



POWER GRID

You flip to another page in Nicolas' journal:

When I was first starting my magic career there were a lot of people, including family and even other magicians, who didn't think I'd amount to anything and actively put me down. Luckily I had found a supportive mentor, The Formidable Menxos. He went through the same challenges early in his career and was able to sympathize with my plight. Menxos taught me a trick he came up with to get back at those people who didn't believe in his abilities. It was a puzzle that seemed full of compliments, but his detractors only revealed the true message upon solving it. I've recreated his work below.

*Hello my friend! This trick's for you.
And now I'll tell you what to do.
Within each of the squares you'll strive
To place the numbers one through five.*

*But not just anywhere, you know:
One each per column and per row.
And what about the numbers small
Inside some squares where you will scrawl?*

*Each value in a corner labors
To tell the sum of its square's neighbors:
But just the ones who sides unite -
Up and down and left and right.*

*First task complete, you then will turn
Toward this list, our main concern.
Five pleasant words I did transcribe
In hopes of trying to describe*

*(With hours' careful cogitation)
The essence of your reputation.
But one more word this text will yield:
A label that has been concealed.*

*Force from the letters there just sitting
The fourtold word that's most befitting.
For in the comfort of this forum:
A formal claim of your decorum.*

4		6		9
		17		
6				6

F	O	R	T	H	R	I	G	H	T
H	O	N	O	R	A	B	L	E	
S	U	P	E	R					
A	W	A	R	E					
A	D	V	A	N	T	A	G	E	D

What word did Menxos actually use to
describe his detractors?