

# CRYPTO

**Crypto: Hidden or Secret, from the Greek kruptos meaning hidden**

*“Fantasy has always enriched itself by feeding on fact and serious legend.”*

**Bob Eggleton From The Book of Sea Monsters  
(The Overlook Press, Woodstock, New York; 1998)**



**Cover Artwork for *Loch Ness Monster Shortbread Shapes***

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## **News Note: Mawas of Malaysia**

Liong Chong Shen, age 50, from Kampung Chennah (Negeri Sembilan province near the district of Jelebu in Malaysia), had an encounter during the last week of 1999. Shen was working in his durian orchard (note: durians are a type of fruit) about 10 miles from Kampung Chennah, when around noontime he smelled a strong animal scent. Very shortly thereafter Shen heard a grunting sound, upon looking up he spied two hair-covered creatures watching him.

The creatures were described as being a *Mawas*. The larger of the two *Mawas* was 6 feet in height and the smaller was 5 feet in height, they were covered with black and brown hair respectively. Shen watched the *Mawas* from about 30 feet away for a short spell until they turned and returned to the jungle cover.

What is interesting is that the word *mawas* is also a regional word from Indonesia for the orangutan (*Pongo pygmaeus*) which has a known modern range of areas in Sumatra (*Pongo pygmaeus abelii*) and Borneo (*Pongo pygmaeus pygmaeus*). The orangutan may well have been present in Malaysia in relatively modern times. Additionally the coloration of the orangutan can vary from a reddish-brown to a nearly black coat and with various degrees of hair length. The Sumatran subspecies for example typically has a longer and lighter coat than the Bornean subspecies. These primates are also mainly vegetarian and do eat durians, although the Sumatran subspecies has been seen to eat meat. The size of the orangutan ranges from around 4 to 5 feet, but have been recorded up to 6 feet in size.

These notations on the orangutan are mentioned, as they appear akin to the description given by Liong Chong Shen. He notes that the *Mawas* he saw were 1.83 and 1.52 meters in size (converts over to roughly 6 to 5 feet in size) and exhibited long shaggy hair. The area of the sighting as well fell within a vegetarian arena of durians. Coupled with no apparent threat by the *Mawas*, the possible explanation lies within the orangutan. Additionally the area of Malaysia were the report originates, within the province of Negeri Sembilan lies within 200 miles of Sumatra and within 800 of Borneo,

roughly in between the two known ranges of orangutan. See the map beside for the location of Negeri Sembilan in relation to Sumatra and Borneo.

Although it is not conclusive, the possibility that Liong Chong Shen saw an abhorrent orangutan is a possibility and the automatic connection to Hominology should be made cautiously and with more research.



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### **Sources:**

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GoeCenter World Map, Indonesia Malaysia (1:2000000 Scale)