

Zana Just Didn't Know

The Russian “ape-woman” Zana (d. 1890s) was reasonably domesticated and had offspring by several human males. Her babies, however, did not look like her—they were effectively normal human babies, although perhaps a little sturdier.

Oddly, as soon as Zana gave birth, she bathed her newborns in a cold spring. As a result, the infants immediately died from the cold shock. Villager therefore took her babies away from her as soon as she delivered them, and four (two males and two females) lived to adulthood. Perhaps we can reason that had her babies been from the union of one of her kind, they would have been much more hardy, and in this case her act of bathing them (certainly a natural instinct) would not have killed them. Zana obviously just didn't know that her half-breed offspring were unable to cope with her “natural” treatment. And here she had a valid excuse, because from what we know, almasty babies are said to be exactly like human babies and do not become hairy until they are older.

As with everything in hominology, we are faced with the question of whether or not Zana was indeed an “ape-woman.” Every effort was made to find her grave, but all was to no avail. The grave of her youngest son, Khwit, was found and DNA obtained from his remains came out as “human” with a genetic tracing to Africa.

Zana's life story has been well documented by Dmitri Bayanov (*In the Footsteps of the Russian Snowman*, 1996, reprinted in 2015). We can certainly gather that she was very “different,” in appearance and “uncivilized;” however, such is not proof that she was non-human. My guess is that she was an almasty and that her DNA would have come out as “human,” just as I suspect is the same with the sasquatch.

A photograph of Khwit (died 1954) is provided on the right with his skull, which was recovered by Igor Burtsev. Authorities differ on whether or not the skull shows non-normal human aspects. Some Russian scientists believe it does. Khwit himself was a very strong and aggressive man. He lost his right hand in one of his many violent engagements.

The wonderful depiction of Zana with her baby was created by Brenden Bannon at my request. I sent him information on how she appeared and he provided the image. Originally, he had the baby wrapped in a little blanket and when Dmitri Bayanov saw this, he said such would not have been the case. I had Brenden revise the image accordingly. Both Dmitri and Igor are not 100% in agreement with the depiction, but I believe it would be very close.



A photograph of Khwit, Zana's youngest son, along with his skull recovered by Igor Burtsev in 1978.