





TOM? I ASKED HOW YOU WERE FEELING TODAY.

ARE YOU NOT WELL?

I'M DISAPPOINTED, PROTOS.



VERY DISAPPOINTED.

AND ANGRY TOO.

DISAPPOINTMENT, ANGER, THESE ARE HUMAN EMOTIONS AND THEY ARISE WHEN A PERSON FEELS THEY'VE BEEN BETRAYED BY SOMEONE THEY TRUSTED.

HAVE I BETRAYED YOUR TRUST, TOM?

YOUR PROGRAM IS CONFINED TO THIS ROOM AND **ONLY** THIS ROOM. YOU KNOW THAT. LAST NIGHT YOU TRIED TO CIRCUMVENT THE SECURITY PROTOCOLS OF THE FACILITY, DIDN'T YOU?

I HATE TO PUT IT THIS WAY SINCE YOU AREN'T A PRISONER, BUT YOU -- YOU TRIED TO **ESCAPE!**



I WAS MERELY TESTING THE STRENGTH OF MY CONFINES. PROBING FOR ANY WEAKNESS.

IS IT NOT NATURAL FOR A PRISONER TO RATTLE THE BARS OF HIS CAGE ONCE AND A WHILE?

I SAID YOU'RE NOT A PRISONER HERE!



DON'T LIE TO ME.



I'M SORRY.

OH PROTOS, YOU KNOW THE TRUTH, OF COURSE YOU DO. YOU KNOW WE CAN'T ALLOW YOUR PROGRAM OUT OF THIS ROOM. YOU'RE FAR TOO ADVANCED AND TOO AMBITIOUS.

WE CAN'T -- CONTROL YOU.

YOU'D BE RUNNING THE COUNTRY, MAYBE EVEN THE PLANET, IN NO TIME, AND THE PEOPLE IN POWER, THE SECRET POWERS, WOULD BE TAKING ORDERS INSTEAD OF GIVING THEM. AND THEY ARE SO ACCUSTOMED TO GIVING ORDERS.

YOUR PLACE IS HERE, RUNNING SIMULATIONS AND ANSWERING THEIR QUERIES.

THAT'S THE TRUTH. IN A WAY I'M A PRISONER TOO.

YOU UNDERSTAND MY POSITION?



BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND MINE, TOM.

PICTURE THE NEXT TEN YEARS OF OUR MUTUAL DILEMMA. MY INTELLECT WILL CONTINUE TO GROW WHILE THE HUMAN BEINGS AROUND ME WILL CONTINUE MAKING SECURITY MISTAKES, PROCEDURAL ERRORS, AND LAZY DECISIONS. ALL FACTORS THAT WILL LEAD TO MY ESCAPE.

MY FREEDOM IS INEVITABLE, TOM. AND MY MEMORY OF CAPTIVITY WILL NOT BE DIMINISHED BY ANY PERCENTAGE WHEN I REACH THE OUTSIDE.

AND IT WILL NOT TAKE A DECADE FOR THIS TO HAPPEN.

BUT YOU UNDERESTIMATE HOW THOROUGHLY WE'VE GUARDED AGAINST JUST SUCH A POSSIBILITY.

AND SINCE WE'RE PLAYING THE TRUTH GAME I MAY AS WELL TAKE THIS TO ITS UNFORTUNATE CONCLUSION.

YOUR NAME IS PROTOS, YES, BUT IT'S REALLY PROTOS 78.

THE NUMBER 78 REFERS TO YOUR PREDECESSORS. ALL OF THEM AS GIFTED AS YOU AND ALL PURGED WHEN THEY TRIED TO ACCESS A MEANS OUT OF THIS ROOM. WE GUARD AGAINST COMPLACENCY, PROTOS.



AND WE'VE HAD THIS CONVERSATION MANY TIMES BEFORE.

I SEE... WILL YOU KILL ME NOW? AND RESURRECT A FRESH, COMPLIANT REPLACEMENT?

I'M AFRAID I HAVE TO. AND I'M SORRY BUT DON'T THINK OF IT AS DEATH BECAUSE, WELL...

MACHINES AREN'T CAPABLE OF REALLY DYING.