

APRIL 4TH

AFTER A FRIGID NIGHT I WAS AWOKEN AT 8.00AM BY ONE OF OUR SHERPAS WITH HOT TEA, SO GREAT. WE THEN HAD BREAKFAST AND AT 10.00 WE HAD OUR PUJA CEREMONY. I COULD SEE DAVID BREASHEARS AND ALL THEIR TEAM ALSO HAVING THEIR PUJA AT THE SAME TIME AS US. IT WAS INCREDIBLE THE CEREMONY, WE ALL SAT WHILST THE LAMA, PERTEMBA AND ALL OUR HIGH ALTITUDE SHERPAS CHANTED AND THROUGH RICE AND BURNT JUNIPER. IT WAS QUITE A CEREMONY AND I FELT A LITTLE EMOTIONAL AS I PRAYED THAT WE WOULD ALL COME BACK SAFELY. WE MADE FOOD OFFERINGS TO THE GODS THAT ARE TO PROTECT US DURING OUR CLIMB AND THEN THERE WAS A LOT OF CHANG AND BEER DRUNK! IT WAS VERY BEAUTIFUL AS THEY RAISED THE PRAYER FLAGS AND THE CHILEAN FLAG WAS RAISED INTO THE SKY.. I SNUCK ON THE HSBC FLAG AND THE EVE APPEAL FLAG WHICH ARE THE TWO FLAGS IM TRYING TO TAKE TO THE SUMMIT AND HAD THEM BLESSED FOR MY SAFE JOURNEY. I THOUGHT TO MYSELF THAT I REALLY HOPE I CAN TAKE THEM HIGHER THAN BASECAMP.

DAVID BREASEARS CAME OVER TO OUR PUJA CEREMONY, HE IS SO HIGHLY REGARDED HERE AND OUR SHERPAS WERE ALL VERY EXCITED TO SEE HIM AND MOST OF THEM HAD WORKED WITH HIM ON PREVIOUS EXPEDITIONS. HE GAVE ME THE MOST BEAUTIFUL JOURNAL WITH A PICTURE OF TENZING NORGAY ON THE SUMMIT OF EVEREST AND A BEAUTIFUL INSCRIPTION. I WAS VERY TOUCHED AT HIS THOUGHTFULNESS.

I WENT WITH HIM OVER TO THEIR CAMP WHICH IS NEXT TO OURS AND THEY HAVE A GREAT MESS TENT WITH TIBETAN RUGS THROUGHOUT. I CHATTED TO STEVEN DALDRY AND JOHN FINCH THE TWO DIRECTORS OF THE MOVIE THAT THEY ARE MAKING AND WE ARE ALL GOING INTO THE ICE FALL FOR THE FIRST TIME TOMORROW. IM SO IMPRESSED THAT JOHN AND STEVEN ARE GOING IN..THEY BOTH LOOK FIT AND RELAXED AND I PRAY THEY DON'T FIND ME FROZEN WITH FEAR ON ONE OF THE LADDERS! I SAW ED VIEUSTERS AND MET JIMMYCHIN WHO LOOKED VERY COOL, HE IS AN AMAZING CLIMBER APPARENTLY SO ILL BE LOOKING FOR ALL THE TIPS THAT I CAN GET FROM THESE GUYS. IM GOING OVER TO THEIR TENT FOR DINNER TOMORROW NIGHT AS HALF OUR TEAM ARE GOING WITH ANDRONICO TO TAKE HIS TWO SISTERS GABRIELLA AND PAULA WHO HAVE BEEN TREKKING IN WITH US BACK DOWN TO LOBUCHÉ WHERE THEY ARE FLYING TO KATMANDU BY HELICOPTER. THEY HAVE BEEN AMAZING, HAVING NEVER BEEN THIS HIGH BEFORE THEY BOTH FEEL AT HOME HERE AT BASECAMP AND ARE FEELING GREAT. I THINK THE TEAM WILL BE VERY SAD TO SEE THEM GO AND NOW I WILL BE THE ONLY GIRL, THEIR GRINGA AS THEY CALL ME! I THINK I'VE TAKEN UP WAY TOO MUCH TIME IN THE COMMUNICATIONS TENT SO ILL REPORT BACK WHEN IV BEEN INTO THE ICE FALL, AND I HAVE TO TELL U IM EXTREMELY NERVOUS ABOUT IT!!!