

The North American Almasty

(An old article revisited and updated for Sasquatch Canada)

Dr. Grover Krantz was of the opinion that the Russian snowman (almasty, kaptar – many names) was definitely NOT a sasquatch. While there are probably sasquatch in Russia, what people describe seeing most frequently do not fit the sasquatch description. This paper looks at the almasty (most common name) and explores its nature.

Photo 1 shows the being captured by Russian soldiers in 1941 and examined by Dr. V.S. Karapetian (army doctor). It would certainly have been an almasty. Had it been a sasquatch, the doctor would have had a lot more to say, if indeed the soldiers would have been able to capture the entity in the first place.

Photo 2 shows Dr. Krantz examining a footprint cast in Russia, with Igor Burtsev (left) and Dmitri Bayanov (right). The cast is likely from an almasty footprint.

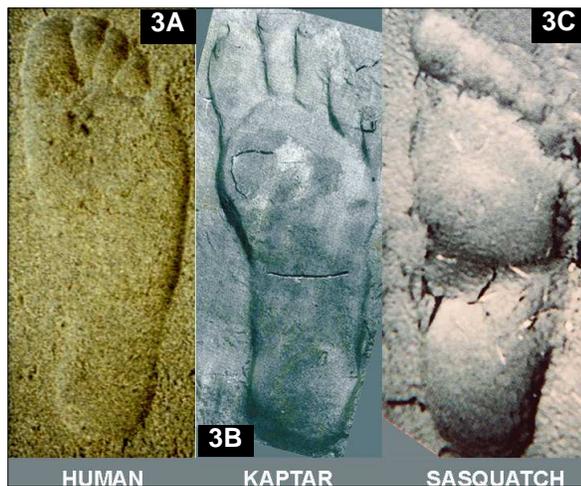
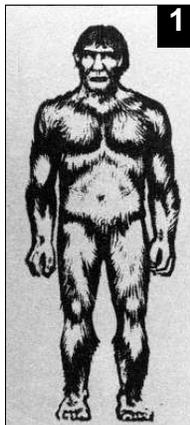
Photos 3A, 3B and 3C are images of a human, kaptar (almasty) and sasquatch footprints. I made them all the same length for comparison purposes; (human is 11.25 inches, kaptar 15.5 inches and sasquatch 14.5 inches). Although we cannot draw any conclusions as to differences (toe and foot configurations vary in all three species), I get the impression that a kaptar would be closer to human than a sasquatch.

Many years ago I had a flurry of correspondence with Michael Dennett (died 2009) of the *Skeptical Inquirer*. I sent him the information I had on Alaska's "woodsman," as provided in Robert Nelson's book, *Make Prayer to the Raven*. Dennett was quick to respond that the woodsman as described was not a sasquatch. I agreed, and then got to wondering as to what it could be. It appears very reasonable to me that it is an almasty. Certainly such beings could have migrated to North America from Asia as did humans over the Bering Strait land-bridge. Even now with the land bridge under water the narrow crossing is "swimable," as has been recently demonstrated.

Photo 4 is a Google Earth image showing the tip of Alaska below and Russia at the top. Note the convenient Diomedé Islands right in the center.

Aside from Nelson's "woodsmen," there have been, and continue to be, sightings in North America of "hairy men." They are not beyond normal human height or proportions. At one time they were considered "wild men," and now I believe they likely considered young (or small) sasquatch.

In about 2006 I corresponded with Loren Coleman on the subject of "wild men." There are numerous newspaper accounts of such from the 1800s and the early 1900s. Indeed, as Loren pointed out, some of these accounts are of deranged individuals who simply "went wild." A few individuals were caught and put in asylums. Nevertheless, there

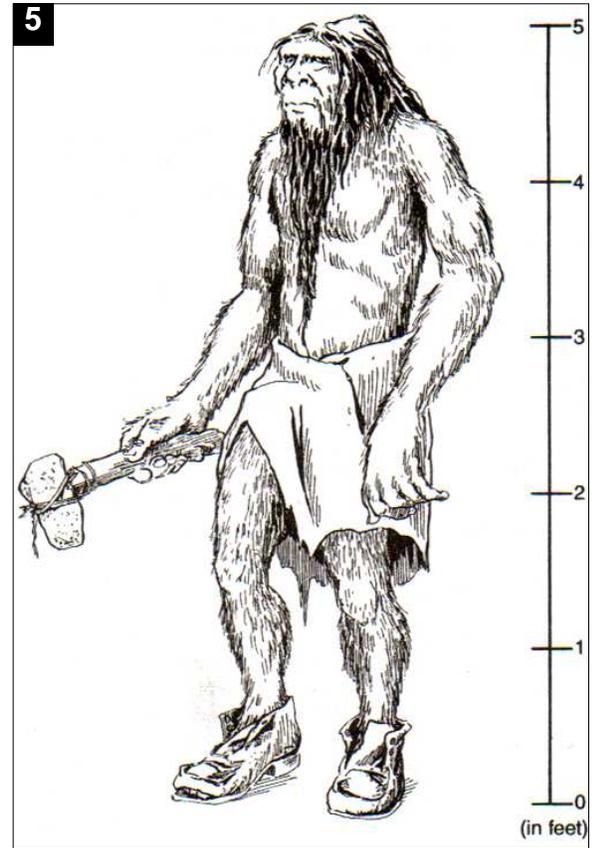


are a few accounts that say the subject was “gorilla-like,” but from the descriptions, and the fact that some had partial coverings of some sort, they were definitely not sasquatch.

The general belief was that if a man “returned to nature,” he would grow thick hair all over his body, but we know that is not true. Coleman and Patrick Huyghe classify such beings as “Neandertaloid” (*The Field Guide to Bigfoot and Other Mystery Primates*, page 52). The illustration seen here (Photo 5) is provided in the book. Indeed, in Russia the almasty is considered a possible Neanderthal.

I am sure I am not the first to make a connection here, and have not done any research in that regard. Anyway, what I believe we are dealing with is a NORTH AMERICAN ALMASTY. As with the sasquatch, there is more than ample room in Alaska, the Yukon, Northwest Territories and northern British Columbia for a breeding population of these “beings” to exist virtually unnoticed.

On the world stage, North America is really a newcomer. A few hundred years of settlement is nothing compared to Europe and Asia. Hairy men encounters and sightings go back for many centuries there. Dmitri Bayanov and Igor Burtsev in Russia have been studying the almasty for decades. Bayanov has found many old drawings and photographs of carvings that depict what are probably almasty— again the term “wild man” crops up very often. The following are some images of interest (Photos 7 – 13).



The most noted account of a domesticated almasty was that of Zana, who died in the 1880s or 1890s. The fact that she had offsprings by human partners might indicate to scientists that she was not a sasquatch. Photo 14 is a drawing by Lydia Bourtseva showing Zana being taunted by mischievous boys.

Unfortunately, we don't have any confirmed photographs of an almasty. Like the sasquatch, almasty are highly elusive and the chances of someone in remote areas of Russia and neighboring countries having a camera are slim—let alone a camera that could get a reasonable image at 100 feet or more. Indeed, even people in North America who see a sasquatch don't have a proper camera, thus the abundance of "blobsquatch" photos.

Nevertheless, I was sent three images many years ago taken by a tourist in Poland that show what could be an almasty (Photos 15 – 17). The stance of the subject as it sort of "slinks" away is intriguing, and likely what one would expect for an almasty.

The contention that there could be a race of hairy relict homins or simply hairy primitive humans on this earth is really not as hard to believe as sasquatch existence. For certain, there are all sorts of highly diversified human races that we know of—Pygmies, Africans, Eskimos, Asiatics, Orientals, Aborigines, Caucasians, and so forth. North American natives have very little body hair, so why could not the reverse occur? Delivering an almasty to the "scientific establishment" would not, in my opinion, create any major upheavals. I really don't think we have the "missing link" here.

The two islands in the Bering Strait (Photo 4—one belongs to Russia, the other (smaller) USA) might hold clues to almasty migration. Some might have succumbed to the journey and infants often die on long hard trips. It's possible that bones could be found. The US island has a population of about 110 Native people. Many have likely been there for generations and could have "stories."



The Russian almasty. There would be no difference with those who came to North America.

