Bigfoot: by Vincent Spada

Part 2: Evidence and Speculation

This has always been a problem area when it comes to Bigfoot. Skeptics will always say "If they're out there, where are the bodies?" It's a valid point for sure, but please dwell upon this fact: Experienced hunters say it's virtually impossible to find the carcass of a dead bear. For some reason they never come across them. Very odd...

Now, regarding evidence, there is of course the numerous sightings, coupled with multiple pictures or video footage, many of them from reliable witnesses. However, I do realize that this in itself does not constitute literal proof, at least not when it comes to a subject like Bigfoot. Extraordinary claims, after all, demand extraordinary evidence, and pictures, while intriguing, do not tell enough of the story. Yet. besides the visual aids, we do have some physical artifacts. Things which the Sasquatch leaves behind that cannot be denied. They are:

Footprints - On the surface this may not seem like much, as footprints can easily be faked, but several casts have been collected which show dermal ridges (In other words the same as fingerprints on the toes. Not something a typical hoaxer would think of.) Injuries as well, including cuts and signs of healing, have been present in some casts (Again, your typical trickster doesn't usually include these details.)

Unknown hairs - These have been found on more than one occasion, in both North America and Asia (The Yeti is said to inhabit the valleys below the Himalayan Mountains.) While some results remain inconclusive, other tests show them as being from an unknown primate, similar to man in certain ways but definitely not human.

Droppings - While rare, there have been samples of scat found which contained unusual or unknown parasites. Although not proven, the fecal matter may have come from Sasquatch.

Blood - There was an incident in the past 10 years where a cabin in Canada was supposedly being visited by a Bigfoot, and a nail board used to stop the intruder led to blood samples soaked into the wood. Tests did not yield conclusive proof, as enough DNA could not be gathered, but further examination in the future may produce better results.

Forest beds - Mountain gorillas have been known to make beds, gathering up leaves and sticks to make a sleeping quarter. These same beds have been found in various locations throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Screams or Calls - Researchers have captured odd howls, screams and calls from the forest which zoologists cannot identify. Tree knocking or wood knocking has also been heard (Chimpanzees do use tools which sometimes include sticks.)

Rock throwing - Primates can and have thrown rocks, and this has also happened to Bigfoot researchers. This typically occurs alongside the howls and tree knocking (Warning to stay away?)

I know, I know. Individually, these physical calling cards may not add up to much, but put them all together and they appear much more convincing...

Now, we've touched upon some of the evidence, as well as the history of sightings, but let us move toward a bit of speculation on the creature itself. Of course, no one can say exactly what a Bigfoot looks like, but from eyewitness accounts they tend to be:

Hairy or covered with hair, often black or dark brown in color.

Very tall, often 6-8 feet in height (Bigfoot sightings in the American South tend to be of a smaller animal, some 5-6 feet in height and occasionally featuring only 3 toes.)

300-400 pounds in weight, estimated by the muscle mass and depression of footprints in the soil.

Other physical or mental characteristics include:

Chattering, sometimes almost vocalizing, although certainly not human speech.

Long arms and limbs, with an unusual gait.

A strong smell, like that of rotten eggs.

Inquisitive nature, investigating campsites or campgrounds.

Again, please let me remind you that this is only speculation. The exact measurements or physical attributes are unknown. However, if we are to take the reports seriously, this is what people are seeing. Exactly what it is or what it may be? Let's discuss that now:

Some individuals may jump to a supernatural conclusion. That Bigfoot is in fact the ghosts of cavemen or creatures who died long ago. There are also those who say that it may be a being from another world, either from outer space, inner space or another dimension. While I cannot disprove these theories, I do not personally share that conviction. That is, I believe Bigfoot to be an actual flesh and blood animal, from and of this planet Earth. If that's true, then we may begin to assume certain things regarding its nature. Namely, it must eat, sleep, move, etc., the same as any other beast of the air or field. In that case, we can begin to form a basis for its actions. The following is an outline which may or may not be accurate:

Sasquatch may:

Have crossed into North America from an ancient land bridge which once connected the continent with Asia. They may have also crossed over on glaciers present in the region thousands of years ago.

Have crossed over from Europe on an ancient glacier bridge across the upper North Atlantic. Evidence suggests this may have occurred over 15,000 years ago with ancient man.

Be nocturnal, as so many sightings occur at night. It may also have adapted this trait to avoid human beings.

Be an omnivore, as an animal (warm-blooded?) that large must eat constantly. Their diet might include fish, nuts, berries, mosses and various plants or small animals.

Bury their dead in secluded locations, or live in caves where they might expire. This would explain a lack of bones, both now and in the fossil record.

Have excellent vision, as well as hearing and sense of smell. If they hunt at night it would be needed to increase their chances of success.

Have excellent stamina, as some have been seen running at a good pace. Exceptional physical strength is also probable if upper muscle mass is as described.

Breed rarely, as their numbers have been estimated at no more than 2,000-3,000 over all of North America. They may also be territorial, thus lessening their chances for encounters with breeding partners. The female may also only give birth to a single offspring at a time, and even then the gestation period may be up to a year, as larger animals are known for this (A female elephant can be pregnant for nearly two years).

Scent mark, to establish their area or to attract mates. They may also hunt and eat skunk, which would explain their foul body odor, or intentionally rub their fur with the skunk's scent gland to ward off predators or humans.

Not be able to swim, as apes lack this ability. Their mere size alone may cause them to sink helplessly when entering deep water.

Have no fear of horses, as mustangs are common throughout the western U.S. This may explain why Patterson and Gimlin were able to get so close at Bluff Creek, as both were riding horses and it may have masked their scent.

Fear humans, as they tend to flee when seen or discovered suddenly. However, if they are mammals, they would of course be curious, which would explain certain encounters which were initiated by the Sasquatch themselves.

Now, if this is what they look like and what their natural traits are, we may begin to speculate exactly what they are as follows:

An unknown species of primate, simply undetected by modern man. The mountain gorilla was itself not discovered by western science until the 20th century.

A higher evolved species of primate, on the level of a chimpanzee, or perhaps even more advanced, just below humans as far as mental capacity.

A branch of the human family tree, which did not die off in the last great extinction 12-20,000 years ago. Either a Neanderthal Man or other early ancestor of mankind.

A cross between a human being and an early ancestor of mankind. Such an individual was rumored to have existed in Russia back in the 19th century.

A medical experiment, either of a human or an animal (This is highly unlikely, as it does not explain sightings which took place hundreds of years before significant medical advancement.)

Wild human beings, who cannot or will not succumb to the modern world (Again, very unlikely, as their size and natural appearance does not coincide with this.)

Misidentification. Simply bears or apes which have escaped zoos or private collections (May explain a few sightings, but not all of them.)

These are but a few ideas pertaining to Bigfoot. It may be none of these at all. But let me ask, if it does exist, what do you think it is?...

Part 3: Conclusion

Having studied many eyewitness accounts, as well as video and photographic evidence, I would like to now share my conclusion with you if I may. If you'll recall, I mentioned previously that extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence, and while what we've discussed here is very compelling, it is not extraordinary. My conclusion, therefore, is that there is no undeniable physical proof that the creature exists. That is, science cannot say without a doubt that it is an actual, living, breathing animal. Science must operate within certain guidelines, or cease to be science at all. Unless a body is supplied, the matter remains in question...

HOWEVER...

Based upon the circumstantial evidence, the time line, the depth and consistency of the sightings, it is also my parallel conclusion that it is fairly likely that the creature known as Sasquatch or Bigfoot does exist. To say otherwise would be to ignore hundreds of years of testimony, and any respectable court of law in any country would tell you that's ridiculous. I'm not saying I'm certain that it exists, I'm just saying that there is enough evidence to say that it might. I certainly hope it does. Would be a true wonder for the world...

In closing, please allow me to thank you for reading along. Again, I don't know if any of this was useful, but if so, I'm glad. Please remember, there are things in this universe that we will probably never understand or explain. I hope that's not the case with Bigfoot. I think it's time he came out of hiding...

With gratitude, hope and understanding,

Vincent Spada

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