

Almasty Summary According to Dr. Marie-Jeanne Koffmann

Dr. Marie-Jeanne Koffman is one of the most acknowledged authorities on the Russian almasty (or Russian snowman). She was born in France in 1919. and went to live in Russia where she resided for many years. She is now in a rest home in France. The following is a summary on the almasty based on her findings.

Now rarely seen, a generation or two ago the Almasty was part of the Russian landscape. The creatures used to be offered food and even clothes by humans. Special attention was given females with babies, which are pink, like human babies, not becoming hairy until they are about one year old. The adults are sasquatch-like, but smaller, the size of a normal man.

Almasty eat fruits and berries, a variety of wild and cultivated plants, small animals, bird's eggs, and food that they take or get from man, such as dairy products, meat, honey and porridge.

During the winter the Almasty rest in chance

refuges—a grotto, a haystack, an abandoned hunter's cabin; any reasonable cover they can find—and might indulge in a kind of semi-hibernation.

In the summer they sleep in trees or in nests on the ground that they build with a bedding of rags and soft grass. Sometimes they tie up the tops of tall weeds—making knots is one of their favorite pastimes—and they cover this with burdock leaves.

Villagers developed a boundless loyalty to the Almasty, who would harm no one. Down through time they became part of local legend as the creatures in whom lived the good spirit called Shaytan. Moslem belief (most common religion) made them holy and untouchable. Anyone who killed an Almasty was himself subject to severe punishment.

Although the Almasty seems to have no natural enemies, its numbers are declining as man's activities increase.



Marie-Jeanne Koffmann is seen on the right in this classic 1968 photograph along with (left to right) Boris Porshnev, Alexander Mashkovtsev, Pyotr Smolin, and Dmitri Bayanov. These distinguished professionals were the founders of hominoid research in Russia.