

Diary 12 - 2 July, 2012

Zackenbergl

As a newbie at this station you have to learn a few things. First of all, Danish. That is of course a bit controversial for me since I'm from Sweden and there is, for some reason, some tension between Sweden and Denmark... Dedicated as I am however to finally learn to understand this completely foreign language, I must look very silly; nodding and saying 'yes' to everything that I don't actually understand. Well, seems like the tension between Sweden and Denmark will last for a couple of more weeks.

The other thing you have to learn is to never, ever, leave a door or a window open, and to bathe yourself in mosquito repellent as soon as you have had a proper bath. Even as a true Swedish Viking, I have to admit that the little flying devils get to me. Even when I sleep...

Also, as an assistant (and especially a Swedish one), living at the station for the first time, you have to realize that you are at the bottom of the food web. I have learned that if the Danish crown prince for some reason would visit the station, I will be the one that have to give my bed away. Notes taken.

But apart from that (not that it is anything wrong with the above mentioned), my first week at the station has been a true experience, filled with hard work and a lot of new impressions. As some of the amazing people here have been true to Zackenberg for years and years, I could not have dreamt that I would ever spend a summer in Greenland. And as I now walk around in the valley, I get a feeling that this is the end of the world - or actually, the beginning of the world. Here, in the high Arctic environment, nothing but the river and the birds are to be heard, nothing but the fjord, the fen and the mountains to be seen, and nothing but the handful of muskoxen and birds that move in front of your eyes. Even though some advanced research is going on here, people do their outermost to interact as little as possible with the fragile environment. And the nature is thankful for that. Both muskoxen and one and another fox stroll undisturbed next to people walking around carrying, what you think would be, super scary equipment - because they don't have a reason to be scared.

As a newbie at the station, I am amazed. Seldom do you experience such harmony in the industrialized world we are living in. Seldom do you experience complete silence. Never but once in a while do you look around you and feel true peace inside. Seldom do you feel that nature is greater than you are. In every other corner, human beings are turning the planet upside down and inside out. But here, at the beginning of the world, nature is still the greatest.

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