

MAY 16TH - POST SUMMIT EUPHORIA, CAMP 4 - CAMP 2

I WOKE UP WITH EVERY BONE IN MY BODY ACHING, MY NECK KILLED FROM THE PRESSURE OF THE STRAP OF THE OXYGEN MASK AND THE BLISTERES ON MY HEELS WERE UNBLEIVABLY PAINFULL BUT I WAS SO HAPPY ABOUT ACTUALLY MAKING THE SUMMIT YESTERDAY, IT WAS A DREAM COME TRUE FOR ME AND I WAS THINKING OF MY GRANDMOTHER AND HOW PROUD SHE WOULD BE RIGHT NOW. SHE IS 96 YEARS OLD AND BEING ONE OF THE FIRST WESTERN WOMEN IN NEPAL AT ALTITUDE (SEE PICS ON MY WEBSITE IN ABOUT ME SECTION) MY CLIMB WAS SOMETHING THAT WAS VERY CLOSE TO HER HEART.. I SPOKE TO MY SISTER IN HONG KONG AND CRIED IMMEDIATELY I HEARD HER VOICE, I DONT KNOW WHAT ITS BEEN ABOUT THIS CLIMB BUT IVE BEEN A COMPLETE EMOTIONAL WRECK. WHAT I DIDNT KNOW THAT SHE RELAYED TO ME WAS THE HELL THAT I HAD PUT MY FAMILY THROUGH, THEY HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE WEBSITES WWW.EVERESTNEWS.COM AND WWW.MOUNTEVEREST.NET WHICH HAD FOLLOWED LIVE THE EXACT WHEREABOUTS OF THE CHILEAN TEAM AND THEY HAD ALL SEEN DISCOVERY CHANNELS VIDEO FOOTAGE OF US ON THE SUMMIT ON THEIR WEBSITE (U CANT REALLY MAKE OUT WHICH ONE I AM AS WE ARE ALL IN HUGE RED DOWN SUITS) SO THEY KNEW I HAD MADE THE SUMMIT BUT THEN IT SAID THE CHILEAN TEAM WERE HAVING TROUBLE AND WERENT GETTING DOWN..SO MY WHOLE FAMILY WERE IN A TERRIBLE STATE. I WAS SATELITE PHONELESS AND RADIOLESSS AT CAMP 4 SO COULDNT TELL THEM I WAS SAFE SO I FEEL REALLY BAD FOR THE STRESS AND ANXIETY I PUT MY FAMILY THROUGH. IT WAS GREAT TO SPEAK TO MY SISTER AND MY DAD FOUND OUT I HAD MADE THE SUMMIT IN FRONT OF 50 HARDCORE BANKERS AND PUNCHED THE AIR AND RAN OUT OF THE MEETING TO TELL MY MOTHER WHO WAS SO HAPPY AND RELIEVED.. BIG EXCITEMENT IN OUR FAMILY. IVE BEEN TEASING MY DAD AS OUR DOG WHICH IS A BULL TERRIER IS THE APPLE OF HIS EYE, AND THE THINGS WE HAVE TO DO TO GET ABOVE THE DOG IN TERMS OF GAINING HIS AFFECTION - I MEAN I HAD TO SUMMIT THE HIGHEST MOUNTAIN ON EARTH TO GET THE EDGE ON OUR DOG!!!

EXHAUSTED WE ALL GOT PACKED UP, AGAIN I HAVE TO MENTION OUR SHERPAS AND HOW AMAZING THEY ARE, THE LOADS THEY CARRIED DOWN TO CAMP 2 WITHOUT OXYGEN WERE HUGE AND THEY HAD ALSO BEEN TO THE SUMMIT NOT WITH US THE DAY BEFORE, NOT TO MENTION GOING BACK UP WITH WATER AND OXYGEN TO HELP ANDRONICO, MISAIL, KIKO AND ERNESTO. I PUT MY DEPLETED OXYGEN SUPPLY ON THE LOWEST FLOW AS I WAS ABOUT TO RUN OUT, I FIGURED I HAD ENOUGH TO GET ME TO THE YELLOW BAND AND THEN I WOULD HAVE TO GO WITHOUT. I SET OFF WITH ANDRONICO AND WE STUMBLERD WEAKLY OUT OF THE SOUTH COL AND FINALLY ON OUR TRIP DOWN TO CAMP 2. WE WERE LIKE WAR VETERANS BATTERED, WEAK AND LOOKING LIKE SOME KIND OF VAGABONDS AS WE HEADED TOWARDS THE GENEVA SPUR. AT THE TOP OF THE SPUR WE PUT ON OUR CRAMPONS TO RAPEL DOWN AND I LOOKED OVER THE EDGE AND SAW THE BIGGEST LINE OF CLIMBERS HEADING UP FROM CAMP 3 FOR THEIR SUMMIT ATTEMPT. DAVID BREASHEARS, ED VIEUSTERS, VEIKER, JIMMY AND AMY WERE ALL ON THE WAY UP.

DAVID GOT INTO A LITTLE FIGHT WITH A SHERPA WHO HAD NO MANNERS AND WAS TRYING TO PUSH PAST HIM ON THE ROPES. ITS REALLY DANGEROUS WHEN PEOPLE DO THIS AS ROCKS CAN LAND ON WAITING CLIMBERS HEADS AND NO ONE REALLY HAS A HELMET (I NEVER WORE MINE IN THE END, VANITY PREVAILED!!) I SAW THE SHERPA PUSHING DAVID, WHO WAS COMPLETLEY IN THE RIGHT I HASTEN TO ADD, BUT IT WAS STRANGE TO THINK THAT U

CAN HAVE A FIGHT AT 28,000FT!! I HAD TO WAIT AT THE TOP OF THE SPUR FOR A WHILE, THIS IS WHAT IS SLOW IN THE WHOLE CLIMBING EVEREST PROCESS IS THE WAITING ON THE ROPES. I SAID GOOD LUCK TO DAVID, ED, AMY, JIMMY AND VEIKER AND NOW WORRIED ABOUT RUNNING OUT OF MY OXYGEN I CLIPPED ON AND WHIZZED DOWN THE SPUR AS FAST AS I COULD. I CAUGHT UP WITH ANDRONICO AND WE HEADED ON DOWN TO CAMP 3 WISHING ALL THE CLIMBERS COMING UP GOOD LUCK..(I WAS SO HAPPY I WAS HEADED DOWN RATHER THAN UP!) KIKO WAS FEELING AWFUL AS THESE GUYS WERE NOT ON OXYGEN AND WE WAITED FOR HIM ABOVE CAMP 3..I CANNOT TELL YOU HOW TIRED EVERYONE WAS.

THE LHOTSE FACE WAS FAIRLY UNEVENTFUL, EVERYTHING WAS STARTING TO MELT AND TWICE ICE SCREWS JUST FLEW OUT OF THE SLOPES WHEN WE WERE HOLDING ONTO THEM. FINALLY WE GOT TO THE BASE OF THE CWYM AND ANDRONICO AND I HEADED BACK TO CAMP 2 CHATTING ABOUT OUR SUMMIT DAY IN DETAIL. JUST OUTSIDE OF CAMP 2 RODRIGO, PIPE AND PATO JUMPED OUT AT US SHOWERING US WITH POPCORN AND YELLING GONGRATULATIONS, IT WAS SUCH A NICE FEELING TO BE BACK WITH THEM AND SEE PALDE OUR COOK. FRANKIE FROM DISCOVERY FILMED OUR ARRIVAL BACK AND INTERVIEWED US ALL.. WE THEN HAD A HUGE DINNER, AMAZING THAT PALDE CAN PREPARE FOOD LIKE THAT FROM THE BATTERED OLD GREEN TENT! I THEN HEADED TO BED ABSALUTELY EXHAUSTED AND WE WERE GETTING UP AT 5.00AM TO HEAD DOWN TO BASECAMP.. U MUST BEAR IN MIND THAT WE HAD HARDLY SLEPT IN 3 NIGHTS BY NOW.

THE WORST THING WAS I WAS AWOKEN ABOUT AN HOUR AFTER I WENT TO SLEEP, I FELT LIKE I HAD BEEN DRUGGED I WAS SO EXHAUSTED BUT I KNEW I WAS GOING TO BE ILL..SOMEHOW I GOT OUT OF THE TENT IN TIME, I THINK ALL THE FOOD I ATE HAVING HAD NOTHING FOR 2 DAYS WAS TOO MUCH FOR ME.. I WOKE UP THE NEXT MORNING AND FELT SO ILL IT WAS RIDICULOUS AND I HAD NO IDEA HOW I WAS GOING TO GET THROUGH THE 6 HOUR WALK TO BASECAMP BUT I KNEW I HAD TO GET THROUGH THE ICEFALL BEFORE I COULD CELEBRATE MY CLIMB PROPERLY. I WAS PATHETIC AND CRIED BECAUSE I COULDN'T PUT MY THERMOREST INTO ITS HOLDER, I THINK ALL EVIDENCE POINTED TO SHEER EXHAUSTION AND AN URGENT NEED TO DESCEND!!