

On *At the Mountains of Madness* —Enveloping the Cosmic Horror

Chia Yi Lee

Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures
National Chiao Tung University
1001 University Road, Hsinchu 30010, Taiwan
E-mail: cyberik@mail.nctu.edu.tw

Abstract

As the culmination of H. P. Lovecraft's late style in delineating the cosmic horror, *At the Mountains of Madness* poses several questions, the most interesting of which may concern the story's narrative efficacy in evoking horror that has been presented in the form of science fiction or, to be more precise, in scientific realism. The pivot of this narrative revolves round the novelette's central sections (7 and 8) where a genealogy of the sentient entities that precede humans' earthly emergence is recorded. Whether the genealogical enveloping of the cosmic other can summon up the cosmic horror as is textually intended, and what function the enveloping plays against the backdrop of the story as a whole—these will be the main concerns of this paper.

Key Words: horror, science, supplementarity