

drinking water no more than a teaspoon of sea salt daily which the attendees were given. RAY teaches hydration.

9. Essad did not know what to expect but RAY told them each person will have their own experience/vision.

10. ESSAD said he knew it would be very hot and dirty. He did not expect to experience visions; knew he would experience an altered state. He knew from attending other RAY events that he would not have visions. He did not have any visions in the sweat lodge.

11. RAY told the attendees if anyone wanted to leave the sweat lodge, they had to wait until the session they were in, ended and the door opened/more rocks brought in. Essad believes the first and second sessions each lasted about 20 minutes; each after that was a few minutes until the last one that was 10 minutes. He thinks the entire time in the sweat lodge was 2 hours. There were 8 sessions.

12. RAY told the attendees it would be really hot. (Essad said the lodge builder said it was the hottest fire he had ever built.) Essad said he knew this going in. It was very difficult inside. At the 6th round, it was very hot. Essad was ready to leave, but somehow found it within himself the power and energy to push his body to stay what he believed to be the full 2 hours. (his guess)

13. Yes. RAY spoke and gave instructions, like a personal trainer, words of encouragement. RAY told attendees, since it was so crowded, to lie down if they got too hot (since it would be cooler nearer the ground) or move away from the fire if the heat got too intense and switch positions with someone else.

14. The attendees were also encouraging each other to remain. There was a man, Lou Caci, who said he had to get out. RAY told him to go clockwise, but Lou got confused in the dark and went counter-clockwise and in doing so placed his hands on a rock in the fire; burned his right hand; screamed and then crawled out. Essad wasn't sure if someone helped Lou out of the lodge.

15. The two deceased victims.

16. No. Essad said he thinks a total of 10 people were pulled out including: the 2 deceased victims: 2 others who had passed out whom Essad helped drag outside; and 6 others who had passed out.

17. Essad thought he had filled out medical forms, but is not sure. Staff Member Josh Frederickson did not have any health information on the deceased victims when he was asked at the site. One attendee (woman Essad doesn't remember who) asked if the sweat lodge would effect her high blood pressure. RAY told her it would raise it. The woman left the lodge after the 3rd round. He thinks it might have been Lynette. When she crawled out, Essad says, she obviously was on her own power.

18. Essad said by the 6th round, he had trouble breathing; tingling in his left hand like circulation cut off; same thing happened with his left foot. Essad has not had symptoms since.

19. Yes. During the sweat lodge activity, someone in the NE part of lodge turned on a flashlight; RAY said "turn flashlight off". What Essad understood was that the flashlight was a violation of the sweat lodge ceremony.

20. Essad says at the end, he was still inside; the 2 deceased victims laying there (whom he did not know were dead at the time); (see # 16) Essad got up and helped with the victims and even attempted CPR on one of them.

21. No.

22. No. Ray did say that in order to be born you had to die first; the sweat lodge is like the mother's womb; when you finish the exercise you are re-born.

23. Essad said that the response to the victims and other sick people, based on resources was as good as it could be under the circumstances. Previously, at the 2008 Hawaii event that Essad attended, he advised RAY staff member (CHERYL LNU no longer employed by RAY) that there should be at least 1 EMT hired for every event. Essad said at the Hawaii event, as part of an exercise of breaking wood with one's arm, a woman attendee broke her arm, and there was no immediate medical attention available. Essad continued: RAY was like a personal trainer, telling the attendees to push themselves beyond their pre-conceived limits. Ray verbally prevented 2 people from leaving the sweat lodge and told them they had to wait for the sweat lodge door to be opened. Essad also said that neither the Angel Valley Resort nor Ray had a defibrillator in case someone suffered a heart attack. (Someone had asked during the CPR of James Shore if Angel Valley or RAY's staff had a defibrillator)

24. When Essad had trouble breathing (RAY may not have been aware of this), Essad lay down in the 7th round; got a burst of energy; then had no more trouble breathing.

25. Essad chose not to leave; it was his choice; he didn't want to quit.

26. No. But RAY told the men attendees to drag those passed out since they had more body strength.

27. Essad realized something was wrong 5 minutes after the last round ended and when he left the sweat lodge and then tried to give CPR to on James (Shore).

28. Couldn't say.

29. No.

30. RAY provided nothing in writing to Essad about his training in sweat lodges. RAY said he had studied with Native Americans; had been initiated into studies with Indians; been in the jungles with the Indians and to Machu Pichu, Peru. Since 2003, Essad said that Ray has held at least 7 events with sweat lodges; Ray said he wouldn't do this again. Essad said this had been a positive experience for him. Essad also said that 2 of the attendees (he believes they were 2 Iranian sisters) left on Tuesday before the sweat lodge because the pendulum gave them a sign not to go to the sweat lodge.

Essad said if he had to do it all over again, he would still go into the sweat lodge.

Interview conducted by:
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