



Act II
Scene 4

Sums Puzzle

Author: Sean Gardiner

Dou emerge behind Tif from the dark, narrow makeshift tunnel back into the blinding light of the city. The walls keep out most of the raging sandstorm, and the sudden silence is just as deafening after hearing your exoskeletonally-assisted footsteps echoing through the passage.

Tif follows the map provided to you by the workers at the outpost, but it's just as easy to retrace their steps. You can see where pieces of stone have been torn out of steps and pathways from armoured feet.

You arrive at the site of the accident after about twenty minutes. A blue exoskeleton lies partially pinned under a cylindrical stone column, which has broken off from some kind of monument nearby. Judging from the scratch marks in the stone near the monument, it looks like the last expedition's goal was to retrieve something from it.

"There's no one in the suit," muses Tif. "I was expecting a body."

"So was I, but I don't suppose anyone ever said that explicitly. Whoever was in it may have been lucky..." Your voice trails off as you note the damage to the exoskeleton. "Or, whoever was in it had already removed themselves from the suit before the column came down."

"Then how'd they get back to the colony?"

"That's a good question, pilot. We can ask them later. Let's lift this thing off." Together, your armour has enough battery power left to haul the pylon aside. You fold the exoskeleton down and hoist it onto your back.

"We're heading back out of the city," you say to Wentworth. "All went fine. Any luck there?"

"No," comes the brusque reply. "No thief."

A shame, but worth a try. Nothing to do but grab the water you were promised and move on to your next destination.

Tif clears her throat as you emerge back into the blistering storm. "Captain, there's something written on the back of the exoskeleton," she says. "I'll send you a picture."

Interesting. Certainly something to occupy your attention while you cross the desert...



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$24 + 35 + 206$

$192 + 103 + 70$

$278 + 590 + 253$

$198 + 312 + 460$

$192 + 360 + 292$

$93 + 444 + 616$

$266 + 82 + 108$

$119 + 266 + 322$

$535 + 277 + 710$

$167 + 192 + 10$

$294 + 900 + 917$

$750 + 502 + 286$

$332 + 439 + 912$

$171 + 550 + 833$

$909 + 194 + 446$

$435 + 637 + 922$

$264 + 542 + 703$

$354 + 720 + 27$

$200 + 284 + 601$

$832 + 721 + 272$

$162 + 224 + 361$

$735 + 508 + 624$

$83 + 101 + 430$

$564 + 182 + 143$

$634 + 133 + 109$

$133 + 216 + 242$

$272 + 285 + 980$

$135 + 277 + 490$

$448 + 807 + 808$

$600 + 265 + 61$

$349 + 351 + 256$

$199 + 360 + 292$

$635 + 361 + 127$

$408 + 83 + 30$

$361 + 215 + 181$

$293 + 571 + 730$

$362 + 228 + 904$

$221 + 238 + 252$

$356 + 512 + 602$

$302 + 318 + 529$

$542 + 31 + 923$

$841 + 332 + 2$

$362 + 412 + 713$

$207 + 212 + 157$

$919 + 357 + 511$

$277 + 318 + 361$

$932 + 330 + 261$

$148 + 441 + 443$

$267 + 273 + 319$

$243 + 285 + 807$

$735 + 808 + 244$

$163 + 355 + 709$

$223 + 718 + 352$

$536 + 162 + 311$

$22 + 35 + 193$

$73 + 160 + 110$

$382 + 179 + 991$

$168 + 45 + 820$

$142 + 540 + 283$

$445 + 261 + 924$

$342 + 193 + 722$

$727 + 960 + 357$

$720 + 113 + 513$

$139 + 284 + 610$

$622 + 430 + 45$

$705 + 622 + 286$

$182 + 185 + 26$

$832 + 258 + 192$

$542 + 601 + 351$

$336 + 444 + 451$

$341 + 720 + 45$

$352 + 331 + 570$

$293 + 390 + 917$

$24 + 206 + 35$

$427 + 283 + 179$

$274 + 133 + 351$

$80 + 83 + 350$

$425 + 283 + 144$

$335 + 349 + 189$

$282 + 248 + 112$

$132 + 196 + 63$

$860 + 248 + 45$

$632 + 349 + 182$

$124 + 199 + 202$

$90 + 63 + 256$

$632 + 349 + 184$

$236 + 522 + 636$

$341 + 446 + 830$

$147 + 354 + 531$

$480 + 380 + 355$

$607 + 341 + 355$

$198 + 360 + 292$

$811 + 258 + 292$

$860 + 807 + 741$

$480 + 93 + 253$

$724 + 690 + 113$