

*A dwarf's diary is a place for his thoughts; the ramblings of a personal nature. As much as I hate to admit it, in comparison to the Common Tongue, the Dwarven language does not have many words for such lower, weaker ideas as those that take place in a man's heart. So I here now apologize for recording my thoughts in the language of the humans - but they seem better equipped to pen their faults than we dwarves are.*

*And while it is likely very foolish of me to record any thoughts at all; I feel it is my only hope to keep myself to shouting them to the Stone - and likely anyone else who might be in long earshot. Sometimes you just need to blow off steam, else like an overburdened boiler; vent, or you too will burst.*

*Driven here to detail my observations. I am clearly a fool to question the will and word of a Paragon, but... I am having a crisis of conscience.*

*It is our custom to hold our ancestors and our living ancestors, the Paragons, in the highest esteem, for they come from a place of inspiration and great wisdom. Yet, I cannot help but wonder that even though they were gifted with insight, they are still not in possession of omniscience. Brilliance in some aspects cannot not make you infallible in all.*

*Worse yet, I feel that the occasion when someone such as Ronus has been made to a Paragon based upon a faulty invention - it is the greatest crime against the very idea of a Paragon, and the dwarven heritage itself. But the council voted, and his status was affirmed. I do not know if a Paragon title has ever been revoked, but if there ever was one....*

So on we go, on our march of folly. It is just a matter of time. I guess it is better to die in a monumental explosion than it is to be torn limb from limb by darkspawn. This is why I need a diary... to keep these rebellious thoughts to myself.

The most frustrating part is I think Paragon Rexus is on to something - it is just that he has the manner and approach of a mallet when a tap-hammer would do.

The structure - it is right. The triple inverted hexakaidecagon seems to create the ebb and flow to bolster and repair against the Debrach, but the choice of red sylvium as a medium seems beyond reckless. But that is Rexus' way - big and bold.... Worse yet, he has been so bolstered by his lofty title, that he himself has been convinced that he can do no wrong.

There are so many reasons to keep one's work secret. I can think of few of them that are good.

While we all toil away down here, preparing and repairing machines for the work; the Paragon and his chosen few are working in the Fortress Hall. We are told their work creating the first walls of the Barrier Keep - the final and unfailing wall against the Darkspawn - are going well. I would be more likely to believe that if we were allowed to see it for ourselves. Worse yet, Paragon Rexus is rarely seen himself, except for on carefully selected occasions.

The Paragon has installed a special locked access in the lift directly to his homestead. He does not even need to pass the courtyard to get to his 'Grand Project.' It has been weeks since anyone has seen him except possibly for his few favorites, I imagine....

*I have been working on a side project. It is quite an indulgence I know. If we were back in Kal-Sharok, it might even be cause to arrest me - but where do Paragons come from? Not that I would be so egotistical - frankly, being this close to a living Paragon, I've really had my fill of them. But I think I have found the key to making the idea work!*

*It is the medium. It is all wrong to go for power - this is about stability. After all, we are not building a bomb, we are building a shield. We want something that will bend and absorb energy but not break. Red Lyrium is powerful, but volatile. Liferock - that's the key - just like us - slow and of the Stone. It has her heart, and she will protect us.*

*If it were done correctly, we just might be able to build the fortress of Paragon Rexus' dreams - one that would withstand a thousand darkspawn. Even dare I say it... stand up against the blows from an archdemon! But instead we must continue this charade as Thaig after Thaig still fall - while we sit and sing the Paragon's praises until the end of the Dwarves themselves.*

*I have done it.*

*I have nothing more than 'proof of concept,' but to my mind, it is compelling proof.*

*While it has been quite a challenge without the proper tools (which the Paragon keeps under strict lock and key) I believe I have managed to weave a matrix - in admittedly a small scale - that renders the same effect, if not even better than Rexus' "Infinite Shield." Only my version uses a solution of life rock and only a small portion blue lyrium - and is therefore both far easier to fuel, and far more stable to use and install.*

*I have only finished a small square of the improved "Infinite Shield," and done nothing but attached a couple simple enarmes; but I think even with this, I can prove its effectiveness. Now all I have to do is present it to Paragon Rexus, and hope he stops long enough to listen.*

*I'm no thief.*

*I am, Alrid Gauld, a highly respected (if junior) member of the Smith Caste.*

*But it has been weeks... and despite my best efforts, I have been unable to get in to see the Paragon and present him with my work. It seems his fawning followers do not see me as acceptable to be presented to the Paragon.*

*So, sod it! I have taken it upon myself to make a key. I made several just for good measure - to the Fortress lift level so that I might go see him, and what he is doing, myself. Fools. Any smith worth his weight in nuggets can copy a key. They should really take better care of them....*