

MAY 5TH - KHONGMA LA PASS 5,535M

WE HAD BREAKFAST AT 8.00AM, I TRIED NOT TO THINK OF THE HELICOPTER THAT WAS TAKING THE GIRLS BACK TO CIVILISATION, AND WE HEADED OUT TOWARDS THE KHONGMA LA PASS THAT WOULD TAKE US TO CHUKHUNG WHERE WE WERE DUE TO SPEND A NIGHT. IT WAS A LONG CLIMB OVER A MORAINÉ GLACIER ( THE KHUMBU) AND THEN A LONG STEEP CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE PASS. AT THE TOP OF THE PASS WERE TWO ITALIAN GIRLS WHOM ANDRONICO INVITED TO COME AND VISIT US AT BASECAMP, BUT THEY INFORMED US THAT THERE WAS NOTHING INTERESTING TO SEE AT BASECAMP AND THEY WERE GOING TO KALA PATTAR ONLY!!

WE STARTED THE LONG DESCENT INTO CHUKHUNG AND I WATCHED WITH INTEREST TO SEE HOW LONG THE REST OF THE TEAM SPENT CHATTING TO THE ITALIANS AT THE TOP OF THE PASS!! ANDRONICO AND I CHATTED BRIEFLY TO AN AUSTRALIAN TEAM WHO HAD BEEN CLIMBING ISLAND PEAK AND A FEW OTHERS AND THEY ALL WANTED TO KNOW IF I KNEW ANDREW LOCK! HAVING TOLD THEM HE CLIMBED WITH US OCCASIONALLY WE HEADED DOWN, I WAS STARVING AT THIS POINT.

EVENTUALLY AFTER 5 HRS 50 MINS WE ARRIVED AT OUR LODGE AND I AM NOW WRITING THIS HAVING SERIOUSLY OVER EATEN, TALKING ABOUT MY EYES BEING TOO BIG FOR MY STOMACH. AT THIS RATE I WONT EVEN BE ABLE TO GET INTO MY HIGH ALTITUDE DOWN SUIT, WHICH I REALLY DO LOOK LIKE IM OFF ON SOME NASA EXCURSION WHEN I WHERE IT!!

IM SITTING WITH THE TEAM AROUND A YAK DUNG BLAZING FIRE AND THEY ARE ALL PLAYING CARDS RATHER LOUDLY AS IM WRITING MY JOURNAL. IVE HEARD THE MEXICANS, THE GREEKS AND TED ARE PLANNING TO TRY AND SUMMIT AROUND 6TH AND 7TH MAY AS THERE IS SUPPOSED TO BE A WINDOW THEN. RIGHT NOW I FEEL VERY REMOVED FROM EVEREST SO IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS ID BETTER HOLD BACK ON THE CHOCOLATE BARS AND RE FOCUS ON GETTING TO THE TOP.

GOODNIGHT FROM A WARM YAK HEATED LODGE WITH TALK OF TWO ITALIAN GIRLS PREVALENT AROUND THE CARD TABLE!!