

AALBORG, DENMARK

DENVER \Longrightarrow AALBORG



ON JANUARY 17 AT APPROXIMATELY 7AM, I ARRIVED IN COPENHAGEN. I WAS EXHAUSTED FROM THE 12 HOUR FLIGHT, AND DREADING THE 6 HOURS OF TRAVEL I HAD LEFT TO GET TO THE SECOND LARGEST CITY OF DENMARK, AALBORG, WHERE I WOULD BE WORKING ON A DEER FARM FOR THE NEXT UNDEFINED AMOUNT OF TIME.

THE WINTERY LANDSCAPE OF DENMARK SEEMED LIKE AN OLD FASHIONED FILM. THE SUNLESS WHITE SKIES MET THE SNOW COVERED LAND, WHILE THE DEAD BLACKENED FOREST STRETCHED THEIR FROST BITTEN LIMBS OUT, SILHOUETTING THE HORIZON. THE HOUSES SEEMED TO ALSO MIMIC THE LANDSCAPE WITH THEIR WHITE STONE EXTERIOR AND BLACKENED ROOFS MADE OF REED AND STRAW. AND THE ONLY COLOR TO BE SEEN WAS THE OCCASIONAL RED FARM HOUSE.

I LEARNED QUICKLY THAT TRAVELLING IN THE MIDDLE OF WINTER MAY NOT HAVE BEEN THE MOST IDEAL, ESPECIALLY WHEN WORKING ON A FARM. LIVING IN THE 'SUNNY STATE' OF CO, I WASN'T USED TO THE SUNLESS DAYS, AND THE WEATHER SEEMED ONLY TO HAZE MY ALREADY NOSTALGIC MIND THE FIRST WEEK OF ADJUSTING TO LIFE OF A FARM.

HOWEVER GREY THE DAYS WERE, MY FAVORITE THING ABOUT WINTER IN DENMARK (ASIDE FROM THE LACK OF TOURISTS) WERE THE NIGHTS. YELLOW LIGHT EXPLODED FROM THE SMALL WOODEN BORDERED WINDOWS AS I WOULD MAKE MY WAY TO THE MAIN HOUSE FOR DINNER AND TO WARM MYSELF BY THE FIRE.

ON ONE OF THESE NIGHTS, THE OWNER OF THE FARM DECIDED TO TAKE US VOLUNTEERS OUT TO LEARN ONE OF HIS FAVORITE HOBBYS, BLACKSMITHING. AFTER SCATTERING MY BRAIN AS TO WHAT I COULD POSSIBLY MAKE BLACK SMITHING, I DECIDED ON THIS HORSE SHOE BRACELET IDEA.

ALTHOUGH IT MAY NOT LOOK IT, IT TOOK ME TWO HOURS TO BEND THIS PIECE OF IRON, AND ANOTHER HOUR TO DRILL THE HOLES FOR THE YARN INTO IT. THIS BRACELET GOT ME THINKING ABOUT ECOLOGICAL JEWELRY AND HOW WE SHOULD FIRST LOOK AT IF THE MATERIAL IS RAW OR AT LEAST SUSTAINABLE INSTEAD OF ASSUMING THAT IT IS IF IT ISN'T MADE OF PLASTIC. THE JEWELRY INDUSTRY IS A BIG TIME CONSUMER FOR ITS UNSUSTAINABLE AND DANGEROUS METHODS OF CULTIVATING- ESPECIALLY THE DIAMOND INDUSTRY- AND ONE OF THE INDUSTRIES THAT GETS OFTEN IGNORED AND FORGOTTEN IN THE GRANDNESS OF ECOLOGICAL CHANGES WE NEED TO MAKE.

