

## ✧ The Accursed Bread ✧



The Kings of France and England had landed with numerous troops, provisions, money and help of all kind had poured in from Europe; enthusiasm and courage reigned everywhere. Among the distinguished Prelates who had espoused the cause of the Cross, the valorous and saintly Bishop of Beauvais was undoubtedly the most illustrious. At his feet the repentant blacksmith confessed his guilt listened to paternal admonitions and received absolution. After which the gracious prelate led him to the Church, where the people were all assembled, and from the pulpit announced the glad tidings of the Prodigal Child's return, so that all might rejoice, and finally allowed him to sit at the Father of the family's table.

So great is God's mercy that scarcely had James Smidt received the Sacred Host than the gnawing hunger that had tortured him since his defection disappeared, and he became as strong and robust as ever. Heaven, no doubt, wished to show how acceptable was his repentance, and how generously Eternal Justice forgave him for having eaten the Accursed Bread of the Sons of Mahomet.

Still James felt he had to do penance to repair the scandal he had given, rising up he extended his right hand towards the altar saying in a loud clear voice: my fault shall be expiated in my blood, but for the Sepulchre of Christ; I swear it.

From thenceforth the big blacksmith was never seen but at Mass and the Communion-rail, where his fervor drew tears from the most obdurate. The rest of his time he worked in his smithery where blow after blow resounded on the anvil with a rhymth and precision thats howed