

ANKOMSTEN
THE ARRIVAL

Keld Jensen

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Ankomsten

De spejder alle rundt. På havoverfladen og på de golde klipper inde på land. Det er vanskeligt, fordi sigtbarheden var lav. Her mellem de høje fjelde føles deres træskibe små og skrøbelige, selv om de har klaret rejsen over Atlanterhavet fra Island. Deres skibe bevæger sig uroligt i de hårde vindstød, og tidevandsstrømmen er dem imod, så det er et hårdt arbejde ved årerne.

De første nordboere, der trængte ind i Godthåbsfjorden på den grønlandske vestkyst, var måske ikke bange for at møde fjendtlige fremmede. De havde erfaringer med at omgå skrællingerne, som de kaldte inuitterne.

Nej, de var snarere bange for at møde uovervindelige dæmoner, som de havde fået fortalt om af slægtninge, der for længst var døde. Mange bekendte var forsvundet på det åbne hav. Dæmonerne måtte leve dybt nede i havet under deres skibe – og måske skjulte

andre uhyrer sig et sted på de golde bjergskråninger.

De ledte efter det landskab, som de kendte hjemmefra. Bjerge med dejlige grønne lier, hvor de kunne slå sig ned med deres kvæg og bo sammen med deres kære.

Men dette landskab så ubeboeligt ud. Golde klipper over alt, og isskusser drev omkring deres skibe. De havde rejst over lange afstande til dette ukendte land. Ingen havde kunnet fortælle dem, hvad de ville finde. Kun stjernerne på himlen om natten fortalte dem, hvor de var i disse fremmede, golde omgivelser.

De var heldige. Foran dem dybt inde i den store fjord lå der frodige bjergskråninger, som skulle blive hjemsted for dem selv og deres efterkommere i næsten fem hundrede år.

The arrival

Everybody is scouting around. On the sea level and on the barren rocks on land. It is difficult because visibility was low. Here, between the high mountains, their wooden ships feel small and fragile, even though they have made the journey across the Atlantic from Iceland. Their ships pitched and rolled dangerously in the strong gusts, and the tidal current is against them, so it is a hard job at the oars.

The first Northerners to enter the Godthåbsfjord on the west coast of Greenland may not have been afraid to meet hostile strangers. They had experience of dealing with the 'skrællingerne', as they called the Inuits.

No, rather, they were afraid of encountering invincible demons, which they had been told about by relatives, who had long since died. Many familiar people had disappeared on the high seas. The demons had to live deep in

the sea under their ships – and perhaps other monsters hide somewhere between the rocks on the barren mountainsides.

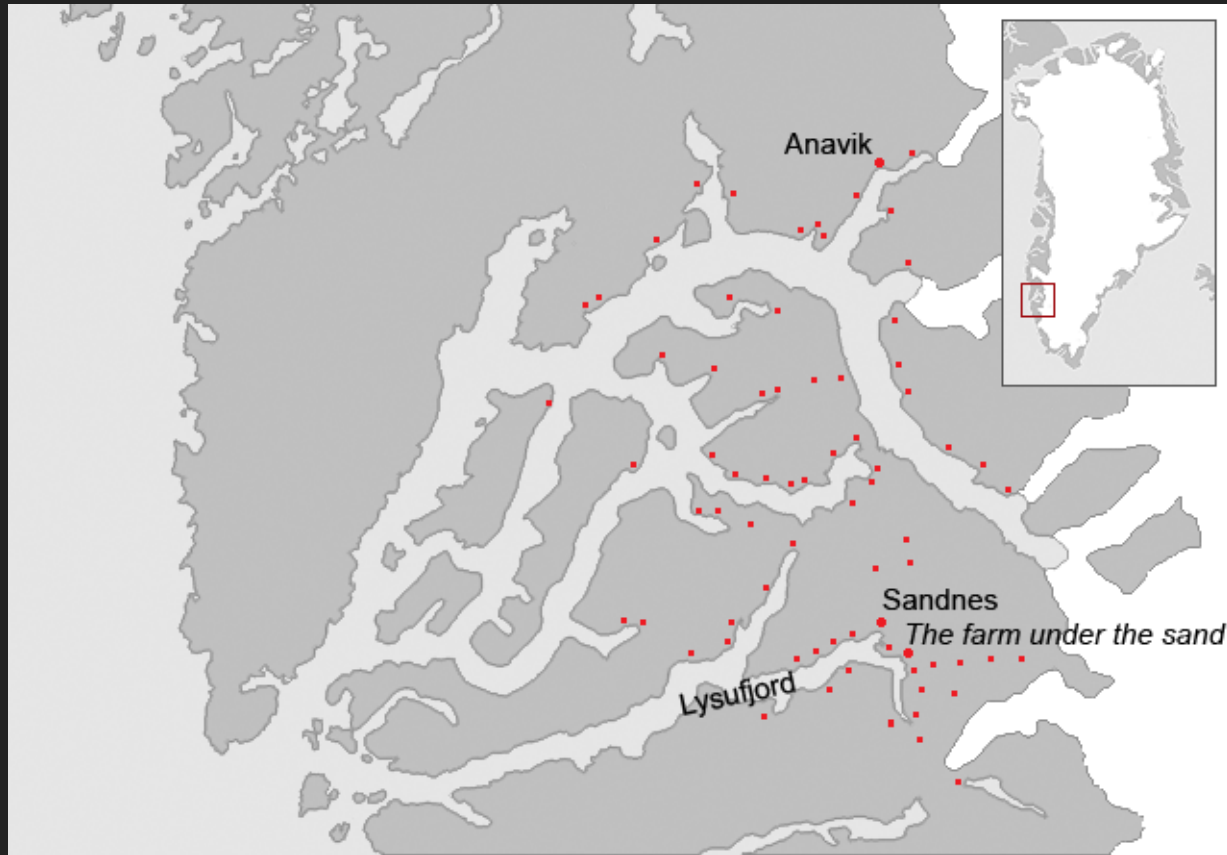
They were looking for the landscape they knew from home. Mountains with lovely green hillsides, where they could settle down with their cattle and live with their loved ones.

But this landscape looked uninhabitable. Barren rocks everywhere, and ice floes drift around their ships. They had travelled long distances to this unknown country. No one could have told them, what they were going to find. Only the stars in the sky at night told them where they were in these alien, barren surroundings.

They were lucky. In front of them deep in the great fjord lush hillsides lay, which were to become home to themselves and their families for nearly five hundred years.

Fakta om nordboerne

Nordboerne bosatte sig i Sydgrønland i år 986. De forlod Island med 25 skibe, 700 personer, husdyr og husgeråd. Kun de fjorten skibe nåede frem. Ud over deres boplads i Sydgrønland sejlede andre mod nord og bosatte sig inderst inde i de frodige områder inde i Godthåbsfjorden. Kortet viser kendte ruiner fra nordboernes tid inde i Godthåbsfjorden.



Kilde: Wikipedia, oktober 2020

Source: Wikipedia, October 2020

Facts about the Norse

The Norse residents settled in South Greenland in the year 986. They left Iceland with 25 ships, 700 people and livestock and tools. Only the fourteen ships made it. In addition to their settlement in South Greenland, others sailed north and settled deep inside the lush areas inside Godthåbsfjorden. The map shows known ruins from the time of the Norse people inside the Godthåbsfjorden.



Godthåbsfjorden, Vestgrønland, juli 2010

The fjord Godthåbsfjorden, West Greenland, July 2010



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KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Ankomsten
Af Keld Jensen*

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The arrival
By Keld Jensen*

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