

*I/V Laura Tucker by Det. Willingham #C36

On 10/27/09, at approximately 1000 hours, I spoke with Laura Tucker by telephone. I audio recorded the conversation and the following is a summary.

Laura learned about James Ray through the DVD "The Secret" in January 2008. She then enrolled in the Harmonic Wealth weekend first then attended Quantum Leap, Creating Absolute Wealth, Modern Magic, Practical Mysticism and Spiritual Warrior.

Laura had never been in a sweat lodge. She has been inside a sauna. The difference was the sweat lodge was more intense, dark with a large group of people with the intention to have this experience together and celebrate all the work they did.

James introduced them to Ted as experienced at building the sweat lodges and are the same ones who built the fire to heat the rocks. James Ray explained in the classroom that they all needed to get drinking water and take salt so she drank a lot of water. Laura explained the Vision Quest was a wonderful experience and wished they had stopped the event there. Some emotion showed through as Laura spoke with me. James said the sweat lodge would be dark and hot and then they left to change into shorts or swim wear.

They met down at the sweat lodge, where James Ray explained this will be a very sacred event. Then they went into the lodge. I asked where she was located.

Laura then said she had a question for me, because she has things to add to her statement. She wanted to know when her statement would become public. I explained at the close of the case.

Laura was beside Liz Neuman, who was on her right. Laura was at the east in the outer circle because there was no inner circle in front of her. Danielle Grandquist was on her left, Laurie Gennari was on her right. Liz came and sat down between Laura and Laurie. Laura said she told Liz "I'm so glad you are here because I am nervous". Laura said Liz was one of the Dream Team and she knew Liz had done the sweat lodge at least 3 times before.

Laura said that Liz began to coach Laura and reassure her. Liz told Laura if it gets to intense to put her face onto the ground toward the edge of the tent that it would be cooler and to also go into "child's pose" (a yoga pose) to help. Laura described a lot of ritual involved in the ceremony. Laura said she does not remember much of that, she was very consumed with taking care of herself. She was very uncomfortable early on. Laura said she realized that she needed to lay down. She put her head to the exterior, but struggled the first three rounds. She, Danielle and Liz would tap each other on the arm to keep tabs on each other.

Laura said after the third round she seemed to calm down and her breathing changed to shallow, but she was all right. Then Liz changed her position and did exactly the opposite to what she told them to do. She went forward in child's pose with her head facing the stones. Laura described herself in a flow state. Laura nudged Liz's hip and told her to come back here with us. Liz shook her off. Liz then changed her position again and she sat up and leaned back onto Laura's legs and it was very uncomfortable. Laura remembered it took a lot of effort to support her. Laura could not support that and flipped her legs out to better support Liz. Laurie at some point flipped her knees toward Laura and helped support Liz.

Before the seventh round she got very concerned about Liz. Laura then spoke up saying, "James I'm concerned about Liz". Laura said she did not get an answer. Laura said she said it again a little louder. James answered, saying Liz has done this many times before Laura, she knows what she is doing. Laura then reached up and grabbed Liz's shoulder and asked her if she was all right. Liz answered with "yes". Laura asked Liz if she needed to get out. Liz answered "no". At the end of the seventh round Laurie had to get out and then the eighth round went. As it ended Laura said someone come help Liz and she then got herself out.

No safety procedures were discussed. I asked if Liz was lucid when she answered. Laura said "I don't know". Laura said Liz did not delay in her response as best she could recall.

Laura did not see when someone left other than through the door. She heard people expressing discomfort, but could not recall what they were saying. Laura said she does not recall much chanting in the later rounds.

Laura did not fill out any medical or health questions.

Laura did not have any physical symptoms other than needing to drink a "ton" of water and electrolytes and being very tired. Laura expressed that the entire scene following the sweat lodge made her feel totally sick. Laura was very upset and when she learned that Liz was one that was in bad shape she was very stressed. Laura knew she was dehydrated, but other than that she was well. Laura really hoped Liz would recover so she could get a chance to speak with her about what happened.

Laura vaguely remembers a light came in from another section, because it was pitch dark inside, any light that came in was very obvious. Laura did not remember who was still inside when she left. Laura knew Laurie left and thought Danielle was still inside. Laura discovered Danielle had left much earlier once she was outside, because Danielle was helping those coming outside. Laura did not remember Danielle going out.

Laura never remembered hearing anyone say they thought they were going to die or having a heart attack. Laura explained that James Ray uses the metaphor that something has to die for something new to come to life.

Laura remembered finding Laurie and getting hosed off with cold water, which she said felt very good. Laura said it was a while before she was able to get up, but once it was clear there were people still needing care. Laura looked inside to see if anyone else was still inside and did not see anyone. She then realized she did not have the strength to help anyone else so she sat back down. She saw James Ray sitting in a chair and he just seemed to be watching everyone. Laura still had not realized there were people in really bad shape, and as she sat there, she felt some exhilaration as to what she had just accomplished, something very difficult and the relief of not being inside anymore.

Laura said she slid back and huddled up with Laurie, who asked for a towel. Laura got Laurie a towel and it was then she saw James Shore and saw CPR being performed. Laura was not able to see Kirby. Laura said she did not know CPR or first aid, she did say she saw James Ray walk over to where Kirby and James were and he had a look of concern on his face.

Laura told me the obvious thing she can think of that caused three people to die was the heat. Laura still seems baffled as to the direct cause.

No one has talked to Laura about what to say if questioned.

Laura said she is not aware of any specific qualifications James Ray has for sweat lodges. Laura explained that through the seminars with James Ray she has developed a large amount of trust and he talks in a very exciting and convincing way to get people to attempt things they do not think they can do. She has a trust that when James Ray told them he has studied with great teachers he knows what he is talking about and has experienced the things he has participants do she does not question him.

Laura wanted me to understand that she does not believe James Ray had any intent to cause anyone to die. Laura said, because of the reassurances that there had not been problems in the past, they thought some things were normal and when you are in the environment of breakthrough learning it may not look normal.

This supplement is considered closed, investigation continues.

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