

*I/V Gennari, Laurie 10/27/09 C36

The beginning of the taped interview with Laurie Gennari includes a conversation I had with Michael Olesen arranging for his interview later in the day.

On 10/27/09, at approximately 1310 hours, Laurie Gennari returned my call. I then called her back to complete a follow up interview. I audio recorded the interview and the following is a summary.

Laurie learned of James Ray through a friend who interviewed James Ray about three years ago. Laurie listened to the interview and liked what she heard. Laurie had attended five events; Harmonic Wealth, Creating Absolute Wealth, Modern Magick, Practical Mysticism and Spiritual Warrior.

Laurie had never been in a sweat lodge before Spiritual Warrior. She has been in a sauna. Laurie said in round one she thought, "oh good, I'm warm for the first time this week", round two was like sitting on the bottom level of a sauna and round three was like sitting on the top level and it just continued to get hotter.

Laurie got the impression it was the same people who had built the sweat lodge in the past years.

Laurie believed the sweat lodge would be safe because she had done a number of "wacky things" in the past with James Ray and everything was fine. She said that some of the crazy things he has had them do had turned out to be fun and "wow I did not know I could do that". Some of them have been "well I could have done with out this". She saw the sweat lodge as being one that she just wanted to get it over with.

Laurie said she goes back and forth between feeling really bad, like she has the flu, and feeling like she is back to normal.

Laurie sat next to Liz Neuman on one side and a dark skinned cute female was next to her. Laurie positioned Liz on the west and had her sit between Laurie and Laura. At round seven, or before, she looked up under her arm and said Liz does not look very good. Laura then asked Laurie to help her support Liz. Laurie said she was on her face digging in to the dirt to get the coolness underneath. Laurie also put fingers at the edge of the tent and felt a breeze on her fingertips. The exertion of moving onto her back and no longer having coolness was too much and Laurie decided to leave. She started crawling for the door and at about four feet from the door she heard James Ray say, "nope you are to late, doors closing, we are starting again". Laurie said she looked around and saw a big dark spot with no people and lay down there putting her face into the dirt away from the fire pit to wait it out.

Laurie did not fill out any medical forms. The sweat lodge felt very rushed, just hurry go change. Laurie said about round 3 a girl next to her was whimpering and she told the girl to do what was right for her and a short time later she must have left because she disappeared. She heard people saying people were passed out and heard shuffling, but no one specifically addressed this. The group had gotten into encouraging each other to push past.

Laurie said she did see the light come in and Ray addressed that. The entire experience made her feel annoyed and weak and is still dealing with some physical problems.

Emotionally she flips back and forth between doing real well and falling apart. Laurie said there was one person drug out in front of her and one being drug out behind her.

Laurie did hear someone say they thought they were going to die. James said throughout the week "for something new to grow, the old must die".

Laurie said the sweat lodge was described as a womb for re-birth, but more as an after thought. "Oh remember when you come out you will be reborn".

Inside, when people were expressing distress, Ray would say "you can do it, you're more than that", and the group often would take that up.

Once there were three deaths and people in intensive care Laurie said something went very wrong.

Laurie said she ran into James Ray on her way to shower and he asked, "how are you", but she was so spacey to notice anything really about Ray.

Laurie said that after a bunch of people went off to the hospital and the rest of them were sitting around after dinner and the seminar did not start back up, she thought that was odd. Laurie said that it was not until the trauma counselors showed up that she and Laura realized the gravity of what happened or anyone had died.

Laurie believed it was a combination of things that caused the deaths. She said in her original place she could get air. In the next spot, the dirt was hot even underneath and she could not get her fingers under the edge. She was in the east to north east, where there was no relief. In seven years of this event, with only one time, there is a need for medical. The materials used in different combinations. She also thought, perhaps James Ray was using himself as a gage for everyone where he has gotten better at it and everyone else is a novice. Laurie also feels that perhaps he has lost connection with them as the teacher, student contact.

Laurie described her contact with Ray as great information; great information and then wow get over yourself. She thinks he may have lost touch and let his ego run away with him.

Laurie said the only qualifications she knew Ray to have were that he had learned this from someone and done it a bunch.

Laurie went back to hearing that voice (James Ray) when she was headed for the door telling her no your to late, she stopped dead in her tracks. She said they have all invited that voice into the deep recesses of their mind to help them do things they did not think they could do. She described it as being conditioned to follow that voice and Ray has lost sight of his responsibility to those inside the sweat lodge.

This supplement is considered closed.

Detective S. Willingham C36

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