

*I/V Rosemary Senjem 10-08-09 Surak #5742,

On 10/08/09 I spoke with Rosemary Senjem at the Angel Valley Retreat. She stated that she arrived on 10/03/09 like most everyone else and that she did participate in the "vision quest". Senjem stated that on the "vision quest" she felt fine and did not have any issues with being hungry or thirsty.

I asked her about the sweat lodge and she stated they had breakfast after being brought back from the "vision quest" and they had been hydrating all day. They did not have lunch because they were told they may vomit during the sweat lodge. Senjem said they had a session after breakfast and then had a meeting where they told them what stuff to bring with them for the sweat lodge and what to prepare for. I asked what was discussed, and she stated that she felt it was a little rushed and did not remember everything that was said. She stated they explain how they went in and how they went out. It was explained to them that it was beneficial if they wait until a round was over and the door was open to bring in more rocks, before exiting or entering. She stated that when she came out she was hosed off and they had water and electrolytes to give them. She was in for 2 rounds and came out and waited two rounds and went back in. She said that her position was better and she felt better because everyone was lying down. She came out after 2 rounds, but she wanted to stay in.

I asked if anyone needed help, while she was in the lodge. She stated there were a lot of people in there asking for help, but it is a mind over body experience and when some would ask for help they would encourage them to continue. She said, if they wanted out, they generally got out. She wanted to make sure that we knew no one was made to do this and everyone could leave or stay.

Senjem stated that Ray never claimed to be a doctor and stated that he had those people there. Senjem feels they should have told people what they may experience and what to do if they did not feel right and how to recognize that. She said they all signed waivers telling them that what they experience could injure or kill them.

Senjem stated she assisted one person, Christine (unknown last), who was "really out of it". She said she was asking the same questions over and over again. Senjem went on to say, they had been taught that people may be experiencing an altered state of mind and she was not sure what she was looking at; didn't know if she was okay or not okay.

Senjem stated at first the staff took her to her sleeping quarters and once they got her there they decided to bring her back and send her to the hospital. She said that it was never explained to them what they might experience or if they experienced something that did not feel right to leave and they could not ask for help.

End of interview.

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