



Affiliated with the Kwan Um School of Zen

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## Jijang Bosal (Dan Hauser's Mother)

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About a year after the execution, a reporter from the Tampa Tribune asked me if I would put down some of my thoughts from the execution of Dan Hauser. This is what came out. Don't look for logic, factual corrections or the likes. This is what I felt and remember one year after the execution.

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Jijang Bosal and Kwan Seum Bosal are among the more popular mantras used by the Kwan Um School of Zen.

Jijang Bosal - (Great Vow mantra) - I want to save all beings and also helps dead or suffering people.

Kwan Seum Bosal -(Great Love, Great Compassion mantra.) Takes away any kind of suffering.

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Dan was not a stranger to either Kwan Seum Bosal or Jijang Bosal. He had worked with both for a long time.

Dan had been moved from one side of the deathwatch area to the final side that is just behind the execution chamber. I think there was a 10-minute warning for me to do what had to be done and then my time would be up. My last instructions to Dan were to "attain" Kwan Seum Bosal while he was on the gurney and then when he died to switch to "Jijang Bosal". He seemed to understand this very clearly.

At that time, I turned around to look over my shoulder and there was a sea of white shirts and shaved heads. I looked into the eyes and knew that I need not say anything. It was like a scene out of the movie "A Clockwork Orange". I had the feeling that everyone knew what was going to happen was wrong; they knew it and were going to do it anyway.

As I was leaving the deathwatch cells, I had the feeling I was climbing out of a submarine and moving into a submarine pen; not so sure my thinking was very clear. It seems that we went into the prison chapel to get my stuff and put in the truck. Then the prison chaplain took me to some kind of mess hall where I had to wait with 25 or more other people. Everyone was drinking coffee and making small talk; it seemed almost like a midmorning coffee break at an office.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

Somewhere along the line, someone had told me that the cause of death on the death certificate would read "legal homicide." The awesome power of the state and its elected officials started to sink in. The state could kill without retaliation. If they made a mistake it would be called a "regrettable error" or some kind of "bureaucratic mix-up", but in reality, no one would be held accountable.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

A vision appeared of President Clinton on TV lying to the American people, then Senator Ted Kennedy with a neck brace begging forgiveness for killing a campaign worker, and then the Governor of Arkansas (a convicted felon) signed the death warrant for Frankie Parker. For the life of me, I could not remember one elected member of our local, state, or national government that had the moral integrity to make the laws or carry out an execution.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

The Ten Commandments are very clear: "Thou shalt not kill." I see no exceptions there. The five precepts are very clear: "I vow to abstain from taking life." No exceptions there. Some states allow for executions and some don't. Killing is not killing. Killing under this circumstance is ok, that maybe 5 years, a federal official kills and it is ok, then under this or that situation is murder and you will be executed. This must be a case of situational ethics and politicians who cannot stand the scrutiny of the laws they write.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

Cannot help thinking that there is a rigid separation of the church and state so that politicians don't have to be held accountable or to the same standards of ethics or morality.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

Three days out of high school and I was on my way to Parris Island. Most of the drill instructors had marched out of the frozen Choson. Their mantra was "leave no man alive or dead behind." It was a comforting thought in 20 years of military service knowing I would never be forgotten or left behind. It became my mantra for 20 years, as much to know that I would never be forgotten as to help me guide fellow soldiers. The terror of being left behind is out of this world.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

There is no redemption. To execute someone means that a person cannot be helped and has no worthwhile qualities. Who among us is qualified to make the laws, determine the value of a person, and execute the punishment? The state can execute someone and not be held accountable for its errors yet a person can kill someone and be considered non-redeemable. Clinton, Kennedy, and Edwards.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

What is this thing called closure. How can we have closure when two wrongs make a right? One murder can clear the air of another murder. This sounds like revenge and not closure. This should be in a movie like "A Clockwork Orange" or "Catch 22", not in real life.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

Time to get on the bus

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

The bus takes us to the execution chamber. Everyone is so nicely dressed in ties and looking so professional. Almost like going to a party. It is raining or wet; cannot really remember.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

We are going into the witness room. Have no memories of putting on my robes. Know that I am supposed to be in the chair closest to Dan so that if he looks at the window he will see me first.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

Why did I ever agree to this? By no means am I equal to this task. I have seen a lot of not so good things, and this is out of my league. I know that if he looks at me, I will start crying.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

Dan asked me if I was up to it. At that point my mind flashed back to a PBS interview of Sister Helen Prejean. I think her words were, "When you look out there, look for me and I will be there for you." It seems as if I went on autopilot and no sooner than the words were out of my mouth, I wish I could have pulled them back. Now, here I sit.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

Looking in the glass, I could see the faces of everyone in the room; they looked like great stones with cloth ties.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

Whatever happened to redemption? That means we have no confidence in the basic or inherent goodness of man. We have lost faith in ourselves. I hope I never make a mistake.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

Dan, don't look at me because I am most likely going to let you down. Don't think I can be strong for you or me. Don't know how the others in the room can be so calm. Don't know how others can do this.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

No forgiveness, God that is so cold. A world with no forgiveness. How can people who spring from any form of spirituality where the marching orders are so clear that "Thou shalt not kill" can kill in such a cold and surgical manner? The only difference between Manson and the state is that there is more of the state than Manson. Power is right situational ethics.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

The curtains are open. There is Dan. How in the hell can he be so calm? I only hope that when my turn comes to die that I can be as calm and at peace as he seems. He must have attained Kwan Seum Bosal. Dan, don't open your eyes and look at me.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

He was asked if he had any last words. Nothing.

Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal, Kwan Seum Bosal...

A man is dead. Dead dead. Thank you for not looking. Executed in a cold and methodical manner by men who never batted an eyelash. By men, who chose to be a part of the process of legal homicide. Because they work for the state, they can kill with impunity, and no one will be held accountable.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

These men who did the work will have to carry it inside them. No matter how hard we try to hide it, there is a price to pay, and there is no place where the judgment is the harshest than inside ourselves.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

It is also true that the people who make the laws pay someone to carry the burden of the laws they make.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal ...

Got to get out of here. It must be raining and am not sure how I get to the truck. Want to cry in the worst way and don't know that I can. The prison chaplain comes to me while I am trying to get into the truck to see if I am all right. Don't really want anything to do with him or the whole mess. He seems to drift off and then Dan's lawyer presents himself and asks me if I am ok. Don't really want anything to do with anyone and he drifts off faster than the chaplain.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Don't know why they came to check on me. I must be weird or something.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Don't know how in the hell I am going to make it home. Don't even know that I can make it out of the parking lot. Have driven to death row from the Gateless Gate so many times that I can put the truck on autopilot and disengage my brain.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

There are phone calls I have to make but don't really know who to call.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Called someone related to Dan and left it up to her to pass the word. Had to pull off the road. Not doing a very good job driving much less trying to talk.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Know that the pick-up was a lethal weapon going from the prison to High Springs. I was not driving. It was like there was this blithering mass of mush going somewhere without wanting to be anywhere. It was like I was watching the truck drive itself from somewhere above the truck.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Made another phone call. That is it. No more calls. Just cannot do it.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Don't have any driving desire to be with anyone. Wouldn't know how to be with anyone anyway. Don't have any desire to be anywhere. Can't think of anywhere to go but know the animals need to be fed. Have to feed the animals so I guess I had better go home.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Got home and no one was there. Have no desire to see anyone anyway. Don't really remember much of what went on for a while. Cannot really remember talking to anyone. Wanted to get back to work. At least there, people would be around me.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Cannot figure out why a simple death would break me up. Got to put this behind me. Got to put this behind me.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Did a lot of things that did not make a whole lot of sense to me. Refused a lot of help that was offered. Refused a lot of friendship that was offered. Sort of went into lock down. Never took the time off I promised myself and would not have known what to do with it if I had.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

Cannot be weak. Have to set the pace and the example. When I cannot do it, need to be alone. No way I am going to or know how to ask for help. Hurt some very good people I cared a lot for in the process. There is no way I can go back and undo those hurts.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...

I cannot be the only weak link in the chain.

Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal, Jijang Bosal...