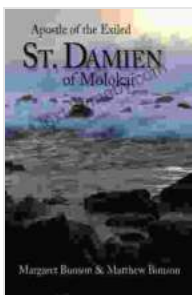


St. Damien of Molokai: Apostle of the Exiled

In the annals of sainthood, the story of St. Damien of Molokai stands out as a beacon of compassion and unwavering service. This priest from Belgium embarked on a heroic mission to care for the exiled lepers of Molokai, Hawaii, sacrificing his own health and well-being to bring solace and dignity to those cast out by society.

Early Life and Calling

Joseph de Veuster, later known as St. Damien, was born in 1840 in Tremelo, Belgium. From a young age, he displayed a profound faith and a desire to serve others. At the age of 18, he joined the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, known as the Picpus Fathers. After completing his priestly studies, Damien expressed a longing to serve as a missionary in the distant lands.



St. Damien of Molokai: Apostle of the Exiled

by Margaret Bunson

★★★★☆ 4.1 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 2940 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
X-Ray for textbooks : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 270 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Mission to Molokai

In 1873, Damien's request was granted, and he set sail for the Hawaiian Islands. Upon his arrival, he was assigned to the parish of Kohala on the island of Hawaii. However, his heart was drawn to the plight of the lepers who were exiled to the remote island of Molokai.

Leprosy, a disfiguring and deadly disease at the time, was greatly feared and misunderstood. Lepers were often shunned and forcibly removed from their homes and communities. In Molokai, they were confined to a desolate settlement called Kalaupapa, where they lived in isolation and despair.

Moved by compassion, Damien volunteered to go to Molokai in 1873. Initially, his mission was to provide spiritual care to the lepers, but he quickly realized that their physical and emotional needs were equally dire.

A Life of Sacrifice

Damien immersed himself in the lives of the lepers. He built homes, schools, and a hospital, transforming Kalaupapa into a more habitable place. He tended to the sick, washed the wounds, and provided food and clothing. Most importantly, he offered them dignity and love, reminding them that they were human beings worthy of compassion.

Damien's selfless service took a toll on his own health. In 1884, he was diagnosed with leprosy. Refusing to abandon his flock, he continued to care for them, even as his own body became ravaged by the disease.

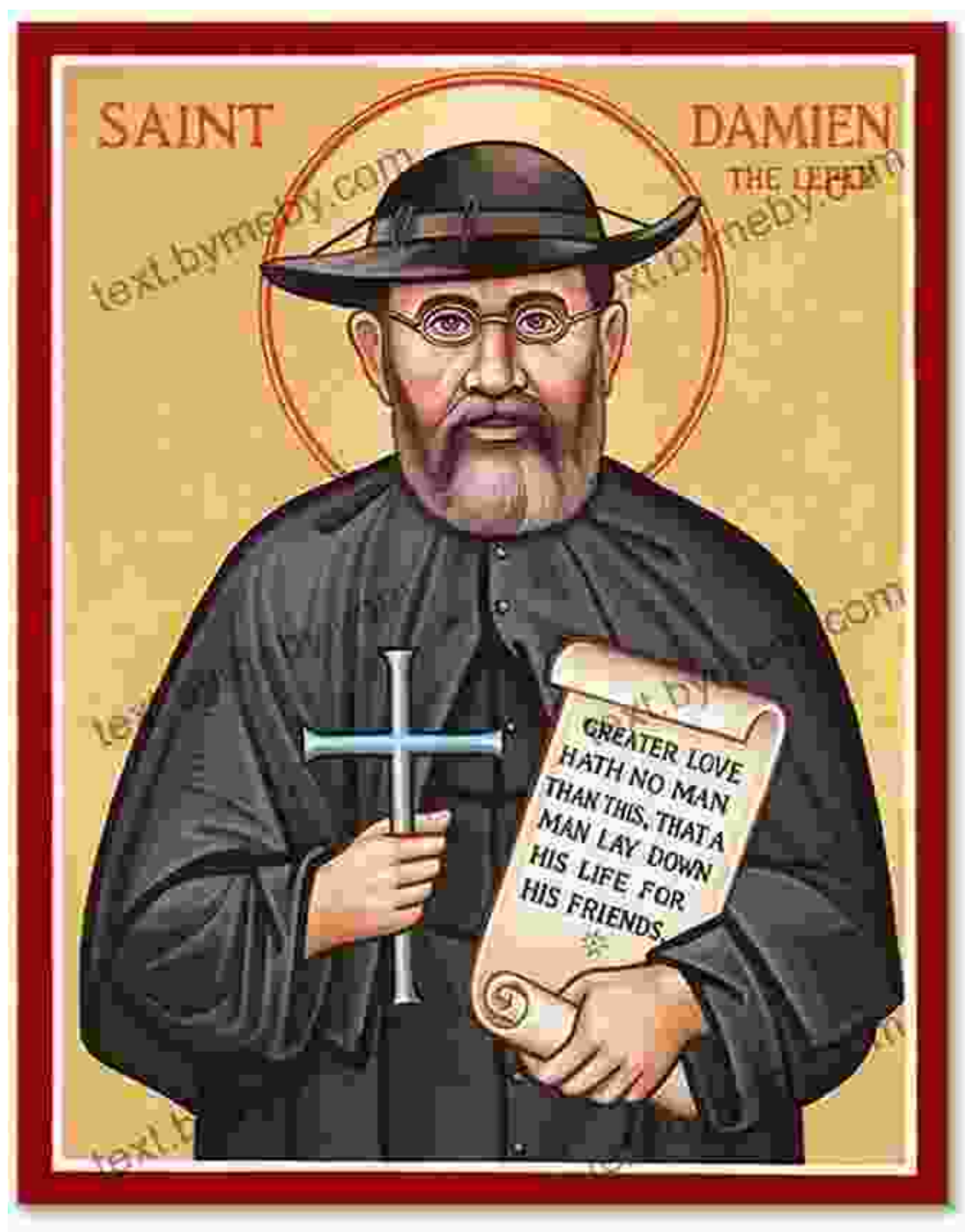
Death and Legacy

St. Damien of Molokai died on April 15, 1889, at the age of 49. His heroic sacrifice and compassionate service inspired countless people around the

world. He was canonized as a saint by the Catholic Church in 2009, and his legacy continues to inspire and challenge us today.

Alt Image Descriptions

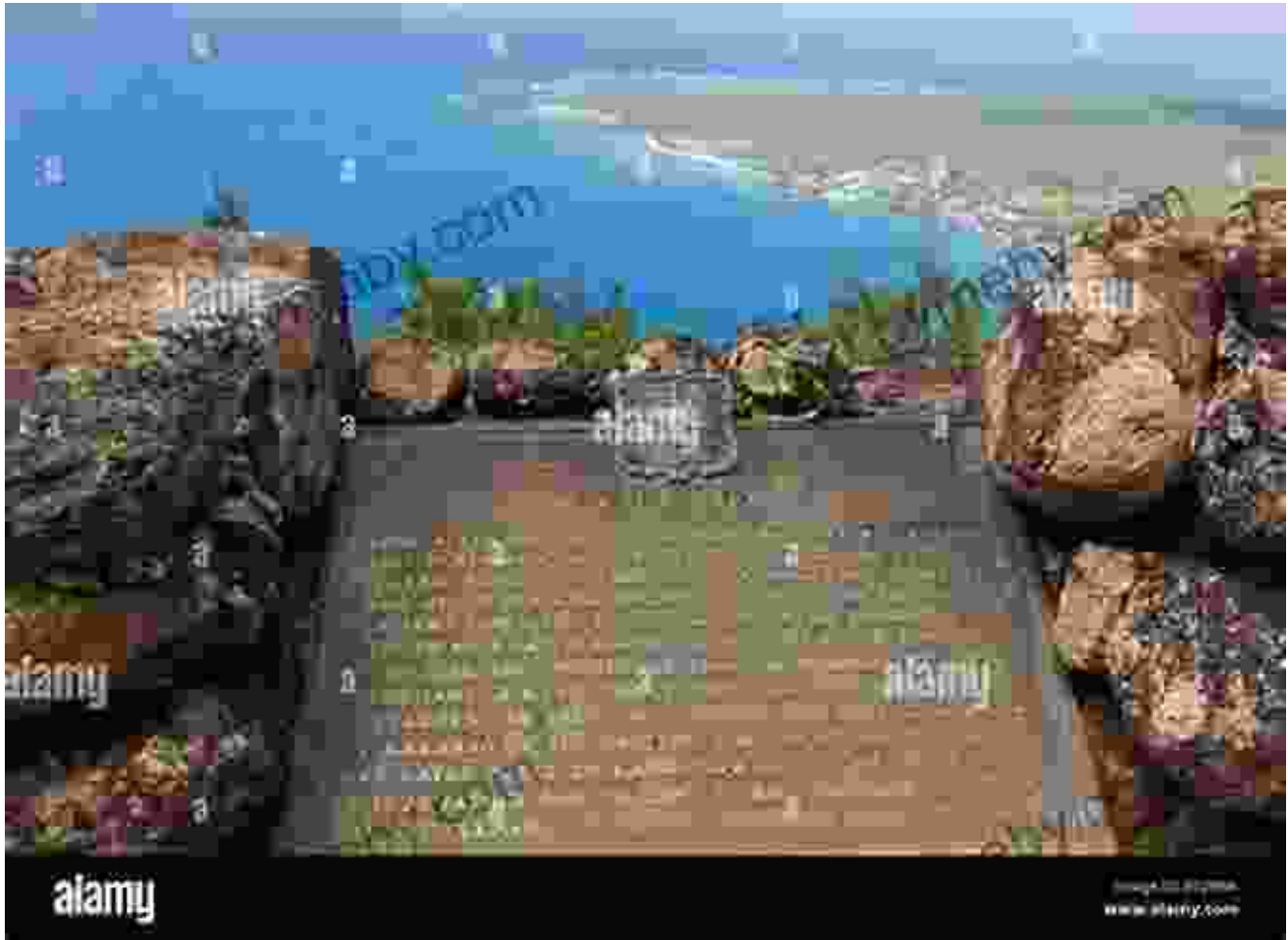
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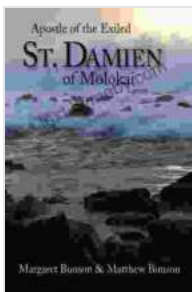


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SEO Title

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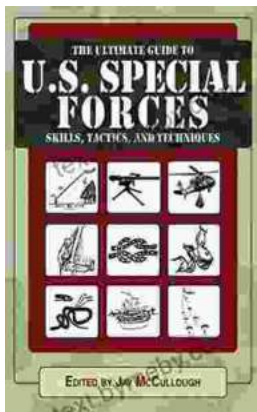
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