

The last resting-place

This day in May, the air is keen and cold. The sun is shining, but it does not heat up enough to really melt the beautiful, pure, white snow. The mountains surrounding the small town of South Greenland, Nanortalik, shine in a white, keen colour.

The traditional Greenlandic cemetery is characterized by the white wooden crosses. In the death we are equal, and there seems to be a tradition of not letting the earthly wealth in money and power has influence on how the dead are buried here in Greenland.

The Inuits originally buried their dead in heap of stones above ground level, but also at this point the Christian Church dictated change: When Christianity came to Greenland it was a demand that the dead were buried in graves below ground level.

When we lie there in the cemetery, we will not worry about the place, but the Greenlandic cemeteries are usually located with a unique view to the fiord, the sea and the mountains. This also applies to the cemetery in Nanortalik.

The visitor to the cemetery, who will honour the dead, and who is moving around between the white crosses, has a beautiful view to the fiord and the high mountains. The view is unique in this world. Many graves are decorated with flowers made of plastic, which contrast to the pure white snow.

From the cemetery in Nanortalik we have the view to the tall, peaked mountains all the way up to Kirkespirdalen (the Church Spire Valley) northeast of the town.



The cemetery in Nanoralik, May 2014

The last resting-place

Quit

Go to the Text