

*I/V Lee Plentywolf Transcript Det. R Diskin C23

On 10/20/09 I interviewed Lee Plentywolf. The following is a 3rd party transcript of that interview:

Det. Diskin: Yes, this is Detective Diskin with the Yavapai County Sheriff's Office.

Lee Plentywolf: Yes.

Det. Diskin: Yes, I just talked to Nancy _____ 00:07 and she gave me your phone number and I am interested in a conversation that apparently one of James Ray's people had contacted you guys and attempted apparently to get you guys to validate his sweat lodge ceremony.

Lee Plentywolf: No, I called some people I know back in (Inaudible) and one of the one in black hair and she mentioned that she heard that somebody was trying to get a hold on to support what he did. And I don't think they were going to do that anyway generally because (Inaudible) is not the same as what he did down there. So I don't think, they don't just go and support just anybody.

Det. Diskin: Okay. Well, the reason I am interested is because he had told all the participants that he had been trained by Native Americans then the question is why would he contact tribes to get him to try and get somebody to validate his ceremony, why not he use the people that trained him allegedly. And so I would like to track that down and find out exactly who it was that he called and who they talked to.

Lee Plentywolf: Yeah, that's the same thing I am trying to do is that try to find out of course she heard that from and if it was true, I am going to get names to see if somebody did contact him.

Det. Diskin: Is there any way that when you find that information out you can give me call?

Lee Plentywolf: Yeah, at this phone number?

Det. Diskin: This is the main line but let me give you my direct phone number.

Lee Plentywolf: Okay let me get a pen real quick here. Yeah, it's just a, a lot of people are concerned because of the way the sweat lodge ceremony but it's not even a ceremony, it's what we say. So it should be sweat lodge invitation event or something so (Inaudible) good. Okay yeah go ahead.

Det. Diskin: Yeah, my direct line is area code (928) 777-XXXX and my first name is Ross Diskin.

Lee Plentywolf: Okay.

Det. Diskin: What we are looking for we just want to talk to whoever got the phone call from either James Ray or whoever had made the call to find out what exactly was said and if it would constitute witness tampering, in other words trying to get somebody to say that --

Lee Plentywolf: Yeah, to support him on him being right or whatever it is. But I heard he was going to be, I live in Denver right now, I heard he was going to be here tonight someplace doing a seminar.

Det. Diskin: Could be. This event hasn't slowed down his schedule.

Lee Plentywolf: Yeah, which is kind of funny even, nothing serious.

Det. Diskin: So, yeah, Nancy was telling me that you conducted sweat lodges?

Lee Plentywolf: Yeah. I --

Det. Diskin: So you know how it needs to be run correct?

Lee Plentywolf: Yeah, and I have been trained by a medicine man and he has been trained by a medicine man. So there are certain people that are chosen not by other humans but by the creator. And so not just anybody can run, nowadays there are a lot of people, here in Colorado there is a lot of people that have sweat lodges, run sweat lodges, and a lot of them are there for either profit or recognition and that's not even what it's supposed to be.

Det. Diskin: You guys charge for your sweat lodges?

Lee Plentywolf: No.

Det. Diskin: Okay.

Lee Plentywolf: No. You can't be paid for prayers. In order for a prayer to help people, you have to be really humble. We are all equal and we are not, the ones of us that pour water, that are selected to pour water and have been trained in it, we are all humans too and the one that does or the one that makes some miracles or I call miracles, prayers answered, is the creator himself. And all the great mystery out there. So I have been listening to a lot of audio and a lot of reports on what happened down there and even the experts, sweat lodge experts or whatever people who have gotten on TV or whatever, they fall short of what it really truly is, the ceremony. They only get to the part where they understand it's purification, purifying the body and the spirit and the mind and that's as far as they get. But it goes way beyond that. And that's why they're only qualified people and like nowadays everybody is doing, a lot of people are doing it. And that ceremony like there is one expert said that it's been done all over the world for thousands of years but it's been done in you know in the last 19th century and that it's the creator (Inaudible 6:39) what I call that an angel to give us instructions on seven secret

ceremonies for the Lakota people when they have a hard time. And nowadays what we do is we include, it's just to say all my relations, everything here on earth, all humans, everything that has spirit, everything that has we call (Inaudible) spirit which is everything from a four-legged to the fish that swim, bugs that crawl on earth, trees that grow, the grass that grows, that do have life, that have spirit, the water, the air, and we work with all that not just here on earth but in the universe. And it gets to that point and nowadays people just don't have, they call it the sweat lodge and it's kind of a bad, I don't know, there is a lot of, what do you call it, unqualified people that do this and that's why there is a lot of people who are qualified who run these ceremonies I guess are kind of like hidden and so other people who (Inaudible) have to find that.

Det. Diskin: Well, what I will do, I get your phone number down here and I will like to give you a call maybe sometime later if I have some questions. We are looking for somebody who is an expert with sweat lodges and how they are supposed to be conducted and so I would like to be able to give you call later sometime if some more questions come up about the sweat lodge.

Lee Plentywolf: Okay, I have one question.

Det. Diskin: Sure.

Lee Plentywolf: I just (Inaudible) pictures on TV but was that covered with two tarps?

Det. Diskin: Yes.

Lee Plentywolf: A blue one and a black one, right?

Det. Diskin: Yeah. What it was is they didn't really have a tarp that would cover the whole thing but there was blankets and there was real thin blue tarp and then a real thick brown tarp on top.

Lee Plentywolf: Okay, because I think that a few years back, I heard that there had been other problems that people, I don't remember exactly where in the U.S. but somewhere that every time somebody uses a tarp, it puts up some kind of toxic something.

Det. Diskin: Yeah, we are looking at that to see if that was a factor.

Lee Plentywolf: And I've done that a lot itself covering a sweat lodge. I know that they have problems with that. Another one on top of that is (Inaudible) whatever black thing stuff about going that far, in Africa, it's no-no there. (Inaudible) a long time ago we used animal skins and they are not sewn together so they (Inaudible) all things are supposed to be (Inaudible) grandmothers.

Det. Diskin: Okay.

Lee Plentywolf: So I was looking at that I was like man they covered that whole thing with plastic. That's not good.

Det. Diskin: Yeah, we are looking at that, we'll have to do test to see what type of toxins would be emitted and that sort of thing.

Lee Plentywolf: Yeah, especially you can't cover with another one just sewn with it. I was just curious (Inaudible) that's why (Inaudible) we're only covering certain way and it was cutting the willows, that goes into it all the way to (Inaudible) event the prayer goes then to every single one as it represents, every willow represents part of the universe as a map of the universe and the whole sweat lodge is supposed to represent, every willow represents a part of that universe. And everything that goes into that is a prayer gone all the way till the time it's finished and blessed by the medicine man. And just to put it up, (Inaudible) fire pit or alter, there is a lot of things that maybe I missed it on TV but I didn't see that when they were having that (Inaudible) or whatever it is.

Det. Diskin: Yeah, I am not sure what that would look like but I don't remember anything like that.

Lee Plentywolf: Yeah. Well, that's one of the reasons why I know why I talked to some of the people from my tribe and the First Member's Office and they handled the spiritual issues. And everybody knows that it's not even connected first member's office.

Det. Diskin: Okay.

Lee Plentywolf: It's just that wording that they use is the same, I was connected to it. But it's just that word sweat lodge and that's what kind of gets a few people upset.

Det. Diskin: Yeah, I can imagine. But anyway, if you could just give me a call once you find about that phone call that was made and then

Lee Plentywolf: Okay, I will call back up there and find out, see if they can track down whoever who (Inaudible) that's what she heard anyway.

Det. Diskin: Okay.

Lee Plentywolf: I will find out and get back with you on that.

Det. Diskin: Okay, thanks, I appreciate that.

Lee Plentywolf: Okay.

Det. Diskin: All right, have a good day.

Lee Plentywolf: You too.

Det. Diskin: All right, bye.

Lee Plentywolf: Okay.

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