



Yes... it's a blurry photograph. Certainly not one I would consider high quality. But, it defines a moment during a 7-month adventure as the one I'll remember most. The Solar Eclipse was spectacular. But even more so, this image brings back every minute of the 5-hour drive through the darkness to arrive at dawn in a landscape we had never seen. It brings back every minute we anxiously waited for the Eclipse to begin, pacing the hillside, talking with other excited folks who had driven many hours as well, building small rock towers next to the car, eating granola bars and watching two small aircraft circle overhead. I knew the pilot's perspectives were unlike anything anyone on the ground could possibly imagine. It brings back every minute we watched the sky slowly turn to cobalt blue, the grass turn to brilliant gold, the pines turn to a purple green and the air turn to crystal. It brings back every minute I stood next to Conrad as the Moon was nearing its "total" position and seeing the stars come back out. And when the Moon was finally in place, I said to Conrad, "let's get a photo of ourselves."

It wasn't until several hours later that I looked at this photograph and was stunned. When I took this shot, I was unaware that Conrad was not looking into the camera. To me, this blurry snapshot says a great deal about that event. It expresses our fascination, our astonishment, our place, and our connection with each other. For one of the few times in my life, I was witnessing perfection and I had a photograph of it.

However, this printed image does not capture what the Moon and Sun really looked like during the Eclipse. It doesn't capture the turbulent shadow that raced across the ground. It doesn't capture the sudden drop in temperature. It doesn't capture the breeze that came from nowhere. It doesn't capture the gathered crowd's cheers and applause. It doesn't capture the cosmic energy that went through everyone standing there. A photograph can't capture all of that. You had to be there to witness all of those sights, sounds and emotions. But what this photograph will continue to do long after it was taken— it will remind me of that extraordinary day. It will remind me how important it is to be outside... to make the effort to go long distances to witness something you may never have the chance to see again. It will remind me how important it is to share these experiences with your children. And, it will remind me of how incredibly fortunate my life has been.

It will forever remind me that the source for inner peace and wellness is found Out Here.

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