**A Cat, a Parrot, and a Bag of Seed**

1. A man must transport three items from one point to another. Of these three items, two pairs are volatile if left unattended together. The man’s means of transportation has space for only one item to travel with the man on each trip. The volatile pair will prove to be the constraint which determines the sequence of transport.
2. Of the three possible pairs to be left unattended (cat/parrot, cat/seed, parrot/seed), only one is “safe”: cat/seed; the other two pairs are volatile. All items must arrive safely at the destination. Only one item may be transported at a time, during which time the remaining items will be left unattended.
3. Due to the limitations imposed by the volatile pairs, only the parrot may be taken, as it is the only option that leaves the non-volatile pair. Considering the cat and seed as interchangeable, all subsequent moves, as did the first, belong to a single possible pattern of the utmost efficiency.
4. The two optimal solutions (one solution, if the cat and seed are taken as interchangeable) begin with the universally volatile object, the parrot. An infinite number of solutions exist which are not of optimal efficiency.
5. Following the only possible first move, one possible pattern unfolds in order to achieve the only optimal solution.