

As a huge white sea

I am sitting in a plane high above the Greenland Ice Sheet. The ice spreads to all sides as a huge white sea beneath me. On the horizon, the mountains rise, and the coast of Greenland can be glimpsed further out.

The Greenlandic Ice Sheet is an astonishing natural phenomenon. The enormous quantities of ice are kilometre thick and the gravity of the ice presses the underlying geological structures down. If the ice melts in times to come, it will leave a huge low-lying area, but without the enormous weight of the ice, land uplift will begin.

What hides this white layer of ice? To the north the researchers have found a canyon, which is one of the largest of its kind. The ice hides landscapes, which in the past has given good habitats for a rich flora and fauna. At the edge of the ice, the ice retrogrades in these years, and new large deposits of economic

important minerals emerge.

The ice itself can be dated. Today it is possible to find ice formed at a very specific historic time, such as year zero in our era. Scientists find traces of known historical known volcanic eruptions, and human mistakes are also hidden in the data bank of the ice sheet. For example, the nuclear madness where explosions in the atmosphere spread radioactivity across the globe.

But The Greenlandic Ice Sheet also preserves on momentous treasures: The prehistoric wildlife. Many pollen and other remains of long lost plants, germs etc. Left behind and frozen for thousands of years.

At the same time the melt water from The Greenlandic Ice Sheet is an infinite resource for the establishment of hydroelectric plants along the entire coast of Greenland, and as a future supply of drinking water to the world's population.



Above the Greenlandic Ice Sheet north of Narsarsuaq, June 2015

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