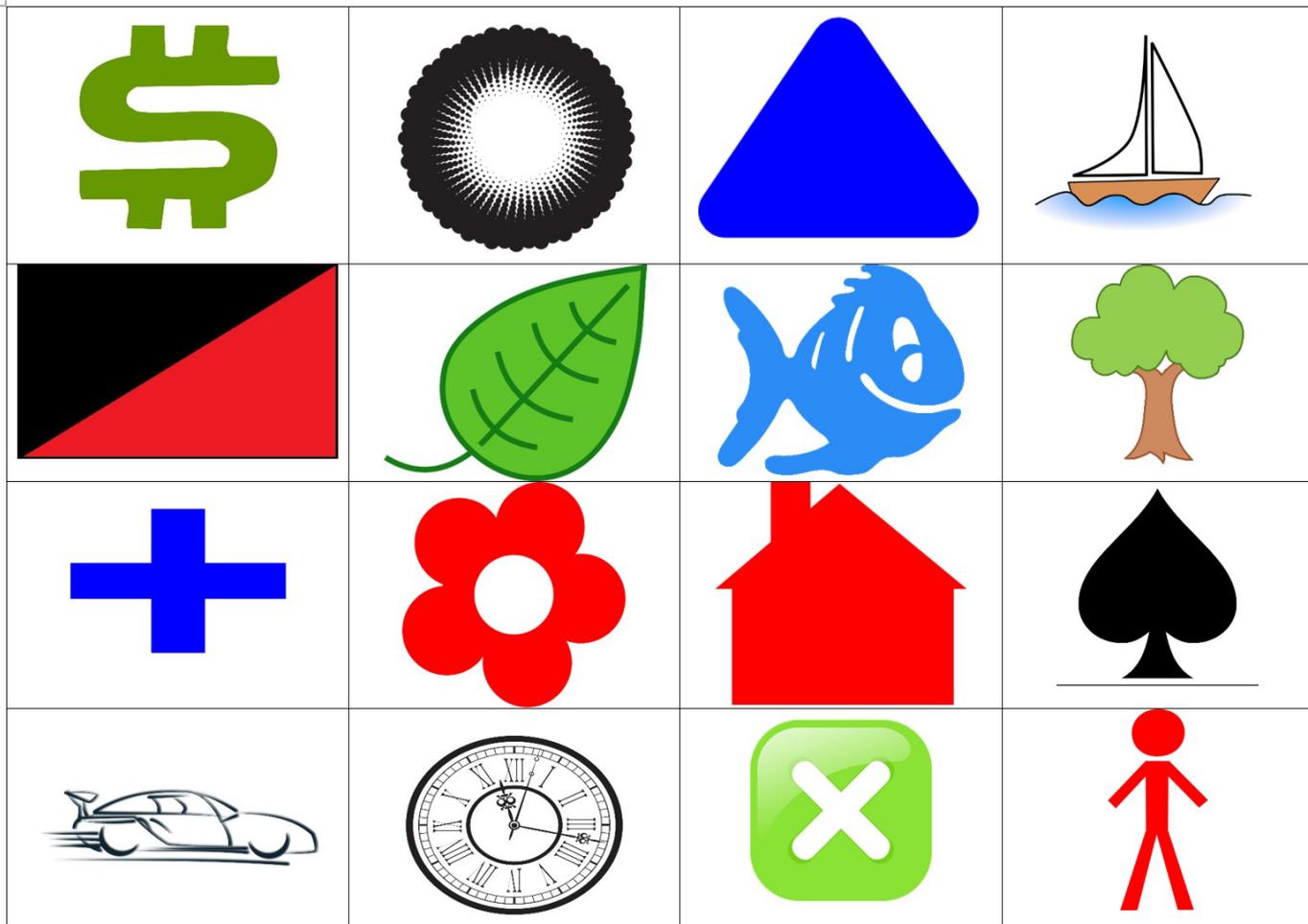
Problem-Solving with a Magician's Mindset

*Brian Reaves*

THE MOTIVATIONAL MAGICIAN



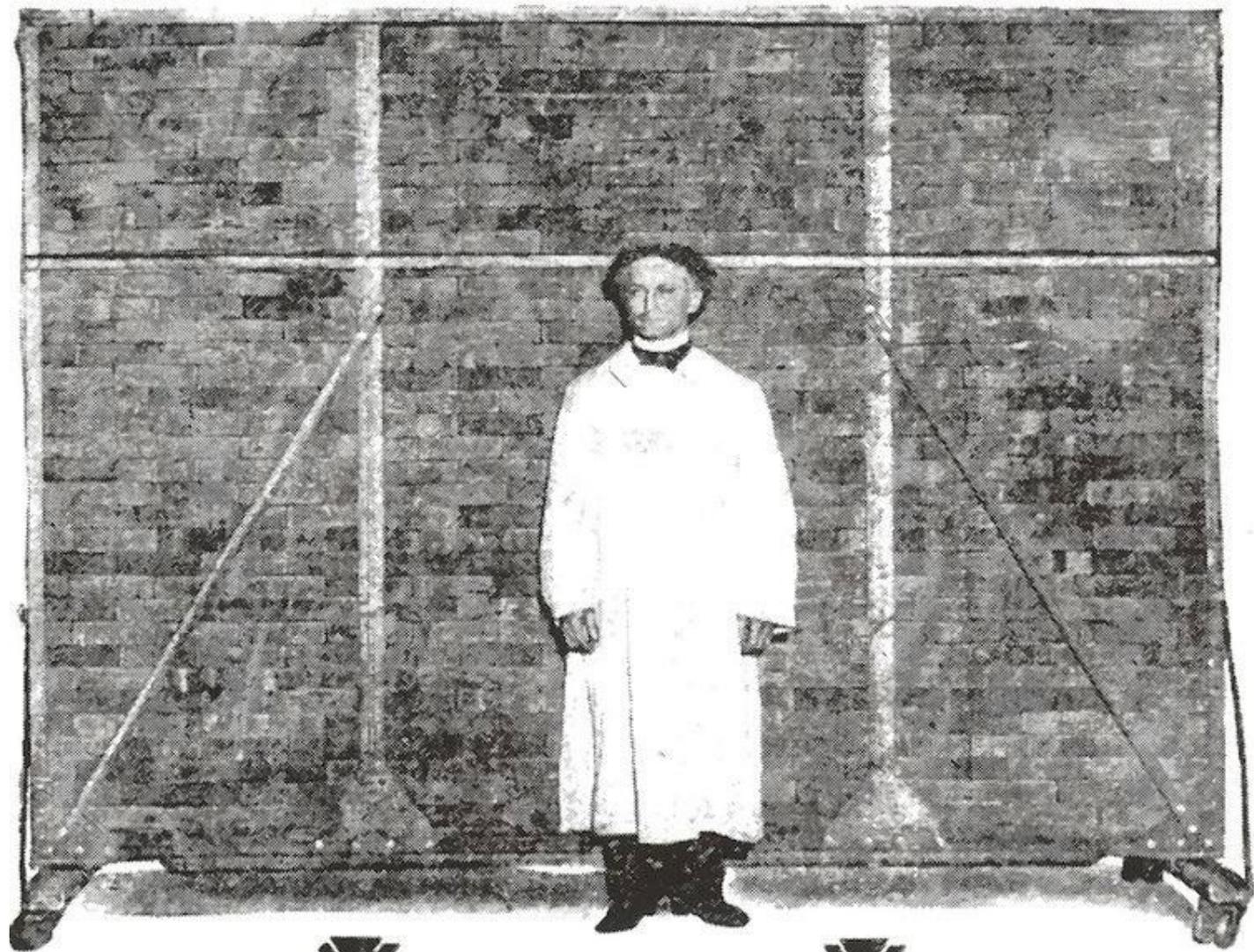






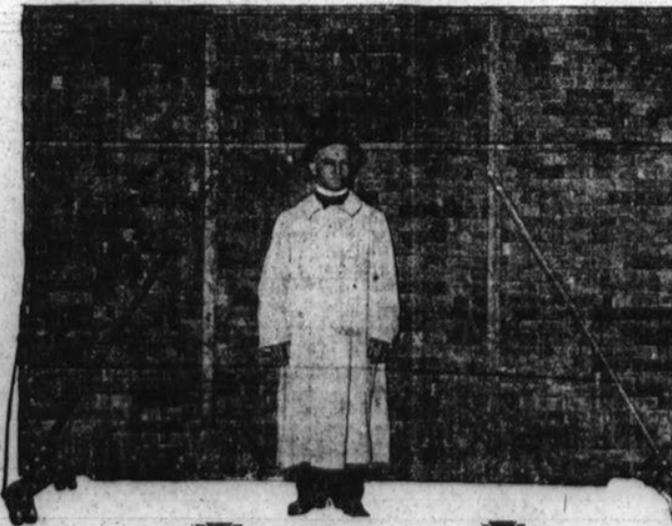






# WALKS THROUGH BRICK WALL; MYSTIFIES MAGICIANS

Houdini the Handcuff King Has a New Trick All to Himself—It Is Simple and Will Stand Close Watching, but Just How the "Elusive American" Gets on the Other Side Without Going Around or Over or Under Is Something Magic Sleuths nor the Bricklayers' Union Can Explain.



He stands solemnly beside the wall, like a prisoner awaiting execution, after he has "passed through the wall."

WATCH closely now, you clever ones. Here is a trick in magic to which it will need all your cleverness to detect.

Not much paraphernalia here—just a brick wall built across the stage

from back to front so that the audience can see both sides. A man is going to "walk through the wall" without displacing a single brick. Look sharp!

Can you examine the wall? Certain-

ly you can. You can also examine the floor. You needn't stay out there in the auditorium. Go up on the stage. Form a half-circle of clever ones behind the wall and on both sides while the audience strains its eyes in front

You can't find any trapdoors. If there were any they wouldn't do any good—the floor is covered with two large cloths, each a single piece. A man can't very well go through them without leaving a hole.

If he gets to the other side of the wall he won't do it by going down. Neither will he go up. The wall is just nine feet high and everybody can see over the top. And there isn't much chance of his going around either end with the audience sitting in front and you standing at the back.

Enter Harry Houdini, the "Handcuff King." "The Elusive American," they call him abroad. He stands solemnly beside the wall like a prisoner waiting for execution.

A little screen is placed around him. It is only six feet high and takes up not more than a third of the wall space. Another screen of the same size is placed on the other side of the wall.

Houdini's hands wave above the screen. "Here I am!" he cries. "Now I'm gone!"

Immediately the screen which covered Houdini is taken away. The prisoner is not there.

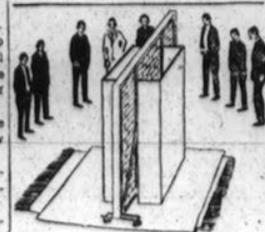
Immediately the screen on the opposite side of the wall is taken away. There stands Houdini smiling serenely at the mystification of the clever ones.

Baffled, you say? Well, don't fret about it. This latest trick of Houdini's has baffled every known expert in sleight-of-hand investigation. Among the spectators who have watched Houdini from the rear of

Hammerstein's stage, where he has been doing this trick twice a day for two weeks, have been some of the greatest sleuths of magicdom in the United States. They all admit that they are baffled.

Just how was it accomplished? In order to make sure this magazine asked Dr. Saram R. Ellison, an officer of the Magicians' Society, to inspect the working of the trick from the stage. Dr. Ellison has made a specialty of exposing the famous tricks of Hermann the Great, Kellar, Thurston and Houdini.

"I'm puzzled," said Dr. Ellison. "In course of time we will discover how he does it, but at present it is beyond me. Several magicians who have seen the trick are equally at sea. It is



Bird's-eye view of paraphernalia, with committee of watchers on the stage while Houdini does his baffling trick.

obvious that Houdini does not go over the top of the wall. Consequently he must go through or under it. But I am certain that he does not employ trapdoors in the floor of the stage. I am able to do Houdini's milk-can trick, but at the present time the only man in the world who knows the secret of the brick wall trick is Houdini himself."

That it is a trick is admitted. Houdini isn't supernatural and doesn't claim that it is anything but a trick. It is what might be called "a trick with a hole in it," but so far no one but Houdini has been able to find the hole. The wall has been examined by members of the audience at every performance and not a brick has been found misplaced.

The wall is not a trick. That is built on the stage twice a day with actual brick and mortar. Once a committee from the Bricklayers' Union No. 24 was invited to build the wall. The trick was performed as usual. Not a brick had been moved so that any one could notice it and the floor covering was apparently undisturbed.

Yes, this trick is distinctly Houdini's secret. He works it all alone. Even his "assistants" are spies, for the committee which places the screens against the wall and takes them away again is selected from the audience.

Houdini isn't saying that the trick will never be detected. He isn't saying anything. He is letting the public guess. He wants to be watched. Being watched has been his chief enjoyment from the time he first bewildered country constables by slipping out of their handcuffs more quickly

than they could slip them on. The Broadway audiences to-day do not look so different from the country constables. And when they show their amazement at discovering Houdini on the side of the wall where they all knew he is going to be there is one face in the theatre which seems to show more real enjoyment than any other. That is Houdini's.



One of the screens.

**“It’s kind of fun to do the  
impossible.”**  
*- Walt Disney*

<b>How many squares</b>			
<b>do you see?</b>			
















<p><b>30 squares where most people only see 16!</b></p>			



# The First Type of Spectator

“That’s impossible. It can’t be done.”

# To Create a Miracle

1. Keep an open mind.

“It can be done when--not *if*--I figure out how.”

OMLM DIHFYT ALALT  
ATGBSS ATC DSM  
AYSM INYLI NYLGSYL  
TM

If you ask “**Can I?**”, the answer may be discouraging.

If you ask “**HOW can I?**”, you are on your way to finding answers!

**“We would accomplish many more things if we did not think of them as impossible.”**

***– Marcus Aurelius***

# The Second Type of Spectator

“That’s impossible. I wonder how he did that?”

# To Create a Miracle

1. Keep an open mind
2. Look at what others have done in the past to reach the goal—and build upon it.



# The Third Type of Spectator

“That’s impossible. I wonder how  
I could do that?”

# To Create a Miracle

1. Keep an open mind.
2. Look at what others have done in the past to reach the goal—and build upon it.
3. Look at yourself and what makes you different.  
How are you uniquely gifted to solve this problem?

“If you develop the absolute sense of certainty that powerful beliefs provide, then you can get yourself to accomplish virtually anything, including those things that other people are certain are impossible.”

- *William Lyon Phelps*

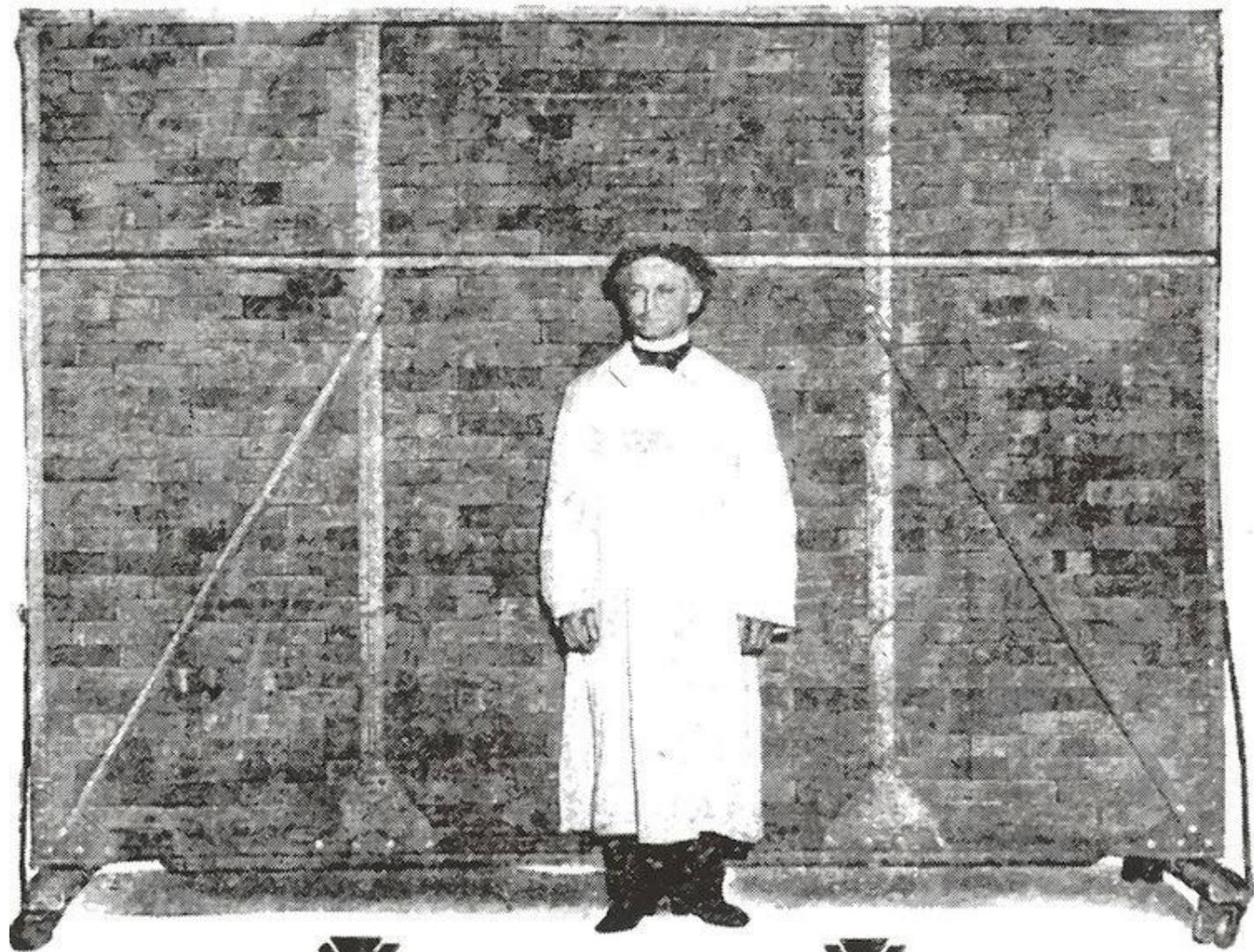


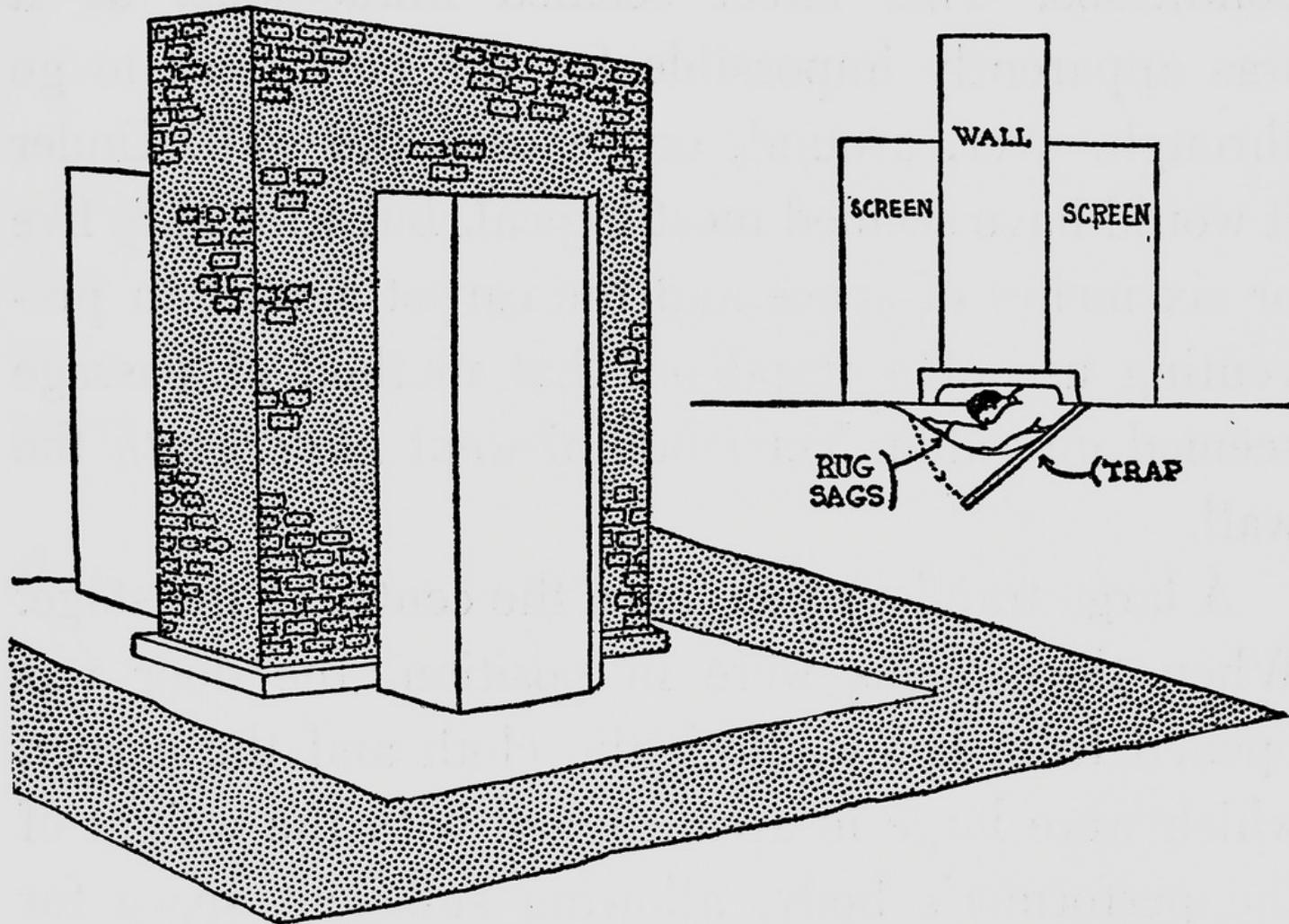
# Three Types of Spectators

“That’s impossible! It can’t be done!”

“That’s impossible! I wonder how they did that?”

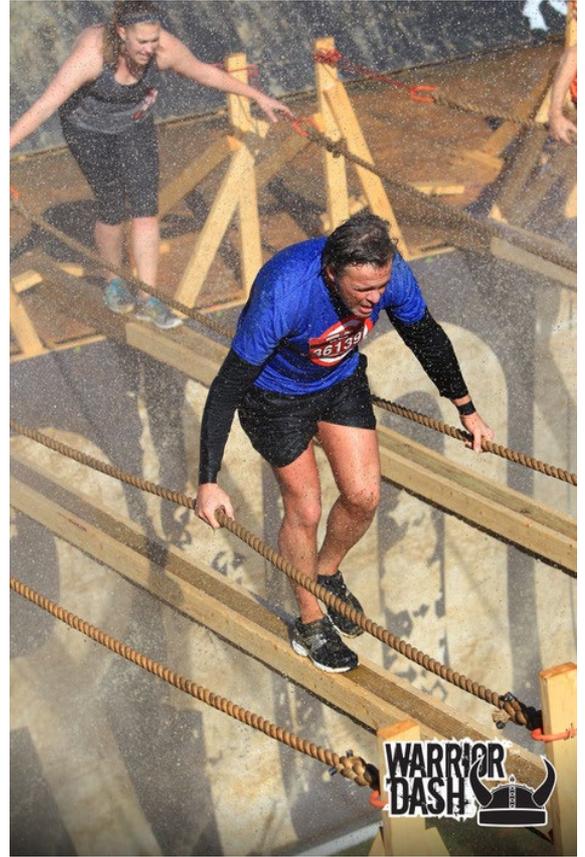
“That’s impossible! I wonder how I could do that?”





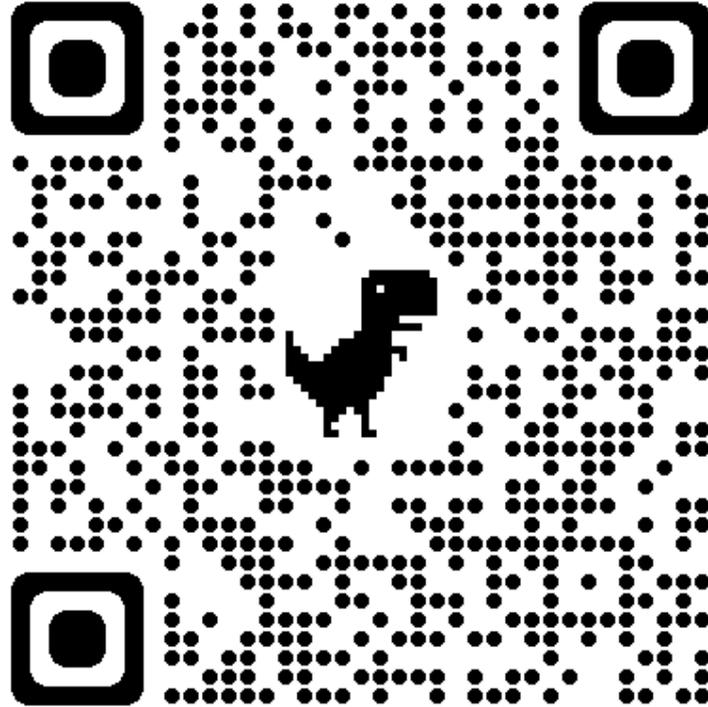
“What we can or cannot do, what we consider possible or impossible, is rarely a function of our true capability. It is more likely a function of our beliefs about who we are.”

*- Tony Robbins*





# My free gift to you!



[MotivationalMagician.net/freegift](https://MotivationalMagician.net/freegift)





*Ignore the Impossible*

**Thank you for being here!**

