

are very frightened at the cry "GOOP GOOP GOOP" attributed to the Hantu & will take themselves to a distance very promptly if they hear it.

[It is only a conjecture of an idle moment of mine, thinking over the story of the Hantu but a chance shot may sometimes be

Cave Dwellers of Pre-Mahomedan era.

This subject possesses very great interest to me, I have very frequently heard from Malay & Orang Utan scraps of traditions of a race long died out who dwelt in caves, but the East is the home of fanciful imagination & embellishment. so that I listen & note on the chance only of any portion being founded on fact.

From Penang to the "Tra neck" northward is a sedimentary flat, at one time the bottom of a shallow sea. with scattered lime hills of large size rising sharply up from the dead level. Where there is limestone are always caves & so when ascertaining the most northern limit of the Orang Utan I made a point of searching these hills. Caves in plenty I found some a quarter of a mile long.

One cave floor is being

taken out by the Malays & the stalagmitic
 duct & decomposed rock, mingled
 with the bats' guano has been for
 many years thrown by them
 on the rice fields as manure

Seven feet down is a
 deposit of broken bones nearly
 two feet in thickness, mingled
 with sea shells.

I looked carefully to see if
 the bones bore any marks of
 canine teeth of carnivora & could
 not see one. Moreover the tiger
 here, though numerous enough
 to afford an hypothesis, as to
 the bones, does not carry his
 prey away but returns to
 where it was struck down
 or the nearest patch of thick
 concealing jungle, where he
 may have dragged it, might
 after night fall consumed.

The level of the cave floors is
 generally about thirty feet above
 the ground, that is, the solid rock
 floor.

Many of the bones show the
 action of fire, and in the face
 of a split mass of stalagmite I
 saw the end of an ^{ordinary sized} human
 femoral bone & its head, but the
 bone itself had disappeared
 probably fallen out in duct
 when the mass was split to
 get it away out of the road of the Malay.

I brought away a bag of the bone debris & shall send it to you in next consignment but I had no money to spend on such research & so did not do any exploration there, but as there were other caves in the same hill not touched yet by the Malay. I obtained from the Sultan the sole right of any future digging & examination thinking perhaps some of your friends in Germany might like to have the matter gone into. I have said nothing to any one else of their existence. They are not Gargasi giants anyway.

~~The bone coffins~~
 In another cave I found
 coffins attributed by Malay
 to the Gargasi & found some
 on a shelf in one narrow box. Neither
 Malay nor Chinese over them
 while their flasks say they are
 rich bones. I have not the slightest
 idea what race they belong to.
 They were in 2 feet down in
 the dirt wrappings of the coffins.

~~The cave variations showed~~
 In another cave I found
 the floor filled with a great
 mass of clay hard & rounded
 pebbles. ~~I sent you one as a~~
~~kind of specimen to be handled~~
 No one here knows anything about them.