

# Chapter Eighteen: The Inouyes\_Hawaii, 1924

In 1924, a baby named Daniel was born dead but brought back to life by a desperate midwife in a Hawaiian slum. His mother, exhausted but prayerful, named him after the biblical Daniel, who faced great trials. Daniel's family immigrated to Hawaii from Japan in 1899, driven by a significant debt incurred by his great-grandfather, Wasaburo, after a fire destroyed homes in their village. To repay the debt, Wasaburo's son, Asakichi, left Japan for Hawaii, where he worked on a sugarcane plantation, intending to send money home. However, the meager wages made it difficult to pay off the debt, leading to a long struggle for the family.

In time, Asakichi built a bathhouse to generate extra income, while his wife made tofu cakes. Their son, Hyotaro, was raised amid these struggles and eventually sought education, attending various schools, but the family remained in debt after years of hard work. Hyotaro married Kame, and together they welcomed Daniel into their modest home.

Daniel grew up in poverty, often feeling unattractive. However, he shared his experience of poverty with classmates, noting that almost everyone around him was also poor. Hawaiian schools were informally segregated by language, impacting Daniel's educational opportunities. In response, Hyotaro and Kame switched to English at home to ensure better schooling for their son.

A significant event in Daniel's early life was a severe arm injury. After a failed initial treatment, he underwent successful surgery, thanks to the kindness of Dr. Craig, who forgave the operation's cost in exchange for Daniel's promise to be a good student. This inspired Daniel to aspire to become a surgeon himself.

As Daniel progressed through high school, he developed interests in history, music, and community service. However, everything changed dramatically on December 7, 1941, when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. The devastating event transformed his life and the lives of Hawaiian residents of Japanese descent, including Daniel's own family.

Chaos ensued in Honolulu as Daniel rushed to help, motivated by his training in first aid. The aftermath of the attack exposed him to tragedy and violence as he and others responded to the needs of a devastated community. Amidst discrimination and fear of Japanese-Americans in the U.S., Daniel embodied the resilience and courage of his heritage and his determination to serve, an ambition born from love and gratitude.

The chapter sets the stage for Daniel's complex journey as both a survivor of personal and historical struggle, ultimately amplifying his commitment to service in a broken world.