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Golem

Simon Glass

A clay figure brought to life, the *Golem* has traditionally been called upon to protect the Jews from their enemies. *Aleph, mem, tuv: emeth*, truth. It is truth that animates the creature, and these letters, according to folklore, appear on the *Golem*'s forehead. If the creature goes out of control, as he does in many of the tales, his master must remove the *aleph*, leaving only the letters *mem* and *tuv*, which together now spell the word *meth*, meaning dead. The creature's powers are thereby dispelled. The *Golem* is sleeping in the attic of the *Alte Neue* synagogue in Prague.



