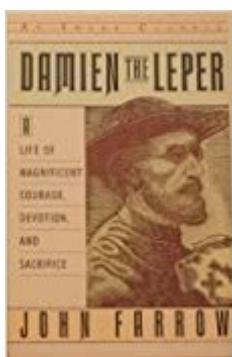


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Damien The Leper: A Life Of Magnificent Courage, Devotion And Sacrifice (An Image Classic)



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. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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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. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

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It is often difficult to write a critical review of a biography of a man that you deeply admire. However, I must be honest in my assessment of this book. It is informative and paints an excellent picture of Father Damian. The misfortune is that John Farrow needed an editor to edit his work before it was published. Farrow spends far too much time describing the scenery of Hawaii, which takes away from the story of Father Damian. In a book that was over 220 pages, it seemed that less than 80% was directly related to Father Damian. The author also wastes time exploring alleged "unclean acts" by Father Damian. To quote page 220, "... if the story were a thousand times true, can't you see you are a million times lower for daring to repeat it." This reflects my feeling on this discussion. If even the author does not believe it, why include it in the book? I only became aware of the story of Father Damian by chance within the last year and have taken great interest in it. Farrow's biography puts in perspective a life which had chosen to be martyred for the suffering lepers. Not only did he choose to be with the lepers, but he built their secluded island to a more respectable state and lobbied politicians to better the way of life for them. As the author worked in Hollywood, it amazes me that such a story could not inspire a movie. This is certainly a touching and important tale for a wider audience to know, without a focus on the scenery.

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