

*I/V Melonie Dodaro 2007 by Det. Diskin C23:

On 11/01/09 I interviewed Melonie Dodaro. The following is a transcript of that interview:

Respondent: Hi.

Interviewer: Hi, this is Detective Diskin with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office.

Respondent: I am sorry with the what?

Interviewer: With the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office in Arizona. I am investigating the James Ray case and I had gotten your number from a reporter and they said to give you a call that you might have some information about James Ray.

Respondent: Yeah. I sent you an Email with the information. I was absolutely at an event of that exact thing back in 2007 and I actually left after a few days because it just wasn't working for me.

Interviewer: Great. So you went to the Spiritual Warrior in 2007?

Respondent: Yes.

Interviewer: Okay. Had you gone to any other events?

Respondent: I had gone to one previously staffed. Well I had gone to their first event which is called Harmonic Wealth which is a two day event which he does really a great job at that event, and at that event I actually bought a package that I could just visit all of his events. The next event I went to is a couple of weeks after that, it was in Hawaii and that one was a little weird so I was kind of already turned off of him but I had prepaid for all these events. So I went to the one in Sedona and then left after a few days and did not attend any of the other events, just kind of lost my money with them but I did not have any desire to go back and see him after that one.

Interviewer: Okay. What happened that made you change your mind?

Respondent: Well, the first thing that happened was I was at the event in Hawaii in April of 2007 and it was really was very bizarre experience. Like I don't tell like I was the only person in the room that wasn't brainwashed, I kind of walked looked around in the room and felt like there were just a bunch of brainwashed robots in there. And he had put people into some kind of a trance and then sent them to the room to buy some package that he was selling and I can't remember exactly what the package was but it was a \$1000 package and I do remember couple of people after that kind of complaining saying that that wasn't right the way that he did that. I didn't participate in that, I didn't buy it from there so whatever but I was just really turned off of that. I actually left that event, it was really strange like for a couple of months after that event, I just felt I don't know, it was really like I had no energy and I had talked to couple of other people that had kind of experienced the same result after that event. Anyways I just kind of tossed it up and let it

go and I did attend that event in Sedona and so I was little bit more cautious than probably a lot of people that were there because I had already kind of felt like I had had a negative experience. And then he started telling people to shave their heads on the first day and it was kind of if you weren't shaving your head, you weren't mindful, you weren't letting go of your attachments and that really turned me off because I thought you know you shouldn't be telling people to shave their heads, they have got to go home, they have got to go back to society and their jobs and their employers or their employees and their spouses. And especially women, what are you going to do, you are going to go back home and how are you going to explain that you shaved your head, and I just thought it was ridiculous. Then there was the Vision Quest which I wasn't told that we were going to be in the desert for 36 hours without any food or water and I am in the health and wellness business and I just do not believe in that. So that was the end of it for me and I just packed up all my stuff and left.

Interviewer: Did anybody try and discourage you from leaving or say anything to you as you were leaving?

Respondent: No, I didn't even tell them I left.

Interviewer: Oh, you just left?

Respondent: I left yeah. And actually another girl that you might want to talk to, she did the same thing but she actually went out on that Vision Quest. She had actually broken her arm a couple of days prior to that and nobody helped her, she had to find her way to the hospital and back and get cast all by herself without any assistance. Then she went out on that Vision Quest I think, I don't know what time they drop people out, it's in the early evening I guess and by the morning she was back into the Angel Valley Retreat area and decided that she was going to leave, and she wanted to tell somebody that she was leaving but there was nobody around. James and his entire staff had left on some kind of a hike or something like that so she wasn't able to tell them that she left and they didn't call her; it was a day or two before they actually even noticed that she was gone.

Interviewer: So, while everybody was on their Vision Quest, all James Ray and his staff, they were not around?

Respondent: They weren't, they went out hiking yeah.

Interviewer: Okay. And the event you went to in Hawaii, was that called Modern Magic?

Respondent: It was.

Interviewer: And did you see any problems with that event or did anybody get hurt?

Respondent: I know I did not see anybody get hurt, no and I didn't see anybody get hurt other than Lorena breaking her arm at the Spiritual Warrior in 2007, other than that I didn't see anybody get hurt but I left prior to the Vision Quest so I left prior to the Sweat Lodge so I didn't get into any of that.

Interviewer: Okay. And do you have any kind of contact information for this other lady?

Respondent: I do. It's on my phone and I am not sure if I am going to be able to access that while I am speaking to you. I actually just got a new phone and I haven't learned how to do that.

Interviewer: I can give you my direct line if you want to call me back, that would be great.

Respondent: Do you have Email access? I am just driving right now. If you could Email me, that would be great and then I will forward that Email to Lorena and I will have her contact you.

Interviewer: Okay perfect. What's your Email?

Respondent: My Email is [REDACTED]

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: All right?

Interviewer: I will send that to you right now and yeah if she can give me a call that would be great. And we are just looking to, I mean we are not taking sides on this too we are just trying to figure out what happened and if there was any negligence on the part of James Ray and his staff. And you know it's gone beyond just talking to the survivors of this year's Sweat Lodge but we have been talking to people in previous years to find out if there was any kind of warning signs that something like this could happen.

Respondent: Well I will tell you this you know. This is another thing that really kind of bothered me, they didn't ask anybody any kind of medical before they were sending them out on to this Vision Quest, of not eating or drinking for 36 hours; they didn't ask people are you hypoglycemic, are you diabetic, are you pregnant, are you anything and that's negligence in my opinion. So that was one of the reasons why I left.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: All right yeah. So if you Email me your contact information, I will get Lorena to give you a call.

Interviewer: Okay great, thanks I appreciate it.

Respondent: You are welcome.

Interviewer: Alright have a good day, bye.

Respondent: You too, bye-bye.

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