

To every thing there is a season

This afternoon at the beginning of the year I sit in a DASH-8 aircraft from Air Greenland on the way from the Atlantic airport in Kangerlussuaq to South Greenland. We fly at a height of about one kilometre over the Greenlandic Ice Sheet. As an enormous piece of a white cloth the ice stretches out to the farthest horizons even from this height.

We are approaching the Narsarsuaq airport in South Greenland. The airport is located on a plain just at the edge of the ice sheet. On the way down towards the airport high mountains come into sight. These mountains are Nunataks at the edge of the ice sheet. The small, fragile aircraft is struck by turbulence and we can see that the strong winds get the snow to drift on the south side of the mountains.

In these years there is a great focus on the development of the Greenlandic Ice Sheet. The Ice Sheet is melting,

and the quantity of snowmelt is in the near future expected to become so enormous that the melt water will lead to a rise of the water levels in the oceans. Cities and entire communities around the Earth are threatened by these changes.

The human life is too short to be able to experience these eternal changes of factors such climate. We might remember the weather in our childhood that was colder, warmer, more rain, less snow, more storms and so on. But the climatic changes are embracing many generations of human life.

Maybe we are one of the last generations, who are able to experience this amazing natural phenomenon of ice? The development continues and hopefully future generations will see what comes after. Perhaps the kilometre thick ice sheet is hiding landscapes that have a beauty that is as great as the ice sheet, we are experiencing today?



The Greenlandic Ice Sheet, North of Narsarsuaq, South Greenland, January 2017