

Unbelievable!

It all seems unbelievable. From our small boat we have the view to a tongue of ice from the Greenland ice sheet. Meltwater is pouring out from the tongue of ice. Bare rocks surround the tongue of ice. It is obvious that the ice has retrograded year after year, and has exposed rocks that have been hidden under the ice for millennia.

Researchers have concluded that the Greenlandic Ice within a year loses a mass of about 268 gigatons. A gigaton equals one billion tons or one cubic kilometres of water. Unbelievable!

Everywhere we live and travel in Greenland, we experience this gigantic and cold neighbour. It makes large parts of the world's largest island uninhabitable. It is so heavy that even chains of mountains are pressed down by its weight. It sends extreme weather systems across the settle-

ments on the narrow, ice-free coastlines. It spreads massive amounts of icebergs of all sizes into our waters.

And no matter where we find it on our travels along the edge of the ice or in airplanes above its vast extent: It is so incredibly beautiful!

Unimaginable forces are at stake when the climate changes the size and the extent of the ice sheet.

One cubic kilometre of water? This corresponds to 268,000,000,000,000 litres of water. Unbelievable!

In the recent years, the meltdown from the Greenland Ice Sheet has caused a rise in the sea levels of the world's oceans of about one millimetre - a year.

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*A fiord near the town Narsaq,
South Greenland, September 2017*

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