

Kamiano Aloha

No Beliuma 'o Kamiano
Ka 'elele mana'o'i'o
He aloha 'euanelio

He kauā na ke aloha
Pili i ko uka, pili i ko kai
Lawelawe mai 'ō a 'ō

Mau a mau ka pilina
I ka 'āina, i ke kanaka
He pu'uwai la'ahia

He la'ana i ka pono
'O Kamiano Aloha
Aloha mau loa ē

He inoa no Kamiano Aloha

Beloved Damien

From Belgium came Damien
The faithful messenger
Revering the gospel of truth

A humble servant of mercy
For uplanders and shore folk*¹
Serving throughout the land

With ties everlasting
To the land and its people*²
Truly a sacred heart*³

An emblem of sanctity
Beloved Damien
Love that has no bounds

(* asterisked footnotes detailed below only)

A name chant for Beloved Damien

(underlined syllables are downbeats when singing as traditional mele oli, provided by Puakea Nogelmeier)

*¹ Whether in Puna, Kohala, or Moloka'i, Fr. Damien went everywhere to be with his parishioners, hiking the pali on foot, riding in canoes, and horse riding for miles.

*² Saint Damien truly loved his people, and spoke Hawaiian. He treated all with dignity and respect, and expressed compassionate solidarity with the ill in life and in death.

*³ Damien was a member of the missionary Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. Born in Tremolo, Belgium in 1840, he died in Kalawao, Moloka'i in 1889. His feastday is celebrated on May 10, the day he arrived in Kalawao.

Right: Damien Window, Sacred Hearts Center, Kane'ohe. Photo by R. Mondoy, 2010. Artist's name: research pending

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Mahalo!

