

Urban Myths in Different Countries

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The Yeti VS. Bigfoot

In Nepal the yeti is believed to be a “large, shaggy ape-man with huge feet and aggressive saber-like teeth”. The story goes that the Sherpas (the people of Nepal) were being tormented by the yetis. So, they decided to trick the yetis into getting drunk and fighting each other. The yetis left alive declared revenge, moving higher up into the himalayas and coming down periodically to terrorize the Sherpa people.

The legend of bigfoot came about in 1958, when a letter was published in a paper detailing large footprints found in northern California.

Both of these myths describe the same type of “animal” but in different ways. And since these have been spread, people have spent lifetimes trying to find evidence of their existence.

The Ghost Bus

This myth takes place in Beijing, China. The story goes that a bus was driving around midnight. Two men flag down the bus but the bus hesitates to stop because the stop at which they are located is not a stop on the route of the bus. However, the driver stops and lets the men on. But then he realizes that there are three men, two of them were carrying a third injured man, and all three appeared to be dressed in garb from the Qing Dynasty. Slowly as the bus continues its route, an elderly woman started a fight with one of the men saying he tried to steal her wallet. Apparently, this was a ruse story to get them off the bus because they “weren’t touching the ground”.

This is like the typical American ghost story but also implies a moral of “stranger danger” and to always keep a watch on yourself and your belongings.

The Bleeding Stone of Thessaloniki

The bleeding stone was erected in ancient Greece to memorialize thousands that were brutally murdered there. The stone was believed to bleed every year on the anniversary of the massacre. As to not be reminded of the massacre constantly, the stone was ordered to be destroyed. This was believed to leave a curse on a specific block in Thessaloniki. The curse was believed to be active until 1978 when an earthquake caused a building to collapse, killing 29. After this, a building was built to hold all the historical records and artifacts relating to the massacre, believed to have lifted the curse.

Curses are prevalent in many stories between many cultures, the one common thing is they are never a positive thing.

Conclusion

Having done research on these three myths all from different parts of the world, I wanted to point out the similarity that I think all these stories are meant to scare kids and people probably use them almost as threats to get kids to do what they want. It is interesting how a lot of these stories (many not explained here) have the same idea and theme yet a different telling of the story.