

Quinannngnaq-Terrifying

Qui-nanng-naq. Men in the arctic are known to be tough and able to face the harshest weather the world has to offer, and yet many men are petrified of bugs and lemmings!

Men in the arctic are typically afraid of bugs, lemmings, bumble bees, mosquitoes, maggots and caterpillars. These men may be out hunting in -45°C weather and not complain. They may be out for days at a time and face certain death from Mother Nature and not say a thing. Their faces may be completely covered with frost but they may not say how cold it is. They may skin and butcher animals as the meat freezes, and touch ice or snow with bare hands, and nothing is said. A hunter may freeze a cheek or an ear but not complain. Yet, despite their bravery, they often make a big deal out of a lemming that has invaded a tent! I once heard (through a High Frequency Radio) a man saying that their tent had to be taken down because a lemming had invaded it! The man packed up and set up a new camp elsewhere. The man I'm talking about is one of the best hunters that I know! This man is known to have killed a polar bear with only a pocket knife-yet he was afraid of a lemming!

This scenario is a true story:

When people are caribou hunting in the summer, they have to be very careful not to make any type of noise, otherwise their chances of getting one may be nil. Caribou are very sensitive to noise and very quick on their hooves.

I was out caribou hunting with my older brother in the summer, when he jeopardized the whole hunting trip. My brother instructed me many times not to make any noise and to lift my feet when I walked as we stalked a caribou. Every time I made any type of noise, he would look at me with an "I told you not to make any noise" fixed look. My brother knew exactly what was involved in hunting a caribou successfully, yet while in the process of stalking one; he shot a bumblebee that was sitting on a rock in front of us. We found no remains of the bee at all since he used a high caliber rifle. Our chance of getting a caribou was gone. We went home without meat to share, all because my brother was scared of bees! He did not mention the bumblebee when we came home-not even to our parents. I did not say a word about it either because my brother had wasted a bullet on something we could not eat. Our parents would have had a fit had they heard. I became a "trusted" brother after that incident.

Women are usually afraid of bugs, etc., but the men seemed to be more so. Ladies make a big deal out of seeing bugs, and may startle others when they suddenly stand up screaming their heads off when a fly lands near them. Women are known to unexpectedly jump up and start running away from what they're afraid of. Men are not known to scream as much, but they tend to do something more irrational than women-they tend to kill what's bugging them!

Am I scared of bugs, etc? What do you think? Ask me when we run into each other.

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