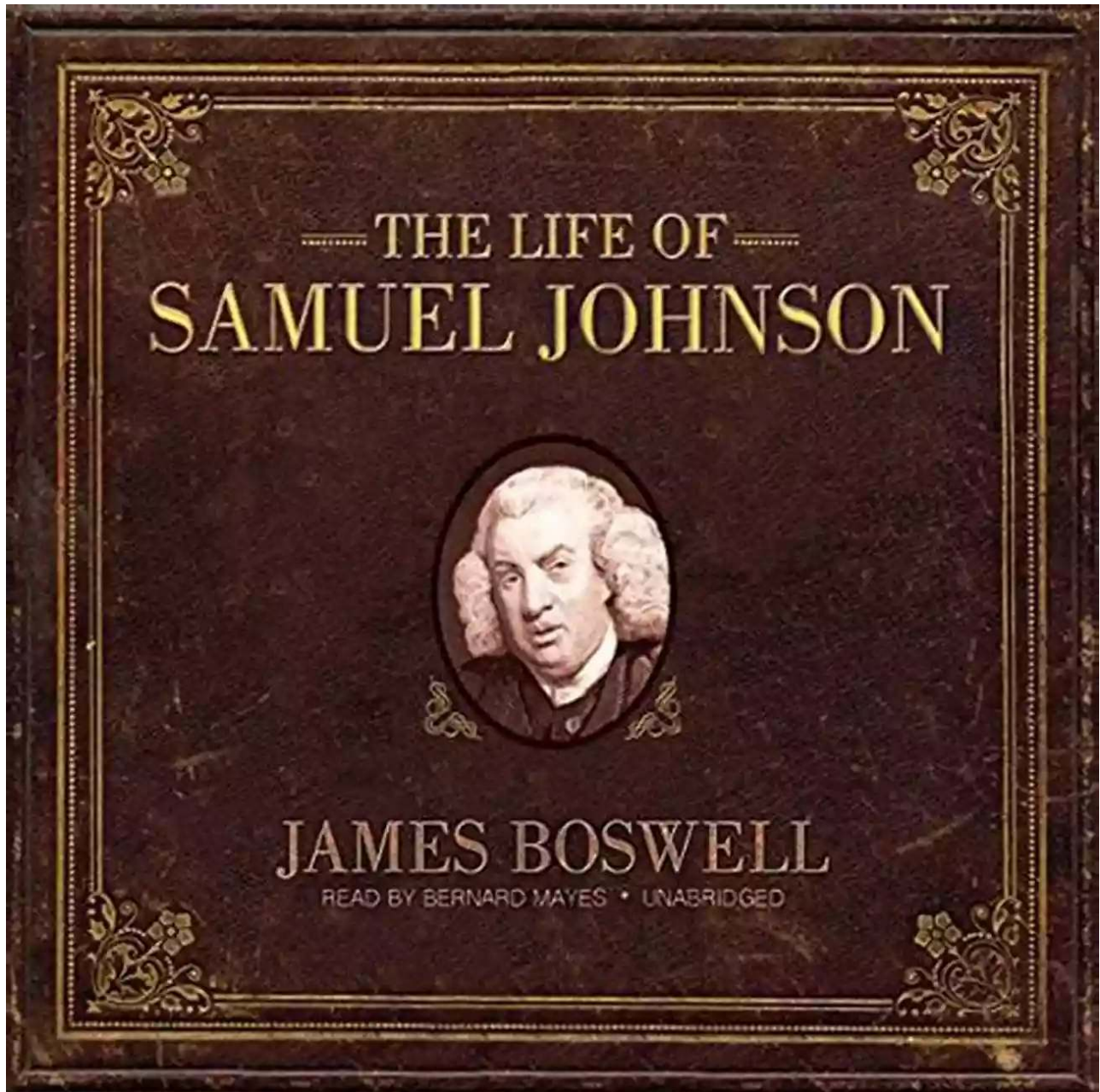


The Fascinating Journey through the Life of Samuel Johnson: A Captivating Annotated Account

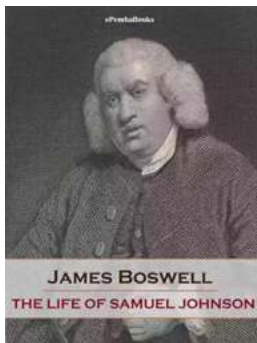


Samuel Johnson, renowned as one of the greatest literary figures of the 18th century, lived an extraordinary life filled with triumphs and hardships. His works,

including his renowned dictionary, continue to be celebrated and studied today. This annotated account reveals the captivating journey of a man whose brilliance and determination left an indelible mark in the realms of literature, lexicography, and beyond. Dive into the meticulous annotations that bring a new dimension to the life of Samuel Johnson.

Early Years and Education

Born in Lichfield, Staffordshire, on September 18, 1709, Samuel Johnson was the son of Michael Johnson, a bookseller, and Sarah Ford. Initially, Johnson's early years were hindered by health issues, including scrofula, a disease also known as "the King's Evil." However, his setback did not deter him from pursuing a passion for knowledge.



The Life of Samuel Johnson (Annotated)

by James Boswell(Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English
File size : 4014 KB
Text-to-Speech : Enabled
Enhanced typesetting: Enabled
Word Wise : Enabled
Print length : 691 pages
Screen Reader : Supported



Johnson's education began at Lichfield Grammar School, where his intellect and love for literature became evident. The school's headmaster, Dr. Hunter, fostered Johnson's interest in the classics, fueling his ambition to excel in the realm of literature and language.

London: The City of Opportunities

At the age of 16, Johnson's thirst for knowledge led him to move to London. The vibrant city offered endless opportunities for him to expand his understanding of various subjects. The bustling capital became the backdrop for his personal and professional growth.

Johnson's struggles with poverty during his early years in London were a testament to his determination. To support himself, he undertook various odd jobs, including teaching and writing. However, it was his undeniable brilliance that caught the attention of prominent figures in the literary world.

The Birth of the Dictionary

Johnson's most significant contribution to literature came in the form of his groundbreaking dictionary. His meticulous work on the English language, titled "A Dictionary of the English Language," was published in 1755. This masterpiece set a new standard for lexicography and established Johnson as a force to be reckoned with in the literary realm.

The annotated edition of the dictionary provides invaluable insights into the intricacies of Johnson's work, meticulously unraveling the thoughts, intentions, and challenges he encountered while developing this monumental reference tool.

Literary Works and Influence

Aside from his renowned dictionary, Samuel Johnson's literary contributions encompass various genres. His notable works include "The Rambler," a collection of essays, and "Rasselas," a philosophical tale. Throughout his career, Johnson's writings became a guiding light for aspiring writers and intellectuals, inspiring countless individuals to explore their own literary endeavors.

The annotated edition delves into the thematic depth of Johnson's works, providing detailed interpretations and shedding light on their historical and societal contexts.

The Literary Club and Johnson's Legacy

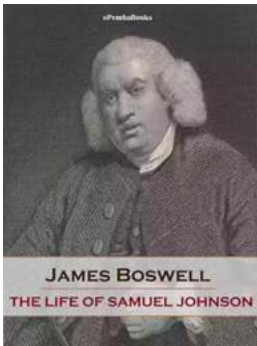
Johnson's circle of friends included distinguished literary figures such as Joshua Reynolds, David Garrick, and Oliver Goldsmith. Together, they formed the Literary Club, a society that met regularly to discuss literature, politics, and philosophical ideas.

Johnson's contributions to the Literary Club were invaluable, as he provided intellectual guidance and a space for debate. The annotated account delves into the intriguing conversations and debates that took place within this influential collective, offering readers a window into the vibrant intellectual atmosphere of the time.

Samuel Johnson's legacy extends far beyond his own lifetime. His literary achievements, innovative lexicography, and profound impact on English literature continue to inspire scholars and enthusiasts today. This annotated account of his life brings forth a comprehensive understanding of his character, struggles, and contributions, inviting readers on a captivating journey through the life of one of history's greatest literary icons.

Additional Resources:

- [The Official Samuel Johnson Website](#)
- [Samuel Johnson - Britannica](#)
- [Samuel Johnson - British Library](#)



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- This edition includes the following editor's analysis: "The Life of Samuel Johnson," an ode to friendship and admiration by James Boswell

First published in 1791, "The Life of Samuel Johnson" is a biography of English writer Samuel Johnson written by his friend and admirer James Boswell.

Boswell's biography is considered by many scholars to be one of the finest pieces of biographical writing in the English language.

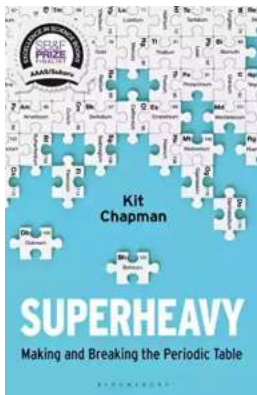
Boswell was acquainted with Samuel Johnson during his life but did not publish the work until seven years after Johnson's death. The work was from the beginning a critical and popular success and represents a landmark in the development of the modern genre of biography.

Later research has shown that Boswell took liberties with some of Johnson's quotations and censored important incidents from his biography. However, the level of detail included in the work makes it a valuable resource on Samuel Johnson and the eighteenth century.



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