DAY 37

Fuel low. Instruments breaking down.
Two, maybe three days left of rations.

I should turn back.

It'd be crazy to keep going, but even
crazier to turn back when I'm this close.

Mechagon is near.

Or maybe it's not real. Maybe I'm just
desperate.

The naysayers back home called me a
fool for chasing after the lost city. Said
my theories about it holding the key to
immortality were just the dreams of an
old gnome.

Sometimes I think they're right.

I know I'm right. Mechagon is out there,
and it's my discovery to make.

I'll find its secrets and outlive everyone
who doubted me.

I don't have what it takes anymore.

Just need to push on a little farther.
I can do this.

Everything hurts. Nothing is going as
planned. But that's how I know I'm close...
...the only thing against me is time.

Instruments going wild. The city must be here, but why can't I see it?

KRAKOOOM

No, no! Not now! Not when I'm so close!
They look like that? What's wrong with his skin?

This is what happens when they get old.

But King Mechagon, it's such a cruel way of living!

Our primitive cousins don't know any better. Bring him into the city. He'll die if we leave him out here.

This is a sign, Prince Brazmin. We could use the outsider. If he survives.
Welcome, Kervo the Explorer. I present to you His Highness, the Meticulous and Magnanimous King Mechagon!

Your journals and maps are interesting indeed.

Quite the risk you took getting to Mechagon.

Ah!

Mechagon?

Ha! The legends are true! I was right! I found--

Careful. You're still recovering. Perhaps I should wait until you're fully repaired before I give you a tour of the city.

AGH!

No, no, no. I didn't come this far to lie around in bed. I'd be honored to join you.
I’ve been all over the world, explored Night Elf ruins, Titan vaults, Troll temples. Never seen anything like this, or like you.

All our ancestors were Mechnomages. We were meant to be like them. Precise. Eternal.

But the curse of flesh has diminished our kind. We are simply correcting this defect. Making ourselves flawless again.

Poor thing.

Huff... Huff...

Just... need a... breather...

Are all outsiders like this?

This is even worse than the rumors.

Exhaustion is a side effect of flesh. It is easy enough to overcome.

Come. I will show you how it’s done.

Is everything ready?

It will be by tonight, Prince Erazmin.
NO OFFENSE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE TORTURE.

THE PAIN IS ONLY TEMPORARY. YOURS IS CONSTANT.
A SLOW, INESCAPABLE DETERIORATION UNTIL DEATH.

MORTALITY IS A DARK FATE THAT WILL NEVER TROUBLE THE PEOPLE OF MECAGON!

WOULD IT NOT BE MERCIFUL TO HELP THE OUTSIDERS TRANSCEND THE CURSE OF FLESH AS WE HAVE? TO SHARE OUR TECHNOLOGY WITH THOSE WHO PROVE WORTHY?

YES! WE SHOULDN'T KEEP IT ALL TO OURSELVES!

HELP THEM!

YOU'VE ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED SO MUCH, KERVO THE EXPLORER...

...IMAGINE WHAT YOU COULD DISCOVER IF YOU WEREN'T TRAPPED IN THAT ROTTING HUSK.

YOU LOOK TIRED. MY ASSISTANT WILL TAKE YOU BACK TO YOUR CHAMBERS.
GET SOME REST TONIGHT. THE KING IS PLANNING A CELEBRATION FOR YOU TOMORROW, AND--

YOU NEED TO LEAVE TONIGHT.

BUT THE KING IS THROWING A CELEBRATION FOR ME.

HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT YOU. HE'S PARADING YOU AROUND TO SHOW EVERYONE HOW WEAK YOU ARE. HE WANTS TO DRUM UP SUPPORT.

FOR WHAT?

THIS. HE WILL USE IT TO REMOVE THE CURSE OF FLESH FROM ALL GNOMES, HUMANS, DWARVES--EVERYONE.

AND HE WON'T GIVE THEM A CHOICE.

YOU MUST GO BACK AND WARN YOUR PEOPLE ABOUT THIS DEVICE.

GO BACK? WHAT IF I CAN'T GET HERE AGAIN? I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND MY--

THIS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOU--THAN ANY OF US. PACK YOUR THINGS. I WILL COME FOR YOU SOON.
MOVE FAST. ONCE THE KING FINDS OUT, HE’LL--

HE’S GONE.

CRAZY OLD FOOL. WE MUST FLEE BEFORE MY FATHER COMES FOR US.

I KNEW THE BOY WAS UP TO SOMETHING, BUT THIS? TRAITOR.

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING. NOT ONLY FOR MECHAGON, BUT FOR THE WHOLE WORLD.

I HAD TO TELL YOU. I SACRIFICED A LOT TO FIND THIS PLACE. I’M NOT LEAVING EMPTY-HANDED.

I HAVE SO MANY MORE DISCOVERIES TO MAKE. THERE’S SO MUCH MORE I’M MEANT TO EXPLORE...

...BUT SO LITTLE TIME LEFT TO DO IT.
This isn't where you normally do the procedure. The other way takes years. I am afraid you will not last that long. This is instant.

Turn it on. Low power setting.

Are you sure about this? Have you tried it on your own people?

No. They haven't earned it like you have.

AAAAAGGGHHHHHHH!
RELEASE HIM.

COME FORWARD, KERVO OF MECHAGON. YOUR KING AWAITS YOU.

-BZZZT-  -BZZZT-  -BZZZT-

THERE APPEARS TO BE SOME DAMAGE.

Indeed, I want them functional when we free them from the burden of flesh, not braindead.

AND WHAT ABOUT HIM?

He has what he wanted...

I WILL MAKE THE NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.

...and he has all the time in the world to enjoy it.

-BZZZT- FOUND IT---
-BZZZT- FOUND IT---
-BZZZT- FOUND IT---
-BZZZT-