

The Sasquatch “Puzzle”

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Some years ago, I was speaking with John Green and I said that it appears to me there is something “missing” in the sasquatch issue. In other words, there are things we don’t understand that prevents us from proving the being’s reality; somewhat like a jigsaw puzzle with a missing piece. Although we can see what is depicted in the puzzle, we don’t have the complete picture.

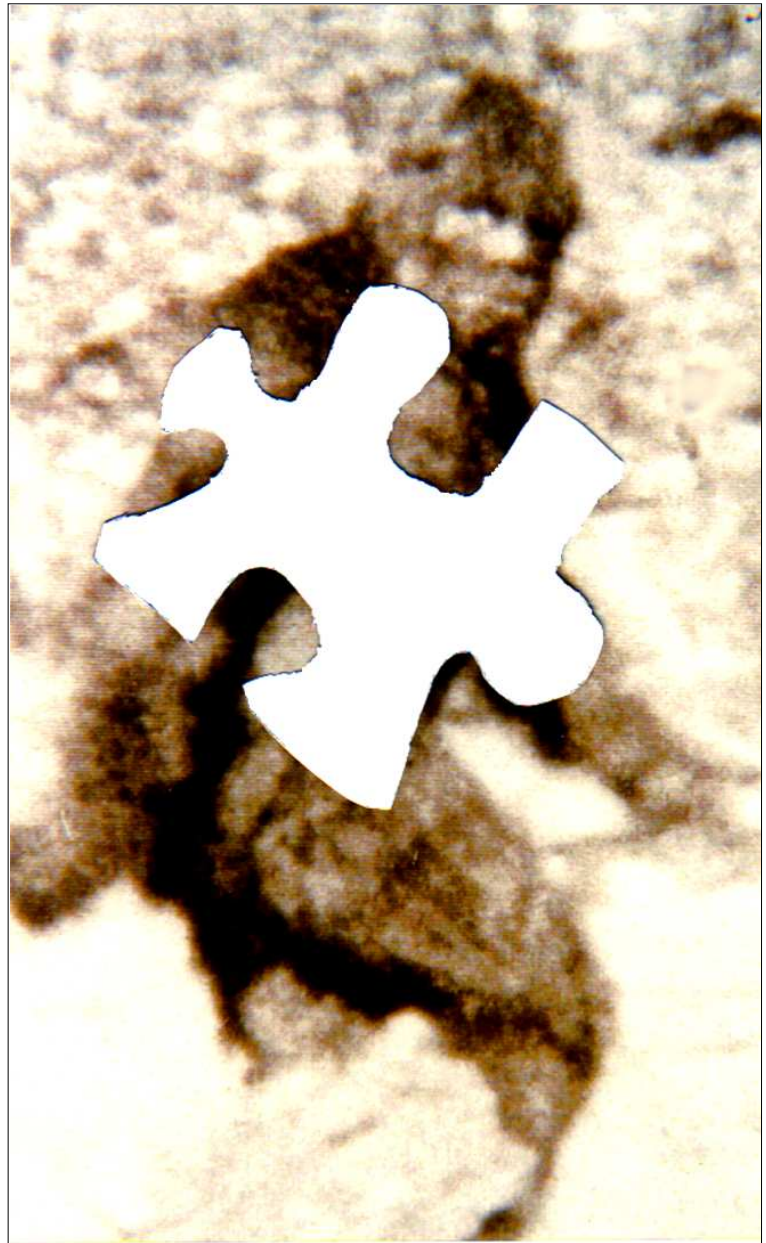
John did not think so. He believed that we simply need to either do a massive search or “get lucky.” I don’t disagree here, but trying to get major scientific involvement in the issue with what we have is as difficult as finding the entity itself. As to luck, one certainly cannot count on it—ask any gambler; and in that connection we have been “gambling” for about 200 years and have not even come close to “hitting the jackpot” as to indisputable evidence.

Several ardent and respected researchers turned to “alternative science” because there just does not appear to be an answer. Nevertheless, we can explore the problems and failures and get an appreciation of where we stand, as it were.

1. The Problem with Killing: The main reason I think there is problem in killing a sasquatch is its physical make up. It has been shot at and hit numerous time, but never proven to have been killed (no body provided). In some cases, shooting definitely affected the creature. It ran away apparently in pain and blood was found. While I don’t like these stories, the fact remains that the bullets or shotgun “shot” hit their mark and caused damage.

We might note that a regular chimpanzee is over four times as strong as a man, so the creature has a lot more “muscle masses,” which incidentally are very evident with the subject in the Patterson/Gimlin film. Muscle might act as a sort of chain mail here minimizing bullet penetration. I believe big game of any sort is difficult to bring down, and I have seen a somewhat heart-wrenching video of a bear tearing wildly through woods after it had been shot.

Peter Byrne notes that as a big game hunter, he had to spend a lot of time hunting down wounded animals that his clients had shot, so I think there is a lot more to bringing down a sasquatch than a quick shot or two; and I would say shot guns would be highly ineffective. Whatever the case, I certainly don’t advocate trying to kill a sasquatch, but to simply point out that regular hunting firearms do not appear to be large enough, and urge that they not be used, or anything else for that matter because we don’t know what we are dealing with. Having said that, to kill a gorilla



one would need a .44 caliber magnum at close ranges and .375 caliber or larger at longer ranges. Even then the shot has to be in the head or heart. The point here is don’t even think of shooting a sasquatch with lesser calibers.

2. Failure to Find Bones/Remains: Given sasquatch can be killed and do die of natural causes, we should be able to find some sort of remains, despite all of the “stock” reasons for not finding such (scavengers, affect of soil, etc.). I don’t buy the idea that these creatures bury their dead, but I am inclined to believe they go somewhere to die, possibly caves or areas of extremely dense undergrowth. Of course, it is difficult to find anything unless one specifically looks, so the issue here is, no one is really looking. Certainly, I appreciate that if one of the homins were to die by accident or as a result of a shooting, then its remains would be effectively “out in the open.”

But the chances of this happening are very slim. For certain, it is rare to find any animal bones in the forest; but they are found—often in caves where they are protected from the elements. Other than strange bones said to have been given to museums, of which all have apparently disappeared, we simply don't have anything.

3. Relatively Few Sightings of Such a Large Entity: It is somewhat incomprehensible that a creature some 8 feet tall and weighing over 500 pounds manages to remain concealed and always escapes when pursued. There can be no doubt that the beings are masters of concealment (most animals are) and I think the answer here is that they are simply not noticed. I have, and have seen, many “could be” photographs. These are where a person believes he or she has seen something, or indeed hears something in the woods and takes a photo. The result is a shadowy form that appears to have a sasquatch-like shape (usually head and shoulders). In two cases, I have a second photo taken a short time later that definitely indicates whatever it was moved. Some photos are inadvertently taken and the “sasquatch” is discovered when the photograph is looked at later. If these photos are any indication of concealment ability, then it is little wonder sasquatch escape notice so often.

4. Limited Acceptable Photographic Evidence: The sasquatch photographic evidence we have in relation to the number of sightings (opportunities) is pitiful. On top of that, other than the Patterson/Gimlin film, the quality of everything we have is at best marginal (no details can be seen). Possibly some of the images we have would have been great had the witness used a proper camera, preferably with a telephoto lens (regular “point-and-shoot” or a cell phone camera along with non-professional video cameras are hopeless). Generally, the closest one gets to a sasquatch is about 100 feet. A regular SLR camera (around \$500) would provide something “decent” at this distance, and of course “superior” with a telephoto lens. Nevertheless, expecting a witness to even get a photo, let alone with the proper camera, is a lot to ask. We are at least a little better off now seeing that most people have a cell phone with a camera; now we can see what we could have had. The problem here is camera quality, but it's a tough thing to fix. Kept in mind that it does not appear we are going to be able to get any high-profile research done until we have more (and better) material to “put on the table.”

5. Failure to Get Scientists to Study the Patterson/Gimlin Film: Although a noted forensic scientist studied the film and provided a detailed report favoring a natural subject (i.e., not a hoax) the report was not accepted by any scientific journals (the first step in getting anything seriously looked at by scientists). It has been 18 years and the report

essentially just “gathers dust.” Dr. Grover Krantz once pointed out that had the sasquatch been any other rare animal it would have received great attention. One major aspect of the issue here is total disunity and failure to cooperate in our own ranks. Another aspect is the very bad reputation the sasquatch has been given by the media and people “having fun.” In short, if you get involved in the sasquatch/bigfoot issue you risk being considered a little crazy. Dr. Krantz was a living example of this injustice.

Perhaps understanding a little more about the nature of the sasquatch will assist. It appears to be attracted to campfires, so a professional video set up with a fire in a remote area such as Skookum Meadows, Washington, might get some results. The entity also seems to be attracted to children. Now I'm not suggesting that you use your kids as decoys, but if you go camping with young children, be aware of a possible opportunity (I really don't think there is any danger here; the sasquatch will simply stand at a distance and watch the children). Furthermore, I believe huckleberries (and leaves) are a favorite food. Setting up a surveillance video in an area that has profuse huckleberry stands might produce some surprises.

The sasquatch is a typical example of the expression “so near and yet so far.” Highly credible witnesses continually come forward and provide very convincing accounts of their experience. In British Columbia, our main field researcher, Thomas Steenburg, interviews them when possible. He has been doing this for about 38 years so asks all the right questions. I have known him for about 21 years, and he has worked with me on books and other projects. He is extremely skeptical and quick to notice if something is not quite right.

IN CLOSING: Naturally, the skeptic's stand on all these issues is: there are no bodies, bones, or photos because there are no sasquatch. In other words, all of the reports are hallucinations or fabrications. This being the case, then there is a puzzle piece missing here as well—mainly, how can it be that so many credible people see the same thing, and how do we account for all of the footprints (especially those that scientists confirm were made by a natural foot).

Three of the greatest proponents of sasquatch existence, Dr. Grover Krantz, John Green, and René Dahinden have now passed on. Others, such as Peter Byrne and Dmitri Bayanov are in the “twilight zone.” As a result our original “knowledge base” is slipping away. I thought technology would be a major factor in resolving the sasquatch/bigfoot issue (sophisticated camera traps, night vision cameras, heat sensitive devices, drones etc.); however, other than “possible” results this has not been the case so far. It appears luck is our only ally.