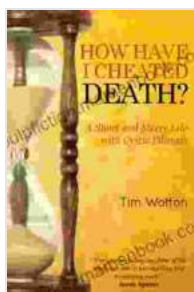


Cheating Death: The Short and Merry Life of Benjamin Franklin with Cystic Fibrosis

Benjamin Franklin was a remarkable figure in American history, known for his contributions to science, politics, and diplomacy. However, what many people don't know is that Franklin also lived with cystic fibrosis, a life-threatening genetic disorder. This article tells the story of Franklin's life, from his childhood diagnosis to his untimely death at the age of 84. We will explore the challenges he faced, the treatments he received, and the legacy he left behind.

Early Life and Diagnosis

Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1706. He was the 15th of 17 children born to Josiah Franklin, a candle maker, and Abiah Folger Franklin. From an early age, Franklin exhibited signs of cystic fibrosis, including frequent respiratory infections, digestive problems, and stunted growth. At the time, cystic fibrosis was not well understood, and Franklin's symptoms were often misdiagnosed as asthma or tuberculosis.



How Have I Cheated Death? A Short and Merry Life With Cystic Fibrosis by Tim Wotton

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

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File size : 1427 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 271 pages
Lending : Enabled



Despite his health challenges, Franklin was a bright and inquisitive child. He attended school for only two years, but he continued to educate himself through reading and experimentation. At the age of 12, he was apprenticed to his brother James, a printer. Franklin quickly mastered the printing trade, and he soon became one of the most successful printers in the American colonies.

Medical Treatments

In the 18th century, there was no cure for cystic fibrosis. However, there were a number of treatments available to help alleviate the symptoms of the disease. Franklin received a variety of treatments, including bloodletting, cupping, and purges. He also took a number of medications, including opium and mercury. These treatments were often ineffective, and they sometimes made Franklin's symptoms worse.

Despite the limitations of medical care in the 18th century, Franklin managed to live a long and productive life. He attributed his longevity to a number of factors, including his strong constitution, his positive attitude, and his adherence to a healthy diet and exercise regimen.

Personal Life and Accomplishments

Franklin was a prolific writer, inventor, and statesman. He served as a delegate to the Continental Congress, helped to draft the Declaration of Independence, and negotiated the Treaty of Paris, which ended the Revolutionary War. He also served as the first Postmaster General of the

United States and as the first President of the American Philosophical Society.

In addition to his professional accomplishments, Franklin was also a devoted husband and father. He married Deborah Read in 1730, and they had two children, Francis Folger Franklin and Sarah Franklin Bache. Franklin was a loving and supportive father, and he doted on his grandchildren.

Death and Legacy

Franklin died on April 17, 1790, at the age of 84. The cause of his death was likely complications from cystic fibrosis. Franklin's death was a great loss to the United States, and he is still remembered today as one of the most important figures in American history.

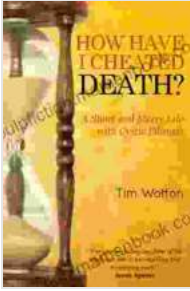
Franklin's legacy is one of innovation, perseverance, and public service. He was a man who overcame great challenges to achieve great things. His life is an inspiration to us all, and it reminds us that anything is possible if we set our minds to it.

Benjamin Franklin was a remarkable man who lived a long and productive life despite having cystic fibrosis. He was a brilliant scientist, a gifted inventor, and a dedicated statesman. His legacy is one of innovation, perseverance, and public service. Franklin's life is an inspiration to us all, and it reminds us that anything is possible if we set our minds to it.

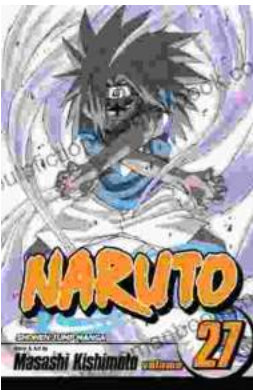
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