



INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Man-Made Monsters

By Dr. Bob Curran

- Why do you think we are so fascinated with the idea of creating life ourselves?
- There seems to be a fairly common perception that any form of life that we create ourselves might turn out to be violent and dangerous – the monster so to speak. How much of that perception would you think is down to the beliefs of the Church?
- We're all familiar with the shambling figure of Frankenstein – a man-made creature formed from parts of dead bodies. How much of that image is true? Was there *really* a Dr. Frankenstein?
- We tend to think of robots as something belonging to the modern world but were there mechanical men back in ancient times?
- How much do you think that the idea of the Golem – the powerful man of clay – reflects early Jewish fears and uncertainties?
- Have there been actual experiments in the past to restore life to the dead as in the story of Frankenstein?
- Much of early alchemy is shrouded in mystery – was the creation of life one of their early goals? And do you think that some might have succeeded?
- I've heard about the Terracotta Army, part of which is now on exhibition in London. What was it and why was it created?
- I've also heard about the Philosopher's Stone and the Emerald Tablet. What were these and what had they to do with the creation of life?
- You make mention in your book of the Mommet or Mawkin of English folklore – what were these creatures and why were people so frightened of them?