

MAY 8TH BACK TO BASECAMP

WE HAD A LAZY GET UP AND BREAKFAST AND AT ABOUT 10.30AM ANDRONICO AND I STARTED TO WALK BACK TO BASECAMP. IM SUFFERING FROM AN ANXIETY ATTACK AND HAVE BEEN FEELING SICK AND FAINT ALL MORNING AND I THINK ITS DUE TO OUR UP AND COMING SUMMIT ATTEMPT AND AS TO WHEN ITS ACTUALLY GOING TO TAKE PLACE. ONE MINUTE I HEAR WE ARE GOING UP IN TWO DAYS AND THEN WE ARE WAITING A WEEK. INTERNALLY IM A BAG OF NERVES. EN ROUTE TO BASECAMP I SAW SOMEONE IN THE AGGOLATOS HAT AND I STOPPED HIM TO FIND OUT WHETHER THE GREEKS HAD GONE FOR THE SUMMIT TODAY - TODAY WAS A SUMMIT DAY NOT A CLOUD OF WIND ON THE TOP OF EVEREST. IT TURNS OUT THAT IT WAS PAVO THE GREEK SPONSOR WHO WAS CHARMING AND INFORMED US THAT THE GREEK TEAM HAD NOT GONE FOR THE SUMMIT, IN FACT THEY WERE GOING DOWN TO DINGBOCHE FOR 2 DAYS AS THEIR WEATHER REPORT STILL PREDICTED HIGH WINDS FOR THE NEXT FEW DAYS. PAVO WAS HEADED TO THE NORTHERN SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN TO SEE HOW HIS TEAM WERE FARING THAT SIDE. HE RE ITERATED THAT OBVIOUSLY HE WANTS TO PLACE THE FIRST GREEKS ON THE SUMMIT OF EVEREST BUT SAFETY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PRIORITY... WE BID GOODBYE AND THEN WE BUMPED INTO ANOTHER FRIEND CALLED CRAIG FROM MOUNTAIN LINK.. THEIR CLIENTS HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN ILL, ONE LADY GOT PREGANT AND HER HUSBAND THEN GOT PULMINARY EDEMA AND WAS VERY CLOSE TO DYING. LUCKILY THEY ARE BOTH FINE AND DELIGHTED ABOUT HER PREGNANCY. CRAIG WAS HEADED DOWN FOR A FEW DAYS ALSO, IT SEEMS EVERYONE IS WAITING FOR THE WINDOW AROUND MID MAY TO TRY FOR THE SUMMIT. WE THEN BUMPED INTO SPIROS AND THE GREEK TEAM ON THEIR WAY TO DINGBOCHE FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS AND I INTRODUCED THEM ALL TO ANDRONICO. SPIROS IS THE EXPEDITION LEADER OF THE GREEK TEAM ON THE SOUTH SIDE AND APPARENTLY IS CAUSING QUITE A STIR IN BASECAMP AS HE IS VERY GOODLOOKING!!!

THATS ON THE SHERPA NETWORK!! I WAS FEELING AWFUL AND THE KNOT IN MY STOMACH INTENSIFIED NEARER BASECAMP, I THINK I MIGHT NEED TO START MEDITATING, ITS THIS WAITING AROUND FOR SOMETHING POTENTIALLY LIFE THREATENING THAT IM FINDING PRETTY TOUGH TO DEAL WITH.

LOU ANNE AND AMY CAME AND VISITED OUR CAMP, AMY WAS COMPLAINING OF THE SAME WAITING STRESS BUT THEY ARE GOING UP TODAY AND TOMORROW FOR FILIMING SUPPOSEDLY BUT I THINK THEY ARE WAITING TO GO FOR THE SUMMIT.. I WANT SOMEONE ELSE TO GO FIRST TO BREAK TRAIL AND FIX SOME ROPES SO I HOPE IT HAPPENS FOR THEM.. NOTHING MUCH ELSE TO REPORT FROM BASECAMP, IM FORBIDDEN TO GO AND VISIT PEOPLE FOR FEAR OF PICKING UP THIS STOMACH VIRUS SO IM READING ALL THE MAGAZINES THAT LISA GAVE ME LYING IN THE SUN, TRYING TO FORGET ABOUT THE SUMMIT. THERE WERRE FOUR BIG AVALANCHES IN THE NIGHT, ONE IN THE ICEFALL JUST ANOTHER REMINDER HOW FRAGILE THE ICEFALL IS.

