

The catastrophic landscape

The huge masses of ice moves like plasma. Slowly and almost invisible towards the coast. Suddenly the movement hurry up. The edge is reached and the ice cracks, while the gravitation is pushing it forward and down.

Large amounts of large and small pieces of ice, melt water, boulders and gravel is sliding down towards the bottom of the valley. It is a complete chaos. The last heavy fall down in a violent glacial river that emerges under the tongue of the glacier. The water flow has a high speed and ferocity. Everything is crushed into small particles. The fine sand and clay and pieces of ice are absorbed by the melt water.

The greyish brown, icy cold water of the glacial river arrives at the end of the long

fiord. The sea water and the melt water meet, and the waters continue out to sea. Only then, far out in the sea the rapid current loose strength and release its load of gravel and clay. For thousands of years this transport has taken place and formed large banks in the deep sea.

The landscape feels like a catastrophic landscape. There is a severe degradation of materials and the ice state changes to river water, brackish water and seawater. Stones and gravel are cut into pieces by the extreme forces of the melt water and forms the finest clay. The sounds are powerful, rumbling and threatening. No man can compete with these natural forces. Those who test are carried away by the violent current and their dead bodies are rarely found.



The edge of the Ice Sheet east of Kangerlussuaq, The west coast of Greenland, July 2010

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