

During the Occupation, Spinalonga was perhaps the only part of Greece has not been stepped from Italians and Germans, and afraid to get them out, but feared that this place could become a point of landing of the British taking so loading it. But life for lepers of Spinalonga, had begun to acquire some sense, a few years ago when he stepped foot on the island, a young patient: Epameinondas Remoundakis ...

Epameinondas Remoundakis was twenty years old, third year law student, when informed that in 1936 suffering from Hansen's Disease. Shortly before his sister had been led to Spinalonga hit by the same disease. Himself because of illness, years later blinded and lost his hand. As he writes and says Remoundakis the unpublished autobiography of the "eagle without wings," when he arrived in Spinalonga, his sister greeted him saying "" Welcome to "and not" welcome(well arrived) ". That is the greeting used by the sick on the island .... " His sister will die a few years later ...

The Remoundakis, one of the few educated people who were on the island, was not willing to wait fatally end of his life, living as "living dead". He struggled to get better the lives of lepers and demanded from the state better living conditions and treatment. One of his first moves was to establish the "Brotherhood Patient Spinalonga. Brought lime to disinfect their homes and leave the stench of "piercing" bits and planted trees. Generator was acquired and Spinalonga became current, even before Plaka opposite and the "outside world". Organized cleaning of the external and common areas and thanks to him, the island became with a theater, cinema, cafes and barber shop, and placed loudspeakers in the streets and playing classical music. They began to exercise professionals to work rudimentary commerce, a school teacher created a leper and is characteristic fact, that began to be issued and satirical form. Most importantly, perhaps achieved by Remoundakis, was to stimulate a sense of solidarity and mutual aid. Thus, the lives of lepers began to resemble something from a previous life, or as a witness and later cured Lepers, Manolis Fountoulakis, "From a time after the island was not purgatory. It was a village impacted by the good, the bad, and the tzanampetides zamanfoutistes.

Πηγή: <http://www.pare-dose.net> Translation: Val. Lempidakis