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Domoguen: Technology and nature's crown for me

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[Mountain Light](#)

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MARY Hensley's package was picked-up by my wife at the Baguio Post Office March 9, 2011. It came with a book, a New York Times Bestseller entitled, "Three Cups of Tea." The book was written by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin.

Coming home late in the evening, I listened to my wife's impressions about the package Mary sent from across the globe, before hurrying to pack my things for a weeklong trip in the boondocks. No I did not pack right away but went through the package and the things that were excitedly reported to me by my wife.

I browsed the book from my American friend and now one among my mentors. The book, as the cover says, is about one man's mission to promote peace in the Taliban's backyard --- the impoverished villages in the Karakoram Mountains in Pakistan. Mary wrote on the cover of the book about her own impressions after reading it. She said that Mortenson is "a fellow Montanan." She hinted that someday she would be able to write about her experiences in the Cordillera. She got me hooked and got me reading through three out of twenty three chapters including the introduction. I jumped to chapter twenty three and completed it to get a feel of Mary's impressions. I like the book already and committed myself to read it through soon and in good time.

From what I know about Mary and my initial impression of Mortenson from my reading and the endorsement of my friend, I dare say, both had eyes that see beauty in otherwise harsh and difficult places of the globe. They carry this passion to share their lives with marginalized villages; making their ideas, caring hearts and hands joined with the villagers to come out with extraordinary outcomes for the uplift of the human condition.

The other contents of the package, I believe relates to this same message. Mary returned seven packets of heirloom rice nicely packed in two cartoon boxes. Each packet represented 7 varieties of Unoy and Tinawon that were beautifully labelled showing the Eighth Wonder label, a description of the heirloom rice and its origin. The rice nutritional content for each packet is also well encrypted. Part of the information that comes with each packet is a recommendation on how to cook the rice including several menus. I understand, the menus were prepared and tested with a variety of chefs and potential customers in the U.S.A. There were menus that suggest these were contributed by Filipinos and Asians.

The packaged rice came in the form they are distributed in the U.S market. I find the plastic packet that contains the rice unique, not ordinary. It is biodegradable plastic and projected to contain a maximum quality shelf-life of 1-2 years, reported Ms. Maria Victoria, Executive Director of RICE, Inc. Transported to customers, the packed rice occupy spaces inside a handy cartoon container packed with protective wood straws and foams. Overall, I agree that the packaging enhances the value and image of heirloom rice as a real life-giving food intertwined with a great story of the people, their culture and aspirations. "The package comes with a message of love, caring and sharing of lives," my wife said.

If that be so, and incorporating the role of technology in making the package so attractive, protected, tracked and delivered fast - that just made for me the crowning glory of nature and technology. It is a package about people caring and sharing their visions and the best of their lives. Sustained and enhanced, it may yet leave inspiring chronicles and testaments to the humanitarian quest of making communities vibrant and safe, even in the production, packaging and sharing of a bowl of mountain rice.

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