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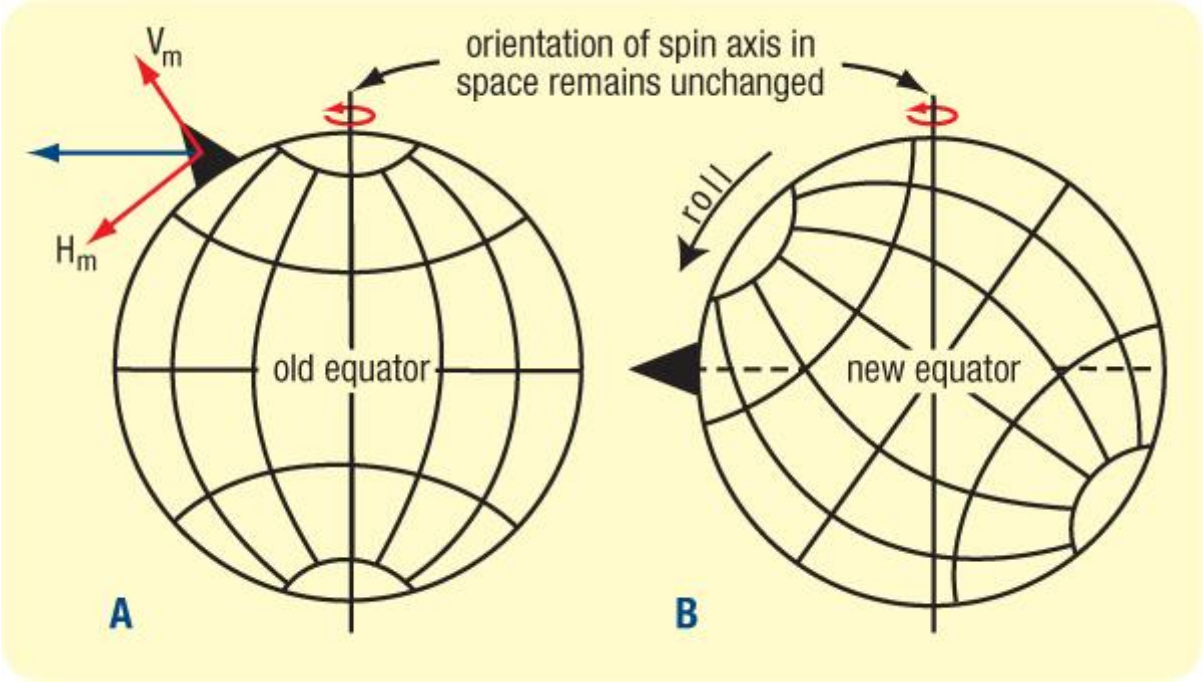

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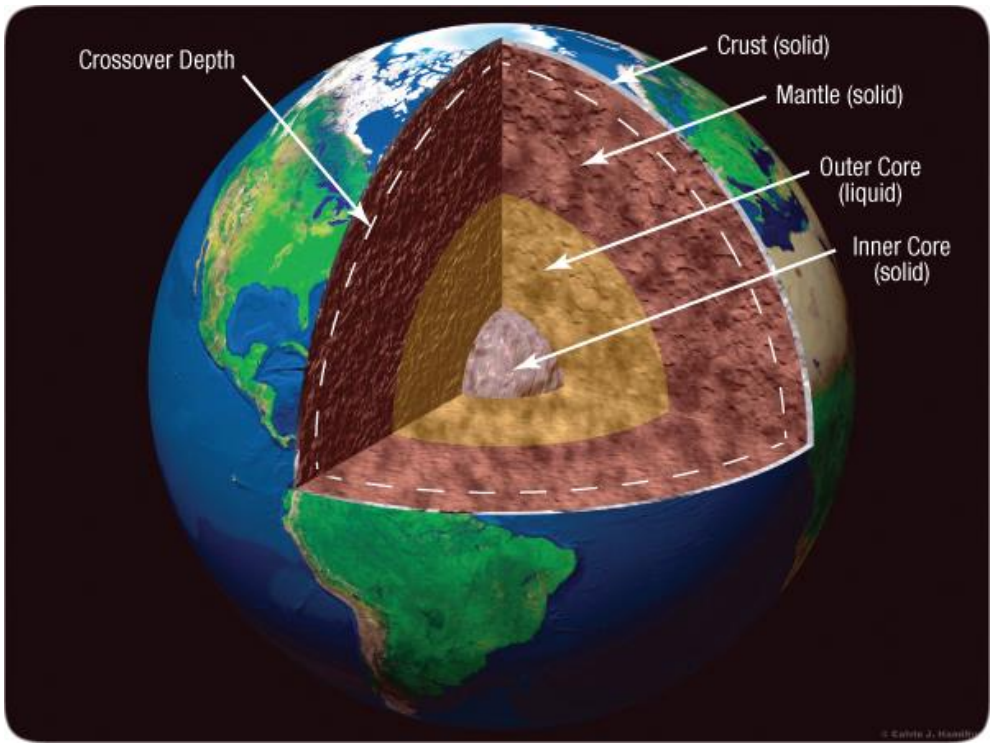

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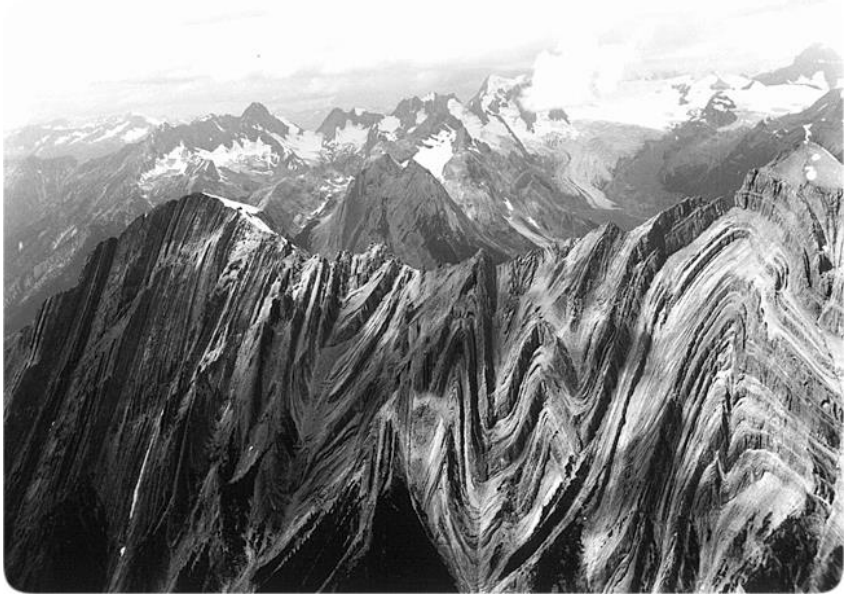

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The Berezovka Mammoth. The most famous, accessible, and studied mammoth is a 50-year-old[55] male, found in a freshly eroded bank, 100 feet above Siberia's Berezovka River in 1900. A year later an expedition, led by Dr. Otto F. Herz, painstakingly excavated the frozen body and transported it to the Zoological Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia.[56] [See Figure 154 on page 269.]

Berezovka was upright, although his back was excessively humped and his straightened hind legs were rotated forward at the hips into an almost horizontal position. This strange, contorted position was further exaggerated by his raised and spread front legs. Several ribs, a shoulder blade, and pelvis were broken.[57] Amazingly, the long bone in his right foreleg was crushed into about a dozen pieces, without noticeably damaging surrounding tissue.[58] "There had been considerable bleeding between the muscles and the fatty and connective tissues."[59] His shaggy, wirelike hair, some of it 20 inches long, was largely intact.[60] His erect penis was horizontally flattened.[61] (This organ in a live elephant is round, S-shaped, and never horizontal.)[62]

What can we conclude from these unusual details? To crush a slender rod, which the long leg bones resemble, requires axial compression while the rod (or bone) is encased in some material that prevents bending and snapping. To demonstrate this, place a long, straight stick vertically on a table and see how difficult it is to compress and break it into a dozen or so pieces. Instead, it will snap at the weakest point. If the stick has a slight bend, as do the long leg bones, crushing becomes almost impossible. Something must prevent the stick or bone from bending as the compressive load increases. Evidently, Berezovka's leg bone was severely compressed lengthwise while rigidly encased.[63] The "considerable bleeding" shows that this crushing occurred before or soon after death.

Slow suffocation of males can produce penile erection.[64] Tolmachoff concluded that, "The death [of Berezovka] by suffocation is proved by the erected male genital, a condition inexplicable in any other way."[65] But why was the penis

horizontally flattened? It had to be pressed between two horizontal surfaces, one of which was probably his abdomen. Again, considerable vertical compression must have acted within some medium encasing the entire body.

Suffocation is also implied with four other frozen giants. Vollosovitch (Table 10) concluded that his second buried mammoth, found with a penile erection on Bolshoi Lyakhov Island, had suffocated.[66] A third example is provided by Dima, whose "pulmonary alveoli suggested death by asphyxia" after "great exertion just before death."[67] The Pallas rhinoceros also showed symptoms of asphyxiation.

> The blood-vessels and even the fine capillaries were seen to be filled with brown coagulated blood, which, in many places still preserved its red colour. This is exactly the kind of evidence we look for when we want to know whether an animal has been drowned or suffocated. Asphyxia is always accompanied by the gorging of the capillaries with blood.[68]

Von Schrenck's rhinoceros was found with expanded nostrils and an open mouth. Investigators concluded, "that the animal died from suffocation, which it tried to avoid by keeping the nostrils wide asunder."[69] In all, three mammoths and two rhinoceroses apparently suffocated. No other cause of death has been shown for the remaining frozen giants.[70]

Sanderson describes another strange aspect of Berezovka.

> Much of the head, which was sticking out of the bank, had been eaten down to the bone by local wolves and other animals, but most of the rest was perfect. Most important, however, was that the lips, the lining of the mouth and the tongue were preserved. Upon the last, as well as between the teeth, were portions of the animal's last meal, which for some almost incomprehensible reason it had not had time to swallow. The meal proved to have been composed of delicate sedges and grasses ...[71]

Another account states that the mammoth's "mouth was filled with grass, which had been cropped, but not chewed and swallowed."[72] The grass froze so rapidly that it still had "the imprint of the animal's molars."[73] Hapgood's translation of a Russian report mentions eight well-preserved bean pods and five beans found in its mouth.[74]

Twenty-four pounds of undigested vegetation were removed from Berezovka and analyzed by Russian scientist V. N. Sukachev. He identified more than 40 different species of plants: herbs, grasses, mosses, shrubs, and tree leaves. Many no longer grow that far north; others grow both in Siberia and as far south as Mexico. Dillow[75] draws several conclusions from these remains:

- The presence of so many varieties [of plants] that generally grow much to the south indicates that the climate of the region was milder than that of today.
- The discovery of the ripe fruits of sedges, grasses, and other plants suggests that the mammoth died during the second half of July or the beginning of August.
- The mammoth must have been overwhelmed suddenly with a rapid deep freeze and instant death. The sudden death is proved by the unchewed bean pods still containing the beans that were found between its teeth, and the deep freeze is suggested by the well-preserved state of the stomach contents and the presence of edible meat [for wolves and dogs].

At normal body temperatures, stomach acids and enzymes break down vegetable material within an hour. What inhibited this process? The only plausible explanation is for the stomach to cool to about 40°F in ten hours or less.[76] But because the stomach is protected inside a warm body (96.6°F for elephants), how cold must the outside air become to drop the stomach's temperature to 40°F? Experiments have shown that the outer layers of skin would have had to drop suddenly to at least -175°F![77]

Independently, Sanderson concluded, "The flesh of many of the animals found in the muck must have been very rapidly and deeply frozen, for its cells had not burst. ... Frozen-food experts have pointed out that to do this, starting with a healthy, live specimen, you would have to suddenly drop the temperature of the surrounding air to well below minus 150 degrees Fahrenheit."[78]

The ice layer directly under the Berezovka mammoth contained some hair still attached to his body. Below his right forefoot was "the end of a very hairy tail ... of a bovine animal, probably [a] bison."[79] Also under the body were "the right forefoot and left hind foot of a reindeer ... The whole landslide on the Berezovka [River] was the richest imaginable storehouse of prehistoric remains."[80] In the surrounding, loamy soil was an antelope skull,[81] "the perfectly preserved upper skull of a prehistoric horse to which fragments of muscular fibre still adhered,"[82] tree trunks, tree fragments, and roots.[83] This vegetation differed from the amazingly well-preserved plants in the mammoth's mouth and stomach.

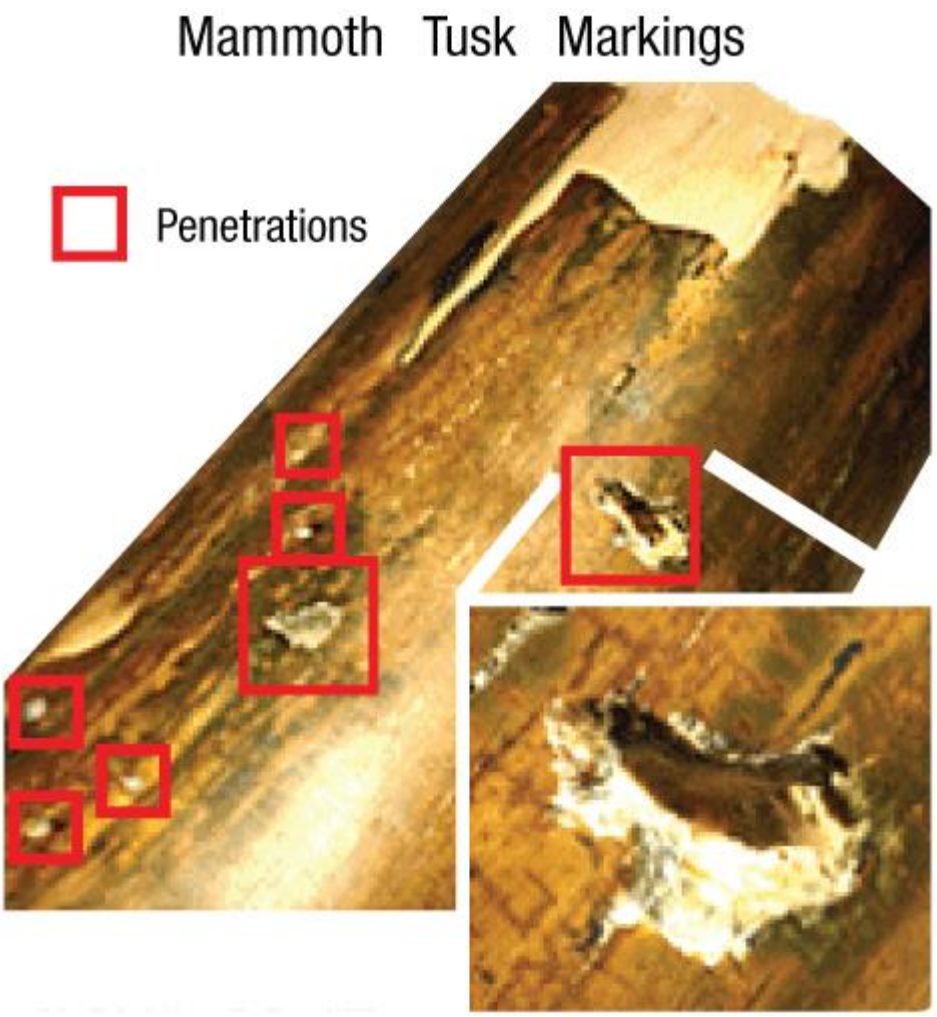

Figure 157: Peppered Mammoth Tusk. Scientists are finding, over wide geographical areas, mammoth tusks embedded on one side with millimeter-size particles rich in iron and nickel. This has led some to wonder if meteorites exploding high in the atmosphere punctured those tusks.[32]

32. Richard B. Firestone et al., "Evidence for an Extraterrestrial Impact 12,900 Years Ago That Contributed to the Megafaunal Extinctions and the Younger Dryas Cooling," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*, Vol. 104, 9 October 2007, pp. 16016–16021.

The British Broadcasting Corporation stated, "Startling evidence has been found which shows mammoth and other great beasts from the last ice age were blasted with material that came from space."[33] But is that the whole story?

33. http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7130014.stm

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