

Stormy weather at sea

This day in December a storm hits the west coast of Jutland. The North Sea foams and only a few take a walk on the shore. The North Sea has always had both a fascinating and scary effect on me. The strong forces of nature let me feel well, but I know that this sea and the coast has been the scene of many tragedies.

I have actually no pretext for coming here. It works just as fascinating to feel the forces of nature at close quarters. The waves are meters high close to shore. The foam is blowing like snow along the shore. I can taste the salt on my lips. I wish that I once could stay here near the North Sea and repeatedly relive these extreme forces of nature.

The storm is occasioning a drama: The heavy surf leave many animals on the shore. Most are washed back into the sea, but many crustaceans, small fish and crabs end their lives here. The helpless animals get the seagull on the wing despite the powerful gusts. The seagull is foraging eagerly in the surf.

The storms and the hurricanes change the landscape: The coastal lines move. Houses and entire towns are threatened by becoming a prey of the sea. The people of the small fishing communities along

the coast have great respect for the sea. The older people have experienced many tragedies. The history books tell about many wrecks over time along the western coast of Jutland. It happens today and giddy tourists also lose their life in their beach holidays.

But the storm and the wild sea has also been an important source of income for the poor fishing villages. When capsized vessels without crew were observed from the coast, they were as soon as possible transported to the shore. The wrecked ships could provide a substantial salvage. The cargo of the ships was also sold by public auctions. It often consisted of timber. In this way, the local population in these districts deficient in trees got the chance to buy cheap lumber or fire wood.

The stormy weather and the wild sea have a curious double effect on me. It is fascinating and life-affirming to watch these heavy nature forces. At the same time, the imagination tells me how terrifying it must be to be bound by these violent forces of nature in small or large boats or ships without secure proper control. I know that exactly this kind of weather often brings the local fishing boats or yachts in great danger out there somewhere.



The coast outside the town Agger, December 2013