To the Enigm atic JR,

I eagerly anticpi ate the results of some of our best and brightest working on forwarding our joint knowledge. The simple synthesis of da vanced divinations na d illusions to create advanced diagnostic spells alone has several of my more excitabl e researchers quite ecstatic.

For our studies in Anim ancy, wh ile we have yet to accompl ish the tru e creation of a sapient object, it is som ething our Theoretical Anim ists have specul ated about for some tim e. With the current state of laws, a created sapient object would hav e all the rights of any oth er sapient native-born to Al’Daric, save that they would begin “life” with th eir autonomy sold to their creator for the price of th eir creation, not dissim il ar to the situ ation of a sapient f amil iar.

A bit of cultural context: one can willingly sell th emselves or, rather, their autonomy, in Al’Daric. D oing so tends to be qu ite heav ily contracted and negotiated save for the most desperate of ind ividu als (such as crim inals who ned to pay off th eir Crim e Debt). In exchange for a large sum of money, usually up-front, from the Creditor, the Debtor forgoes autonomy in their l egal dealings, their earnings (though usually left enough to provide for themselves), and th e rights to any creations they make. If they wish to buy back their fre dom, they must prov ide some level of repaym ent, usually rel ated to the initial payment sum. Other contracts may last for a set duration, or until some other cond ition is m et. In the case of a sapient item, the price to be paid for their fredom would be the cost of their creation, an amount they could almost certainly obtain via negotiating with another Cred itor for terms they might f ind more f avorable.

We have obtained no inform ation from your f all en beyond wh at we dem ed non- intrusive, which is to say a f ew cursory medical scans. Not knowing at the tim e your view towards honorable tre atment of the dead, we withheld performing a full uatopsy and similar

m agical scans l est we offend your culture. Sh ould you desire we attempt to divine more of your unique biologies, we most c ertainly c an investigate any corpse you wish to send our way.

With som e luck, we m ay h ave a new Pathway compl eted for your use in the near future, which will enable far better trad e of gods and ideas.

M ay wh at is lost be found once more,

The Headmaster