

INKA CEREMONY FOR

Tolo Cantarellas

August 31, 2019 at Bori Sa Temple, Catalonia, Spain

DHARMA COMBAT

Rosenmayr PSN: Tolo, good to see you. You live on this wonderful island. There are so many tourists who come to this island, and many of these tourists only come to drink! When you are a teacher, how are you going to teach these tourists?

Cantarellas PSN: You already know, Poep Sa Nim.

Rosenmayr PSN: I ask you.

Cantarellas PSN: PROST! [*Lifts up a glass and slurps down a drink.*]

Rosenmayr PSN: I like your teaching.

Cantarellas PSN: I think I'm going to like this job. [*Laughs.*]



Myong Hae Sunim JDPS: Hello, Tolo! I listen to many questions from people, and maybe you can help me. People are always wanting to know about their place in this world. In my life I face so many difficulties, and I don't know where my place is. Can you help me?

Cantarellas PSN: You already know, Sunim!

MHSN: No, I don't know.

Cantarellas PSN: Please stand up, Sunim. I will take you to your place. [*Tolo PSN accompanies her back to her cushion along with much laughter and applause.*]



Schaefer PSN: Great to see you, Tolo! You know, recently the president of the United States wanted to buy Greenland, but it was not possible. Now I hear he's thinking about buying Mallorca. So, what can you do?

Cantarellas PSN: You already know, Poep Sa Nim!

Schaefer PSN: No, I'm asking you as a Majorcan.

Cantarellas PSN: Well, since half of my island already belongs to the Germans, the president should talk to the German chancellor and come to an agreement.

INKA SPEECH

[*Raises the Zen stick over his head, then hits the table with the stick.*]

Truth is our original nature!

[*Raises the Zen stick over his head, then hits the table with the stick.*]

Truth. Lies. Who can distinguish between them?

[*Raises the Zen stick over his head, then hits the table with the stick.*]

Why the confusion then? Truth is truth and lies are lies.

KATZ!

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Photo: Oriol Casanovas

Many shining faces all around, even in this heat.

I wish to extend special gratitude to the following supporters of my Zen journey: To Gabriella, my wife, who has been with me unconditionally through the highs and lows of my life. To all teachers—especially to Alma-Jo Potter JDPSN, guiding teacher for the Palma Sangha, and to Knud Rosenmayr JDPSN, Barry Briggs JDPSN, and Arne Schaefer JDPSN. And to the wonderful Palma Sangha.

I want to start with a tra-

ditional Majorcan tale. There once lived a man in a mountain village. He lived in an isolated cabin and did not have relationships with anyone. He lived by gathering wood and making charcoal. Since he never went to town, he also never went to Mass. Because of this, he was viewed with suspicion by the others, even though he behaved correctly in all situations.

One day, the priest approached him and asked him why he did not come to church. He answered by saying that he did not believe in anything. The priest said that this was impossible, because everyone believes in something even if might not be the best of things.

The man thought and then said that he did believe in something. He believed in death. The priest was taken aback and said, "My son, how can you say that? No one in his right mind believes in death! Why should it be death that you believe in?"

The man said, "Because death does not create distinctions. It treats everyone in the same impersonal manner."

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In the same way, truth does not create distinctions, no matter who it is that insists on attaching to distinctions. Truth—like clear mind—is not anyone's possession.

Buddha said that there are three things that cannot be hidden: the sun, the moon, and the truth. Truth is independent of whether one sees it or not. In these times of disinformation and false news, the sky continues to be blue and the trees continue to be green.

Our Zen practice continually points to the truth so that it always dwells in our hearts. In times like these, when confusion seems to be the norm, it enables us to perceive clearly and distinguish the truth from lies.

Every summer for the last ten years, some friends and I have sailed together across the Mediterranean Sea. The following happened to us during one of those trips.

We were sailing toward Corsica, and we knew that we needed to cross the tail end of a storm in progress. Everything was going well, even in the turbulent storm, until one of the three of us became seasick and could no longer help with the work. At that point, we noticed that the storm had turned to move in our direction, and we would not be able to avoid it. Everything changed: it became extremely difficult, heavy, and gray, and our attitudes



Photo: Oriol Casanovas

matched the conditions.

We needed to steer and control the boat and take care of our sick partner at the same time. We needed to accomplish everything with only two of us doing the work of three.

In these moments, one thinks, "Did I do my work well? Did I consult the weather reports correctly? Was it really wise to take the boat out in such conditions?" And above all I asked myself, "Who got me into this trouble?"

But actually, in these kinds of situations, we don't have time to think. We can only act! Just do it! Fear appears when we start thinking about the situation we are in.

Nevertheless, many wild thoughts did appear. I remembered that a friend once told me that if I sail a



Photo: Oriol Casanovas

I needed to return urgently. My sister passed away shortly afterward. I faced the truth of the dharma principle of impermanence.

I recently was looking through old issues of *Primary Point* and found an article written by Fernando Pardo, a very senior student, describing how the Kwan Um School came to Spain. The first retreat was in 1981 with Zen Master Seung Sahn. The early years were turbulent, and after some very unfortunate events, the sangha divided and the center in Barcelona ceased to exist. The center in Palma also almost

disappeared.

boat but never experience a storm, then I haven't sailed enough. He also said that if I did not believe in God but continued sailing, not to worry. I would inevitably end up believing in God.

The vast sea is powerful and puts us to the test. It is the moment of truth. In that moment, the sea is not interested in the cosmetic appearance of the boat. What matters is the importance of strong construction, of tolerance, of being able to face the great challenges of the sea.

We spent two-and-a-half very rough days in that storm. Finally the sun broke through and the clouds began to disappear, along with the clouds in our minds. The outline of the island appeared on the far horizon. The winds calmed down, and our confidence returned.

We were tested by the sea, and we responded. Peace appeared in our hearts. Pride was irrelevant. Instead, wisdom and humility grew within us.

Good omens appeared: a whale dove in front of the bow just as we came within sight of the bay of Ajaccio. I wrote the following poem when we arrived:

*In the midst of the storm
The raging of the sea
Overpowers us.
Any error can be fatal
I ask myself: What am I doing here?
But nevertheless
How would I have known
the power of the wind and the waves
and the incredible tonality of the colors
of the sea
If I had been elsewhere?*

This summer turned out differently. I sailed with my friends, but after only five days Gabriella called me to tell me that my older sister—the last of my siblings—had fallen into a coma after suffering a cerebral vascular attack.

But slowly, with perseverance and through hard times, the Kwan Um School began to flower again. Now the Zen center in Barcelona functions well, and this great temple, Bori Sa, has appeared. The same is happening in Palma. After moving the Palma Zen Center often, we recently settled into our very own Zen center.

The results of perseverance and practice are clear in this ceremony and sangha meeting!

[Raises the Zen stick over his head, then hits the table with the stick.]

All human beings are aboard the world ship that sails through the Milky Way.

[Raises the Zen stick over his head, then hits the table with the stick.]

The exit port is always left behind.

[Raises the Zen stick over his head, then hits the table with the stick.]

Our lives are a journey toward our home.

No before us and no behind us! Then what?

KATZ!

After this ceremony, first cakes and tea, and then afterward, we will head for home! ♦

Bartolomé Cantarellas Socías JDPSN met Zen Master Seung Sahn in 1981 at a retreat that was held in a monastery in Palma de Mallorca. In 1983 Bartolomé moved to Girona, in Catalonia, where he lived at Ahabah, a community that organized retreats and therapies for groups. In 1986 he was resident for a time at the Zen center in Paris, where he lived with Zen Master Seung Sahn for a few months. He has visited Korea several times, first in 1987. Bartolomé has been abbot of the Palma Zen Center for the past twenty-five years and has attended retreats in France, Poland, Germany, the United States, and Spain. A nurse by profession, he works in rural areas as a specialist in occupational health and out-of-hospital emergencies. He received inka in September 2019 from Zen Master Bon Shim. He and his wife currently live in the countryside on the outskirts of Palma.