

11TH MAY - CAMP 2

WE GOT WOKEN UP A LITTLE LATE AT 4.15AM ( WE WERE MEANT TO BE IN THE ICEFALL AT 4.30AM) I STARTED PUTTING ON MY HARNESS AND BOOTS WHICH ALWAYS TAKE A WHILE, GRABBED A JAPATI WITH MARMITE ( I MANAGED TO GET THEM TO SELL ME A POT IN LOBUCHÉ) AND WE WERE ALL IN THE ICEFALL BY 5.30AM

ANDRONICO AND I WENT ON AHEAD AND SOON MET UP WITH 3 DISCOVERY SHERPAS WHO WERE SENT TO FILM US. I NOTICED ONE CAMERA WAS PERMANENTLY FOCUSED ON MY FEET AS I STUMBLED CLUMSILY AROUND THE ICEFALL IN MY CRAMPONS.

WE MADE PRETTY GOOD TIME CONSIDERING THEY WERE FILMING AND WE HAD TO STOP AND GASP FREQUENTLY INTO THE CAMERA. THE BEST NEWS WAS THAT THE TWO HUGE CREVASSES THAT WE HAD TO RAPPELL DOWN INTO AND CLIMB OUT THE OTHER SIDE, HAD COLLAPSED ( SHOWS HOW DANGEROUS THE ICEFALL IS AND HOW OFTEN IT MOVES) AND THERE WAS A MUCH MORE DIRECT ROUTE TO CAMP 1. WE MADE IT THERE IN 4 HOURS AND AFTER A BREAK OF HALF AN HOUR OR SO, ANDRONICO AND I LEFT FOR CAMP 2 WITH THE DISCOVERY SHERPAS IN TOW. RODRIGO, MISAIL AND THE OTHERS WERE WAITING FOR THE DOCTOR PATO WHO WAS FEELING REALLY WEAK.

I WAS OK UNTIL I GOT INTO THE WESTERN CWYM, ID READ ABOUT THE NOTORIOUS HEAT OF THE CWYM BUT HAVING GROWN UP IN THE HUMIDITY OF ASIA I THOUGHT ID BE IMMUNE TO IT. IT HIT ME LIKE A HEAT WAVE AND I COULDN'T GET ENOUGH SNOW UNDER MY HAT TO COOL MY THROBBING HEAD. I FELT DIZZY AND NAUSEOUS AND HAD NO ENERGY AND THEN I STARTED TO DRY HEAVE BUT THANK GOD THE CAMERAS MISSED IT. I WAS TOO HEAVY MY PACK WAS BITING INTO MY SHOULDERS AND I FELT SO ILL.

ANDRONICO CAME TO MY RESCUE AND RELIEVED ME OF MOST OF MY LOAD AND WE CONTINUED SLOWLY UP TO CAMP 2. WE ARRIVED AROUND 1.30PM AND I WAS SO HAPPY TO SEE PALDE AND HAVE SOME COLD JUICE. I ACTUALLY FELT BETTER THE MOMENT I ARRIVED IN CAMP 2 FUNNILY ENOUGH BUT MY FACE AND NECK WERE SO SUNBURNT - YOU JUST CANT PUT ENOUGH CREAM ON YOUR FACE ALTHOUGH ITS FROZEN FOR MOST OF THE MORNING...

I PEARED INTO OUR TENT AND IN OUR 2 WEEKS OF ABSENCE FROM CAMP 2, THE SNOW HAD MELTED AND IT WAS LIKE A PIGSTY IN THERE, ALL UNEVEN WITH NEW PROTRUDING ROCKS EVERYWHERE AND ANDRONICOS SUNTAN CREAM HAD LEAKED ALL OVER OUR SLEEPING BAGS AND MY HIPPO GLOSS ( GREAT CHILEAN CREAM) HAD LEAKED ALL OVER MY CLOTHES - JUST WHAT I NEEDED AFTER MY EXHAUSTING TRIP TO CAMP 2 WAS TO SPEND THE NEXT HOUR OR SO CLEANING WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I DID!! PALDE GAVE US SOME SOUP AND THE OTHERS SHOWED UP ABOUT 2 HOURS LATER, PATO COMPLETELY WIPED OUT.

I READ IN THE TENT FEELING TIRED AND ONCE I GOT INTO MY NOW CLEAN SLEEPING BAG I KNEW THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS GETTING OUT TO GO TO OUR MESS TENT FOR DINNER, JUST WAY TOO COMFORTABLE IN THERE!!. TOMORROW IS A REST DAY THANK GOD AND I DRIFTED OFF INTO A VERY DEEP SLEEP - NO ALTITUDE HEADACHES THANK GOODNESS!!

