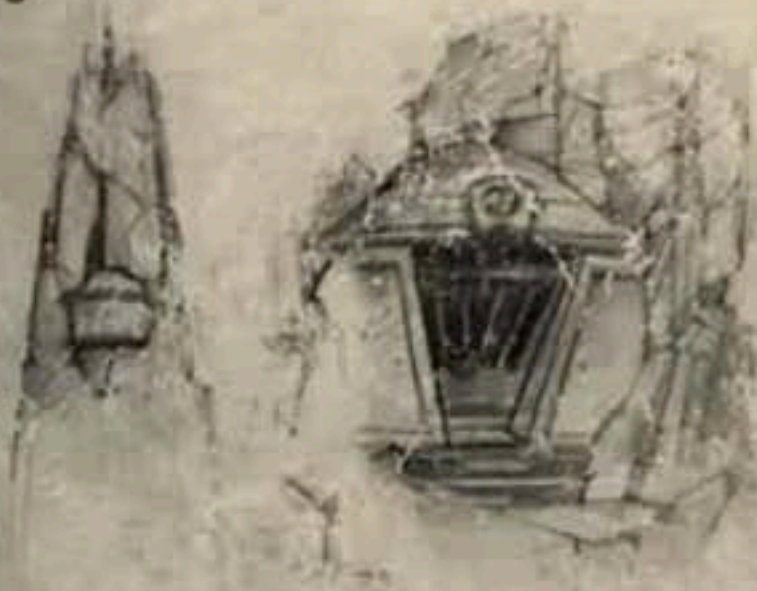


100.5.28 Something has happened. There is a structure in the spire that was not there nine days ago, when I sailed off to harvest more crystals. Its existence is impossible. Yet I have stood inside its foyer and know that it is real...



I am forced to make an inconceivable deduction. Somehow, my father is still alive...

I do not understand how this can be. Regardless, given the design of the chamber-and in particular, its barred dividing wall-I suspect that our reunion will be tense.

100.8.3 Fifteen years. Still, it is not enough for him!

This age was nothing when I arrived. Nothing but floating rocks and debris. I am the one who made it livable-and I did so without help from any quarter. If I could have found just one single person to assist me...

But no. He does not want to talk about accomplishments. All he wants to talk about are the books. Yes I burned them, Father. I am sorry. Now can we put the past aside and let me out of here?

100.8.17 Another wasted evening, playing repentant sinner in his linking chamber. I do not know why I even waste my time. It is obvious he will never be convinced.

But what of Mother? Her endless hand-wringing is as maddening as ever, yet there must be some way I can use it.

Perhaps if I play upon her
guilt. Create a sculptural vignette
which she can see inside their
viewer. If I choose the appro-
priate memory, it should convince
her that I, too, have my regrets.



100.9.29 This is intolerable!!
If he did not intend to set me
free, why create the chamber in
the first place? To flaunt his
all-powerful skills?! I get it,
Father. Really, I do. Everything
I have accomplished here pales in
comparison to what you can do
with the Art. It is the one power
you have that I shall never defeat.

No wonder you refused to
teach it to me.

101.1.19 I will take this no long-
er. It is time I showed him some
of my power. Father believes his

chamber to be impenetrable,
but he has forgotten the very
laws he once explained to me:
frequency and molecular vibra-
tion.

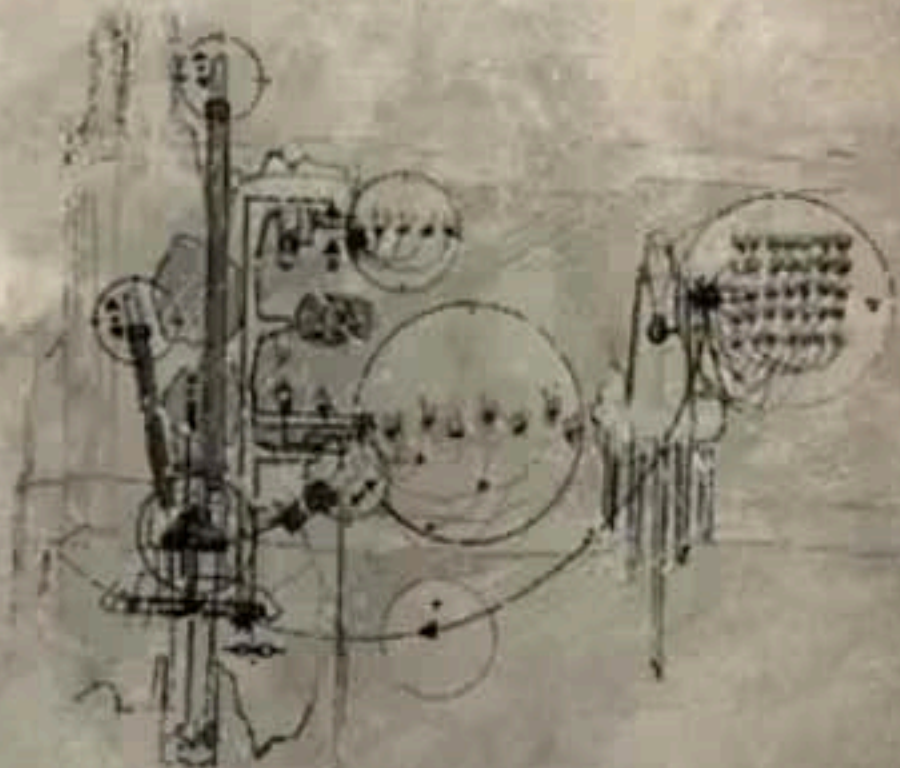
The crystals can do it. If I
find the right frequency, their
song can set off a vibration that
will tear through the chamber on
a molecular level. Those impene-
trable walls will shatter like glass.

No doubt, I will need a great
deal of electricity to do it. I had
better re-tune the musical in-
strument.

101.1.29 I have a sister?

I do not know what to think.
It is something I never even
considered.

I must not let it affect me.
There is too much work to be done.
I need to get more power to the
cables. Building additional con-
ductors will take too long, but if
I dismantle parts of the rock-ship
network, then rewire the remain-
der directly into the throne...



But if his chamber is breached,
there will be no need.

101.6.10 It is no use. He will
never teach me the Art. Ques-
tioning him about it only makes
him suspicious. Perhaps, with
him out of the picture, I can
learn it from the D'wi.

102.4.10 I cannot proceed
without a sample. I have tried
chipping off pieces from the
chamber, using every possible
method save the crystal, but my
efforts have all proven fruitless.
How can I convince him to give
me a piece? Or better yet, a set
of matching pieces...

This will require
a very delicate
touch...



Wonder if he still
enjoys playing...

103.2.14 So that was my
dear little sister. I see now why
he is so taken with her. She is
only a child and yet... Several
times during our discussion I
caught her studying me,

attempting to ascertain what to
believe. How much have they told
her, I wonder?

I don't even care. It's obvious
they value her more than they
ever did Achenar and me.

Very well then. I shall use
even that to my advantage.

103.8.26 Retrofitting of the
old crystal cavern proceeds on sched-
ule. The loss of my lab was a set-
back, for I cannot continue fre-
quency tests until all the cavern
walls are removed. But that ex-
plosion has made me very cautious.
I would rather dangle over the

stars than have solid rock walls
explode on top of me.



104.7.2 NO! He cannot do
this! Why is he bringing her into
this?

I will not allow it. I will not

allow a mere child to have that
much power over me. How DARE
he agree to teach her the Art!!

There must be a way. Some
way to get the knowledge from her.
But how?!



Go ahead, Father. Go ahead
and teach her. If you insist on
giving this power to Yeesha, then
I will make sure you're also
giving it to me.

105.5.28 I have found the
frequency...

