

### **When nature shapes the human mind**

Many debates about cultural differences are based on myths that only tell a small part of what the differences really are about. I will mention a detail in the way I think the nature of Arctic shapes the human mind.

When I am travelling around in the nature of Arctic, I get the perception of myself as the little human being in the enormous universe. Not a universe with friendly, small hills, but a geography and a climate that occasionally threatens all living beings.

In the Arctic the living beings, more or less isolated in the wilderness, must make up their minds and even alone draw all the consequences of fallacies. While you create an understanding of life in these conditions, the nature also created a feeling of powerless, where you really understand how vulnerable we are as human beings, and how vulnerable humanity really is.

The result of this experience is a person who is almost speechless, or only speaks with his eyes. The Inuit people have a language spoken with the eyes. The life finds new values, nothing is simple anymore. No words can explain your feelings. Many relationships, many thoughts and intentions no longer have a meaning.



*A passenger on a Sikorsky helicopter above South Greenland, April 2006*