

THE SAGA OF QUTDLIGSSAT

The Danish came to Qutdligssat
hoping for black gold
they dug the mines through ice and snow
not caring for the cold

They have left here now
there's nothing here
the miners are no more
gone to Godthåb town, Jacobshavn
to look for work once more

The work was hard the hours were long
trying to make it pay
but with no harbour near at hand
how's the coal to be taken away
by barge to ship they ferried it
to be taken to the south
to Godthåb town and Jacobshavn
and places round about

They have left here now...

Though the miners worked so hard
their efforts were all in vain
in the 60s the experts spoke
and then the decision came
close the pit and close the town
the people shall move away
to Godthåb town and Jacobshavn
to live for the rest of their days

They have left here now....

The town is bare and empty now
the people have gone away
the church the last remaining link
will soon be on its way
Qutdligssat has paid the price
the Danish lust for gold

broken homes and broken lives
a town that has no soul

They have left here now....

Michael Keil

(written in Qutdligssat in 1974 on the occasion of the dismantling of the wooden church which was then shipped to Jacobshavn and re-erected and where it stands to this day)

Michael Keil oplyser, at han i 1974 var leder af en international arbejdslejr i Qullissat med deltagere fra Danmark, Sverige, Tyskland, Frankrig, UK og gamle Qullissat-boere. Opgaven var at nedtage kirken, som senere blev transporteret til Ilulissat og genopført. Deltagerne boede på skolen og på én af væggene skrev de sangen "Saga om Qullissat". Michael Keil fortæller, at sangen blev oversat til grønlandsk af Sume og senere indspillet af den nu afdøde skotske folkesanger Alex Glasgow.