



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 whose 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 5	1	⁶ 3	4	⁹ 2
3	4	1	2	5
2	3	5	1	4
4	5	¹⁷ 2	3	1
⁶ 1	2	4	5	⁶ 3

FO	RT	HR	IG	HT
HO	NO	RA	BL	E
S	U	P	E	R
A	W	A	R	E
AD	VA	NT	AG	ED

The poem describes Sudoku-like rules. Place the numbers 1-5 in the grid so that every digit shows up exactly once in each row and column. The small numbers in some cells give the sum of all the digits in orthogonal-adjacent squares. Once the grid is filled in, the five repetitions of words with a "four" sounds in the them in the last stanza hint to pull out the letter groups in the respective positions as the 4s in the grid.

What word did Menxos actually use to describe his detractors?

 I G N O R A N T