



Zombi da Poca (Pothole Undead)

Dear God, Barbara, now it has Julius by the leg. It's not a pothole at all. It's ... it's ... zombi da poca!

Physical Description:

Appears as a pothole in a roadway, usually on some out-of-the-way country road. Ranges from small/man-sized at 2'x2'x2" all the way up to small-pond-sized 10'x10'x2', depending on age and recent rainfall. Larger zombi da poca are rumored to exist.

Body Type:

Puddle. No flailing pseudopods or anything, just more-than-expected suction from a liquid.

Regions Found:

Primarily in areas that have a lot of rain but are inhabited enough to have more than just a main street. London, New York, and Paris are all common locations to find zombi da poca.

History/Lifecycle:

A zombi da poca (Portuguese for "zombie of the puddle") is created when a large pothole is created in the roadway and then it kills someone. The road need not be paved or cobbled. The main requirement seems to be that the person killed by the pothole must have had such a wonderful life that they die cursing the pothole rather than regretting anything in their life. Thereafter, the person's spirit inhabits the pothole, attacking any passers-by to suck them into another dimension and enlarge itself.

Once created, any object (living or dead) that comes in contact with the pothole is sucked in with surprising speed. The speed is directly proportional to the amount of contact the liquid has with the being – a brush might bring about only a slight detour while landing in the middle of the pothole almost certainly spells suction into another dimension. Once the person or object is absorbed, the pothole gains enough strength to push down on the roadway and enlarge itself. It never enlarges itself off of the roadway – presumably this has something to do with how and why it was created.

Destroying the zombi da poca is done simply by transplanting the liquid (in small quantities) to a non-roadway location and then repairing the pothole. If the liquid is moved but the pothole not repaired, the zombi de poca will reform at the next rainfall.

Although the name "pothole" has modern origins, the zombi da poca existed as long as there have been roadways that large groups frequent. Medieval pothole undead were considerably rarer but also more nasty: those without regrets were more rare but, when a zombi da poca was made, it took a long time and effort for the villagers to convince the nobility to fix it. Modern pothole undead in first-world countries occur more often but modern repair techniques tend to address them before they become too large.

Some experts note that third-world countries with roadways, such as India, may lose as much as 5% of their population each year to these creatures. The state of Chhattisgarh is rumored to have a zombi da poca spanning a quarter of a mile that was started by a particularly gifted cow.