

*I/V Forbes, Robert Diskin C23:

On 10/16/09 I interviewed Robert Forbes. The following is a transcript of that interview:

Respondent: I have built many lodges, I have been the fire-keeper to a Native American back here in the East, and as I am sure anyone like myself, or like Mario could tell you, everything was wrong. It needs to be a dome, you can't have a flat roof you have to have area first steam to go to.

Interviewer: So how many sweat lodges have you built?

Respondent: Well we would build it out, I mean first you build the shell and then you take it down and you put it back every week, we would do it once a month here. So I don't know maybe 20 something like that. The construction, the height of it was all wrong. The materials, I mean if you knew anything, all wrong; you cannot have plastic as I am sure you are hearing from what's happened there. And in addition there is 4 doors or 4 rounds, anymore than that and I don't know what are you doing.

Interviewer: And in the other sweat lodges that you attended, do you stay in the whole time or do you leave after each round?

Respondent: I think that's purely a personal thing. Angela would tell you that what she did, she was one of the few because she was trained this way last year that she went out after each round. It probably was unpopular, it was probably frowned upon by Mr. Ray.

Interviewer: But Angela knows the names of the people that were injured last year?

Respondent: Oh yeah absolutely, including a pregnant woman which you would never have a pregnant woman in a sweat lodge not in her first trimester, certainly not. It's just dangerous. The number of stones that you bring in, it's 7, 7 per door, anymore than 28 stones, what are you doing. Now it is true that in some Lakota traditions to the deeply initiated but this would be at the advanced level, they might bring in more stones. I have heard that he had 58 stones in there that is absolutely ridiculous. And then of course you want to check and see how much water was poured on because the more water you pour on, the more steam you create.

Interviewer: Well I will assign this to somebody to contact Angela and get a good interview with her and to find out what she knows. Initially people were reluctant to talk to us but now it seems like everybody is giving us information about that so we do appreciate people calling, and thanks.

Respondent: I mean I have been to Angel Valley, I have sat with Michael and Amayra, I did so in January it's a beautify property. I think they are lovely people and it is a terrible, terrible tragedy that should never ever have happened but apparently it has been.

911 should have been called last year when I am listening to Angela, those people should have been checked out just as they were in 2005.

Interviewer: Okay. That's kind of what we are hearing.

Respondent: And the person that she was speaking to, Mr. Ray's right hand person there, was one woman last name is Stern, I am drawing a blank on her first name, I met her a couple of times.

Interviewer: And this was the girl that was helping Ray?

Respondent: Yeah she is a key person on his core team.

Interviewer: Is it Megan?

Respondent: No, it's not Megan, last name is Stern and Angela can give you that. But the point here that I am going to is Angela last year tried to tell, as she would come out of her room and tell people on the outside there is people in trouble in there and they would say just mind your own business, just focus on yourself, they will be okay. And for days they were not and for hours afterwards they just laid in the mud and got hosed down. And as somebody who is intimate with sweat lodges, the person who is attending to that, stays around and connects with people afterwards for long after and what I am hearing is Mr. Ray immediately gets in a golf cart and drives away is just everything is wrong about it.

Interviewer: Have you gone to any of Mr. Ray's events?

Respondent: I have been to two of his weekends where you are just sitting for a few days in a hotel in a seat. I have had brief conversations with him, I know that he has trained with South American shamans in Peru, I know that he is initiated in the shamanic traditions I don't know what he knows about Native American traditions. But if he has been around, I mean I have been around an awful lot of Native Americans and I wouldn't even dare attend to the inside to the pouring and to direct it, that's way beyond me, I don't know what his experience is but anybody like myself or certainly as bright as Mr. Ray you have to know what you are doing or you just don't even think about treading there.

Interviewer: Well what I will do, I will go ahead and give this to somebody right now and hopefully there is somebody around that can get a hold of her. I have got a line of people outside my office waiting to talk to me so you are going to have to wait.

Respondent: Sure yeah. I know you guys are busy and hopefully something like this would never happen.

Interviewer: I do appreciate you calling and if you know of anybody else that might have information, let them know, we would be happy to talk to them.

Respondent: Yeah. I think Angela she has another friend Julie that you could ask her about, they are very good friends. They are very, and have been, very involved with Mr. Ray over the last couple of years going to every single event. Events for example that they will tell you about in Kona, another place at Hawaii, where in one process you do like a karate chop.

Interviewer: Right we are going to look at that too with all the broken hands.

Respondent: With 12 broken hands, I mean that's just and I have done a lot of these with another organization called Peak Potentials so I know the way this is supposed to go and it's just dangerous, it should never happen.

Interviewer: Okay.

Respondent: All right so.

Interviewer: Thanks for calling.

Respondent: To the extent that that's been helpful, I feel like I have done what I am supposed to do.

Interviewer: All right well thanks, I appreciate it.

Respondent: Take care.

Interviewer: Bye.

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