

BYGDEN
THE SMALL SETTLEMENT

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Bygden

Vi er på rundtur til bygderne i den sydlandske kommune Kujalleq. Vi har til opgave at besigtige bygdeanlæggene. Et bygdeanlæg omfatter typisk modtagelse, bearbejdning, pakning og nedisning af de lokale fangeres fangst af fisk og pattedyr. Råvarerne opbevares i fryserum, indtil de afhentes af bygdeskibet til videre forarbejdning i større produktionsanlæg i byerne langs den grønlandske vestkyst.

De små bosætninger og de mennesker, der lever af de traditionelle erhverv, har igennem tiderne fået, hvad jeg vil kalde et hold-kæft-bolsje: En uværdig støttepolitik, der først og fremmest har gjort disse mennesker dybt afhængige af at gå tiggergang om støtte til dem selv og deres familier, hvor der kun er få eksempler på, at der er kommet noget selv bærende ud af det, hvor mennesker med selvværd og trang til fortsat selvudvikling kan trives.

Tværtimod er der skabt en afhængighed af tilskud, der i bedste fald gør disse mennesker vrede, men også skamfulde og med dukkede nakke skaber nogle rammebetingelser for deres børn og unge, der kun kan få dem

til at flygte eller uden kampgejst fortsætte forældrenes livsmønstre.

Bygdernes problem blev skabt, da politikerne valgte at kapitalisere fiskeressourcerne. Efter kort tid havde de lokale fangere mistet rettigheden til de store naturressourcer, som havde været deres livsgrundlag i mange generationer. Nu får de kun lave priser, når de sælger deres fangst til indkøberne.

Egentlig ved vi så lidt om disse bosætninger og disse mennesker. De taler sjældent i de store forsamlinger. Og sjældent ret længe. Dette er ikke ensbetydende med, at de ikke har en mening og et ønske om at fremme denne mening, men de er ikke vant til, at nogen vil lytte til dem.

Værdier som stilhed og ro, nærhed, fællesskab er normalt kernen i livet i de små bosætninger. Når jeg står her og betragter husene, havet, bjergene, legene børn, så har jeg svært ved at forstå, at der er mange, der har ondt i sjælen her. Men tallene i statistikken taler sit klare mål. Mange trives ikke, og mange lever i armod i alle henseender.

The small settlement

We are on a tour to the small settlements in the southern most municipality in Greenland, Kujalleq. Our task is to inspect the small production facilities in the settlements. Typically, such a facility includes the receipt, processing, packing and freezing of the capture of the local hunters, such as fish and mammals. The raw materials are stored in freezers, until they are collected by the settlement ship for further processing in larger production facilities in the towns along the west coast of Greenland.

The small settlements and the people who make a living from traditional occupations have been given, what I would call a gobstopper: An undignified policy of support which has, above all, made these people deeply dependent on begging for subsidies for themselves and their families. The result is a lack of examples of a self-sustaining development, where people with self-esteem and cravings for continued self-development can thrive.

On the contrary, an addiction to subsidies has been created, which, at best, angers these people, but also make them ashamed, and with a bowed head creates conditions for framework for their children and young

people, which only can cause them to flee or, without fighting, continue the life patterns of their parents.

The main problem of the settlements was created, when the politicians chose to capitalize the fish resources. After a short time, the local hunters had lost the right to the vast natural resources, which had been their livelihood for many generations. Now they only get low prices when they sell their catch to the purchasers.

In fact, we know so little about these settlements and these people. They rarely speak in the large assemblies. And rarely not for a long time. This does not mean, that they do not have an opinion and a desire to promote this opinion, but they are not used to anyone listening to them.

Usually, values such as silence and peace, neighbourhood, spirit of community are at the heart of life in the small settlements. When I am watching the houses, the sea, the mountains, the children, I find it hard to understand, that there are locals, who suffer pain in the soul in these settlements. But the figures in the statistics are clear. Many do not thrive, and many have a life in extreme poverty in every respects.



Bygden Qassimiut, Sydgrønland, oktober 2009

The settlement Qassimiut, South Greenland, October 2009



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KOLOFON

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COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: The small settlement
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