

TAB AF VIDEN?  
LOSS OF KNOWLEDGE?

*Keld Jensen*

*Nr. 26, juni 2021*

*No. 26, June 2021*

## *Tab af viden?*

En dag i august besøger vi Hvalsey. Vi skal igen opleve Grønlands bedst bevarede ruiner fra nordbotiden. Det er en lang sejltur, men det er det hele værd.

Bopladsen, som kirken var en del af, blev etableret omkring år 900. Her levede nordboerne i 500 år, indtil de enten var uddøde eller flyttet tilbage til Island. Selve kirken menes at være bygget af norske og skotske stenbyggere i begyndelsen af 1300-tallet. Det var en slags standardbyggeri dengang. Identiske kirker er også fundet i Norge og på Orkneyøerne.

Dette er et sted, hvor det er godt at samle tankerne. Og der er tid til at slippe fantasien fri.

Hvad tænkte vores forfædre, da de gik rundt her i deres hverdag? De havde måske ikke så stor viden om mange af de forhold, som vi

i dag tager for givet. De levede i en verden, hvor naturen ikke var systematiseret og lagt på hylder i form af viden om arter, livsbetingelser og komplicerede sammenhænge i øvrigt.

Nordboerne her i bygden var måske nok uadtil blevet kristne, men beretninger fra den tid viser, at de var overbeviste om naturens forunderlige kræfter i form af søuhyrer og store rovdyr, der kunne tænke og straffe som mennesker.

Men måske var de på mange måder langt mere bevidste og kloge, end vi er i dag. Det kan føles som om, at vi i den travle hverdag i nutiden sjældent finder lejlighed til at tænke store tanker. Om livet, om det eksistentielle.

Måske taber vi i dag viden, fordi vi så let bliver forstyrret i at tænke på det, der virkelig har betydning her i livet?

## *Loss of knowledge?*

One day in August we visit Hvalsey. Once again, we must experience the best-preserved ruins from the Norse period in Greenland. It is a long boat trip, but it is certainly worthwhile.

The settlement of which the church was a part was established around the year 900. At this location, the Norse lived for 500 years until they were either extinct or moved back to Iceland. The church itself is believed to have been built by Norwegian and Scottish stone builders in the early 14th century. It was a kind of standard building back then. Identical churches have also been found in Norway and Orkney.

This is a place where it is good to collect one's thoughts. And there is time to let your imagination go.

What did our ancestors think when they walked around at this place in their everyday lives? They may not have had as much knowledge of many of the conditions that we

take for granted today. They lived in a world, where nature still not was systematized and put on shelves in terms of knowledge of species, living conditions and complicated contexts in general.

The Norse people in this village might have become Christians outwardly, but the sagas from that time show that they were convinced of the strange forces of nature in the form of sea monsters and large predators that could think and punish as human beings.

But perhaps, in many ways, they were far more conscious and wiser, than we are today. It can feel as if, in the busy everyday life of the present, we rarely find the opportunity to think big thoughts. About life, about the existential.

Perhaps today we lose knowledge, because we are so easily disturbed to think about what really matters in life?



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*





*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*



*Hvalsey, Sydgrønland, august 2015*

*Hvalsey, South Greenland, August 2015*

KOLOFON

*Ugens foto: Tab af viden?  
Af Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1  
Oprindeligt publiceret juni 2021*

*Alle billeder og tekst © 2021 Keld Jensen*

---

COLOPHON

*Photo of the week: Loss of knowledge?  
By Keld Jensen*

*PDF Version 1  
Originally Published June 2021*

*All images and text © 2021 Keld Jensen*