

Icelandic Volcano on Eyjafjallajokull

I was one of the thousands of travelers stranded across the globe due to the eruption of the volcano on Iceland's Eyjafjallajokull glacier on 15 April 2010. I had just landed in Amsterdam's Schiphol airport that morning and I was fortunate enough to make it to my hotel prior to the mad rush for rooms that resulted from the closure of the majority of Western Europe's airspace.

In the week that followed, I sat rather comfortably in the wonderful four-star Sheraton Amsterdam Airport hotel. Every day my flight was cancelled and each day I repeated the process of booking passage for the following date. This process was repeated for a week as I waited for the determination of a safe manner to resume international air travel. Many colleagues accused my being stranded away from the office as having successfully scammed a free vacation. Obviously they have a much greater confidence in my ability and influence than I've ever seen proof of. To me, it was nothing like a vacation: every day was spent with my suitcase packed, ready to bolt towards the terminal if the flight was allowed to depart. After the third day, I began taking my evening shower with my underwear on. This was the easiest way to wash them out: soap them up with me wearing them, turn them inside out and repeat the process, then rinse, wring and hang to dry. I tried to remember to take them down before housekeeping came through the following morning, but on a couple occasions I simply forgot.

With all the unexpected time spent sitting around waiting, I had time to ponder the volcano itself. I came up with the determination that all this trouble was surely the fault of the global warming process. It is my understanding that our planet is in a cycle of warming. This appears to be a trend which Earth has endured several times over her millions of years. Our planet is still recovering from the last ice age. This particular Icelandic volcano is encased in a humongous glacier named Eyjafjallajokull (I don't know if the Icelanders name all of their glaciers or if this one was given a name because of a proclivity for volcanic activity).

Anyway, the heat and gases moving around inside the Earth finally reached a point that something had to give. The volcano erupted, spewing steam, ash, lava and super-heated stones and debris into the air. Now I am no volcanologist (can you believe that is a real job?), but I can surmise that this eruption, which resulted in so much disruption, probably would not have occurred if the global warming process had been accelerated. Naturally, if the Earth in that location had warmed sooner the glacier surrounding the volcano would have melted. The resulting rush of cold water would have seeped down into the boiling bowels of the planet thereby cooling off all that magma and expelling the bottled gasses harmlessly into the atmosphere.

Now that I have made it back home in the United States, I continue to feel a personal connection to the volcano and even the global warming issue as a whole. If I was capable of exerting any sort of influence on the government of Iceland, I would encourage them to import more cattle to the region. I have frequently heard that bovine discharges are incredibly powerful elements in advancing the global warming process. But since I do not even know a single person on that island, I am not sure where to begin in forwarding my valuable suggestion. They claim that change begins on the home front, so while I ponder the best way to contact the appropriate authorities in Iceland, I have already made changes at home in Florida. Every day before work I start my automobile and allow it to idle in the driveway while I go back inside the house to have a shower and several cups of coffee. On the average day, this produces an additional thirty to forty minutes MORE of carbon dioxide emissions before my hour-long commute to work. I know that some may balk at the waste of expensive fossil fuels, but I feel a huge swelling of pride in the personal sacrifice I offer by doing my part for the planet.

I encourage everyone to join in this activity to multiply the effectiveness and show our devotion to Mother Earth. I have no idea whether this movement will ever extend across the oceans to the people of Iceland, but I am comfortable in the knowledge that I am doing my part to warm the Earth and in doing so am also providing a valuable lesson to my children that one man can make an impact.

Adam Kirk Pruden
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