

MARCH 27TH - NAMCHE BAZAR - KHUMJUNG

NAMCHE BAZAR IS THE LAST MOST CIVILIZED STOP ON OUR WAY TO BASECAMP. BY SAYING CIVILIZED, I MEAN NOW I WILL HAVE NO MORE E-MAIL SERVICE UNTIL WE ARRIVE AT BASECAMP SO THIS WILL BE MY LAST INPUT UNTIL APRIL 2ND WHEN WE ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE AT BASE CAMP. WE STAYED AT PANORAMA LODGE AND BY SHEER CO INCIDENCE ANDRONICO MET UP WITH A GUY THAT HE HAD AN ARGUMENT WITH OVER PUSHING HIS SEAT TOO MUCH, ON THE PLANE TO ANTARCTICA WHEN HE ATTEMPTED A "NEW ROUTE" ON MOUNT VINSON ( ONE OF THE SEVEN SUMMITS). THEY ARE SUBSEQUENTLY NOW VERY FRIENDLY, AND NICO, WHO IS GREEK IS ALSO HERE TO TRY AND CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST. I UPDATED MY DIARY, TWICE ACTUALLY, AS THE FIRST TIME THE COMPUTER CRASHED MUCH TO MY ANNOYANCE. WE THEN PREPARED TO MOVE TO KHUMJUNG ON MARCH 26TH AFTER LUNCH.

IT IS AN EASY 2 HOUR WALK OVER THE HILL TO KHUMJUNG, IT IS PERHAPS MOST FAMOUS FOR SIR EDMUND HILLARY'S SCHOOL WHICH HE HAS WORKED EXTREMELY HARD ON OVER THE YEARS. THERE IS A STATUE OF HIM JUST INFRONT OF THE SCHOOL. AFTER SEEING THIS I WALKED PAST THE AMADABLAM LODGE AND BUMPED INTO MY FRIEND DAVID BREASHEARS WHO WAS THERE WITH HIS GROUP, WHOM AS I MENTIONED EARLIER ARE FILMING A BIG MOVIE PROJECT ON THE 1996 EVEREST DISASTER. DAVID ASIDE (HE HAS CLIMBED EVEREST 4 TIMES), I WAS THEN INTRODUCED TO HIS INTIMIDATINGLY GOOD TEAM OF CLIMBERS WHICH INCLUDED ED VIESTEURS, JIMMY CHIN, AND A FINNISH GUY, WHO ALL HAVE ABOUT 28 ASCENTS OF EVEREST ACCUMALITIVELY BETWEEN THEM. THEY HAD A WOMAN GUIDE CALLED AMY WITH THEM WHO WORKS FOR EXUM MOUNTAIN GUIDES IN JACKSON HOLE, SHE IS A VERY IMPRESSIVE CLIMBER TOO AND IS TAKING THE MOVIE 'S DIRECTORS OVER THE KHUMBU ICEFALL AND UP TO CAMP 1 OR EVEN HIGHER IF THEY ARE FEELING GOOD! SHE WILL ALSO TRY AND MAKE THE SUMMIT OF MOUNT EVEREST CLIMBING ALONGSIDE DAVID, ED AND CO. BEFORE I TURNED AROUND AND BOLTED BACK TO KATMANDU GETTING MORE INTIMIDATED SPENDING TOO MUCH TIME WITH THIS IMPRESSIVE BUNCH OF CLIMBERS WHO WERE ALL INCIDENTALLY, EXTREMELY NICE, I MADE MY WAY TO THE EVEREST BAKERY IN KHUMJUNG ( THE EVEREST BAKERY IS FAMOUS HERE AND THERE IS ONE IN NAMCHE AND ONE IN KHUMJUNG!) AND ATE TWO PIECES OF APPLE PIE AND TRIED TO RELAX A BIT AND CONVINCING MYSELF I CAN DO THIS!!

DUE TO 3 OF US BEING ILL WITH FLU WE NOW HAVE A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PLAN. WE ARE SPENDING AN EXTRA DAY IN KHUMJUNG SO WE CAN TRY AND RECOVER BEFORE GOING HIGHER ( RECOVERY IS IMPOSSIBLE HIGHER UP AS THE AIR IS SO DRY AND THE COUGHING GETS WORSE AND PROBABLY EVEN MORE IRRITATING FOR THE REST OF THE GROUP!) IT IS MY REST DAY AND I HAVE ZOOMED OVER THE HILL TO NAMCHE BAZAR AGAIN SO I CAN WRITE MY DIARY! WE ARE MEETING THE GROUP THIS AFTERNOON AT THE EVEREST VIEW HOTEL ABOVE KHUMJUNG AND WE WILL HOPEFULLY HAVE OUR FIRST GLIMPSE OF THE MAGNIFICENT MOUNTAIN HERSELF. YESTERDAY IT WAS TOO CLOUDY AND DAVID BREASHEARS TOLD ME THAT UP HIGH ON EVEREST YESTERDAY THE WINDS WOULD HAVE BEEN 100MPH FOR SURE. I WAS DEFINITELY GLAD TO BE IN KHUMJUNG!!

OUR TREKKING ROUTE IS TAKING US UP TO GOKYO LAKES. WE WILL LEAVE FOR DOLE TOMORROW, SPEND ONE NIGHT AT MACHERMO AND THEN WE WILL GO TO GOKYO FROM

THERE. FROM GOKYO, WE WILL CLIMB GOKYO REE, A VIEWING POINT AT 5,360 METRES AND THEN WE WILL CLIMB OVER THE CHOLA PASS TO DZONGLHA. FROM DZONGLHA WE WILL HEAD TO LOBUCHÉ AND HOPEFULLY ARRIVE AT BASECAMP ON 2ND APRIL. YOU CAN SEE OUR WHOLE ROUTE ON THE MAP ATTACHED IN MY JOURNAL SECTION. I HAVE TO SCOOT BACK OVER TO KHUNJUNG NOW AND SO NOW IM LEAVING THE LAST INTERNET CAFE FOR AWHILE! I THINK MY FLU IS GETTING BETTER AND THE GROUP IS ALL PRETTY CHEERFUL! ADIOS FROM NAMCHE!