

奥 秘 之 旅

The Mystery of the Abominable Snowman



雪人之谜

Holly Wallace (英) 著



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难有定论

Unsolved mysteries

未解之谜

For centuries, people have been puzzled¹ and fascinated² by mysterious places, creatures³ and events. Why do ships and planes vanish⁴ without trace⁵ when they cross the Bermuda Triangle⁶? What secrets does a black hole⁷ hold? Are some houses really haunted⁸ by ghosts? Does the Abominable Snowman actually exist? These mysteries have baffled⁹ scientists, who have spent years trying to find the answers. But just how far can science go? Can it really explain the seemingly unexplainable? Or are there some mysteries which science simply cannot solve? Read on, and make your own mind up....

This book tells you about the mystery of the Abominable Snowman, or Yeti, using eyewitness accounts and photographic¹⁰ and scientific evidence. It looks at famous hoaxes¹¹ and the different theories about whether the Yeti actually exists and what sort of creature it is.

What is the Abominable Snowman?

For centuries, people living in the snow-capped¹² Himalayan¹³ mountains of Nepal¹⁴ and China have told

stories of a huge, shaggy-haired¹⁵ creature, half man, half ape¹⁶ that inhabits¹⁷ the area. They call the creature the Abominable Snowman, or Yeti. When Western climbers began to explore¹⁸ these mountains from the end of the 19th century, more stories and sightings¹⁹ began to emerge²⁰.

In 1951, a set of photographs, taken by British climber Eric Shipton, caused a huge stir²¹. They showed a set of tracks²² in the snow, high up on the slopes²³ of Mount Qomolangma²⁴. Could these have been made by the Yeti?

1. puzzle	v.	使迷惑	14. Nepal	尼泊尔
2. fascinate	v.	强烈地吸引	15. shaggy-haired	adj. 长满粗毛的
3. creature	n.	生物; 动物	16. ape	n. 类人猿
4. vanish	v.	消失	17. inhabit	v. 栖居于
5. trace	n.	痕迹; 踪迹	18. explore	v. 考察
6. Bermuda Triangle		百慕大三角	19. sighting	n. 看见(尤指见到不寻常的事物)
7. black hole		黑洞	20. emerge	v. 出现
8. haunt	v.	(鬼魂等)经常出现	21. stir	n. 轰动
9. baffle	v.	使困惑	22. track	n. 足迹
10. photographic	adj.	摄影的	23. slope	n. 斜坡
11. hoax	n.	骗局	24. Qomolangma	珠穆朗玛峰
12. snow-capped	adj.	有雪冠的		
13. Himalayan	adj.	喜马拉雅山脉的		

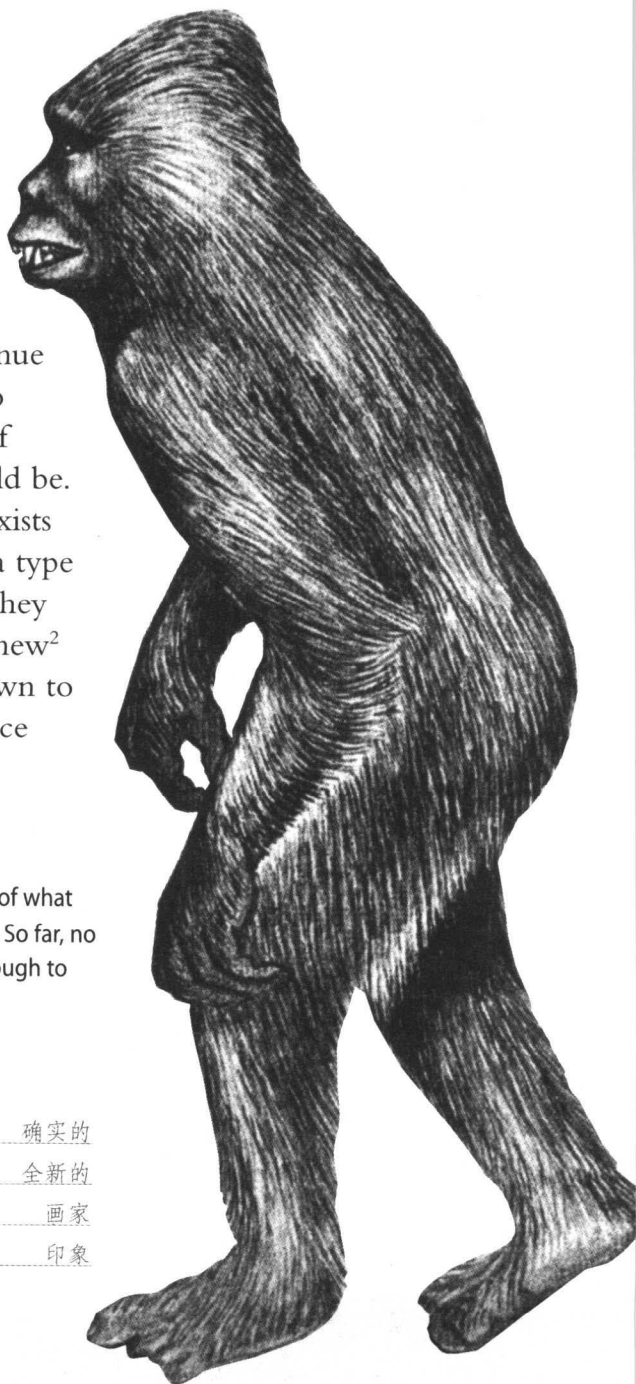
Finding evidence

Although concrete¹ scientific evidence for the Yeti has yet to be discovered, some scientists continue to search hard and to question what sort of creature the Yeti could be. If, after all, the Yeti exists and turns out to be a type of ape, it will mean they have found a brand-new² animal, so far unknown to science. So, can science solve this mystery?



An artist's³ impression⁴ of what the Yeti might look like. So far, no one has seen one closely enough to know for certain.

- | | | |
|---------------|-------------|-----|
| 1. concrete | <i>adj.</i> | 确实的 |
| 2. brand-new | <i>adj.</i> | 全新的 |
| 3. artist | <i>n.</i> | 画家 |
| 4. impression | <i>n.</i> | 印象 |



Beginnings of a mystery

疑云初现

Long before Western mountaineers¹ began to explore the Himalayas, the local Sherpa² people of Nepal had many ancient stories and legends³ about the *metoh-kangmi*⁴, a local word meaning filthy⁵ or abominable snowman, which the Sherpas also called the Yeti. Many Sherpas claim⁶ to have seen the creature, roaming⁷ the icy mountain passes.

Homes of the gods

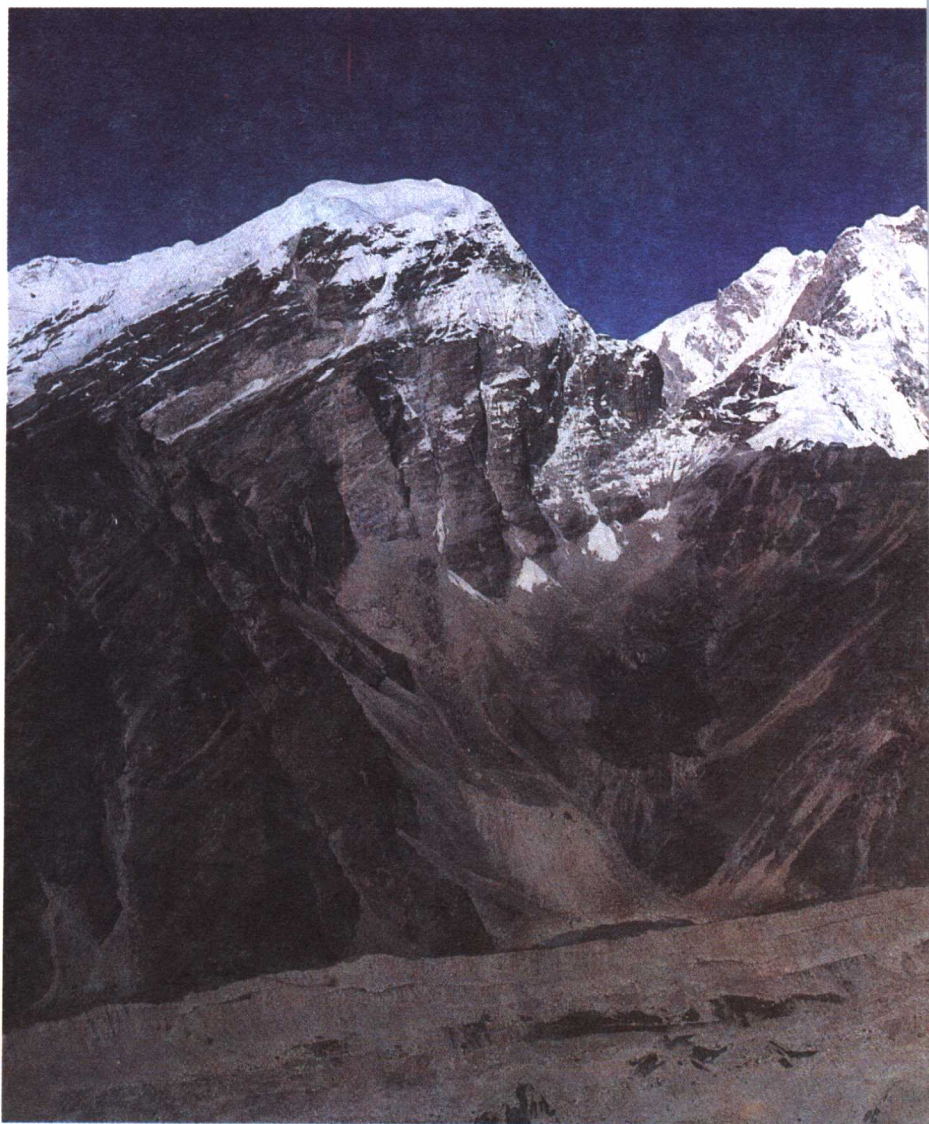
Yetis are said to live high up in the Himalayas, the highest mountains in the world. Among them stands Mount Qomolangma, at 8,848 m the highest peak⁸ on Earth. The Himalayas stretch⁹ for more than 2,400 km across northern India, Pakistan¹⁰, China, Nepal and Bhutan¹¹. Local people worship¹² the mountains as the homes of the gods...and fear them as the Yeti's hidden lair¹³.

1. mountaineer *n.* 登山运动员
2. Sherpa *n.* 夏尔巴人
3. legend *n.* 传说
4. *metoh-kangmi* 一种雪人的名字
5. filthy *adj.* 肮脏的
6. claim *v.* 声称
7. roam *v.* 在……随便走

8. peak *n.* 顶峰
9. stretch *v.* 延伸
10. Pakistan 巴基斯坦
11. Bhutan 不丹
12. worship *v.* 崇拜; 信奉
13. lair *n.* 兽穴



The mighty¹ Himalayas—the world's highest mountains. Large areas of the mountains have not yet been explored. Could they be hiding a family of Yetis?



1. mighty *adj.* 巨大的



Sherpa beliefs

Regardless of scientific proof¹, the Sherpas have no doubt that the Yeti exists. After all, they know the mountains better than anyone. They fear Yetis, as an evil² force in the mountains, but they respect³ them even more. Each year, a festival is held to drive evil spirits out of their villages. One man wears a headdress⁴ of skin and hair, said to be a sacred⁵ Yeti scalp⁶. He represents⁷ the spirit of the Yeti, sent by the gods to punish people for their misdeeds⁸. Eventually⁹, the Yeti is driven out of the village and evil is banished¹⁰. The Sherpas like to keep Yetis at a distance¹¹. Crossing a Yeti's path, they believe, will bring bad luck, illness or even death.

Other abominable creatures

The Abominable Snowman is not the only mysterious ape-like creature said to survive¹² in the Earth's wild places. Many similar creatures have been sighted around the world, in North America, China, Australia, Russia, Africa¹³ and south-east Asia. One of the most famous is Bigfoot or Sasquatch¹⁴ which may live in the forests of western North America. Since the first reports in the 19th century, there have been more than 2,000 eyewitness accounts of Bigfoot. Can they all be wrong?

1. proof	<i>n.</i>	证据
2. evil	<i>adj.</i>	邪恶的
3. respect	<i>v.</i>	尊敬
4. headdress	<i>n.</i>	头饰
5. sacred	<i>adj.</i>	神圣的
6. scalp	<i>n.</i>	头皮
7. represent	<i>v.</i>	代表
8. misdeed	<i>n.</i>	不端行为; 罪恶

9. eventually	<i>adv.</i>	最终
10. banish	<i>v.</i>	把……驱逐出境
11. keep at a distance		保持一定距离
12. survive	<i>v.</i>	存活
13. Africa		非洲
14. Sasquatch	<i>n.</i>	北美野人
15. costume	<i>n.</i>	全套服饰
16. annual	<i>adj.</i>	一年一次的



A Sherpa man dressed in Yeti costume¹⁵, ready to take part in the annual¹⁶ Yeti festival in Nepal. He represents the spirit of the Yeti.



*E*yewitness accounts

目击实录

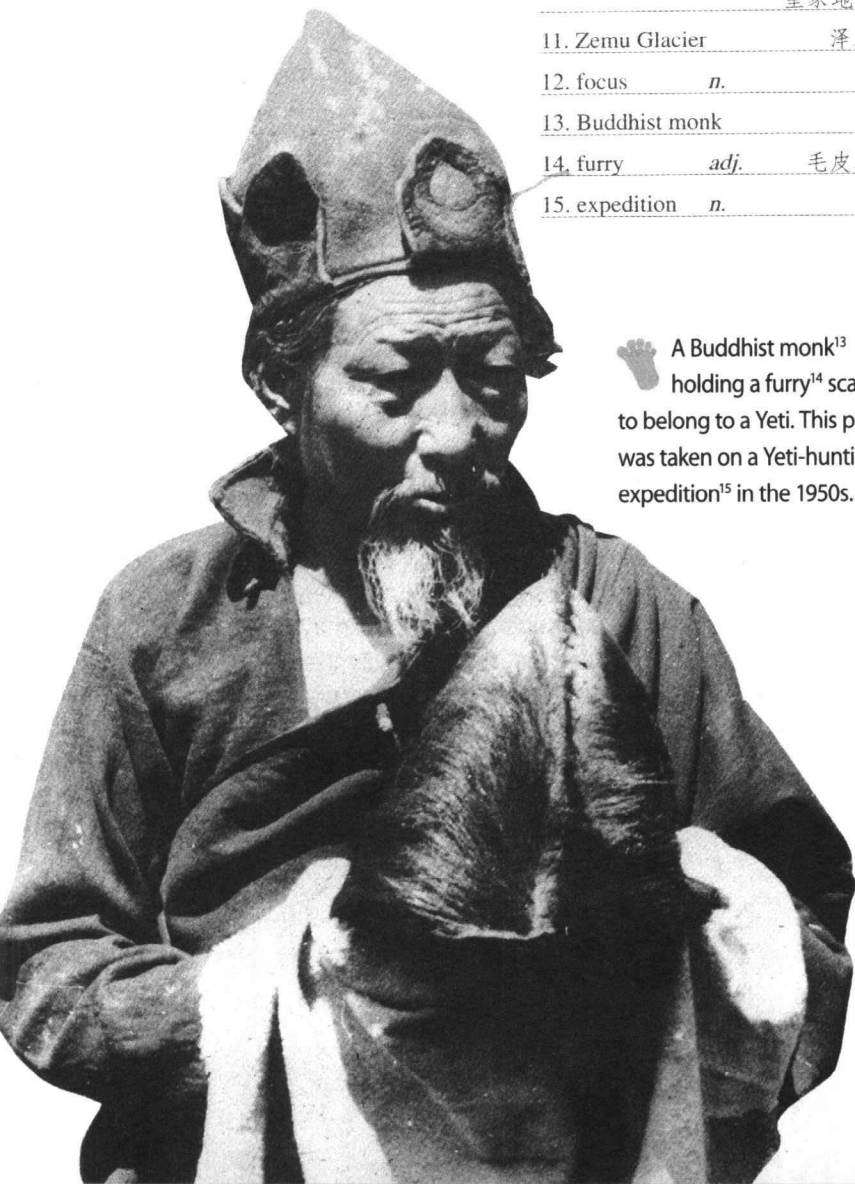
Although seen many times before by the Sherpas, the first recorded sightings of the Yeti were made by Europeans in the 19th century. Since then, there have been regular encounters with Yetis, mostly by mountaineers. Here are just a few of them.

Early encounters

The earliest reference¹ in the West to Yetis seems to be an 1832 report by B. H. Hodgson, a British diplomat² at the Nepalese court³. He wrote that, while out hunting, some of the local people with him had been frightened⁴ by a 'wild man' covered in long, dark hair. In 1889, more than 50 years later, Major L. A. Waddell was exploring the mountains at an altitude⁵ of about 6,000 metres when he discovered huge footprints⁶ in the snow. His Sherpa porters⁷ assured⁸ him that these were the tracks of a Yeti. In 1925, N. A. Tomabazi, a Fellow⁹ of the highly-respected Royal Geographical Society¹⁰ in London, almost managed to photograph a Yeti on the Zemu Glacier¹¹ but it vanished before he could get it into focus¹².

1. reference *n.* 提到; 论及
2. diplomat *n.* 外交官
3. court *n.* 宫廷
4. frighten *v.* 使惊恐
5. altitude *n.* 海拔

6. footprint *n.* 脚印
7. porter *n.* 搬运工
8. assure *v.* 向……断言
9. Fellow *n.* (学术团体的) 会员
10. Royal Geographical Society
皇家地理学会
11. Zemu Glacier 泽木冰河
12. focus *n.* 焦距
13. Buddhist monk 和尚
14. furry *adj.* 毛皮覆盖的
15. expedition *n.* 探险



A Buddhist monk¹³
holding a furry¹⁴ scalp, said
to belong to a Yeti. This photo
was taken on a Yeti-hunting
expedition¹⁵ in the 1950s.

Creature of the night

In 1970, top British mountaineer Don Whillans, and his colleague¹ Mike Thomson, were leading an expedition to climb Mount Annapurna². One evening, as they set up camp, there was a commotion³ among their Sherpa porters. A dark shape appeared, then disappeared behind a nearby ridge⁴. That night, unable to sleep, Whillans left his tent and went outside. By the light of the Moon, he spotted⁵ an ape-like creature. Whillans watched the creature for ten minutes before it dropped out of sight. He was firmly convinced⁶ that he had seen a Yeti.

Hallucinations⁷ and high altitude

The higher you go up a mountain, the less oxygen⁸ the air contains and the harder it is to breathe. Above 4,000 m, even the fittest of mountaineers can quickly find themselves in trouble. The lack⁹ of oxygen can also make you feel dizzy¹⁰ and sick, with a terrible headache and fever. It may also make you think you see things which are not actually there. Some scientists who doubt that the Yeti exists put the sightings down to hallucinations caused by altitude sickness¹¹.

1. colleague *n.* 同事

2. Annapurna 安纳布尔纳峰

3. commotion *n.* 混乱; 骚动

4. ridge *n.* 山脊

5. spot *v.* 发现

6. convinced *adj.* 确信的

7. hallucination *n.* 幻觉; 错觉

8. oxygen *n.* 氧气

9. lack *n.* 缺乏

10. dizzy *adj.* 眩晕的

11. altitude sickness 高空病



Could the Yeti be an hallucination seen by mountaineers climbing high up in the Himalayas where the lack of oxygen makes it easy to imagine things?

