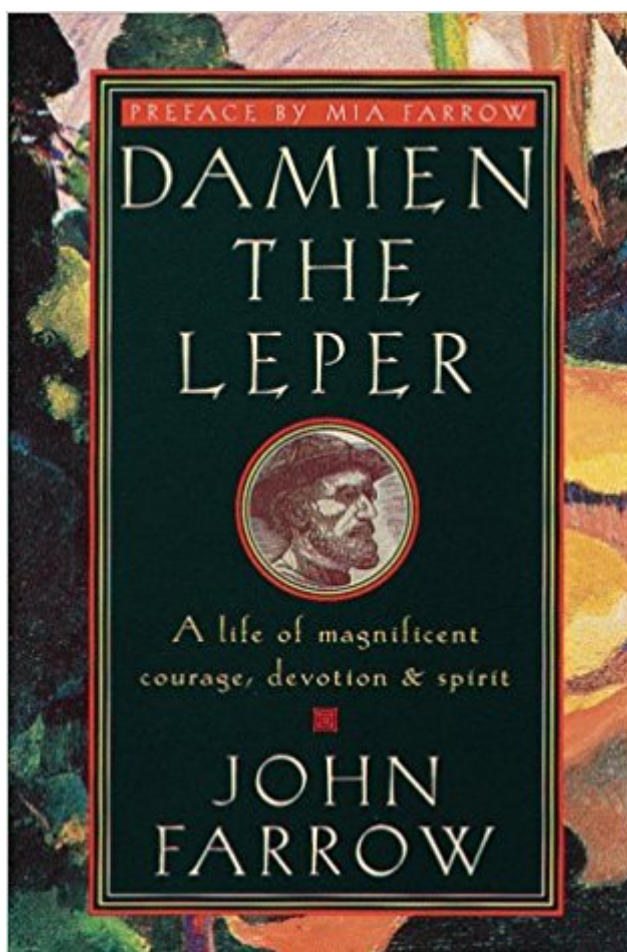


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Damien The Leper: A Life Of Magnificent Courage, Devotion And Spirit



Synopsis

The great adventure of Damien the Leper began quietly over a century ago. Since then, his remarkable story has become legend throughout the world. Joseph De Veuster left his secure life in Belgium, thrusting aside all thoughts of personal danger and spending the rest of his days as Father Damien comforting the sick and the dying. Though virtually entombed among the living dead of a leper colony on the island of Molokai, Father Damien managed to find beauty and enchantment in the lush surroundings. His extraordinary journey of the spirit comes to life in John Farrow's splendid biography, which has become a classic over the years and is sure to endure as long as people thrill to deeds of valor and pay homage to the great spiritual truths so perfectly reflected in this unforgettable story of courage, sacrifice, and devotion.

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Customer Reviews

Farrow took a sabbatical from his career as a film director to publish this 1954 biography of the leper priest. The text follows Father Damien from his roots in Belgium as Joseph de Veuster through his entrance into the church and ultimate destiny at the leper colony on the island of Molokai, HI. Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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leper colony on the island of Molokai, Father Damien managed to find beauty and enchantment in the lush surroundings. His extraordinary journey of the spirit comes to life in John Farrow's splendid biography, which has become a classic over the years and is sure to endure as long as people thrill to deeds of valor and pay homage to the great spiritual truths so perfectly reflected in this unforgettable story of courage, sacrifice, and devotion.

Inspiring story.

Very well written. Entertaining in some places, necessarily heavy in others. Left me feeling I had the opportunity to observe this fascinating man.

This book tells the story/history of Father Damien of Molokai, a most remarkable man whose indefatigable work in a notorious Hawaiian leper colony gave him the international status of the Mother Theresa of his time. It is well-written, lively, and most readable; but it is also terribly romanticized, Damien IS saintly. Perhaps he was. Readers should take minor note that the main text was published originally in 1937 (according to an older edition of this book that I own).

A friend gave me a copy of this 25 years ago. I thought the title intriguing, and started it not knowing what to expect. What unfolded was a riveting and delicious and fascinating tale of a man driven to serve mankind selflessly in the name of his God; and that desire took him to the farthest shores of the earth and to the most remote and unloved spot. But the remoteness of the location and the unique attributes of his new companions did not dim Damien's enthusiasm for a second, nor quell the enormous light that shined within him. This is an almost unheard-of, yet true, story of a fascinating man in a fascinating time and location and environment. The book is written with such love and beauty that it sweeps the reader up in the story and allows him/her to experience it along with Damien. Some of it is so hauntingly spiritual that it gives one goosebumps. It's that good. Highly recommended.

I read this book about five years ago and am now reading it a second time. It is more stunning and compelling than I remember. John Farrow brilliantly takes us into the heart, mind and soul of a man who gave all of himself to Christ. It is an adventure on every level, a delight for the senses, as Damien fights his way through the jungles, waterfalls and diseases of the tropics to bring God to the islanders. When he is sent to Molokai, Damien faces evil head-on in every possible way, and he

meets it, each time, with other-worldly selflessness and a determination that is completely unstoppable. Few people realize that he was left on the shores of Molokai with nothing but an extra shirt to wear. He had no food, no water, no shelter (he lived under a tree), no helper; and he was faced with the task of caring for 800 lepers who had no doctors, no food supply, no medical supplies, no water supply, no clothing, and who often died from exposure, not leprosy. Mothers resorted to prostitution to win food for their children; many of the lepers spent their time drunk on a sickening liquor they concocted. Damien transformed these people and the island into a place of self-respect and decency. Truly, everyone should read this book if only to see what one person can do with their life. Of course, Damien dies after several years with "his lepers," but his legacy continues to shine. The Catholic Church will beatify him as a saint in October 2009. Don't miss reading this book -- it will change you.

Read this 50 years ago. Heard about it again recently. Very moving story. Book in better condition than I expected.

I purchased this book for my sister who read it many, many, many years ago when she was in grade school. It was one of her favorite books, so I surprised her with it. She loved it!

“Advice To Be Read on Shipboard To find the good in a thing at once is a sign of good taste. Some seek the good in life, others the ill. There is nothing that has no good in it. But many have such a scent that amidst a thousand excellences they fix upon a single defect as if they were scavengers of men's minds and hearts. So they draw up a balance sheet of defects which does more credit to their bad taste than to their intelligence. They lead a sad life, nourishing themselves on bitters and garbage. They have the luckier taste who amongst a thousand defects seize upon a single beauty that they may have hit upon by chance. His hand lingered over the paper for a moment. From past experience he had found that young missionaries, newly ordained, full of the importance of their mission, were sometimes, in their zeal, overharsh to their charges. And intolerance was the last thing he wished. (pages xvii-xviii) Evidence this missionary leader: Was aware some young missionaries he sent were not mature enough to be tolerant of other ways of living. Did not care enough to figure out a way to teach tolerance to young missionaries. Was blinded by religious zeal. Did not care that some missionaries were overharsh. Priest Damien, a Catholic missionary, went to Molokai. He committed his life to helping others suffering from leprosy. He got leprosy too. Appears he gained respect of Hawaiian

royalty who visited him, the Bishop who sent him, sick ones he cared for, and many people around the world. Story offers insights into life of a missionary, island of Molokai, Hawaiian history, and history of leprosy.

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