

EXPLORER OF THE BIZARRE: A BIOGRAPHY OF MORTEN NYHUUS

The youngest son of a wealthy aristocrat, Morten spent years following his every whim, no matter how foolish or expensive. He lived in India for three months in 1868, trying unsuccessfully to master the art of snake charming. He spent the next year in London studying to be a doctor and the year after that in a Munich seminary in hopes of becoming a priest. Morten's strangest and longest-lasting notion, however, began with an expedition into the Himalayas in 1892.

Morten set out for Tibet in search of a long-lost Buddhist temple. According to legends, the temple had a shrine containing the world's last dragon egg. When the egg hatched, it would signal the end of this present world and the beginning of a new, enlightened age. Morten never found the temple. What he found instead was something – to him – even more amazing.

Upon returning from his journey, Morten told all who would listen of a great city beneath the mountains and the messengers from God he found there. These were, he said, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Morten claimed that the Horsemen spoke of their home in the heavens and how they were awaiting

the time when their fellows would join them. Man and God would be reconciled and a new era would begin on Earth.

A circle of believers grew up around Morten, who supposedly interpreted and repeated his words. In an effort to spread the Fellowship's teachings beyond his immediate influence, Morten Nyhuus sought to have published a manuscript describing his discovery of the Four Horsemen. According to Gunn Publishing of Copenhagen, the memoir was a painstaking account of Morten's journey through the Himalayas that described, in excruciating detail, exactly how and where he found the alleged buried city.

The publisher not only rejected the manuscript but sent a scathing letter praising Morten for taking such outlandish material and making it unbearably monotonous to read. "It is a rare talent to reduce the ludicrous to the merely mundane," the editor wrote. Morten never submitted the manuscript to any other publishers. When asked why, he said that Gunn Publishing never returned his only copy. Those closest to him supported this story but no claims were ever made against the publisher.