

The last light

21 December is the day of the winter solstice – the shortest day of the year. In the Arctic close to the North Pole the days are short. In the far north, the sun does not show up in the winter half-year.

A lot of people have mental scars of the all-encompassing darkness. I am prepared to prevent the seasonal affective disorder. The winter season is a time for introspection.

Reading books written by wise people. A late afternoon or an evening engulfed in my favourite armchair with a good book. The winter storm howling outside.

Or intensive work with writing or making photographs on the computer. These are my winter projects.

In my hometown Qaqortoq the sunrise – at the winter solstice - comes at 9:13. Already at 14:51 the sunset comes. Mid-day the sun is only at a level of five degrees above the horizon.

Large parts of the day the sun is hidden behind the surrounding mountains, and if a thick layer of clouds covers the sky, the landscapes are in a state of twilight even at noon.

It will never get completely dark. The snow in the town and on the mountains provides a glare that makes the surrounding landscapes visible in these dark days.



The fiords near Qaqortoq, December 2015