

## An unknown life

The big lake borders on to the town in a north-west direction from my house. Towards evening the lake is swathed in silence and darkness surrounded by the mountains that hide the setting sun.

Behind the mountains the huge, wasted archipelago forms the border to the ocean. The ocean is fed by large currents of cold water from the north. The variance between the temperature of the ocean and the air creates a thick fog that slowly creeps over the mountains and more and more hides the surface of the lake.

I watch the fog arriving from my house on the mountain. The mysterious fog landscape send my thoughts out on a journey to the places where only the creatures of nature prevails and where human rational thinking is no longer sufficient.

Out there in the fog, it is not hard to imagine that there are worlds that we cannot understand. This is the world of the qivitoqs.

Qivittoq is the Greenlandic word for a mountain wanderer. A qivittoq is a

human being who for various reasons chooses a hermit's life in the wilderness. Some people believe that the qivitoqs in their lonely lives on the conditions of the nature achieve highly developed senses and supernatural abilities. They seem immortal, and a person, who meets a qivittoq, often experiences that the qivittoq speaks an ancient primitive language and he is dressed in ancient skin clothes.

Maybe a qivittoq again approaches to the town sheltered by the darkness and the driving fog?

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*'Woman attacked by qivittoq'*

– Headline in the Greenlandic newspaper Sermitsiak, August 31, 2009.

*'Qivittoq maybe behind the assault'*

– Headline in the Greenland Broadcasting Cooperation, KNR, June 28, 2010.

*'The qivittoq in Nassuttooq'*

– Headline in the Greenland Broadcasting Cooperation, KNR, August 12, 2011.

*'Two qivittoqs are visiting our town these days. I have seen them myself'*

– A comment of an elderly citizen of Qaqortoq to me, July 2014.



The lake 'Storesøen', Qaqortoq, South Greenland, July 2016