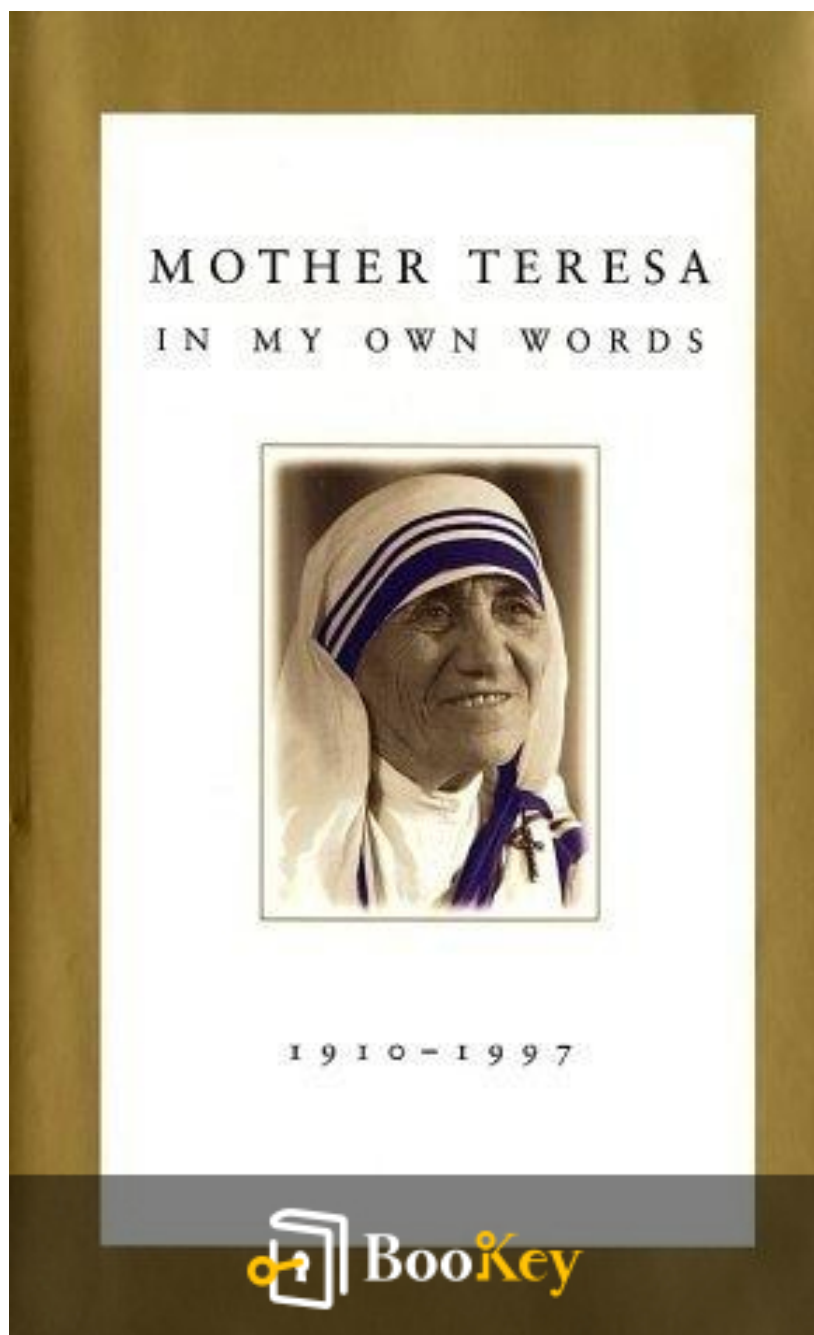


Mother Teresa PDF (Limited Copy)

Brian Kolodiejchuk



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Mother Teresa Summary

Unveiling the Spiritual Depths of Mother Teresa's Journey
Written by New York Central Park Page Turners Books Club

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About the book

In this illuminating book, readers are given a unique and profound insight into the spiritual life of Mother Teresa, an iconic figure renowned for her unwavering dedication to the poorest of the poor. Celebrated globally as a symbol of compassion, she has been recognized across various faiths for her selfless service to the sick and dying. However, beyond her public persona lies a deeper, more complex spiritual journey that is often overlooked: her struggles, moments of desolation, and the profound intensity of her faith.

The book is skillfully compiled by Fr. Brian Kolodiejchuk, M.C., who not only knew Mother Teresa intimately but is also an advocate for her canonization as a saint. It includes a collection of previously unpublished letters she wrote to her spiritual advisors, offering an intimate glimpse into the trials and tribulations she endured throughout her ministry. These letters reveal the classic mystic in Mother Teresa, portraying her as a woman of deep faith who faced significant spiritual challenges even as she dedicated her life to charity.

The content is particularly poignant as it was released to celebrate the tenth anniversary of her passing, providing readers with a more rounded portrait of Mother Teresa. Her legacy as a beacon of compassion continues to resonate, and this book serves to deepen our understanding of both her public acts of charity and the internal struggles that shaped her extraordinary life. Through

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these reflections, readers can appreciate not just the light she brought into the world, but also the shadows she navigated in her quest for divine connection and purpose.

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About the author

In these chapters, we delve deeper into the life and mission of Mother Teresa, guided by the insights of Brian Kolodiejchuk, a Canadian priest of the Missionaries of Charity, the religious order she founded. As the postulator for her cause of sainthood, Kolodiejchuk possesses a profound understanding of Mother Teresa's spiritual journey, humanitarian efforts, and the legacy she left behind.

The narrative unfolds by exploring Mother Teresa's early life, her calling to serve the poorest of the poor, and the establishment of her mission in Calcutta. It highlights her unwavering commitment to love and service, which became hallmarks of her ministry. Kolodiejchuk recounts critical events that shaped her aspirations, such as her experiences with the destitute and the deep connections she forged with those she served, emphasizing the transformative power of compassion.

As Kolodiejchuk continues, he addresses the challenges Mother Teresa faced, both personally and professionally, including skepticism from the media and various critics of her approach to aid and spirituality. He articulates how she remained steadfast in her devotion to her calling, viewing each hardship as an opportunity to deepen her faith and serve with even greater fervor. This resilience not only defined her character but also attracted many followers to her cause.

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The chapters also delve into Mother Teresa's significant impact on global humanitarian efforts and her capacity to inspire people from diverse backgrounds to contribute to charitable causes. Kolodiejchuk reflects on how her message of love transcended cultural and religious barriers, encouraging a worldwide movement towards selfless service.

Finally, Kolodiejchuk discusses the canonization process, illustrating the intricate steps required to elevate Mother Teresa to sainthood. He notes the importance of her life story as a source of inspiration for countless individuals seeking direction in their own spiritual journeys. By synthesizing her experiences, teachings, and the extensive research conducted during the canonization process, Kolodiejchuk paints a vivid picture of a woman whose legacy continues to resonate with people everywhere, making her an enduring symbol of hope and compassion.

In summary, these chapters not only chronicle Mother Teresa's remarkable life and achievements but also emphasize the profound lessons in altruism and spirituality derived from her unwavering commitment to humanity. Kolodiejchuk's reflection serves as a testament to her lasting influence and the ongoing relevance of her message in contemporary society.

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Chapter 1 Summary:

Chapter 1: "Put Your Hand in His Hand, and Walk Alone with Him"

The chapter opens with a moving quote from Mother Teresa's mother, which beautifully encapsulates the themes of faith and perseverance that underpin Mother Teresa's life and mission. At just eighteen, she embarks on her journey as a missionary, driven by deep spiritual conviction.

Born Gonxha Agnes Bojaxhiu in Skopje to a devout family, Mother Teresa was surrounded by a culture that instilled in her an early desire to serve God and the needy. This calling became clear to her at the tender age of twelve, setting the stage for her future dedication to humanitarian work. At eighteen, she joined the Loreto Sisters, a religious order committed to educating young girls, and set her sights on serving in India.

In September 1928, she traveled to Ireland, acutely aware of the possible dangers since many missionaries often did not return. Her decision was rooted in her love for Jesus and a desire to fulfill her calling. After her training, on January 6, 1929, she arrived in Calcutta, where she expressed her eagerness to serve the impoverished populations she would encounter.

As Sister Teresa underwent her novitiate training, she embraced pivotal

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vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience in May 1931. Her time at the Loreto community was marked by her unwavering dedication to her students, despite personal struggles that sometimes challenged her spirit.

Throughout this period, Sister Teresa's spiritual life flourished, marked by deep communion with Jesus that inspired her boundless compassion. Yet, she also faced profound spiritual desolation, enduring moments of intense inner turmoil; nonetheless, her commitments to her mission and duties remained steadfast.

On May 24, 1937, she made her final profession of vows and officially became "Mother Teresa." This moment was not only a personal milestone but also a deepening of her spiritual commitment to serve God and aid the destitute.

Following her final vows, Mother Teresa continued her work at St. Mary's School, while also actively reaching out to the poor residing in Calcutta's slums. In her visits, she brought joy and companionship to families grappling with extreme poverty, embodying her life's mission of reflecting Christ's love.

In conclusion, Mother Teresa's early journey reveals the emergence of her profound spirituality and unwavering commitment to the poor. This chapter lays the groundwork for her future role as a global symbol of compassion

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and service, highlighting the transformative power of faith-driven action.

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Chapter 2 Summary:

Chapter 2 Summary: Something Very Beautiful for Jesus

The Private Vow

In April 1942, during a period of great upheaval and uncertainty marked by World War II, Mother Teresa made a profound private vow to God. She committed herself to never refuse God anything, regardless of its magnitude. This vow emerged from her profound love for Jesus and a desire to surrender entirely to His will. Her confessor recognized the depth of this commitment, acknowledging her long-standing fidelity to God and her determination to seek what pleased Him.

Love for Love

Mother Teresa's vow was an expression of her desire to reciprocate the love that God had shown her. This radical commitment aimed not at constraining her freedom, but at deepening her relationship with the divine. Influenced by spiritual figures who had similarly pledged their lives to God, Mother Teresa saw this vow as the ultimate expression of her devotion, reflecting the cultural background that emphasized faithfulness and loyalty.

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“Not to Refuse Him Anything”

Having already lived under the vow of obedience for nearly eleven years, Mother Teresa sought to offer even more to God. She bound herself to refuse Him nothing, even at the risk of mortal sin. Her commitment drove her to strive for complete obedience to God's will in every detail of her life, motivated by a fear of separation from Him, and fostering a relentless pursuit of discernment to hear His voice.

The Blessedness of Submission

Despite the serious nature of her vow, Mother Teresa maintained a joyful demeanor, believing that true joy is found in yielding to God's will. For her, genuine cheerfulness represented a generous spirit eager to please God in all aspects of life.

The Vow in Daily Life

Mother Teresa integrated her vow into her daily existence, transforming every task—no matter how small—into an opportunity to love God. She inspired those around her to seek holiness in their everyday actions and to be responsive to God's will in each moment.

Extraordinary in Her Sacrifice

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The trials of World War II further tested Mother Teresa's dedication to serving God. Amidst significant hardships, including deteriorating health and the Bengal famine, she immersed herself in caring for others. Her commitment was exemplified in acts of selflessness that transcended her own needs. Even in dire situations, she upheld her vow, trusting in God's provision, which often proved to be abundantly sufficient.

In summary, Mother Teresa's private vow reflects her profound love and steadfast dedication to God, influencing her actions and decisions throughout her life, especially during the challenging times of World War II. This commitment not only shaped her path but also became a beacon of hope and inspiration for others in their spiritual journeys.

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Chapter 3 Summary:

Chapter 3 Summary: "Come, Be My Light"

The Call and Its Divine Inspiration

In September 1946, Mother Teresa's life took a profound turn during a retreat in Darjeeling, where she experienced a transformative encounter with Christ. This moment is known as "Inspiration Day," as she interpreted it as a second calling, prompting her to leave the comforts of her life with the Loreto order. The experience set the foundation for her future work, leading to the establishment of the Missionaries of Charity, an order dedicated to serving the poorest of the poor.

Satiating Jesus' Thirst

Mother Teresa's primary mission crystallized around the metaphor of satisfying Jesus' "thirst" for love and souls, a notion that emerged from her deep spiritual experiences. This symbolic thirst, which she articulated as Jesus' plea from the Cross, became a core tenet of her congregation's mission. She passionately conveyed to her followers the urgency of addressing Jesus' longing for love, especially among the needy, framing their work as a sacred response to His suffering.

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Mother Teresa's Dialogue with Jesus

Following her initial encounter, Mother Teresa began to receive locutions from Jesus, intimate messages inviting her to embody His love for the suffering. These communications deepened her understanding of Christ's pain and longing for humanity, reinforcing her commitment to reaching out to the impoverished.

Seeking Spiritual Approval

Upon her return to Calcutta, she shared her experience with Father Celeste Van Exem, her spiritual director. He suggested she take time to reflect and pray about her calling to ensure its authenticity. Mother Teresa took his advice to heart, engaging in prayerful discernment as she sought clarity on her mission.

Permission from Authority

After months of contemplation, Father Van Exem became convinced of the divine nature of her calling. He then encouraged her to approach Archbishop P rier to seek permission for her mission. In her heartfelt letter, Mother Teresa articulated her desire to leave the Loreto order and devote herself to serving the poor, demonstrating her determination to endure hardships in the

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name of faith.

Embracing the New Mission

Initially apprehensive about the drastic lifestyle change her new mission entailed, Mother Teresa ultimately gained clarity and conviction regarding God's calling. She envisioned an order of Indian Missionary Sisters dedicated to the impoverished, embodying a spirit of poverty and love akin to that of Christ Himself.

Conclusion: Commitment to Service and Love

By the time she submitted her letter to the Archbishop, Mother Teresa's fears had subsided, replaced by a resolute determination to heed God's call. Ready to give herself fully to serve the souls of the poor, she exemplified an unwavering commitment to a mission that she firmly believed was divinely inspired, setting the stage for her life's transformative work.

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Chapter 4:

Chapter Four: To Bring Joy to the Suffering Heart of Jesus

Longing to Give All

In this chapter, Mother Teresa shares her heartfelt desire to bring joy to suffering children, valuing each one immensely. Her commitment to this mission is so profound that she is willing to sacrifice everything for their happiness. As she prepares for her transfer from Calcutta to Asansol, she faces challenges regarding her relationship with Father Van Exem, which precipitates her move. Despite the grief and sense of loss that accompany this change, Mother Teresa embraces it with unwavering faith, seeing it as part of God's greater plan for her life.

The Request to Begin Her New Mission

Upon settling in Asansol, Mother Teresa finds herself with reduced responsibilities, allowing her to dedicate more time to prayer and preparation for her envisioned mission among the poorest in Calcutta. She writes to Archbishop Périer, outlining her aspirations while he contemplates her request, hesitant about her motives and the implications of her proposal.

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Mother Teresa's Conviction and Passion

Through her correspondence, Mother Teresa passionately articulates her longing to serve the marginalized, urging Archbishop Périer to support her cause. She expresses her dedication to a life of complete poverty and sincerity, sharing her vision for a new religious order focused on helping the poorest. Her letters illuminate her spiritual conviction and deep desire to make a lasting impact on those in need.

Response from Archbishop Périer

In his reply, Archbishop Périer acknowledges Mother Teresa's enthusiasm but urges caution. He emphasizes the importance of prayer and careful consideration in making significant decisions, especially regarding the establishment of her proposed congregation. This underscores the gravity of her undertaking, reflecting the need for spiritual guidance and consensus in such matters.

The Blueprint of the New Order

To clarify her intentions, Mother Teresa delineates the structure and objectives of the new order she wishes to create. She highlights the necessity for Indian nuns who will inhabit the impoverished neighborhoods, living lives of profound poverty and devotion to God. She outlines specific

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activities, such as nursing the sick and aiding children, all while stressing the importance of spiritual depth among those who join her mission.

Final Challenges and Decisions

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Chapter 5 Summary:

Chapter 5: Delay No Longer. Keep Me Not Back.

Longing to Bring the Light of Christ

In July 1947, Mother Teresa returned to the Entally community in Calcutta, driven by a profound desire to quench what she perceived as Christ's thirst for love and salvation. Although she had stepped down from her role as principal at St. Mary's School, her commitment to serving the boarders remained strong. This period marked a crucial juncture in her spiritual journey, where she faced numerous challenges that tested her faith and understanding of her divine calling.

Learning of Her Call

Responding to her spiritual director's guidance to refrain from focusing on her work, Mother Teresa grappled with the directive. Ultimately, she demonstrated her obedience to God's will, signifying her profound commitment to spirituality above all else. Her spiritual guide, recognizing her sincere struggle, adjusted his advice, allowing her to embrace thoughts that connected her more intimately with the Lord.

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Intense Union with God

During this transformative time, Mother Teresa experienced a deep spiritual communion with God, characterized by intense prayer and an aching desire for closeness with Him. She often reflected on the previous era of her life filled with intimate union with God, a longing that contrasted sharply with the challenges she now faced as she sought to fulfill her calling.

Desire to Serve the Poor

With the return of Archbishop Périer from Europe, Mother Teresa seized the moment to advocate for the foundation of the Missionaries of Charity, an order dedicated to serving the impoverished. Her passion to help those in dire need intensified, alongside her commitment to a life of absolute poverty, embodying the teachings of Christ in a practical way.

Archbishop's Reluctance

However, the archbishop was initially hesitant to grant his blessing, expressing the need for clarity and caution before embarking on such a significant mission. Despite his reservations, Mother Teresa continued to voice her urgency and deep commitment to alleviating the suffering of the poor, reinforcing the emotional weight of their plight.

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Continued Appeals

In a series of heartfelt letters, she reiterated her desire to dedicate her life entirely to Christ's service among the poor. She emphasized her unwavering trust in God's plan and the necessity for immediate action, strategically urging the archbishop to permit her mission to commence.

Archbishop's Decision

After careful consideration and consultation, Archbishop P erier came to recognize Mother Teresa's steadfast dedication and the profound impact that the Missionaries of Charity could have on society. On January 6, 1948, he finally approved her initiative, marking a transformative moment in her life and vocation. This decision allowed Mother Teresa to step boldly into a life dedicated to humanitarian service, fulfilling her long-held desire to bring light and hope to the destitute.

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Chapter 6 Summary:

Chapter 6: To the "Dark Holes" – The Dream Realized

Introduction to the Next Step

In this pivotal chapter, Mother Teresa receives the blessing of the archbishop to pursue her new mission of serving the poorest of the poor in India. With a heartfelt request, she approaches her superior at the Loreto order, Mother Gertrude Kennedy, seeking permission to leave behind her familiar life. Notably, she omits any mention of her locutions and visions, focusing instead on her spiritual motivations.

Surrendering to God's Will

Mother Teresa's petition reveals her profound desire to immerse herself in poverty and live alongside those she wishes to assist. After extensive discussions with her Spiritual Father and Archbishop P erier, she finally receives the green light to transform her aspirations into reality.

Determination to Serve

Affirming her commitment to God's will, Mother Teresa prepares to leave

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the Loreto order and seeks an annulment of her vows. Despite feeling unworthy, her determination to identify with and care for the impoverished burns bright.

Support from Archbishop Périer

Archbishop Périer plays a crucial role as her advocate, championing her request for freedom from her Loreto obligations while respecting her desire to remain consecrated to Christ. Mother Teresa insists on her need for secularization, understanding it as vital for her future mission.

Awaiting Permission

As she awaits a response to her request, anxiety grips Mother Teresa. Her letters vividly express her longing to embark on her journey to help suffering individuals in the streets, underscoring the urgency she feels in answering her calling.

Archbishop's Guidance

In response to her restlessness, the Archbishop advises patience, advising her not to allow anxiety to rush her into action before God's timing is right. He emphasizes the importance of thorough discernment in her decision-making process.

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Response from the Vatican

After a long period of uncertainty, the Vatican finally grants her the indult of excommunication, allowing her to leave the Loreto convent while still retaining her vows. Although excited, Mother Teresa feels torn, grappling with the security of convent life she is about to abandon for an uncertain future.

Transition to Mission Life

On August 17, 1948, Mother Teresa donning a white sari, takes her first steps as a Missionary of Charity, leaving the convent with only five rupees. Fully embracing the life of poverty she envisioned, she begins her transformative journey.

Conclusion

This chapter encapsulates Mother Teresa's unwavering commitment to serve the destitute, showcasing her readiness to sacrifice the security of convent life in pursuit of her divine calling. Her faith, resilience, and dedication to the welfare of others illuminate her deep connection to God, marking the inception of her mission.

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Chapter 7 Summary:

Chapter 7: The Dark Night of the Birth of the Society

In this chapter, we witness Mother Teresa's transformative journey as she transitions from her life at Loreto to her mission among the poor in Calcutta.

Journey of Sacrifice sets the stage as she expresses the deep emotional struggle of leaving her convent, which felt more challenging than bidding farewell to her own family. Determined to serve, she embraces her new calling to learn nursing at the Holy Family Hospital in Patna, seeking the prayers of her fellow sisters to maintain her focus on God.

Impact of Departure captures the sentiments of her peers at Loreto, who rally around her with support and encouragement. Their heartfelt wishes, infused with faith in her mission, ease the pain of separation. Even amidst feelings of loss, Mother Teresa experiences a profound sense of peace, reinforcing her commitment to serve the poor.

Upon her return to Calcutta, **Life in the Slums** depicts her relentless search for a place to establish her mission. While her initial hopes of residing with the Little Sisters of the Poor face bureaucratic limitations imposed by her former order, her indefatigable spirit remains unbroken as she forges ahead, anchored in her desire to reach out to the most destitute.

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Challenges Faced paints a stark picture of the grave poverty she encounters in the slums. Mother Teresa witnesses the suffering of the homeless and sick, often facing skepticism from outsiders questioning her methods. Yet, her unwavering belief in the dignity of every individual propels her forward, bolstering her resolve to bring love and care where it is needed most.

This relentless dedication culminates in the **Founding of the Society**, where Archbishop Périer officially recognizes the Missionaries of Charity. This new community is not only devoted to serving the poor but also aims to inspire others to join its noble cause. Mother Teresa's humility and surrender to God's will underline the significance of this moment, marking the beginning of a radical new chapter in her life.

As the Missionaries of Charity grow, **Commitment to Service** evolves, bringing new challenges, especially the need for greater space to accommodate the increasing number of sisters. Through all trials, Mother Teresa's faith remains steadfast, expressing her lifelong aspiration to serve the marginalized as a true servant of Christ.

Vision for the Future sees her mission widen to embrace the dying and destitute, emphasizing their right to dignity even in their final moments. Nirmal Hriday, or "Pure Heart," becomes a sanctuary for the dying,

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symbolizing hope and compassion in the face of suffering, and solidifying the congregation's mission.

By the end of 1952, in **A Community of Love**, Mother Teresa acknowledges the necessity of shared suffering and collective prayer among both active sisters and those who cannot physically participate. This unity becomes the pillar of the congregation, showcasing the strength derived from their spiritual foundation.

In looking ahead, **Continuing the Legacy** highlights Mother Teresa's vision of fostering sanctity not only within herself but among her sisters. Her dedication to humility and service continues to shape the Missionaries of Charity's identity, committed to spreading love and impacting the lives of the destitute throughout Calcutta and beyond.

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Chapter 8:

Chapter Eight: The Thirst of Jesus Crucified

In this chapter, Mother Teresa opens up about her profound inner struggles as she commits herself to serving the poor. She confides in Archbishop Périer, revealing a deep and often paralyzing darkness that has accompanied her mission. Despite finding purpose in her work, she fears tarnishing God's intentions and seeks the strength to navigate her tumultuous emotions.

Following this confession, a month later, Mother Teresa takes her final vows, expressing gratitude for the blessings she has received. She seeks guidance on her imperfections, reaffirming that her mission is a divine calling, yet she remains hesitant about the obstacles she knows she will face. These challenges weigh heavily on her, yet she acknowledges their essential role in shaping her journey.

As her community gains recognition, Mother Teresa grapples with the potential distractions of fame and publicity, which she fears could detract from her mission's spiritual essence. Despite her increasing public profile, her commitment to humility and the spiritual impact of her work remains unwavering.

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While her ministry flourishes, Mother Teresa continues to experience a profound spiritual desolation. She describes her enduring sense of darkness and abandonment by God but emphasizes the importance of surrendering her pain to Him. This paradox of fervent love and deep yearning for God fuels her resolve, guiding her service to others with an unwavering spirit.

Her journey is marked by a painful longing for divine connection, framed within the struggles of her inner darkness, which she sees as a test of faith. Through these trials, she strives to maintain hope and serves others selflessly, embodying the love she wishes to share.

In her spiritual writings, Mother Teresa articulates her desire to intensely love God and serve the marginalized. She conveys the profound hurt of feeling distant from God while remaining committed to overcoming this separation by nurturing her faith and finding joy in her mission.

Amid her spiritual challenges, she increasingly feels an acute sense of loneliness, yet she continues to fulfill her calling. This longing for God intensifies her struggle with abandonment, even as she dedicates herself to helping others.

To mask her pain, Mother Teresa adopts a joyful demeanor, believing that her smile can conceal her suffering. This perspective underscores her belief in the importance of joy as a strength in her service and as a way to reflect

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Christ's love to those around her.

An unexpected moment of grace comes during a Mass for Pope Pius XII, providing her with a brief respite from her long-standing darkness. This experience reinvigorates her faith, reaffirming her trust in God's plan for her life and mission.

Ultimately, Mother Teresa embraces a deep identification with Jesus' thirst for souls, finding strength in the challenges she faces. Her profound dedication reflects a loving commitment to both serve others and to trust in Mary's guidance through her spiritual trials, illuminating her path even in the depths of darkness.

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Alex Walk

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Chapter 9 Summary:

In Chapter Nine, titled “My God, How Painful Is This Unknown Pain,” we delve into Mother Teresa's spiritual journey, revealing her profound struggles with faith and the deep suffering that accompanied her unwavering commitment to serve others.

An Imprint of the Passion introduces us to her spiritual fortitude as she confides in Father Picachy, sharing the anguish and longing she feels for God amidst her service. Although she is grateful for his guidance, a pervasive sense of darkness engulfs her, signaling a struggle that transcends mere physical hardship.

In **The Absence of God**, Mother Teresa describes a powerful inner torment, referring to it as a martyrdom of desire, where the longing for God intensifies her suffering. Instead of succumbing to despair, she offers this pain to God for the sake of the impoverished souls she serves, illustrating her selfless nature.

In **God Will Fill What He Had Emptied**, the narrative takes a hopeful turn as she reflects on nearly ten years of spiritual darkness. Mother Teresa clings to the belief that God's promise to fill the void in her soul will eventually be fulfilled, providing her with a glimmer of hope amidst shadowy despair.

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Absolute Surrender to God's Holy Will highlights a transformative retreat in 1959, where she embraces her inner anguish and solidifies her commitment to surrender completely to God. With a newfound sense of responsibility as the superior general of the Missionaries of Charity, she resolves to accept the burden of leadership while still grappling with profound personal pain.

As the retreat concludes in **"I Can Take a Part from His Suffering,"** Mother Teresa witnesses the final vows of her sisters, which stirs a deep sense of gratitude and reinforces her resolve to serve and bring love and salvation to the suffering, even as her own heart aches.

In **Who Am I That You Should Forsake Me?**, she pens a poignant letter to God, revealing her feelings of abandonment and emptiness. Despite fears that this longing may impede her faith, she chooses to embrace her suffering as a means to glorify God.

The chapter progresses with **Don't Mind My Feelings**, where Mother Teresa candidly expresses the struggle to communicate her inner anguish. Her feelings of being forsaken weigh heavy on her heart, yet she remains steadfast in her commitment to love God unconditionally.

In **"He Has Cut Off One More Human Help,"** the departure of Father

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Picachy as her spiritual guide thrusts her into solitude. She reconciles this solitude with her spiritual path, emphasizing her intent to maintain a cheerful exterior for the sake of those around her even as she battles internal turmoil.

Mother Teresa reflects on the nature of sacrifice in **Sacrifices Are Only a Means to Prove Your Love**, suggesting that true love is revealed through actions, particularly towards the suffering. She conveys her hopes for both her mission and those she serves, affirming her dedication to alleviating pain.

Her first trip abroad to Las Vegas for a convention marks a significant moment in **First Trip Abroad**. Although she hesitates, she ultimately embraces this opportunity, returning to her humble life invigorated with gratitude and joy after sharing her message.

Yet back in Calcutta, **Again, "On the Verge of Refusing"** depicts her ongoing ordeal with fatigue and illness, where the temptation to shy away from God's will arises. Nevertheless, she prioritizes her commitments to the poor and her sisters, illustrating her relentless dedication.

Finally, in **"I Don't Know What Pleasure He Can Draw from This Darkness,"** Mother Teresa continues to wrestle with her profound struggles. Despite questioning the purpose of her suffering, she remains focused on her mission while striving to maintain a joyful spirit, affirming

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her unwavering faith in God's plan even amid her darkest hours.

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Chapter 10 Summary:

Chapter 10: “I Have Come to Love the Darkness”

In this chapter, Mother Teresa reflects on an 11-year journey marked by profound spiritual struggles and a deepening engagement with the concept of darkness, which she links to Jesus’ own suffering. Her spiritual journey unfolds within a framework of love, pain, and the search for divine presence, guiding her as she works to uplift others. Central to this journey is Jesuit Father Joseph Neuner, who helps her articulate her feelings of abandonment and guides her to document her experiences, which she later requests to be destroyed, indicating the intimate and vulnerable nature of her reflections.

Mother Teresa candidly shares her feelings of emptiness, loneliness, and an unfulfilled yearning for God. Reflecting on a once-deep connection with Jesus, she now confronts an emotional desolation that leaves her feeling distanced from His presence. Father Neuner's preservation of her writings reveals her turmoil—a mix of anxiety, loss, and fear of faithlessness, even as she tirelessly serves the poor.

Despite these struggles, Mother Teresa embraces her suffering, viewing it as a means to connect more deeply with those she serves. She recognizes that her yearning for God resonates with the plight of the impoverished, allowing

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her to find meaning in her trials. By aligning her own darkness with the passion of Christ, she cultivates a spirit of acceptance, transforming her pain into a bridge that connects her to the suffering of others.

Under Father Neuner's mentorship, she begins to see this darkness not merely as a burden but as integral to her mission, leading to a profound transformation in her perspective. This shift enables her to find peace and connection with God, even during moments of desolation, as she learns to integrate her struggles into a pathway for helping others.

Mother Teresa's spiritual commitment is solidified through a private vow of total surrender to God, where she acknowledges that her personal challenges ultimately serve a greater purpose. This philosophy extends to her interactions with her Sisters, emphasizing the importance of embracing trials as a part of their spiritual journey.

As her understanding of poverty deepens, she starts to view the marginalized as reflections of her own spiritual desolation—unwanted, unloved, and unclaimed. This insight strengthens her resolve to serve with love and compassion, forging a deeper connection between her faith and the lives of the poor.

Despite her feelings of spiritual darkness, she discovers joy in acts of servitude, recognizing that her identity as a Missionary of Charity is rooted

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in humility and selflessness. Awards and accolades hold no value for her; instead, she seeks to model the selfless love exemplified by Mary, the Mother of Christ.

In her concluding reflections, Mother Teresa highlights a profound paradox: the capacity to love while feeling unloved. This duality enriches her ministry, enabling her to empathize deeply with the poor in ways that extend beyond mere material assistance. Her legacy becomes one founded on profound love and compassion, illuminating the transformative power of connectedness with divine grace amidst human suffering.

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Chapter 11 Summary:

Chapter 11: "At His Disposal" - Summary

Mother Teresa's Spiritual Journey (1962-1963)

Starting in 1962, Mother Teresa entered a phase marked by spiritual solitude and emotional turmoil. With limited guidance from her mentors, she held steadfast to the belief that her life's work was divinely ordained. Her philosophy emphasized acceptance: embracing what God provides while willingly letting go of what He takes away.

The Weight of Public Mission

As the Missionaries of Charity garnered recognition, Mother Teresa grappled with feelings of detachment from her sisters and the marginalized individuals she served. Her correspondence offered glimpses of her sorrow and isolation; yet, her unwavering commitment to God's plans underscored her desire for a more profound connection with Jesus, showcasing the tension between her public role and personal faith journey.

Embracing Suffering and Sacrifice

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In various letters, Mother Teresa spoke candidly about her struggles with faith, acknowledged the emotional and spiritual darkness that enveloped her, yet remained resolute in her joy in service. She viewed suffering as an integral part of her mission, yearning to experience Christ's pain to deepen her commitment and connection to her calling.

Clarity Amidst Darkness

Even during times she felt abandoned by God, Mother Teresa articulated the importance of maintaining faith and resilience through adversity. Her focus was on serving without seeking personal comfort, interpreting her darkest moments as vital elements of her commitment to the poorest of the poor.

The Growth of the Missionaries of Charity

On March 25, 1963, she took a significant step by announcing the establishment of the Missionaries of Charity Brothers, which expanded the mission's outreach. Mother Teresa viewed the accompanying sacrifices as essential for the mission's growth and was prepared to endure any hardships necessary to further her cause.

Communication with Spiritual Guides

During this tumultuous period, Mother Teresa frequently sought support

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from her spiritual advisors and clergy, sharing her struggles openly. Her letters reflected a deep longing for divine connection and spiritual growth, mirroring the loneliness that characterized her life.

Reflections on Christ's Suffering

She deeply connected her personal trials to the Passion of Christ, encouraging others to find meaning in suffering. Mother Teresa perceived her challenges as opportunities to participate in Christ's suffering, using her service to find solace and purpose amid tribulations.

Responding to Violence and Hatred

Amid the backdrop of conflict in India, she called for peace and compassion, denouncing the violence afflicting her country. Her heartfelt pleas for prayer underscored her deep compassion for her community, highlighting her commitment to harmony amidst chaos.

Recognition and Acceptance

In February 1965, the pontifical recognition of her congregation served as both a validation of her efforts and a reminder of the sacrifices made along the way. Despite this acknowledgment, Mother Teresa remained steadfastly focused on God's will, exemplifying a spirit of reliance and detachment from

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personal desires.

Conclusion: A Life of Faithful Service

By the end of this chapter, Mother Teresa's unwavering faith and resilience are vividly illustrated. Her relentless efforts to aid the impoverished, coupled with her candid expressions of inner suffering, depict a life wholly dedicated to fulfilling God's call. This chapter encapsulates her profound internal struggles while illuminating her commitment to a life of love and service to Jesus, particularly through the needs of the most marginalized.

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Chapter 12:

Chapter 12: "God Uses Nothingness to Show His Greatness" - Summary

In this reflective chapter, Mother Teresa shares her profound relationship with Jesus, emphasizing her sense of humility and smallness. Her spiritual journey is highlighted against the backdrop of the remarkable expansion of the Missionaries of Charity, a religious congregation she founded to serve the poorest of the poor. By 1975, the order had grown to over a thousand sisters globally, yet during this time of success, Mother Teresa grappled with an intense spiritual darkness—a struggle she had kept hidden for six years.

The chapter recounts her meeting with Father Michael van der Peet in Rome. His initial impression of her peaceful presence starkly contrasts with her inner turmoil, revealing the complex layers of her spirituality. In their correspondence, Mother Teresa candidly expresses her feelings of emptiness and a disconnection from God, yet her dedication to intercessory prayer for others remains unwavering. This dedication reflects her belief that, despite her spiritual dryness, her suffering could serve a higher purpose.

Mother Teresa articulates that suffering acts as a conduit to a closer relationship with Jesus. She embraces her feelings of nothingness as a space for divine intervention, understanding that her smallness invites God's

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greatness. Her commitment to prayer persists, as she strives to remain an empty vessel for God's love, underscoring her desire to be a channel of compassion.

A significant theme in this chapter is the expansive definition of poverty that

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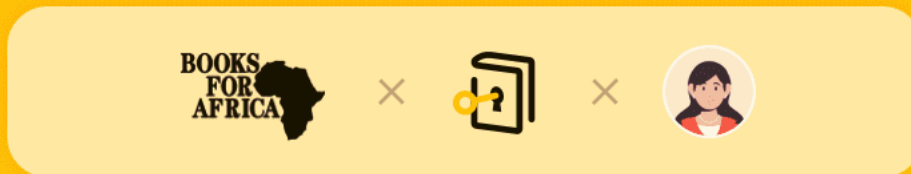




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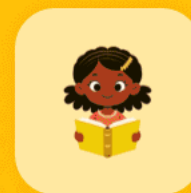
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Chapter 13 Summary:

Chapter 13: Radiating Christ

Introduction

In the final two decades of her life, Mother Teresa became a radiant symbol of God's love, embodying compassion amidst suffering and darkness that permeated the world.

Mother Teresa's Global Influence

Even as her health waned, Mother Teresa traveled extensively, establishing numerous charitable foundations worldwide. Her unwavering commitment to loving the impoverished earned her the recognition of the United Nations Secretary General, who named her the most powerful woman in the world in 1985.

Joy Amidst Suffering

Mother Teresa found profound joy in serving God through her ministry and shared in the sufferings of Christ. This joy was especially evident during her time in conflict-ridden Lebanon, where she steadfastly lit the path for those

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engulfed in despair.

Personal Struggles and Spiritual Insights

Despite her active role, Mother Teresa battled significant health challenges, including a heart condition. During her hospitalizations, she articulated her deep love for Jesus, providing readers with insights into her faith and the spiritual connection that sustained her through trials.

Vision and Dedication

With a clear vision to broaden her mission globally, Mother Teresa concentrated on fortifying her religious order, advocating for humility and a recognition of her own nothingness as essential to faithful service.

Interior Trials and the Call to Prayer

Beneath her steadfast exterior, Mother Teresa experienced a prolonged period of spiritual desolation known as the “dark night of the soul,” lasting nearly thirty years. She confided in trusted friends about her struggles, yet remained an inspiring light for many, consistently requesting prayers to uphold her spirit.

Witnessing Suffering and Seeking Peace

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Mother Teresa's daily encounters with human suffering deepened her compassion rather than led to desensitization. Each interaction with the poor reinforced her commitment to serve, as she viewed each individual as the living embodiment of Christ.

Recognition and Enduring Legacy

Throughout her life, Mother Teresa received countless awards but always prioritized her service to the needy. A notable moment was her meeting with Pope John Paul II, which underscored the importance of love at the heart of her mission.

Addressing New Forms of Poverty

In the late 1980s, she turned her attention to those affected by AIDS and expanded her global outreach, recognizing an intense spiritual vacuum among individuals burdened by oppressive regimes and personal suffering.

A Mission Driven by Love

Mother Teresa's mission was fundamentally motivated by her desire to quench Jesus' thirst for love. Her dedication manifested through her tireless work and personal sacrifices, reflecting her lifelong pursuit of a deeper union

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with Christ.

Suffering and Spiritual Merits

Throughout her life, Mother Teresa's personal and spiritual struggles did not diminish her faith. Even in moments of illness, she expressed a yearning for closer communion with Jesus, illustrating her resilience and unwavering devotion.

Final Years and Legacy

Despite her ailing health, Mother Teresa sustained her commitment to her mission until her passing. She viewed her suffering as an offering to God, and her joy in serving the poor inspired many within her religious order and beyond.

Conclusion

Mother Teresa's life epitomized selfless love and unwavering faith. Her ability to maintain joy amid life's challenges inspired countless individuals and solidified her legacy as a guiding light of love and charity in the world, echoing the essential message of compassion for the marginalized.

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