

Daniel Pearl: The Unsung Hero

Daniel Jacob Pearl was born on October 10, 1963 in the well-known city of Princeton, New Jersey. He grew up in a safe environment with two loving parents. His exceptional grades got him into Stanford University where he graduated with a B.A. (Bachelor of Arts) in Communications. In 1990, Pearl was employed by the *Wall Street Journal* where it was his job to cover telecommunications starting in Atlanta, GA, then moving on to Washington, D.C., and finally resting in London, England where he married his wife Marianne. What he never knew was that it would be his job that killed him.

Daniel loved writing songs and playing the violin. He even wrote songs for his son--not yet born. Another thing he never knew; he wouldn't be there to perform these songs to him.

It was on January 23, 2002 that Pearl set out ready for a routine interview in Pakistan when suddenly, he was kidnapped by a Pakistani restoration group. They sent threatening emails to the U.S. stating that Pearl was a spy and if it came to it, they would kill him. The message read:

“We give you one more day if America will not meet our demands we will kill Daniel. Then this cycle will continue and no American journalist could enter Pakistan.”

Pearl's wife and his editor sent emails pleading for his release, but there was no response to these emails. It is estimated that about nine days later, Daniel Pearl was beheaded. More than three months passed when they found his body in ten pieces on May 16, 2002. There was no autopsy of his body done because the Pakistani's had taken a video telling the story of his abduction.

Just twelve days later, Daniel's son was born into this world--fatherless. Because of his love for music, a song was created called “Remember My Song”. It was written in Daniel's memory. The lyrics go something like this: “Remember my words, remember my voice.

Remember my thoughts, remember my choice.” Continuing: “Remember my life, and always be strong. Remember my love, and remember my song.” Someday, Daniel and his son will sing together again.

Bibliography

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Daniel_Pearl
- http://www.danielpearlmusicdays.org/remember_my_song.php