

VARSEL OM FORANDRINGER? PRESAGE OF CHANGES?

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Varsel om forandringer?

Mit Sydgrønland om sommeren er en lille bosætning omgivet af brede fjorde med isskoser og isbjerge i alle størrelser. Mægtige grønne fjelde. Kølige briser fra havet og fra Indlandsisen.

Overalt i landskabet fosser smeltevand og regnvandet ned mod havet. Store elve og små bække. Undervejs buldrende vandfald og dybe helt rene og klare søer. På mine vandreture krydser jeg hele tiden små vandløb mellem klipperne.

Men sådan bliver det måske ikke ved med at være. Allerede nu vurderer forskerne, at klimaforandringer er ved at skabe nye rammer for natur og menneske i det smukke Sydgrønland.

Noget af det første, der bliver ramt, er land-

bruget med kvæg, fårehold og afgrøder som kål og kartofler. Dette erhverv har i forvejen vanskeligt ved at skabe en rimelig økonomi, og nu truer lange somre med tørke, så markerne omkring de små brug står gule og visne midt på sommeren.

I 2015 oplevede vi en alvorlig tørkeperiode. Omkring byen Qaqortoq tørrede store elve helt ud. Drikkevandssøens vandspejl faldt flere meter, og der hvor vandet før fossede ned over klipperne, var der nu kun tørre rustrøde klipper at se.

Det normale vejr kom tilbage og snart var trængslerne glemt – men var tørken et slags varsel for, hvad Sydgrønland måske får af udfordringer i den kommende generation?

Presage of changes?

My South Greenland-summer is a small settlement surrounded by wide fjords. Ice floes and icebergs of all sizes. Mighty green mountains. Cool breezes from the sea and from the Greenlandic Ice Sheet.

Throughout the landscape, the meltwater and the rainwater gush down towards the sea. Big rivers and little brooks. Along the way, waterfalls rumbling and deep, completely clean, and clear lakes. All along on my hikes, I cross little streams between the rocks.

But maybe it will not stay that way. Already, the scientists estimate that climate change is creating a new framework for nature and man in the beautiful South Greenland.

One of the first things that is affected is agriculture with cattle, sheep farming and crops such as cabbage and potatoes. Already, this

industry experiences difficulties to create a reasonable economy, and now long summers with drought are threatening, so the fields around the small farms are yellow and withered in the middle of summer.

In 2015, we experienced a severe drought. Around the town of Qaqortoq, the large rivers were completely dried out. The water level of the lake with drinking water went down several meters, and where the water normally gushed down over the rocks, there were now only dry rust-red rocks to see.

The normal weather returned and soon the hardships were forgotten – but was the drought a kind of presage for, what South Greenland in the coming generations might experience of challenges?



Qaqortoq, Sydgrønland, august 2015

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*Ugens foto: Varsel af forandringer?
Af Keld Jensen*

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*Photo of the week: Presage of changes?
By Keld Jensen*

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