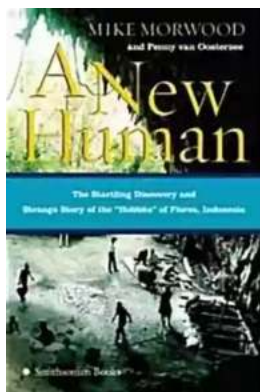


# The Startling Discovery And Strange Story Of The Hobbits Of Flores Indonesia



Indonesia is a country known for its breathtaking landscapes, diverse cultures, and unique wildlife. However, deep within the lush forests of the island of Flores, a startling discovery was made that shook the scientific community.

In 2003, a team of Australian and Indonesian archaeologists stumbled upon the remains of a previously unknown species of ancient humans. These tiny beings, affectionately called "hobbits," were later identified as a completely new hominin species known as Homo floresiensis.



## **A New Human: The Startling Discovery and Strange Story of the "Hobbits" of Flores, Indonesia** by Chris Hedges (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 520 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 272 pages



### **Astonishing Characteristics**

What made the discovery so remarkable was the size of these ancient humans. The adult hobbits stood at an average height of just three and a half feet, making them significantly shorter than the average human. Their small stature earned them the nickname "hobbits" due to their resemblance to the fictional characters from J.R.R. Tolkien's famous novels.

However, the hobbits were not just small in size; they possessed a range of other unique characteristics. Their skulls were unusually small, with a brain size comparable to that of a chimpanzee. Additionally, they had long arms, curved fingers, and feet similar to our ancestors who walked on all fours.



Despite their small brains, Homo floresiensis displayed remarkable intelligence. They used stone tools and fire, demonstrating advanced cognitive abilities. This revelation blew away previously held assumptions about brain size and intelligence.

### **Their Isolated World**

What added to the mystery surrounding *Homo floresiensis* was their isolation on the island of Flores. The remains date back between 100,000 and 60,000 years, indicating that these ancient humans lived in a closed ecosystem with limited contact with the outside world.

Due to their isolation, *Homo floresiensis* had the opportunity to evolve in a distinct direction. The lack of competition and availability of resources allowed them to adapt to their environment in unique ways, resulting in their small stature and specialized physical features.



Although it remains unclear why the hobbits eventually went extinct, some theories suggest that they may have fallen prey to a natural disaster or faced competition from modern humans who settled in their territory.

## **Debates and Controversies**

As with any groundbreaking discovery, the revelation of Homo floresiensis sparked heated debates and controversies within the scientific community. Some researchers questioned whether the hobbits were truly a distinct species or if they were simply modern humans suffering from a medical condition called microcephaly.

However, extensive studies, including in-depth analysis of their skeletal remains and DNA, strongly suggest that Homo floresiensis is indeed a separate species. This finding refutes the microcephaly theory and solidifies the unique identity of the hobbits of Flores.

## **Implications for Human Evolution**

The discovery of Homo floresiensis has had profound implications for our understanding of human evolution. It shows that our family tree is more complex than previously thought, with various branches of hominin species coexisting alongside modern humans.

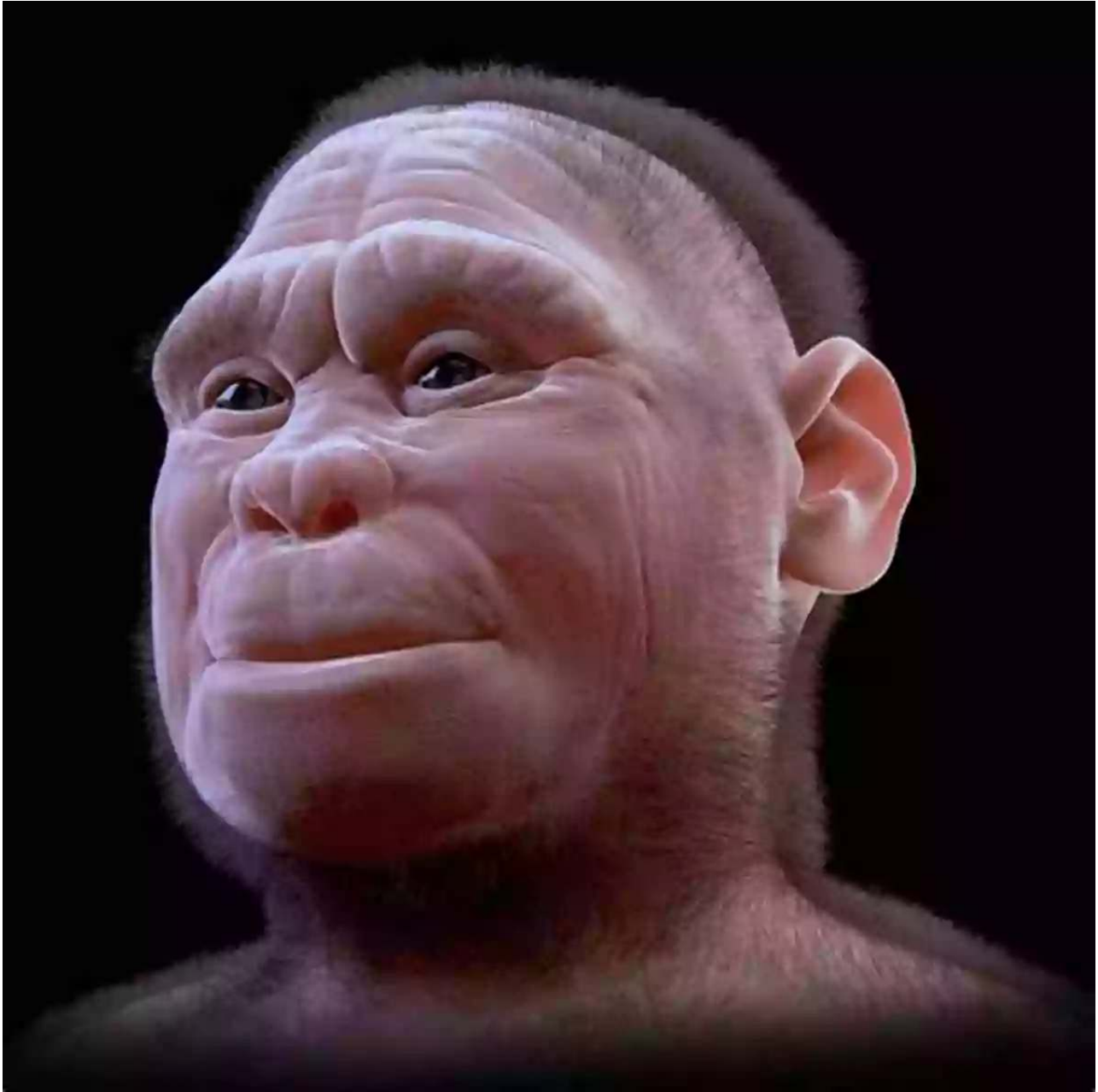
Furthermore, the small size and unique characteristics of the hobbits suggest that adaptive responses to environmental conditions can drive the evolution of human species in unexpected ways. This finding challenges the traditional notion that human evolution follows a linear progression towards larger brain sizes and increased intelligence.

## **Preserving the Legacy**

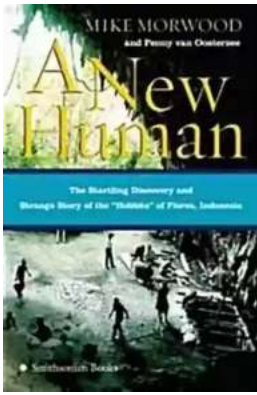
The remains of Homo floresiensis provide invaluable insights into our evolutionary history and the remarkable diversity of ancient humans. As scientists continue to study these fascinating creatures, it is crucial to ensure the preservation and protection of the archaeological sites on Flores.

Efforts are underway to safeguard the fossils and artifacts associated with the hobbits, allowing future generations to learn from this astonishing discovery. By studying the hobbits, we can gain a deeper understanding of the complex web of life that existed on our planet long before our time.

The startling discovery of the hobbits of Flores, Indonesia, has fascinated the world and forever changed our understanding of human evolution. These tiny ancient humans defy conventional wisdom and remind us of the extraordinary diversity of life that has existed on Earth.



The story of the hobbits of Flores serves as a reminder of the endless mysteries waiting to be unraveled in the depths of our planet. As we continue to explore and learn, it is essential to embrace the unexpected and keep our minds open to the possibility of discovering extraordinary beings, just like the hobbits of Flores Indonesia.



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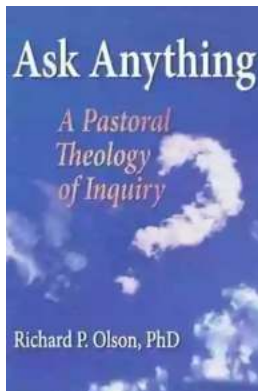


In October 2004, a team of Australian and Indonesian anthropologists led by Mike Morwood and Raden Pandji Soejono stunned the world with their announcement of the discovery of the first example of a new species of human, *Homo floresiensis*, which they nicknamed the "Hobbit." This was no creation of Tolkien's fantasy, however, but a tool-using, fire-making, cooperatively hunting person. The more Morwood and his colleagues revealed about the find, the more astonishing it became: standing only three feet tall with brains a little larger than a can of cola, the Hobbits forced anthropologists and everyone to reconsider what it means to be human.

Morwood's work was no ordinary academic exercise. Along the way he had to tread warily through the cultural landscape of Indonesia—he has an embarrassing mishap with some hard-to-chew pork—and he demonstrated that sometimes the life of a real archaeologist can be a bit like Indiana Jones's when he risked his neck in an ocean-going raft to experience how ancient Indonesians might have navigated the archipelago.

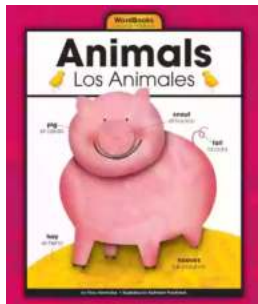


Even more, Morwood had to navigate the rock shoals of an archaeological bureaucracy that could be obtuse and even spiteful, and when the Hobbits became embroiled in scientific controversy—as no find of such magnitude could avoid—it proved easy for Morwood to get nearly swamped with trouble. Finds were stolen and damaged, and the backbiting was fierce. But the light of science, once brightened, is difficult to dim, and the story of the indefatigable Morwood's fight to defend his find discovery is an inspiration.



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