

"Yes, master?"

You rush to your master's side and await his instructions. He is studying a fragile looking scroll and muttering to himself.

He looks up and says, "Ah, there you are. This ..." -- he hands you the scroll -- " ... goes back in the vault. I believe it is still open. And this little beastie ..." -- he hands you a small, empty brass cage -- "... goes back to my private quarters. Thank you, that will be all."

You bow, and head downstairs to the vault. The heavy stone door is wide open, and a golden key juts out of the lock.

Without warning, someone shoves you roughly from behind. The scroll and the brass cage fly out of your hands as you fall to the ground. There is a loud "click", and everything turns black.

[Press a key]

Suveh Nux by David Fisher, version 1.1.

Release 1 / Serial number 071226 / Inform v6.30 Library 6/11 S

Identification number: //4E7C2725-E359-B23A-ABA9-F6AF1FD9A26F//

Darkness

It is pitch dark, and you can't see a thing.

Which is not good.

(Type "about" for game information and special commands).

>look

(It is not quite as dark as you thought. A sliver of light under the door provides a tiny amount of light, and your eyes begin to adjust to the near darkness ...)

Vault

There is plenty of room to move around, and the ceiling is quite high. You can just make out a shelf along one of the walls.

On the floor you can faintly see a brass cage and a scroll.

>x cage

You can barely make out the brass cage sitting on the floor.

It seems to have fallen open.

>x scroll

It's a fragile scroll. It is too dark to read what is on it.

>x shelf

The shelf seems to have some objects on it, but you can't clearly make them out.

>x door

You can't see the door too well. There is a sliver of light coming in from under it.

Something brushes past your foot.

>x me

You seem to be intact after your rough handling.

It is dark, but you are aware that you are dressed in a tunic, some loose trousers and a pair of black shoes, and are currently empty handed.

>touch shelf

You stretch out your hand and feel your way along the shelf ... there is a piece of parchment, what feels like a leather bound book, a crystal or gemstone of some kind ...

Clunk! You knock over a small vial of liquid, which glows briefly with a dull green light. The glow soon fades away.

You noticed that the vial had a stopper, so nothing was spilled. (Fortunately for you; your master may have been upset if it had).

>take vial

Taken.

>x vial

You can't see it very well in the dark. It only glowed for a brief time.

>shake vial

You give the vial of liquid a vigorous shake, and it starts to glow with a faint, phosphorescent green light -- enough to get a better look at your surroundings.

[Your score has just gone up by 10%.]

[Type "full score" at any time for a breakdown of your score.]

>x book

The front cover of the book has the word "SPELLS" written vertically down the left side in silver letters.

You glimpse the words "Pleasing Effects" before the glow fades too much to read the rest of the title. The letters in silver remain visible.

[To read the book, say "next/prev", "page <number>", or "open/close book".]

>open book

You open the book.

The first page says "Suveh Nux" down the left side in silver letters. There is some other writing as well, but it's too dark to make out.

> say suveh nux

You say "Suveh nux".

The room is suddenly filled with light.

You feel something nibbling on your shoe.

[Your score has just gone up by 10%.]

>look

Vault

You are in a room-sized vault, with a shelf along one wall. On the shelf are a leather bound book, a piece of parchment and a clear crystal.

On the floor are an open brass cage and a scroll.

>take scroll

Taken.

>x it

The scroll is written in your master's hand in a familiar script, but you cannot read what it says. Perhaps it is some kind of shorthand or private code. You don't have much hope of interpreting it.

>put it on shelf

You put the scroll on the shelf.

Something brushes past you again.

>x creature

You look around, but you can't see whatever it was that brushed past you.

>listen

You hear nothing but the sound of your own heart beating.

>x parchment

The parchment is written in a script you are not familiar with. In the centre is an illustration of a man holding a teardrop shaped object and pointing his finger at a table.

>x crystal

A perfectly clear crystal with many facets, about the size of your fist and shaped like a teardrop. The light dances beautifully across its surface.

>take crystal

Taken.

>x vial

A vial of green liquid with a cork stopper. It is no longer glowing.

You briefly feel something small standing on your foot.

>x door

The door is made from solid stone, and it looks strong and heavy.

>x floor

The floor is solid stone, just like the walls and the door.

On the floor is an open brass cage.

>x ceiling

The ceiling looks like it is made from stone, just like the rest of the vault.

>x north wall

There is no north wall, just the door to the vault.

>x east wall

The east wall is very plain looking.

>x south wall

The south wall is opposite the door to the vault. It is quite plain looking.

>x west wall

There is a shelf along the west wall.

>x shelf

The shelf is made from solid wood. On the shelf are a scroll, a leather bound book and a piece of parchment.

Something briefly tugs at your trousers and then lets go.

>x book

The first page says:

Some ancient civilisations had a great
understanding of the manifold and
various sciences of the natural world,
entirely in disagreement with certain
historical surveyors who shall remain
Nameless in the present work, but shall be
understood by the algebraic designation
x.

The first letter in each line is written in silver, spelling "Suveh Nux".

>x cover

You close the book.

The front cover of the book contains the following words, written one per line. The first letter of each word is written in a silvery ink:

Some

Pleasing

Effects ~~

Latimer

Lumineso,

Senior

>turn to page two

The second page says:

Ancient races such as the Meohan, a
very sophisticated and reasonable
ethnic group indeed, possessed
horological devices of such accurate
Timing that they could predict
imminent eclipses, conjunctions
and other such astronomical phenomena.

The first letter in each line is written in silver, spelling "Aveh Tia".

>say aveh tia

You say "Aveh tia".

The room becomes hot.

>say suveh tia

You say "Suveh tia".

The room doesn't feel so hot any more.

[Tip: there is an inbuilt notepad you can use. Type "about" for details.]

[Your score has just gone up by 10%.]

>turn page

The third page says:

Another highly developed race of antiquity,
vanquished by the Meohan, were the Sundar --
exquisite workers in metal, gemstones and
heated glass. Their susceptibility to the
Meohan's warlike methods was only due to
a civil war between rival noble families,
devastating the nation's standing army
at a very inopportune time; their enemies
had a distinct numerical advantage as a result.

The first letter in each line is written in silver, spelling "Aveh Madah".

>say aveh madah

You say "Aveh madah".

You feel heavy and weighed down.

>say suveh madah

You say "Suveh madah".

You don't feel weighed down any more.

Something nibbles on your shoe.

>turn page

The fourth page says:

Sundaresi manufacturing techniques should not be underestimated. They were experts in shaping very large blocks of marble or granite, which the evidence suggests were used for constructing huge, elaborate tombs for their deceased rulers. Sundar stone shaping involved making the stone extremely cold with buckets of ice imported from nearby Aoeteria, and then rapidly heating the stone with an intense blaze, which would split it along the desired fault line.

The first letter in each line is written in silver, spelling "Suveh Sensi".

>say suveh sensi

You say "Suveh sensi".

Your emotions feel confused.

>say aveh sensi

You say "Aveh sensi".

Your emotions feel back to normal again.

You feel something brush against you again.

> turn page

The fifth page says:

Anatomy, Physiology and Biology were among the

various subjects studied and perfected by the ethnic group known jointly as the Andira, who had more than a passing understanding of the Holistic nature of such endeavours. Medical advances of various and sundry kinds were invented by this group, and it must certainly be acknowledged that much of their skill and the knowledge they possessed far exceeds our own.

The first letter in each line is written in silver, spelling "Aveh Haiak".

>say aveh haiak

You say "Aveh haiak".

Your hands start feeling sticky.

>touch hands

Your hands feel sticky, just like the rest of you.

Something briefly sticks to your shoe.

>say suvek haiak

=> say suveh haiak

You say "Suveh haiak".

Your hands stop feeling sticky.

>turn page

The sixth page says:

Ancient mathematics included concepts such as the

value of pi, the square root of two, and other esoteric numbers; calculus and trigonometry; and how to prove things in a rigorous, logical fashion. Numbers in the Laodian culture were formed using admirably simple rules (historian x's claims to the contrary notwithstanding): A value is doubled by prefixing it with "ma"; no value but zero ends with this syllable. If it is prefixed with "to", double and add one. "Matoto", for example, represents the number six, as this is twice "toto", the number three; and "to" alone is of course unity. It seems that no other culture used this kind of representation.

The first letter in each line is written in silver, spelling "Aveh Nux Ani Mato".

>say aveh nux ani mato

You say "Aveh nux ani mato", and you feel a tingling sensation. Nothing unpleasant, but it is a bit strange.

>z

Time passes.

Something tickles your ankle.

>z

Time passes.

The light suddenly goes out, and you are in darkness once again.

>say suveh nux ani mato

You say "Suveh nux ani mato", and you feel the tingling sensation again.

>z

Time passes.

>z

Time passes.

The room is filled with light.

>say aveh nux ani to

You say "Aveh nux ani to", and you feel the tingling sensation again.

[Your score has just gone up by 10%.]

>z

Time passes.

The light suddenly goes out, and you are in darkness once again.

Something tries to climb up your leg, then drops to the floor again.

>say suveh nux

You say "Suveh nux".

The room is filled with light.

>point at cage

You point your finger at the brass cage.

The crystal hums briefly, and the word "imoentar" dances in the air before you in fiery letters.

>point at crystal

You point your finger at the clear crystal.

The word "kirabesso" impresses itself on your mind.

>point at me

You point your finger at yourself.

The word "ami" drifts into your consciousness.

>point at door

You point your finger at the vault door.

The word "fireno" appears in fiery letters before you.

>point at floor

You point your finger at the floor.

The word "tolanisu" suggests itself to your awareness.

You feel something brush against you again.

>point at ceiling

You point your finger at the ceiling.

The word "amunisu" comes unbidden into your mind.

>point at east wall

You point your finger at the east wall.

The word "nisu-esa" appears before you.

>point at south wall

You point your finger at the south wall.

The word "nisu-so" is impressed upon your mind.

>point at west wall

You point your finger at the west wall.

The word "nisu-ewa" comes into your mind.

Something brushes past you again.

>point at shelf

You point your finger at the shelf.

The word "agri" appears in the air before you.

>point at scroll

You point your finger at the scroll.

The word "anutasl" drifts into your consciousness.

>point at parchment

You point your finger at the piece of parchment.

The word "amutasl" appears in fiery letters before you.

>point at book

You point your finger at the leather bound book.

The word "kimutasl" comes unbidden into your mind.

>point at vial

You point your finger at the vial of liquid.

The word "siqui" is impressed upon your mind.

>point at creature

You don't know where it is now.

> aveh haiak tolanisu

You say "Aveh haiak tolanisu".

The floor starts feeling sticky, making it difficult to move around.

There is a twittering sound.

[Your score has just gone up by 10%.]

>listen

You think you can tell which part of the floor the twittering is coming from. You feel confident that you would find the source if you searched for it.

>search floor

There is an open brass cage on the floor.

You search around, and find a small furry thing that must be the invisible creature that escaped from the cage. It is stuck to the floor, and is twittering in annoyance.

You detach it from the floor and hold onto it firmly.

[Your score has just gone up by 5%.]

>touch creature

The creature feels matted and hairy.

>point at creature

You point your finger at the creature in your arms.

The word "ami" dances in the air before you in fiery letters -- the same word as for your body.

>put creature in cage

You put the invisible creature into the cage and close it.

>suveh haiak tolanisu

You say "Suveh haiak tolanisu".

The floor stops feeling sticky.

>suveh tia fireno ani matoto

You say "Suveh tia fireno ani matoto", and you feel the tingling sensation again.

>suveh tia fireno ani tomato

You say "Suveh tia fireno ani tomato", and you feel the tingling sensation again.

>aveh tia fireno ani tomato

You say "Aveh tia fireno ani tomato", and you feel the tingling sensation again.

>aveh tia fireno ani mamato#

You say "Aveh tia fireno ani mamato#", but it feels wrong somehow.

>Aveh tia fireno ani mamato

You say "Aveh tia fireno ani mamato", and you feel the tingling sensation again.

>aveh tia fireno ani toto

You say "Aveh tia fireno ani toto", and you feel the tingling sensation again.

>aveh tia fireno ani mato

You say "Aveh tia fireno ani mato", and you feel the tingling sensation again.

The vault door becomes extremely cold.

This magical effect seems much stronger than all the others you have seen so far.

[Your score has just gone up by 10%.]

>z

Time passes.

The vault door gets a bit less cold.

>z

Time passes.

There is a loud "crack", and a huge split appears in the door. It goes from the top right corner to half way up the left side, forming a large triangular block separate from the rest of the door.

[Your score has just gone up by 20%.]

>x block

A triangular block of stone, split off from the rest of the door by a crack from the top right corner to the middle of the left side. It is leaning towards you slightly.

It is giving off intense heat.

>point at block

You point your finger at the triangular block.

The word "firenos" is impressed upon your mind.

>suveh tia fireno

You say "Suveh tia fireno".

The main section of the vault door cools slightly. It is probably OK to touch now.

>suveh tia fireno

You say "Suveh tia fireno".

The main section of the vault door stops being hot.

It seems strange that the main part of the door can be perfectly normal while the triangular block is hot, but this is magic, after all.

>suveh tia firenos

You say "Suveh tia firenos".

The triangular block cools slightly. It is probably OK to touch now.

>suveh tia firenos

You say "Suveh tia firenos".

The triangular block stops being hot.

>push block

You try pushing the block, but it won't budge.

>pull block

You can't get a good enough grip on the block.

>save

Ok.

>aveh haiak firenos

You say "Aveh haiak firenos".

You feel like something has happened.

>pull block

The stickiness of the block is almost enough to get a grip on it, but not quite.

The block feels sticky.

>aveh haiak

You say "Aveh haiak".

Your hands start feeling sticky.

>pull block

You can get a good grip on the block with your sticky hands, but it still won't budge when you try to pull it towards you. It is a very heavy block.

The block feels sticky.

>suveh madah firenos

You say "Suveh madah firenos".

You feel like something has happened.

>pull block

You can get a good grip on the block with your sticky hands, and it shifts slightly, but it still seems a bit too heavy to move.

The block feels sticky.

>aveh madah firenos

You say "Aveh madah firenos".

You feel like something has happened.

>suveh madah firenos ani to

You say "Suveh madah firenos ani to", and you feel the tingling sensation again.

>suveh madah firenos

You say "Suveh madah firenos".

You feel like something has happened.

>pull block

You get a good grip on the block with your sticky hands and pull it towards you. It feels much lighter than normal stone, and it comes free! You pull it all the way out and drop it on the ground (although releasing it proves a little tricky) and say a few magic words to restore yourself to normal, and then crawl through the open hole into freedom.

[Your score has just gone up by 10%.]

[Press a key]

Rushing up the stairs, you find your master bound and gagged on a chair in the middle of the room. You quickly unbind him, but he offers no explanation.

You describe your entrapment in the vault and your means of escape, and your master raises his eyebrows in amazement. "My, my! I never knew you had it in you.

"It seems you managed to avoid destroying any of the objects in the vault -- many thanks. And you even managed to recapture my beastie. Wonderful! Such creatures are hard to come by, as you can imagine.

"You have my deepest gratitude, not for this alone, but for rescuing me from my bonds. Well done!
You have your master's praise."