

HVOR SMILER FAGER
DEN DANSKE KYST
HOW FAIR AND SMILING
THE DANISH COAST

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Hvor smiler fager den danske kyst

I 1925 udgav den danske digter Johannes V. Jensen digtet 'Hvor smiler fager den danske kyst'. Jeg tænker altid på kysten ud for min barndomsegn – Kattegat-kysten.

På en majdag, hvor solens varme endelig gør temperaturen behagelig, er en vandretur langs kysten en lise for sjælen. Omkring mig er naturen travlt optaget af at forberede sig til sommerens kommen.

Alt virker idyllisk. Men sandheden er, at vi mennesker er ved at spolere det hele. Vi forurener havet omkring Danmark, og det synes kun at blive værre og værre. Politikerne formår ikke at være deres ansvar bevidst, og havbunden langs vores kyster og inde i fjordene er som en ørken. Alt liv i havet er kvalt af landbrugets udledning af kvælstof. Resultatet er iltsvind og fiskedød.

Miljøet har det skidt. Alle ved det. Alle er vi ansvarlige. Men at skade miljøet er jo et

resultat af vores levevis. Måske skal tonen skærpes i denne debat?

Miljø drejer sig jo i sidste ende om vores hygiejne. Vi går ofte i bad, køkkenhygiejnen er høj i dagligdagen, men sagt lige ud: Vi pisser i vores eget drikkevand. Vi bader i vores eget lort. Det er jo også en del af vores hygiejne, at vi formår at holde vores omgivelser rene fra gifte, gylle og spildevand. Det er mildest talt noget griseri – mangel på simpel hygiejne. Langt værre end svedlugtende armhuler eller fedtet, uvasket hår.

Vi har ofte travlt med at vurdere andre folkefærd og andre landes kultur. Normalt vurderer vi os selv højt i den henseende. Men hvordan vil du beskrive et folkefærd, der lever uhygiejnisk, og som lader deres børn drikke af beskidt vand og bade langs døde strande? Er det ikke et folkefærd med en simpel, ikke særlig attråværdig kultur?

How fair and smiling the Danish coast

In 1925, the Danish poet Johannes V. Jensen published the poem 'How fair and smiling the Danish coast.' I always think of the coast off my childhood region – the Kattegat coast.

On a day in May, when the sun's warmth finally makes the temperature pleasant, a walk along the coast is a balm for the soul. Around me, nature is busy preparing for the arrival of summer.

Everything seems idyllic. But the truth is, we humans are spoiling it all. We pollute the sea around Denmark, and it only seems to be getting worse and worse. Politicians fail to be aware of their responsibility, and the seabed along our coasts and inside the fjords is like a desert. All marine life is destroyed by agricultural nitrogen emissions. The result is deoxygenation and fish death.

The environment is in a bad state. Everyone knows it. We are all responsible. But damaging the environment is a result of our way of

life. Perhaps the tone needs to be intensified in this debate?

Ultimately, the environment is about our hygiene. We often take showers, and kitchen hygiene is high in everyday life, but let us be honest: we are urinating in our drinking water. We are bathing in our faeces. It is also part of our hygiene to keep our surroundings clean from toxins, manure, and wastewater. Frankly, it is quite a mess – a lack of basic hygiene. Much worse than sweaty armpits or greasy, unwashed hair.

Often, we rush to judge other people and the culture of other countries. Usually, we rate ourselves highly in that regard. But how would you describe a people who live unhygienically, and who let their children drink from dirty water and bathe along dead beaches? Would it not be all right to characterize these people as having a simple, not very desirable culture?



Østhimmerlands kyst, maj 2018

The coast off East Himmerland, May 2018



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KOLOFON

Ugens foto: Hvor smiler fager den danske kyst
Af Keld Jensen

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COLOPHON

Photo of the week: How fair and smiling the Danish coast
By Keld Jensen

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