

Willy Ley, Chesley Bonestell, *The Conquest of Space*, Purnell and Sons Ltd, London, 1950 [First Published 1949].

p.112 According to Ley, “The colour changes which we can see [on Mars] are explained most logically and most simply by assuming vegetation. From a terrestrial landscape – Tibet – we can get a good idea of what to expect.” The following description of Tibet from Major R.W.G. Hingston in “Animal Life at High Altitudes” and quoted by Dr. Robert S. Richardson of Mount Wilson and Palomar Observatories in an article entitled “New Paths to New Planets”, *Air Trails and Science Frontiers*, Sept. 1947, is given by Ley as a description that might have been “...written specifically for the purpose of depicting probable conditions on Mars”:

p.112 contin.

...The life in Tibet is in many particulars the life of a desert waste. It differs from the deserts of Arabia or Sahara in one particular: it has none of their intensive heat. But otherwise Tibet is essentially a desert, empty, bleak and bare.

As we travel across it we see all the features of the desert, the wide tracts of brown and barren soil, the vast distances spread out before the eyes, the fierce display of light. Here as in the desert, we meet tracts of sand, often loose and crumbling and at the mercy of the wind...

There is a great range of temperature characteristic of the desert, often fifty degrees between day and night. The atmosphere is so dry that it splits the skin and nails, and prevents the ordinary decomposition of flesh. Fierce winds blow across it... We observe the same scantiness of vegetation, the monotonous growth that gives no colour to the landscape, the absence of trees, the thorniness of the plants, the short active season in which flowers bloom rapidly and as rapidly die away.