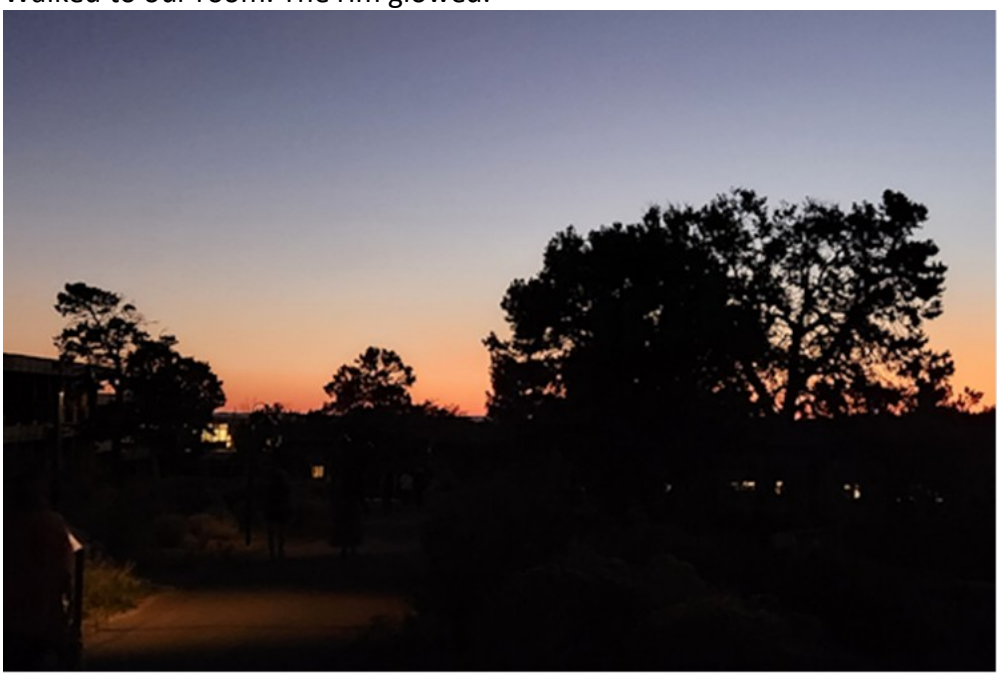
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 9:32 PM
Subject: Postcard

Last night Sheila had shrimp with cilantro-lime rice and chipotle cream sauce, while I dined on elk Bolognese with fresh mozzarella over bucatini pasta, in the dining room at El Tovar Hotel, on the south rim of the Grand Canyon. Both dishes were accompanied with a mixture of green beans with true baby carrots. We told our waiter Joe that we'd eaten here, on and off, for 20 years or so and that was just their best meal ever. I mean it's been an overpriced faux-fancy joint for a long time and we were not expecting actual quality. So Joe said he'd worked there for *23 years* and would we like dessert?

Well, in fact we DID want dessert. El Tovar has made a flourless chocolate torte for as long as we can remember and it's primo. We told Joe we wanted 2 servings to take back to our room because we were sentimental about it because the first time we climbed up the canyon from Phantom Ranch we went straight to El Tovar and ate flourless chocolate torte to celebrate! We were pumped with adrenaline! Then we were pumped with chocolate! It was incredible! Joe said OK and were we ready for the check.

Walked to our room. The rim glowed.



We ate our flourless chocolate torte. We glowed.

Heck with Joe.

Two ravens wished us luck as we headed to the West Rim Trail in the morning.

Ahhhhh, our kind of red rock.

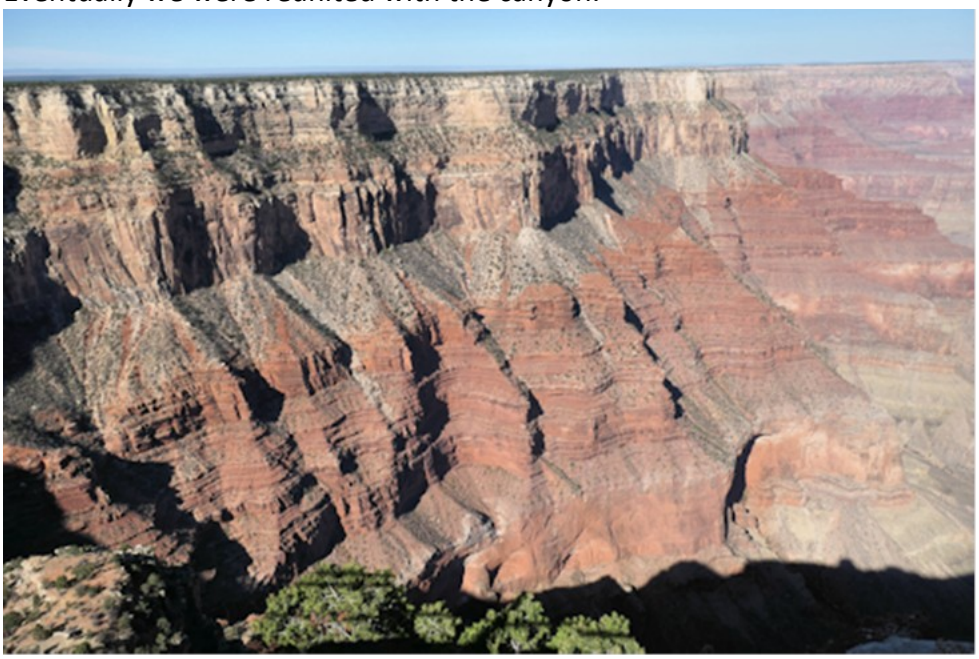
The first part of the West Rim Trail was as we remembered it.

Q: When is a rim trail not a rim trail?
A: When it leaves the rim.

After a while the trail veered into the woods. It was nicely paved and clearly marked but nowhere near the rim.

It was a new trail. The old trail was fenced off, apparently in accordance with 36CFR1.5 which, if you look it up, says “Tough Luck. We Are the Government.”

Eventually we were reunited with the canyon.



The ground squirrels were happy.

The ravens were happy.

OK, OK, and we were happy.

We love this place.

D&S