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Magic Arcana Tuesday, January 21, 2003

Magic Puzzle

The Painland Problem

People like Mark Rosewater and Mark Gottlieb usually have to spend hours coming up with detailed **Magic** puzzles for use here on the web or in other publications. I am a little luckier; I had a perfect puzzle scenario come up in a game of **Magic Online**. Here it is:

You are me (AaronForsythe), and your opponent is MagicTheGathering.com web developer Doug Beyer. You are playing Casual Format 2 on **Magic Online**, which requires a 250-card deck containing at least 20 cards of each color. There is no sideboard, so Wish cards (like **Living Wish**) can be used to get cards from your collection.

Doug had to **Earthquake** last turn because you stole his **Krosan Tusker** with **Persuasion**. Unfortunately, your **Mesmeric Fiend** also died in the 'Quake, giving Doug his **Burning Wish** back. He also has a **Death Grasp** in hand. If he gets to untap, he will kill you.

You have a nice setup in play with both **Mirari** and **Mirari's Wake**, but unfortunately five of your six lands are painlands, and you are only at 2 life. Doug is at six and is tapped out. Using the cards in your hand, can you find a way to defeat Doug this turn without dying yourself?

Assume your collection includes 4 copies of every card from *Seventh Edition*, *Invasion* block, *Odyssey* block, and *Onslaught*.

You can click the image below for a full-size version.



I'll put the answers up on Thursday (there is more than one, but not many).
 Here is a text listing of all the relevant cards, in case someone needs to click on the name to read the text.

DougBeyer, in play: Mountain – 2 Forest – Plains – 2 Swamp – 2 Island – Grand Coliseum
DougBeyer, graveyard: Lay of the Land – Llanowar Wastes – Harrow – Memory Lapse – Krosan
Tusker – Planar Despair – Flooded Strand – Fact or Fiction – Terminal Moraine – Diligent
Farmhand – Earthquake – Krosan Tusker
You, in play: Mirari – Sulfurous Springs – Underground River – Brushland – Caves of Koilos –
Shivan Reef – Plains – Mirari's Wake
You, hand: Flametongue Kavu – Spiritmonger – Living Wish
You, graveyard: Erhnam Djinn – Shock – Mesmeric Fiend – Persuasion

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