

\*I/V Tucker, Laura-Transcript of Sup#34 Det. S. Willingham C36

On 10/27/09 at approximately 1000 hours, I spoke with Laura Tucker by telephone. I audio recorded the interview on my digital recorder and the following is an accurate transcript of that interview. For additional please see the CD in evidence of the recording.  
(Voicemail)

Respondent: Hello Laura speaking.

Interviewer: Good morning Laura this is Detective Shonna Willingham Yavapai County Sheriff's Office in Arizona.

Respondent: Hello.

Interviewer: How are you this morning?

Respondent: Well I have been expecting your call.

Interviewer: Good. And now, have you done an initial interview, who did you speak to at the scene if any?

Respondent: I you know what I have a business card. There was a man and a woman who are there taking statements and I was speaking to the man.

Interviewer: Okay.

(Inaudible 00:01:39)

Respondent: Hang on. I will just get it because I have it. I think it was Steve Surak.

Interviewer: Okay that make sense he was

Respondent: Because there was, I got another card. No, he wrote the report number on the back so this is who I spoke to.

Interviewer: Okay all right. Well this is like I said it's a follow-up interview. It is definitely going to be some very strict questions because these are some that have been developed in a format that are certain things that we feel like we need to know, okay. So can I go ahead and get started?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then when we are done I have some questions for you and if we don't address some of the things that I need to talk about these things that I need to talk about.

Interviewer: Okay all right no problem. My first question is how did you learn about James Ray?

Respondent: In my very initial?

Interviewer: Yeah.

Respondent: Well, I think the first time I ever heard of James was in the secret.

Interviewer: When you had the DVD?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then a friend of mine loaned to me one of his DVD and I watched that and I was very, very impressed and so I went online and I found his website and that's how I enrolled in the Harmonic Wealth Weekend.

Interviewer: Okay and how long ago was that?

Respondent: That was probably in January 2008 and I did my Weekend in June 2008.

Interviewer: Okay. How many of the James Ray events or seminars have you attended?

Respondent: All of them.

Interviewer: By all of them that you have been to Harmonic Wealth.

Respondent: Yes I went I can tell you in the order I did them I think.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So the events that I went to I did my Harmonic Wealth Weekend in June and then at that time I decided to continue so I signed up for three more so I went to Quantum Leap, which would have been in November 2008. I went to Creating Absolute Wealth in December 2008.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I went to Modern Magick in April of 2009, Practical Mysticism in June 2009 and Spiritual Warrior as you know earlier this month.

Interviewer: Okay. Have you ever been in a sweat lodge before?

Respondent: No, I have not.

Interviewer: Had you ever been in a sauna?

Respondent: Yes I have been in the sauna.

Interviewer: How was it different?

Respondent: Well the sweat, how is it different from the sauna? Well I have never, the only time I have ever been in a sauna has been a very you know a small sauna at our gym or a condo. And I guess the sweat lodge I would describe it as it was considerably more intense.

Interviewer: Okay. Anything else?

Respondent: Well I mean I am not like the very I mean it's so hard to know it. I know you probably have a ton of details on it, you know it was dark and you know and we went around and you know it was something that I have never done at sauna with a group of people before, right. For me a sauna, it's something that was done to you know for healthy relaxation and I mean this was a group activity and with the intention that we you know have this experience together and then celebrate all the work that we did.

Interviewer: Okay did you hear anyone talk or make assurances that the personnel conducting or building the sweat lodge were specifically trained or experts?

Respondent: What I remember being said about the people who conducted the sweat lodge was that they were, I don't remember specifically trained but I remember it sounded like they were experienced at it.

Interviewer: Okay and who are we talking about?

Respondent: There was a native gentleman who was there and I don't know if I spoke to him the next day. And I think his name was Ted but I could be totally mistaken, okay. I am not sure where that's coming from but you know James introduced them to us because he had built a fire and he you know acknowledged that this was somebody who had been brought into build the lodge and supervise the actual structure and this is something that they did. And it was my understanding that you know when I am trying to filter what I have either heard on the news versus what I heard on site there.

Interviewer: Right and that's what I am hoping that we can get is your recollection of what was told to you on site by all the different people that were there.

Respondent: Right. Okay so. How about I take you through what we did at that part because that will actually help me get clarity between the two.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Because I do think that's really important. So before we went into the lodge we circled up outside and James gave us you know he talked to us. He had talked about it to us earlier in the day in the classroom setting.

Interviewer: Do we want to start there Laura or so that we know?

Respondent: All I remember was I mean we had come in from the Vision Quest. We had had breakfast. We gathered in the classroom setting where we had extended you know open frame session where it's all question and answer. But before we started that or at sometime early in all of that he told us all to get drinking water.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And he had been telling us all week to drink.

Interviewer: Except for during the time that you were on the quest, the Vision Quest, right you couldn't drink or eat then?

Respondent: No, but I knew I mean from the packing list I knew we were going to be spending some time outside, right. And so when somebody is telling me to drink lots of water and to take salt which retains water I drink lots of water.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So you know and even from my perspective on the Vision Quest you know we were out there 36 hours you know and there wasn't a time, it was really interesting I have never done anything like that before I have always wanted to go and sleep outside and you know these people knew where I was but you know there wasn't a time were I was actually thirsty or you know quite frankly ran out of having to go to the washroom. So when we came back into the classroom setting and he told us to continue hydrating that's exactly what I did. And you know I can only speak for myself, okay I wasn't the only one drinking copious amounts of water, right but and he explained we did the whole open-frame session which was actually very wonderful and positive and I wish it now in hindsight that's where we had finished off. But though he did then explain to us the sweat lodge in the classroom you know what it would be like that it would be dark that it would be hot you know what to expect and then we dispersed to get changed, right and I know I asked the question about I kind of knew the answer before I asked it but you know you had a choice of what you were going to wear and I asked you know like as a woman am I better off in a T-shirt or am I better off in you know like a bathing suit top, right. And he said well he said I can't speak for you on that but what I always go in with you know men will go in there bare chested, right so I put on a sports bra and pair of shorts and that's how I dressed because you know I wouldn't wear a cotton T-shirt into a sauna. So we gathered up in a circle with going back to before going into the lodge and you know the fire was burning there and he introduced us to the gentleman who was tending to the fire and had apparently you know built the lodge. You know we expressed our gratitude and he explained that this was a very sacred thing that we were to do and that you know this was something that this gentleman took a large amount of pride in you

know participating and then contributing. Now, I understand that I don't think he said I paid him I think that I got other day news but I mean that make sense to me from this from you know it's his job.

Interviewer: Right. Are you doing okay Laura?

Respondent: I am alright, yeah. I am not going to, it's very difficult but I am trying.

Interviewer: So he has brought you to the outside. He has introduced you to the man that's tending the fire and that you believe built the lodge.

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: What happened next?

Respondent: Well then we went into the lodge.

Interviewer: Okay and what was your position inside once you got inside?

Respondent: Now this is where I have some questions for you. I had made up my mind last week that I was going to call in and that I needed to add to my statement and because I know how incredibly important it is that for me is that I speak my truth and experience of what went on in there.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So my question to you is this because I have some concerns and whatever you tell is not going to influence what I have to say. I know what I have to say but my concerns are about how information is getting out to the media.

Interviewer: I will honestly tell you no information other than the press releases that are carefully done by the Sheriff's Office are coming from law enforcement. The media is obtaining information from those that are willing to be interviewed that were participants or past participants.

Respondent: So anything that I tell you right now I understand that once the investigation is closed and you know whatever the outcome is it will become public information, correct?

Interviewer: At some point and you got to understand.

Respondent: When will it become public information?

Interviewer: Not until this case is completely finished and adjudicated.

Respondent: Okay what does adjudicated mean?

Interviewer: Not until this case has been adjudicated means it's been sent through the judicial system.

Respondent: So that means the entire thing, if there are no charges it's done, if there are charges, that includes legal proceeding.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: So this will be clear being adjudicated includes a potential trial as well.

Interviewer: Potential trial, yes. The other thing you got to realize is not every single word when we do our reports we summarize, okay what is told. Everything we do like when you are speaking to Detective Surak he was recording. When you are speaking to me we are recording. Those recordings are placed into evidence. Evidence cannot be accessed by public or by media without court orders or subpoenas. So that what is written in entire reports are the things that are key an important as to what happened. Does that make sense?

Respondent: Yes, it does.

Interviewer: Okay alright.

Respondent: I am ready.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I was besides Liz Newman.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: She was to my right.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And the reason why I am asking questions is that I have it in my head that I am going to be speak to her family at some point.

Interviewer: Okay and I think that's fair.

Respondent: I feel very strongly that part of what I am going to talk about having had a similar experience in my own family that it would be better coming from me than Larry King Live.

Interviewer: And I appreciate those of you that feel the need to do that to speak to the families and to provide them something.

Respondent: That is not the same thing as speaking through the family's lawyers investigators as far as I am concerned.

Interviewer: Right, that's right, okay.

Respondent: So when I went into the sweat lodge I was with two or three of my closest friends there. We wanted to be close to each other. So we you know we made sure that we were in a row, in the line people that went in there. And so I had Danielle when we ended up going in we were on the like the door if I remember correctly the door was at the north we were at the east. We were at the east.

Interviewer: Inner circle or outer circle?

Respondent: There was no inner circle where we were.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: There was no inner circle. So we you know we got in there and we were lined up in a row. I had that Danielle Granquist on my left and I had Laurie Gennari on my right.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And you know we got in there it was it was dark except for the light coming in through the entrance way. Everybody got settled and you know I can only speak for myself but I was nervous. And then Liz came and she scooted in between me and Laurie and I remember saying to her that I was so glad that she was there because I was nervous. And she looked at me because Liz was on the team. She had done this I don't know how many times before different numbers but she had done it as far as my understanding is at least three times before we had seen. And she was the person who was "like marking the east." So I said to her I am so glad you are here I am actually nervous and she proceeded to say oh you know don't be nervous you know it is intense and here is what you can do when it gets to be intense to make it easier on yourself and she proceeded to coach us on what to do. And she-

Interviewer: What did she tell you to do to help get through that?

Respondent: She told us if we were feeling too hot she said you can lie down and she said lie down and put your head to the exterior of the tent you will get some coolness there. And another helpful way to do it is to go into child pose, are you familiar with child pose.

Interviewer: No.

Respondent: Child pose is a yoga pose which is it's essentially getting on your knees and then putting your head down in front of you on the ground.

Interviewer: Oh okay.

Respondent: So she said so lie down on your back, put your head to the exterior or turn around and go into child pose and you will find that you will get relief from the exterior of the tent and from the earth itself. Also put your hand in the dirt a bit, she was very specific.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Which had the effect of totally calming me down.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then you know we were all ready and then it began, right. And I guess going back to your earlier question, the difference between the sauna and a sweat lodge, in sauna, there are no rituals, right. There was a lot of ritual involvement in this. You know so the split doors, the doors, while they brought in the rock, they closed the door and proceeded to you know James Ray said there would be chants. I don't really remember a lot of that because I was pretty consumed in my own, what was going on with me was that first of all, it was a lot hotter than I had imagined.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And I became in the first round, I became very uncomfortable physically, not necessarily from the heat, but all of a sudden like my back was sore you know sitting there my back was sore, my hip was sore, I just could not get physically comfortable and I was you know moving around all over the place. And I pretty quickly figured out that I needed to lie down and so that's exactly what I did. And I lay down after you know the first round, I think.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I was like this stuff is not working for me, I am putting way too much energy just into sitting up and my body is sore, so I lay down and I did what she told me, I put my head to the exterior, I had my knees bent up. And from that point like I was having a hard time because you know I will tell you very frankly, I struggled the first three rounds. And you know with my breathing, with my heart rate and what Liz was doing is and she had told us she said you know we will tap each other, so she was tapping me on you know tapping me on the arm, it was you know reassuring but also kind of keeping tabs and I was doing the same with Danielle on my left and it was a way just to know that you know everything was okay.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So she was tapping on me and I was doing everything I could because I knew that if I couldn't get my breathing and my heart rate to settle down, I was going to have to leave. And it was real, I want to be very candid it was very tough, but sometime

right after the third round, everything physically changed for me and it was like suddenly, I was breathing instead of trying to breath, deep, I was breathing shallow, everything slowed down and I was you know I was fine, all of like the distress that I had been feeling was gone. And so yes, and so I stayed, so that's where I was at for round 4 or 5 and say. And I am a little foggy right because I was just like alright you know and I am being tapped on, but at some point, Liz changed her position and she did exactly the opposite of what she has told us to do. She moved forward and she went into child's pose and she was facing the stones, like her head, not to the outside, but inside.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And that caused me to take notice. And so there I was experiencing some kind of you know I am going to describe it as it was like a flow state because it certainly wasn't the struggle that I was having at first.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And I reached forward because her hip, I had to kind of sit up a little bit and reach forward to get her hip and I nudged her hip and I was like Liz come back here with us, and she shook me off. And you know so I did that a couple of times, because then I was tapping her right, like that's what we had been doing. And so she was in that position for a time and then she changed her position again she sat up in front and my legs were bent, like I was flat on my back, my legs were bent and she sat in front of my feet and leaned back on my legs.

Interviewer: Okay. Did she stay in that position?

Respondent: Well yes, she did. And you know unfortunately we are not done yet.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So she was, and I remember in the classrooms, James described first row, second row and he said you know it will be hotter in the first row and it would be nice if you let the people who are in front of you lean back on your shins that will provide them with some rest you know or switch places would provide with release, I remember that specifically. So then I was like okay, she is leaning on my legs, I am not so sure if that's comfortable, but it's like it was very uncomfortable for me and plus you know you are wet, you are sweaty, right. So it took a lot of effort to keep my legs so I could support her. So then I figured out I couldn't sustain that and I changed the position of my legs, I flipped my knees over to the right, you know right on down to the ground and so my legs were horizontal and I could better support her weight that way. And at some point Laurie who was besides me, she flipped her knees over towards me and she had her knees in there as well.

Interviewer: Helping support Liz?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: So before the seventh round I was, I mean I was concerned, I was concerned about Liz because I mean I knew how hot I was with my head back at the tent and I was concerned because you know yeah I was tapping and she was there but I just, I didn't, I wasn't comfortable and so I spoke up.

Interviewer: What did you say?

Respondent: There was a quite moment and I called out and this is where, what I said was, I called James and I said, James I am concerned about Liz. And I didn't get an answer. So I didn't know if he had heard me or not because I had no idea how loud I was, I was absolutely exhausted, right. So then I propped myself up a little bit and I was louder and I called out and I said James, it's Laura, I am concerned about Liz. And he answered me and he said you know Liz has done this many times before Laura, she knows what she is doing.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And so, I you know put my head back down and because she was on me and I was pretty much bearing her weight, I could reach her, so I reached up with my left hand and I grabbed her left shoulder and I asked her, I said, Liz are you alright and she said, yes, and then I asked her, do you need to get out of here and she said, no.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then the seventh round started and after the seventh round that's when Laurie had to get out.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: And then there was the eighth round and then it was finished and I called out for help because it was time for me to get out of there. And I don't remember who it was, because it was dark and by that point, I was you know on the edge of, I don't know if I was, not panicking, but I was getting upset and I knew from the first three rounds that would not go well, if I was upset while I was in there. And so I don't remember who it was that came and got Liz, but I just said, I got to go, I got to get out of here, I have to go and they said, you know get go, get out, and it did.

Interviewer: And did it ever change in the way people were exiting, did it stay clockwise because of so many people needing, assisting, getting out, did that change?

Respondent: I don't know.

Interviewer: Okay, that's okay. So you stayed in for the entire time, that's correct?

Respondent: I was there for the entire time.

Interviewer: Okay. Was there anything discussed for safety procedures other than what Liz told you, if there was a problem?

Respondent: I don't, I mean I don't recall there being any discussions if there was a problem, I don't recall. It would have, I don't think there was, because I would have remembered it, it would have been like expecting a problem.

Interviewer: Okay. Do you think Liz as lucid and making a good decision?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Did you say, no?

Respondent: I don't know, I don't know like was she lucid in making a good decision, I have thought about that for the last two and half weeks almost nonstop.

Interviewer: I could imagine that what consumed you.

Respondent: And this is what, I know. I know that at any point that I made a change with her, whether it was to come back or to ask her questions, she responded you know there wasn't a delay in a response, there wasn't, I didn't sense any kind of uncertainty. And at the end of the day, what I kept going back to is, well she has done this before, what do I know, I have never done this before, I didn't have a frame of reference.

Interviewer: That's true, that's very, very true. Did you see anyone leave the lodge other than through the door?

Respondent: No I didn't, I did not see that.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I saw James where he was afterwards and I figured that probably was the case.

Interviewer: As in James Shore, you are talking?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you hear anyone say that they were having problems?

Respondent: I heard people expressing you know discomfort.

Interviewer: Can you recall what was said?

Respondent: Not specifically, I was pretty wrapped up in my self-management, I don't know how to describe that.

Interviewer: That's a good way to put it, in trying to maintain it for yourself.

Respondent: Yeah and of course when things started to, see most of the time, my primary concern was myself until Liz shifted her position and I was like oh that's different and then my awareness went to her as well as myself.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: As far as much outside of that, I don't know if I can speak confidently.

Interviewer: Was Liz continuing to chant or do the other things or was she just able to answer your questions with the one-word answer, yes, no?

Respondent: Yeah one-word answer, you know I don't remember that, there was much noise chanting in the later rounds.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you fill out any type of medical forms or were you asked any health questions?

Respondent: No, I mean I signed the waiver.

Interviewer: Okay. And did you read the waiver completely?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. What if any symptoms, did you have while in the sweat lodge or afterwards?

Respondent: This is the really strange thing, other than experiencing the heat and needing to drink a ton of water and electrolytes afterwards, I didn't experience any symptoms, I mean I was tired, but it's hard to differentiate, how I was feeling because of everything that's happened afterward that was enough even if you hadn't being in the lodge that was enough to make you totally sick.

Interviewer: Right.

Respondent: And this is another thing that is still really difficult to grapple with, physically I did not experience anything ever. There was a point were people were going to the hospital either in the night and getting checked out and getting rehydrated and I chose not to go, I knew I needed the hydration and I knew it would be quick and I'd probably get better, faster, but I didn't, like I was like I know I am well, I don't really want to deal with going to the hospital, so I stayed. And quite frankly I wanted to be with everybody, I was very, very upset. And when I heard that Liz was one of the people who were in trouble, I was not, I was quiet, but I was not in good shape.

Interviewer: You weren't handling that well?

Respondent: I was very stressed and I just continued to you know, all I did that entire week is just hope and pray that she will be okay, because I wanted to talk to her about this, not anybody else.

Interviewer: There was a lot of hope for that too?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Do you remember anyone saying something about a flashlight or some light coming in from somewhere other than the door?

Respondent: Yeah vaguely.

Interviewer: Okay, I know it's kind of vague and you are not --.

Respondent: Yeah it wasn't, it wasn't you know our section, I know that I think it was across and I mean it was pitch dark in there, so any light was, was obvious. I think I remember at that point opening my eyes and acknowledging that there was some light.

Interviewer: So you were keeping your eyes shut a good part of the time that you were in there?

Respondent: Yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. Can you recall who might have still been inside when you left?

Respondent: No, because Laurie had left and she was on my right and I thought Danielle was still to my left and she wasn't, she had left much earlier so I, no.

Interviewer: Okay, so she went out earlier and did she come back in?

Respondent: No, not to my knowledge and the only reason I would say that is that she was helping people afterwards.

Interviewer: Okay. And I know you stayed inside the whole time, but do you remember anyone from the outside or in the inside saying they thought they were having a heart attack or they thought they were going to die?

Respondent: No.

Interviewer: Okay. Did you hear anyone saying something like it's a good day to die?

Respondent: No, just I am just racking my brain.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: I know James uses death as a metaphor quite a bit, right, like what in you has to die for something new to come to life, it's just right but I am trying to think of like, that is not.

Interviewer: But it's in the context of leaving old behind and moving forward, right?

Respondent: What do you mean, sorry, clarify.

Interviewer: In the context of you might think you are going to die, but you are not, but it's hard or you have to let old stuff go for new stuff to come forward?

Respondent: Yeah I mean I am accustomed to him speaking that way and I understand that you know metaphorically.

Interviewer: But it's not physically or not in the real sense of death?

Respondent: No, goodness, no.

Interviewer: Okay. How did James Ray react and respond to the people who were in distress?

Respondent: What I remember was once I got out of the lodge and I was with Laurie again, we were both you know you got out and you might think it was unpleasant, but the cold water was one of the best feelings that I've ever had. You know getting sprayed with water to cool down and also I mean covered into the dirt. I mean I was very spent and I sat. I didn't move around very much at first. And I remember, this was before I realized anything had gone wrong, I remember I looked, I saw the lodge door was in front of me, I wasn't too far away and then I started to realize that people were continuing to need help outside the lodge so I stood up and I moved forward to the door to see if there is anybody there that I could help. And I think by that time, I did not see anybody still in the lodge.

Interviewer: Was the lodge open at the other end from the door by then?

Respondent: I didn't notice that. When I went out there was a gentleman who, I don't remember who, but I know it was a man who was right out the door you know looking in. And I went out on his right and took a look in to see if there was anyone unattended and I didn't see anyone unattended. And then I realized I didn't really have the strength to help anybody else move. So I sat back and I just started to look around me. And I saw James at that point sitting, there were some chairs over you know would have been to my left, facing the entrance to the lodge. And he was sitting there and he was looking at everybody. And I think I caught his eyes for a moment but you know there was no exchange of any kind other than, and at that point, I was starting just like please don't take this out of context because at that point I didn't know anything was wrong. I was

like holly crap, I felt some exhilaration just from you know like the relief of not being inside anymore.

Interviewer: I can understand. I am not taking that wrong at all.

Respondent: It's just tough because there is such contrast between what I was experiencing versus what others were. So then I started, then I moved back further and that's when I got to find Laurie and we kind of just huddled up. And she was asking for a towel so I went and got her a towel and we just kind of sat there huddling. And I started to look around and I started to see people in distress and more significantly I was pulled back enough that I could see James Shore being tended to around the far side of the tent. And you know he was being given CPR and I never saw Kirby but I understand she was just you know kind of beyond there or outside of my sight lines and I was like what can I do to help. And I realized nothing, I don't know CPR, I am not useful in that kind of situation. I watched and James at one point, I saw him over there by the two that were being tended to, talking to, I am not sure who was with him, but talking and looking obviously very concerned. And then you know others were coming to offer help, give CPR and --

Interviewer: So it wasn't until it was completely over and you were outside and had actually, you realized that something really, really was wrong?

Respondent: Correct.

Interviewer: Okay. What do you think happened? What happened that caused three people to lose their lives?

Respondent: I don't know if I can even answer that question. I don't know. It would be so obvious to say it's too hot.

Interviewer: And that may have been a contributor.

Respondent: And this is where I have been with this is that and especially with regards to Liz, I mean I have no idea what was going on in Kirby and James's section of the tent or the lodge. But I think one of the things that I have come to really get is that unless you are in somebody's body or their mind, you have no idea.

Interviewer: That's a very true statement. At some point, you guys who were in that east part when the door would come open, would air come in, could you feel the air?

Respondent: Okay. I could not feel a cool breeze going over me. It would be open for quite sometime and I could feel the heat dissipate somewhat, but not to a great degree.

Interviewer: From the way, you've have talked to me I don't think this has happened but has anyone talked to you about what to say if questioned by law enforcement?

Respondent: Oh God, no.

Interviewer: Okay. Did James Ray or anyone else tell you what his qualifications were for running a sweat lodge?

Respondent: Not that I remember, I mean other than experience.

Interviewer: So, specifically, it was the Dream Team people who have done this before so they were experienced. He's run this before so he is experienced.

Respondent: Yeah, well I mean that there is the thing that, I guess this goes to a high level of trust where you know James will talk about something that we are going to do and he will set the stage and he will tell you what to expect, but he will also create crazy environment. This is part of what I have been thinking about, like whether it's breaking aboard at the Harmonic Wealth weekend or whether it was you know, the sweat lodge was really the only, I don't even consider the Vision Quest to have been a physical test, I know some people might but that was my experience of it. But the lodge was I think the physical test and so he will tell you what it's like, he will tell you that you don't need a degree to teach people how to break boards. So he set it up the same kind of way with a certain amount of excitement around it and this is where it's so paradoxical and about how it's a group experience and that he's run this before. And he has studied with or has experience with different tradition and that's where I guess I place my trust, and I guess I don't question much beyond that. Like I have always gone by everything that we have done, he has done it himself including going to sweat lodge. That's very convoluted to know I don't really remember hearing, I took x amount of training with --

Interviewer: But he did explain his experience in the past, that he has done this before and everyone realized that and trusted that and there were past participants there that had also done that, so they knew this had been done before.

Respondent: Absolutely, and particularly Liz because she had done it you know more times than others. She had been a part of James's environment for quite sometime, and I guess that goes to what I told you about when she came between us, I was like oh wow, I've got Liz, this is going to be all right.

Interviewer: I know we have covered this, we've covered it with a lot of detail. Is there anything important that you think I should know that we haven't talked about?

Respondent: Listen, I have taken pains to tell you as much as I can remember because I know it's the right thing to do.

Interviewer: I really appreciate that. If you think of something, you have my number, you can call me. If you would like, I can give you my e-mail address and you can email me if you need to let me know something.

Respondent: I will take your contact information. I've got another card here so I'll just write it on it. So, Shonna, how do I spell your name?

Interviewer: S-H-O-N-N-A and it's going to be my name  
[REDACTED]

Respondent: What can you tell me in terms of what to expect from here?

Interviewer: I am not sure what you are asking, as far as --

Respondent: Well, I guess maybe, now you can understand my concerns that I expressed earlier kinds of --

Interviewer: I do. I don't know that this will ever be charged. I know we want to investigate it so that we find out exactly what happened, and we'd just have to wait and see.

Respondent: You know what, I need to say one thing because I have really been very careful just to stick to what I remember the facts to be, and I just want to go on the record to say is that as difficult as this experience has been, I mean I know I am really struggling. I am getting whatever help I need.

Interviewer: I am glad you are doing that.

Respondent: And I may find that I need more and I think I do, but I am going to be fine, physically I am fine, and I will learn how to deal with it. But I know that there was no intent whatsoever.

Interviewer: I don't believe that there was ever any intent to harm anyone else as far as the intent went. What we were concerned about was whether there was some form of recklessness and negligence or something that played into it.

Respondent: I understand that and I guess the intent part is what playing out in the media.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: Because it's ugly.

Interviewer: You know I saw the first few things in the media and then I just have tried to just stay away from that.

Respondent: I am done with it now. I am only seeing it in terms of necessary things. But one of the things that you asked me what I thought earlier, that James and there is Liz, they were the two most experienced people, maybe with one other exception that I am not aware of, because I don't know how many times say Megan you know I may again or some of the others have done it. But those two people, I keep coming back to, if she had thought anything was wrong or he had thought that there was anything wrong compared to other times, other years, I don't think we would be having these discussions.

Interviewer: You know and you may very well be right because I know that some things that we've learned just that even though people who were having distress and stuff afterwards, some people who had been through it, as part of the Dream Team, they told that this is normal, and I am like okay, well, you know you are describing things that to me I would be calling for ambulance just to show up and you know a people have said had I come across the scene like this on a street, I would have been on my cell phone immediately and giving help. So you know I don't know. --

Respondent: And that part is, it wasn't a "normal thing" that we were doing, right away it puts it this is the way that I, and I am comfortable with that and I know that at some point in the future, I will have plenty say and writing and express about that but when you are in this type of environment where the goal is to have whatever kind of learning or whatever kind of breakthrough it the normal there is different from the mainstream normal.

Interviewer: Exactly. So see we have a lot of elements we are dealing with, we are trying sort through this. And the more honest and accurate we can find things out, that helps us.

Respondent: Well, I hope that this has been some kind of help.

Interviewer: It has and I appreciate you are talking to me.

Respondent: I'm glad that you talked, all right.

Interviewer: You take care, thank you.

Respondent: Okay, thank you.

Interviewer: Bye-bye.

Respondent: Bye.

Tue Dec 08 17:05:01 MST 2009  
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