



MINING REPORTS

Datafax 2137/af.32k

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CONFIDENTIAL

+++DATAFAX 2137/AF.32K+++
+++AUTHOR: OVERSEER JERUBIAM+++
+++RECEPTOR: MAGISTRATE KALEB, ADEPTUS ADMINISTRATUM, CADIA+++
+++MATTER: ARTEFACT [REF.812AZ/T9] EXTRACTION REPORT+++
+++THOUGHT OF THE DAY: AN EMPTY MIND IS A LOYAL MIND+++



The Emperor be praised.

My Lord,

as dictated by protocol, I hereby present you with the report concerning the extraction of artefact [Ref.812AZ/T9] from excavation pit 37982-C on Ralian III, Tamahl Sector, Segmentum Obscurus, 752.M41. Excavation labour in pit 37982-C has been underway for 3 years without mentionable problems. Two weeks before recovering the mentioned artefact, our ore scanners have picked up abnormal residual energy signatures, unstable in their frequency and intensity. Concluding that pit 37982-C was depleted as is usually the case when signals are either non-existent or unreliable, I have ordered the termination of all mining activity. However, adjunct Techpriest Kel-72-Arian informed me that his mechano-cortical algorithms have detected a pattern in the signal. The Techpriest insisted on digging deeper, repeatedly stating that our efforts would prove successful. As I refused, Kel-72-Arian affirmed that he would pursue the digging nonetheless, as the excavator machinery was under his supervision. I have only accepted because the Techpriest stated that the procedure would only take about 7.5 days, and this delay was less costly than having to argue with the Adeptus Mechanicus as well as officials of the Adeptus Administratum. When I asked Techpriest Kel-72-Arian what was so different about the signal, he simply answered that it resembles a message. The Adeptus Mechanicus is a secretive organisation indeed.

After 7 days, we have detected the source of the abnormal signal. The object, referred to as artefact [Ref.812AZ/T9], was of obelisk-like shape and approximately 4 standard Terran meters high. It could not be classified as of imperial origin. It was undamaged by the digging as it was located in a small chamber-like pocket in the rock. I have immediately sent word to the Imperial Guard headquarters in the planetary capital, Keldon's Hope, as anything xenos-related is the affair of the military.

General Tassilo responded by ordering the extraction of the artefact until further notice. It has come to my attention that Admiral Solomon Phoenix has been informed of the matter. His fleet is stationed in the subsector, which makes him highest in command.

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It is so that special equipment was set in place in order to lift the artefact out of the pit by crane. While this operation is usually quite short, it took the penal workers an exceptionally long amount of time to complete the labour. A significantly higher amount required to be severely disciplined due to insubordination and quarrelling. Even after artefact was temporarily stored in a mineral depot facility until further notice from General Tassilo, the tension in the workforce continued to escalate. I have received a report from the Adeptus Arbites chief custodian depicting the violence that has spread among the workers and, surprisingly, also among the custodians. In a dormitory cell, a worker has murdered all his co-workers (5 in total) after their shift; their intestines were hanging from the ventilation pipes on the ceiling and blood covered the entire floor. Similar acts, committed by custodians, have been mentioned. Since everyone seems to be affected, a revolt among the workforce can be ruled out. Thus, I deeply suspect the extraction of the xenos-artefact for being the source of trouble.

I am writing to you now, four days after the extraction. If the situation does not settle soon, I will have no choice but to order the execution of all penal workers and custodians. As of now the artefact is guarded by armed servitors who operate normally. I hope Admiral Solomon Phoenix will give his orders soon, so I can finally get back to work.

End of report.