

## Tamara Lunger's Passion

Thanks to the IMS (International Mountain Summit) of Bressanone I have met Tamara Lunger, protagonist of the key speech on Saturday 13th October, to talk about her passions, her projects, her future. We met in the hall of the Brixen Forum, among the musicians that did the sound check for the evening. Tamara arrived from the Walk and Talk of the day to Saint Cross of Lazfons Mountain Hut, smiling and kind, and very sorry for the misunderstanding of the previous day (she passed over our organized appointment) There is noise, and loud music, but we can quietly talk without being interrupted. The only working electronic device is my iPhone that perfectly records our discourse, and my Canon.

-The last time I have read about you in the news, it has been in spring, for your withdrawal from the Lange Weg (1) . Do you want to tell me how it has gone? (And it is evident that of this last experience she is not particularly satisfied)

" The idea is very beautiful, I liked it a lot and I will surely do it again in the future , but not this year . It was not well organised, we were seven strangers that did not mix together at all. We quarreled all the time about the things to do.

-The muscular problems have now passed however.

"Yes yes, everything is okay now"

And it is also clear that for her the climbing partner is very important.

-With Simone Moro you have formed a team that in my opinion marks a turning point in the role of women in the alpine community. Tamara and Simone are absolutely equal

"I like a lot to go to mountains with him, a lot , because by now we know well each other and, moreover, he knows how to deal with me, if he must leave me alone or spur me. And oh, there is another thing, I am the more sentimental, more sensitive part and he is more effective, rational. "Tami now we must climb with our head and not with the heart and therefore we wait for another day and then we go" he tells me and most of the times I have to tell him, Simo you were right. And this is giving and receiving and growing together. Once he has said "I feel as safe and protected with Tamara as with any other male companion . Tamara is strong enough, and good enough to take me out of the shit, if shit might happen." This is a beautiful compliment to me: he says that I am the strongest mountain climber that he has seen "

Tamara smiles. Simone has made indeed her the most beautiful possible compliment: with her he feels safe. He knows that in any difficult circumstance he can count on her, as he counted on Anatoli Bukreev the great Kazakhistani mountain climber who died during the winter ascension of Annapurna, when Simone Moro miraculously survived.

As I told you before, there are not so many women like you.

"They perhaps think about not being able, in Himalaya I see a lot of female climbers that go with the oxygen and the sherpas, to me it is not interesting at all, perhaps for them it is important, they don't perhaps think to be able to do more. But I do think that it is important to have a companion who does the things exactly like I want them done and in Simone I have found my match.

However, I don't see me equal or better than someone else, I always want to grow better. For me each person has his/her character and his/her talent and ability"

-Last night Robert Jasper described his solo adventures in Greenland, said said that, even if he loves a lot climbing with others, with his family or with his friends, he also feels the need, every now and then, to be completely alone in the mountains. What do you think of it? Has T ever come this temptation?

I am already thinking from some that I should perhaps depart for a thing so, perhaps not so difficult, it would surely be beautiful because you really understand what you can do, you must always be attentive, on the edge: the danger, the food, the logistics and then your feelings, your head, you must have everything under control. You grow a lot.

How do you feel here in Bressanone?

"It is like being at home. I/you/they have come here the first year, I have followed all the lectures, I was beginning my climbing career and I wanted to be like them. It was like a school"

- And you have now become one of them. And now, your future?

"After the last experiences I must understand what I really want, whether to go on with the 8000 whether to devote to the adventure travels. I have already decided that I don't want to be in a crowded base camp, this for me is very important, and then I must find other destinations where nobody has already been or do something else

- Well, certainly you have not found a lot of people at the Pik Pobeda this winter. Also that of the Pik Pobeda has been an extreme adventure, an isolated mountain in one of the coldest and most inhospitable places of the earth, in Siberia, whose base camp is attainable only in sleigh and with temperatures that in some cases have grazed the seventy degrees under zero."

"At the Pik Pobeda, there was nobody, indeed a very beautiful place. It is a world apart, where I dare say there are real men, it is a savage life we have forgot, we are no more forced to go out of our comfort zones, if you don't try, you don't how hard it is realize. Indeed you understand there how is it to live to the limit and to feel like an ant next to this very beautiful nature. And if you are at camp three of the Nanga in winter, you look out at a beautiful sunset, with all the high mountains around and you say oh sh...t, I am one of the few that can see this, and I feel so proud to have this possibility. Very few people before me and I am now here. I belong to this small group. You have to face this with a lot of respect, for me this is a sacred energy."

- Talking about extreme situations, what is the limit for you?

"Limit when you lose your life; if you arrive close to it you can understand more about yourself if you have still some sort of control, if you are in panic, if you go out of head. You see everything clearly."

- Your last dream?

"My dream would be to move with the wind, with the nature, in India when I have flown with the paraglide, I have flown with the eagles, it was exhilarating."