**Technical report: Motivational aspects of Golem IIA**

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This report is the first of its kind, generated by the beneficence of Prince Hodlock and for the High Magus Iome. It intends to provide in anecdotal form an experiment carried out upon Golem IIA, captured on the Northwestern front of Vinna digging with unknown intent. Our intention was to discover just what Golem IIA intends—where its objectives, loyalties, and desires lie.

We confined Golem IIA to a small cell of stone, reinforced with protective magics whose constitution was restored twice daily by my personal efforts. Our sense of its language was (and remains) limited, so we began by observation. To my knowledge, during our initial period of observation Golem IIA exhibited no detectible motion by sight, magic, or otherwise. Respiration was not evident; though its form is that of a human, its constitution is of equal parts machinery and a magic unknown to me, of ancient origin. Verbal communication in Common proved impossible. Observation for three days revealed no movement, so attempts were made to stimulate Golem IIA to see if power failure had rendered it inert. This proved not to be the case. Subsequent analysis of our data reveals that Golem IIA had stored its energy for three days and gradually sapped energy from the protective magics on one surface of the wall. This rate of absorption was so subtle that I had in error attributed it to the gradual loss of potency endemic to all simple enchantments.

On this third day, Golem IIA burst the energy barrier on the northern cell face and began to dig. Two disciples who attempted to impede its efforts were brutally maimed, and Golem IIA escaped. We tracked it for two days by energy signal as it traveled northwest in the direction of its original digging site. It appears that Golem IIA lost a significant amount of energy along its journey, as we found it inert, fewer than five miles from where it was first captured. We returned it to its cell and applied further reinforcements to protect the cell walls from Golem IIA’s designs.

From our observations we feel as though we may conclude with cautious certainty: golems both require and use magical energy, and manipulate magic with relative ease. Further, golems display an inexplicable but predictable affinity for returning to *specific* locations.

**Technical report: Building capabilities of Golem IIA**

Golems are renowned for their industry, but aside from military combat, we have little insight into the *motivations* of golems. Having identified Golem IIA’s intent to excavate Site IIA, as it has been dubbed, we embarked upon two simultaneous endeavors: to excavate Site IIA ourselves and uncover its secrets, and to motivate Golem IIA to exhibit for us its capabilities.

Motivating Golem IIA proved simpler than expected. After three months of internment we discovered, to our shock, that Golem IIA was perfectly capable of communicating in Common, though in a somewhat archaic dialect. Prior to the golem’s communication, it had given no outward signs that it understood our speech; it did not respond to gestures or hand signals, and was, for the majority of the time, totally inert. After its first escape, our sensors showed no indication that it had resumed sapping energy from our protective shields, and it showed no signs of aggression. When it spoke, it simply requested fine steel tools to its specifications, without indicating their purpose or requesting building materials.

Rather than immediately dig Site IIA, I and a team of magi probed the earth near the site to significant depth. We had initially expected to find untapped ore, or perhaps mana crystals, but instead discovered cavernous spaces in the depths of the earth of undoubtedly engineered complexity. The distance from Site IIA to Vinna is not far, and some of the tunnels we probed extended in this direction. For fear of attack, or encroachment upon our territory, we have requested further resources from the Royal Treasury, as well as support from the standing army for a more thorough sounding of this structure.

Under close observation, Golem IIA carried out a procedure upon itself that brings both fear and awe to my heart to describe. Using a steel aw with incredible precision and force, it removed the outer protective layer to its chest cavity close to where sternum of a man would lie; it showed no sign of pain or discomfort during this ordeal. It then applied implements to its left forearm, removing its own hand, which it re-fashioned with more slender, branching and curved fingerlets, whose ramifications could apparently be bent and manipulated at the golem’s whim. Discarding its tools, Golem IIA inserted its left forearm into its chest cavity and proceeded to exact a surgery which was not visible to us, even with magical sensors, due to the golem’s manipulation of its own power cell.

We should have taken further caution with these manipulations. For this failing, I take full responsibility, though the resultant damages were fortunately minor. On the third day, Golem IIA rent our magical fortifications with apparent ease and incredible speed, evidently assisted by the modifications it made to its own person. It killed three of my lesser assistants who attempted to subdue it: it first absorbed the energy of its attacks, and then drained them of their mana, killing them instantly. It then tore a hole through the earth with an identical bearing as taken before, taking advantage of the freshly disturbed earth to dig quickly and efficiently, sealing its path behind as it fled. As of now, we have been unable to uncover Golem IIA. We have been monitoring Site IIA, but have found no evidence that the golem traveled in that direction once vacating Vinna. We have every reason to suspect that the golem colony underneath Site IIA poses a serious threat the city.