

Dialogue Extract 1 – Zen Capsules

Level 10 (Gates)

CUTSCENE 01

Start

You walk along the road leading through the dilapidated residential district of the outer sanctum, when you near the gates to the middle sanctum.

SURVEYOR: This is the way to the middle sanctum gates, Correct?

SAI 0525: Correct! It should lead us directly to the 2nd Pylon.

SURVEYOR: So, we have to kickstart another two pylons... there is no other way?

SAI 0525: No... but there is a library within the confines of the inner sanctum. You may look for another way out there.

SURVEYOR: Hmmm...

SAI 0525: But I don't think you will find anything there, to help you with that.

SURVEYOR:(exasperated) Then why did you suggest the idea?

SAI 0525: Because you asked for a suggestion. I don't understand your frustration with the Kriyas. You are not exceptional... but that's true with any novice.

SURVEYOR: I am not built for this. It hurts like something never before.

SAI 0525: There are terrors in this world, that are beyond your comprehension. This- is insignificant in comparison. A *little* hurt goes a long way towards growth.

SURVEYOR: The same ghoulish answer again... I suppose a dying sick man is experiencing growth too, then.

SAI 0525: Context, your pain is quite different. You aren't sick... at least in the conventional sense. You are, however, in a severe state of malnutrition. But it doesn't seem to be affecting you.

SAI 0525: Once we restore the city, I can scan your body for a more ardent physiological and radiological reporting of your body.

SURVEYOR: What?

SAI 0525: After we fix the city, we can figure out what's wrong with you.

SURVEYOR: (whisper) I don't need fixing.

SAI 0525: Everyone needs fixing.

SURVEYOR: (Interrupting) I see the gates. I am going to plug you in.

SAI 0525: Splendid.

End

CUTSCENE 02

Start

Noises of ratchets and gears whirring after a long time can be heard from behind the gates. The surveyor feels something off with their hands and clutches them as a terrible pain surges through.

SURVEYOR: There is something wrong with me... my left-hand, it hurts bad.

SAI 0525: There doesn't seem to be anything wrong with you physically.

SAI 0525: This could be a difficult cramp.

SURVEYOR: (incredulous) No, this isn't a cramp! I think something is really wrong with my hand (cries in pain).

SAI 0525: (Frustrated) You must curb your tendencies to shout. I would prefer it if we could make it to the next pylon without bringing attention to ourselves.

SURVEYOR: (groans in pain) (difficulty in breathing) Hey? Can't you prescribe me meds or something? Oh-.

SAI 0525: No. Even if we found some "meds", I doubt they'd work the same on you, given the differences in your physiology.

SURVEYOR: (groans in pain)

(silence)

To curb the pain, the surveyor takes one of the Zen capsules, which immediately helps ease the pain. However, within a few seconds, a tremor sets in their hands, and it begins to turn grey black, mottled with lesions.

SURVEYOR: (terrified) Tha-t's new...

SAI 0525: Your hand has transformed... visually.

SURVEYOR: (wheezing) (hazed) oh g- what's happening?...

SAI 0525: I don't detect any changes in the chemical composition. The lesions seem benign.

The Surveyor continues to pant frantically. as they fall to their knees. Their heart rate begins to rise.

SAI 0525: Surveyor?

Their heart rate continues to rise.

SAI 0525: Surveyor, take a deep breath.

The Surveyor listens to SAI and takes a deep breath.

SAI 0525: Cycle the air in, then count from 1 to 10, and then release.

They take a few deep breaths as instructed, and their heart rate goes back to normal. Then they take a moment to get a hold of themselves and stand up.

SURVEYOR: I am... Ok.

SAI 0525: Surveyor?

SURVEYOR: (shaking it off) (ignoring) Let's just go.

SAI 0525: Are we sure?

SURVEYOR: Yes, it's fine. I am fine.

SAI 0525: Okay.

SAI 0525: Look, on command, the gates are opening.

The gates open to reveal the second Pylon. The middle sanctum is completely flooded, and the pylon has some visible damage.

SURVEYOR: Is that water?

The Surveyor bends down to cup a handful, and brings it close to their face to smell it, but they don't drink it.

SURVEYOR: It smells awfully sweet.

SAI 0525: (focused on the broken pylon) That must be run off from the Kaveri. It seems the reservoir is broken.

SAI 0525: You should take a sip from her – her scared water might ease your symptoms.

SURVEYOR: (hesitant) I am good.

SAI 0525: The Pylon seems damaged as well...

SURVEYOR: That's a hole, a big gaping one. Can we fix it?

SAI 0525: There may be a way.

SAI 0525: The device within which I reside can be modified for different specialized purposes.

SURVEYOR: You can fix that?

SAI 0525: No, not I. But if we can find that specialized module, we can then find someone else to do the work for us.

SURVEYOR: Alright. Sounds like a plan.

End