



*Father Damien*

In 1889, his sermon began “We lepers ...” He died from leprosy that year, aged 49. The life he had lived among the lepers led to an intensive study of the disease, eventually resulting in a cure.

H. P. B. said of him: “He was a true Theosophist, and his memory will live for ever in our annals.” “Had we the means to do so, we would raise a statue to Father Damien, the true, practical saint, and perpetuate his memory for ever as a living exemplar of Theosophical heroism — and of Buddha, and Christ-like mercy and self-sacrifice.”

In the June 8th issue of *Theosophy Watch* there is a feature on Father Damien and there are several online documentary films about him worth seeing as well. There are so many quotes on compassion from the writings of H. P. B. But perhaps none is more important than this, from *The Voice of The Silence*:

“Compassion is no attribute. It is the LAW of laws ...” Thus compassion and its source must be sought in the Heart, rather than the head. It is written: “As man thinketh in his heart, so is he.”

In *Lucifer*, November, 1887, H. P. B. wrote “He who does not practice altruism; he who is not prepared to share his last morsel with a weaker or a poorer than himself; he who neglects to help his brother man, of whatever race, nation, or creed, whenever and wherever he meets suffering, and who