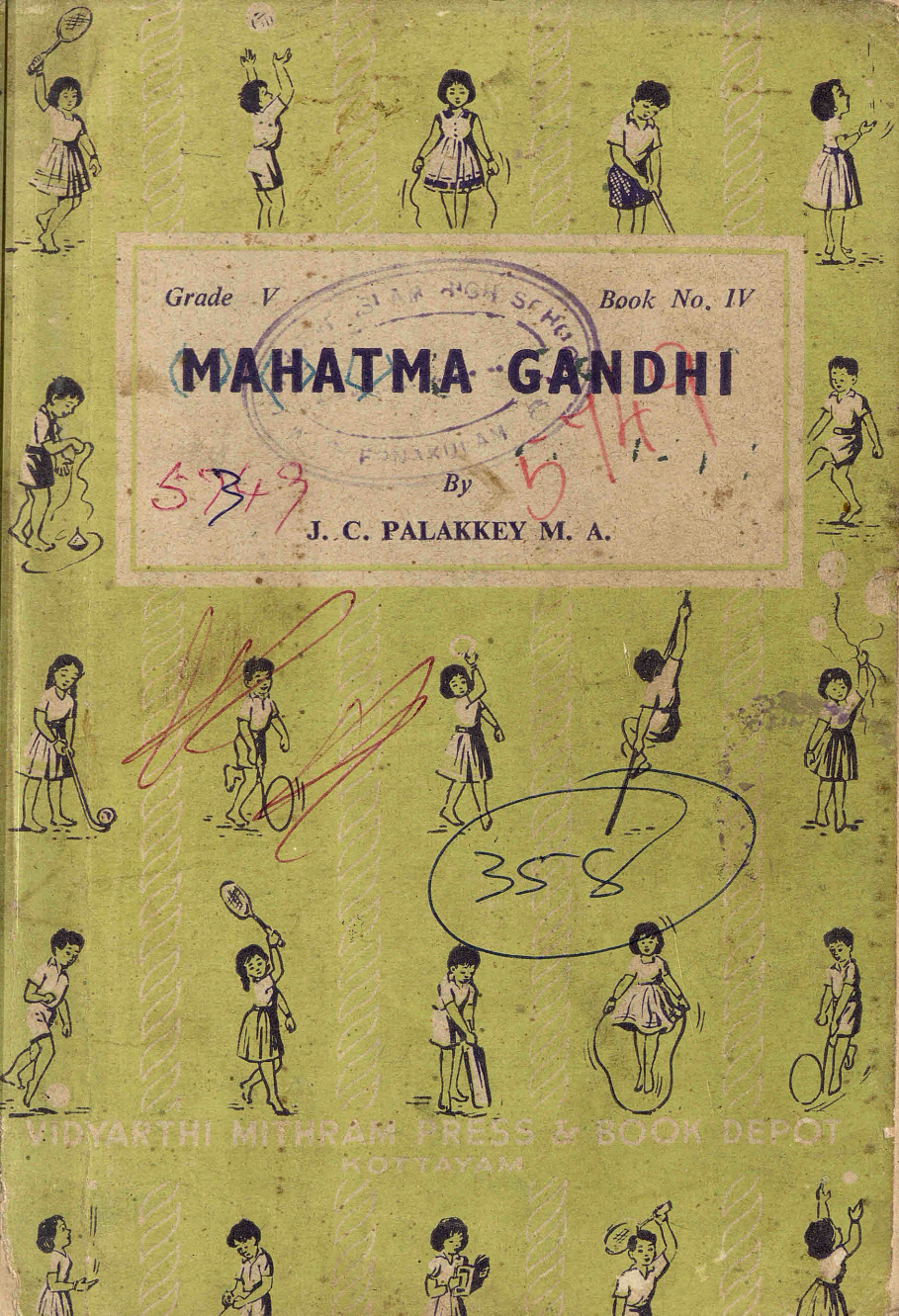


Grade V

Book No. IV

MAHATMA GANDHI

By

J. C. PALAKKEY M. A.

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VIDYARTHI MITHRAM PRESS & BOOK DEPOT
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Standard X *Book No. IV*

MAHATMA GANDHI

5719
HIGH SCHOOL
PONNAKUJAM
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AUTHOR:

J. C. Palakkey M. A.

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J. C. PALAKKEY M. A.

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It is a recognised fact that the purpose of classroom work is to arouse in the pupils a thirst for knowledge. Once the thirst for knowledge is aroused in the pupils, it has to be and can only be quenched by allowing them to drink deep from the ocean of library books. As a result Library assumes great importance in the frame work of the educational system.

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Helpful suggestions for improvement will be most welcome.

J. C. Palakkey

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MAHATMA GANDHI



GANDHIJI

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Early Days

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (who is popularly referred to as Gandhiji or Mahatma Gandhi throughout the world) was born on October 2, 1869 at Perbunder in Kathiawar. His father Karamchand was for sometime Prime Minister in Rajkot and then in Vankaner. Gandhiji was his youngest child.

Gandhiji's mother Putlibai was a pious woman. Being very religious, she never took her meals without saying her daily prayers. She used to visit the temple daily; often taking her little son with her.

During his childhood, Gandhiji's family was in Perbunder. There, he was sent to a school as soon as he could walk. He found it very difficult to

learn the multiplication[1] tables. In company with bad boys he too used to call his teacher all kinds of names.

When Gandhiji was seven years old, the family shifted to Rajkot. There he was put into a primary school. At the age of twelve he was admitted to a high school. He was only an average student. But he never told lies. As a boy, he was very shy and kept away from other boys. He had only his books for his companions.

From his earliest days, Gandhiji was upright[2] and honest. An incident which proved this occurred during his first year at the high school. It was this:-One day the Inspector of schools visited his

1. Multiplication = the act of increasing in number.
2. Upright = straight up; honest; just possessing moral integrity.

class. He gave a dictation[3] of five words of which one was 'Kettle'. Gandhiji mis-spelt the word. The teacher who was standing near him saw this. He made a sign to Gandhiji to copy the word from the next boy. Gandhiji felt that it would not be proper to copy down and so he did not. Gandhiji was the only boy who mis-spelt[4] the word. But he did not feel ashamed because he knew that he was right in not copying down. He felt that he was true to his conscience.[5]

As a boy, Gandhiji did not like any reading beyond his school books. But, the book 'Shravana Pitrubhakti Nataka (a drama about the devotion of Shravana

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3. Dictation = to say or read for another to write.
4. Mis-spelt = a wrong spelling.
5. Conscience = the knowledge of our own acts and feelings as right or wrong.

to his parents) attracted his attention and he read the book. It interested him very much. Shravana's devotion to his parents made a deep impression[6] on his mind and he made up his mind to emulate[7] his example.

Gandhiji was once allowed by his father to go to a theatre to see a play which dealt with the story of Harischandra. The play impressed[8] him very much. From this he understood that one should be happy to suffer anything for the sake of truth.

In those days early marriages were very usual. When Gandhiji was only thirteen years old, he married Kasturbai

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6. Impression = act or result of impressing the idea or emotion left in the mind by any experience.
7. Emulate = to strive to equal or excel.
8. Impressed = to press (somthing on); stamped.

according to the Hindu custom of those days. Kasturbai was also thirteen years old at that time.

Kasturba too was very shy. But soon Gandhiji and Kasturba became very intimate[9] friends.

Though illiterate,[10] Kasturbai was simple and independent[11] by nature. Gandhiji thought that as a husband, it was his right to command her. So he tried to restrict[12] her freedom; but she resented it. This sometimes gave room for troubled. But each one of them loved the other so fondly and dearly that they never took any serious notice of such petty quarrels.

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9. Intimate = close; familiar.
10. Illiterate = without book-learning; uneducated.
11. Independent = thinking or acting for oneself.
12. Restrict = to limit.

2. Gandhiji at the High School

After marriage, Gandhiji continued his studies. As time went on, Gandhiji became a bright student At school, he never had a bad certificate. He won prizes when he passed out of the second standard. In the fifth and sixth standards he got scholarships.

At school, Gandhiji never took part in any physical exercise and games unless they were made compulsory. In those days he thought that gymnastics [13] had nothing to do with education. But in later days he understood that physical training was equally important as mental training.

As a student, Gandhiji never cared for hand-writing. It was only much later that he understood that good handwriting was a necessary part of education.

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13. Gymnastics = exercises devised to strengthen the body.

At one time Gandhiji fell into bad company. One of his friends was a meat-eater. He told Gandhiji that meat-eating made people stronger and braver.

Gandhiji did not like the idea of India being ruled by foreigners. He wanted that India should be ruled by Indians themselves. But how to achieve this ?

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His meat-eating friend told him that the British were able to rule India because they were stronger than Indians. The British got strength, he said, from eating meat and drinking wine.

He told Gandhiji that if the whole country took to meat-eating, the English could be overcome.

Further his friend knew that Gandhiji feared thieves, ghosts and serpents.

He told Gandhiji that he was not afraid of anything because he was very strong.

Gandhiji believed all this blindly. He wanted that he should be strong and that India should be free. If meat-eating was the only means to achieve this, he should not hesitate. So he decided to eat meat.

A day was fixed. On the specified day, the two boys went to a lonely part on the river bank, and for the first time, Gandhiji ate meat. It was goat's meat and Gandhiji did not like it.

That night he could not sleep well Every time he dropped off to sleep, it would seem to him that a live goat was beating inside his stomach.

He continued to eat meat for some days more. But soon he found that it

was not proper for him to deceive[14] his parents. So he made up his mind not to touch meat in future.

During the same period, another friend taught him to smoke. This friend was a relative of the family Gandhiji's uncle had the habit of smoking. When the boys saw him smoking, they thought of copying his example. The two boys began to pick up cigarette stumps dropped by the grown-up and to smoke in secret. As the stumps[15] were not always available, they wanted to buy whole cigarettes. So they began to steal coppers from the servant's pocket money. They could not smoke in the presence of elders. They began to feel that they were doing something wrong. Before long they gave up the habit.

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14. Deceive = to mislead.

15. Stump = a remnant.

At the age of fifteen, Gandhiji committed another theft. In this case he stole a bit of gold out of his brother's armlet to clear his brother's debt. As soon as it was over, Gandhiji felt sorry for what he had done. He wanted to confess everything to his father. He wrote everything on a sheet of paper and handed it to his father himself. His father was at that time very sick in bed. His father read it through. He was very much moved and tears trickled down his cheeks. Seeing this, Gandhiji too cried. He felt that his father's tears of love had cleansed his heart.

When Gandhiji was about sixteen, his father passed away. This was a shock to the young boy. Some time later, a baby was born to Kasturbai, but the baby lived only for a few days. This made Gandhiji still more grief-stricken.

Gandhiji passed the matriculation examination in 1887. His eldest brother who looked after the family affairs after their father's death wanted that his younger brother must take up some profession that would bring in good earnings.

Soon after matriculation, Gandhiji joined the Samaldas College in Bhavnager. In the college, Gandhiji found himself at sea.

When Gandhiji returned home, at the end of the first term, an old friend and adviser of the family suggested that Gandhiji should be sent to England for higher education. Gandhiji liked the idea very much. He expressed his desire to study medicine. But his brother objected to that idea. He said that their father had intended Gandhiji for the bar The family adviser also said that Gandhiji should learn law and become a barrister.

He further hoped that such a thing would perhaps help Gandhiji to become a Diwan as his father had been. This idea pleased Gandhiji also. Gandhiji's brother promised to find the money somehow for sending him abroad.

Gandhiji's mother was much agitated.[16] She did not like the idea of parting from him. Further, in those days, orthodox Hindus were against the idea of going abroad.

Gandhiji's mother was unwilling to send him abroad mainly because she feared that young Gandhi would lead a careless life if he went so far from her. She was afraid that he might disregard religion, eat meat and drink wine. She feared all this, for someone had told her that people who went to England did all this.

16. Agitate = to shake; set in motion; excite.

Gandhiji pleaded with his mother. At last she gave him her consent when he vowed not to touch wine, woman and meat.

Necessary preparations were soon made With his mother's permission and blessings, he set off for Bombay, leaving Kasturbai with a baby of a few months. Gandhiji was only eighteen at that time.

While Gandhiji was in Bombay waiting for the next ship, some of his caste-people tried to dissuade[17] him from going abroad. But Gandhiji was adamant[18] and his brother firm.

Sometime later Gandhiji heard that a Junagadh Vakil was going to England by a boat sailing on the 4th of September. Gandhiji desired to go to England in his

17. Dissuade = to prevent by advice or permission.
18. Adamant = a very hard stone; firm.

company. He wired to his brother and got his permission. Then Gandhiji went to his brother-in-law with whom his brother had left his travelling expenses. But he would not give the money because his caste-people were against his going abroad. Gandhiji then contacted a friend who readily helped him. With the money he got from the friend, he purchased the passage and equipped[19] himself for the voyage. A berth[20] was reserved for him in the same cabin as that of Shri Mazmudar, the Junagadh Vakil. Gandhiji was introduced to him by his friends. Gandhiji took with him necessary provision also.

Gandhiji sailed from Bombay on the 4th September, 1888.

As Gandhiji was innocent of the use of knives and forks, he never took

19. Equip = to fit out; to furnish with everything needed.
20. Berth = a room or sleeping place in a ship.

meals at table; instead, he spent his meal-times in his cabin[21], eating dried fruit and sweets which he had brought with him.

Abroad the ship, Shri Mazmudar did his best to make Gandhiji talk to other passengers and thus to get over his shyness.

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21. Cabin = a small room in a ship.

In England

When the ship arrived at the port of Southampton, Gandhiji landed there. From Southampton, he went on to London, where he was to study. There he soon found lodgings in the house of a widow. Gandhiji told her about his vow, and the landlady agreed to give him only vegetarian[22] dishes But when the food was placed before him, he could not eat it. Hence he had to starve practically So, Gandhiji began to wander about in search of a vegetarian restaurant[23]. But he could not find for some days the type of restaurant he wanted. Just when he was growing weary and desperate he found a restaurant which suited his fancy. There

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22. Vegetarian = one who holds that vegetables are the only proper food for man.

23. Restaurant = a house where meals may be had.

he got his first hearty meal since his arrival in England. He purchased a book from there–"Salt's plea for vegetarianism." This book impressed him very much and he became a vegetarian by choice.

Gandhiji was quite unfamiliar with the English way of life. This placed him in many predicaments.[24] His ignorance of the European etiquette[25] very often resulted in tiffs[26] with his friends. So he decided that he should try to become a typical Englishman, subject of course, to his vow to his mother.

He watched the fashionable people of the society and tried to copy them in every way. He spent a lot of money on costly English clothes. He, who had

24. Predicament = unfortunate position.
25. Etiquette = forms of ceremony in society or at court.
26. Tiff = disagreement; a slight quarrel.

considered the mirror a luxury while in India, began to spend ten minutes every morning before a huge mirror, in brushing and arranging his hair. He started taking lessons in ball-room dancing, in playing the violin and in elocution[27]. His fancy to play the Englishman lasted for three months. At the end of this period he understood that it was unwise to spend his brother's hard-earned money on such silly things.

So he gave up his costly experiments. He understood that his duty was to study. Thereafter he gave all his time to serious study.

He wanted to make up for the money he had wasted. So he decided to reduce his expenditure to the minimum possible.

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27. Elocution = the art of effective speaking.

He began to keep a careful account of every farthing he spent, with a view to exercising strict economy. He also decided to walk as much as possible so that he could save the fares. Gandhiji also left his comfortable residence and shifted to a cheap[28] room. There he bought a cooking stove and began to prepare his meals himself. As he did not want to spend too much of time over this work, he ate very simple things. Meanwhile he studied hard and made good progress.

Towards the end of his second year in England, Gandhiji came across two Theosophist[29] brothers. They kindled[30] in him the desire to learn more about religion. He read 'Bhagavatgita' and

28. Cheap = low in price; of small value.
29. Theosophist = one who believes in theosophy.
30. Kindled = to set fire to; to inflame.

Edwin Arnold's translation of the Gita, 'The Song Celestial'. He also read Sir Edwin Arnold's 'The Light of Asia' and Carlyle's Heroes and Hero worship'. Gandhiji also read 'The Bible'. The New Testament attracted him very much. The Sermon on the Mount went straight to his heart. His Theosophist friends introduced him to Mrs. Besant who had just then joined the Theosophical Society.

There was a great exhibition[31] at Paris in 1890. Gandhiji who had been longing to visit Paris went to see the exhibition. A particular attraction of the exhibition was the Eiffel Tower, constructed entirely of iron, and nearly thousand feet high. He also visited all the lovely old churches in Paris. He liked to walk about them and watch the people praying.

31. Exhibition = display.

After three years of study in England, Gandhiji passed his examinations. He was called to the bar on the 10th of June 1891, and enrolled[32] in the High Court on the 11th. On the 12th he sailed home.



32. enroll = register; to insert in a roll; to enter in a list as a member.

Back in India

The voyage back to India was very stormy. Gandhiji was longing to see his mother. But when he arrived, his brother informed him that she had died while he was in England. His brother had kept the news from him so far in order to spare him a shock in a foreign land.

Now was the time for Gandhiji to start a new career[33]. Friends advised him to go to Bombay and to practise there as a barrister[34].

Soon he went to Bombay and started a house-hold. He engaged a cook to look after him. The cook was a stupid

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33. Career = Profession.
34. barrister = one who is qualified to plead at the bar in an English or Irish law court.

So Gandhiji had to do almost all the work himself.

As no clients[35] turned up to him, Gandhiji returned home after six months. He was beginning to feel desperate[36] and dispirited. Just then, a firm of Indian merchants from Perbunder, who had settled in South Africa, sent for him to take charge of some important law business for them in Durban, a South African sea port.

Gandhiji accepted the offer. He felt very sad to part from his wife and two children. He consoled[37] himself that he would be back again in a year and so he set out for South Africa.

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35. clients = one who employs a lawyer or professional adviser.
36. desperate = hopeless.
37. console = to give comfort.

In South Africa

On reaching South Africa, he contacted his clients. They were Muslims. Though they were very rich they led a simple life.

Two or three days after his arrival, Gandhiji went with his clients to the Law courts to attend to some of their legal business. He had a turban on his head. The magistrate ordered him to remove it. Gandhiji refused to do so. He preferred walking out of the court to removing his turban.

Gandhiji was shocked at the pitiable condition of the Indians in South Africa. They were treated as inferiors. They were not allowed to stay at good hotels, or to eat in nice restaurants.

A few days after the turban incident, Gandhiji had to go on a railway journey

from Durban to Pretoria. His clients bought a first class ticket for him and he started on the journey in a first class compartment. After some time a European passenger got into that compartment and objected to Gandhiji being there. He called the guard who ordered Gandhiji to get out of the carriage and go into the compartment kept for African people. Gandhiji refused to do this. The policeman was called for. The constable came, took Gandhiji by the hand and pushed him out. His luggage was also taken out. Gandhiji refused to go to the other compartment and the train steamed away without him.

It was winter. He had no warm clothes with him as his luggage was with the railway authorities. It was night and chilly. He sat in the waiting room shivering. Now he had seen enough of the cruel ways in which Indians were treated. This made him

resolve to work hard to raise the status of the Indians there.

The next day Gandhiji continued his journey. Part of the journey had to be made in a state coach. Even though he possessed a ticket for the coach, he was regarded a 'Coolie'. Gandhiji pocketed this injustice. After some time, the leader of the coach wanted Gandhiji's seat. He took a piece of dirty sack-cloth, spread it on the foot-board and asked Gandhiji to sit on the sack-cloth.

Gandhiji refused to do this. The man got angry and began to box Gandhiji's ears. The European passengers in the coach knew that Gandhiji had done no wrong. So they took his side and made the man stop beating.

Gandhiji had such bitter experiences several times. He wanted to fight

against the injustice perpetrated on Indians. He united the Indians there and founded a political party known as the Natal Indian Congress.

He soon became very famous in South Africa. His work as a barrister also prospered day by day.

He had been in South Africa for three years. He felt that he should bring his family also to South Africa and settle there. So he returned to India.

S-7/69

On reaching India, he published a pamphlet about the plight of Indians in South Africa. It came to be known as 'Green pamphlet' because of its green cover. The news of the publication reached South Africa and the white people got very furious.

Just at that time there was an outbreak of plague in Bombay and people

were afraid that it might spread to Rajkot. Gandhiji offered his services to the State and organised a Committee to help the sick. He instructed people to keep their houses clean.

Before returning to South Africa, he contacted the leaders of the Indian National Congress like Lokamanya Tilak and Gopal Krishna Gokhale. At there instance he went to several places in India and spoke at public meetings about the bad treatment Indians were receiving in South Africa.

After a short while, Gandhiji returned to South Africa. He took with him, his wife and their two little sons, aged eight and four.

The Europeans who were furious did not like Gandhiji's return.

As soon as Gandhiji set foot on South Africa, some European boys began to throw stones and rotten eggs, at him. Kasturba and the two little boys were sent in advance to the house of one of his friend's.

One of them took off his turban, while others began to beat and kick him An English lady, Mrs Alexander, the wife of the Police Superintendent who came that way rushed to his rescue. She forced her way between the crowd and Gandhiji and opened her umbrella to protect him from blows. An Indian boy who was on the spot ran to the railway station and informed Mr. Alexander of what had happened. He at-once sent a number of policemen to protect Gandhiji and conduct him to the house of one of his friends.

No sooner had he been in than the house was surrounded by a hostile mob. Gandhiji managed to escape

through the back entrance of the house, in the guise of a policeman as advised by Mr. Alexander who had by then come there.

The Government expressed willingness to arrest the trouble-makers, if Gandhiji would point them out. But he refused to do this.

This made a great impression about him on the European people.

Gandhiji now took to his old life again.

He offered his services to a Missionary Hospital, and thus helped the poor patients who were mainly Indians.

Gandhiji helped the Indians in South Africa in all possible means. He cut down his expenses and used the savings for the cause of Indians in South Africa. He washed his own clothes.

When an English barber refused to cut his hair, Gandhiji bought a pair of hair-clippers and began to clip his hair himself.

During the Boer war in South Africa, Gandhiji helped the British. He served the sick and the wounded soldiers.

After four years of service in South Africa, Gandhiji decided to return to India When his friends knew of this, they would not let him go. They made him promise that he would return to Africa within a year, if they should need his services.

Gandhiji's friends showered presents on him and Kasthurba. But Gandhiji decided to give them for the cause of the South Africans. Kasthurba wanted to keep a lovely neck-lace. But he would not allow her to do so. He explained to her that people should never expect

reward for their service to others and persuaded her to return the neck-lace too. All the gold and jewels they got as presents were deposited in a bank as a reserve fund for the Indian Community.

Immediately after his return to India he plunged himself into Congress work. He felt happy that he was working for the freedom of his motherland.

In order to know the Indian people at close quarters, he travelled throughout the length and breadth of India by third class.

Sometime after his return to India, his son Manilal became very sick with typhoid and Pneumonia. The doctor advised chicken broth to be given to the boy. But Gandhiji would not. He said that it was wrong to take the life of a chicken even if it was to save

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Plung =to thrust suddenly.

his son. He prayed to God and within three days his son was out of danger.

Before, long, the Indians in South Africa called for his services. Gandhiji set out, at-once, for South Africa, leaving his family in India.

Soon after his arrival in South Africa for the third time, he founded there an Ashram or Colony called Phoenix settlement. Not much latter, Kasthurba and the boys also came there to live with him Gandhiji fought British injustice with the weapon of 'passive resistance.'

While in South Africa, Kasthurba fell ill and was hospitalised. Her condition grew worse and the doctor advised that beef tea must be given to her. He also said that if beef tea was not given to her, she must be removed from the hospital. It was raining outside Gandhiji removed her from the hospital to the Ashram in a

rikshaw. He himself nursed her through out day and night. After a few days of anxiety, Kasthurba fully recovered from her illness.

Once in the settlement, two inmates behaved very badly Gandhiji was annoyed. But he would not scold them. Instead he said that he must do penance for the sins of the inmates So he began a fast of seven days This made everyone at Phoenix unhappy.

At that time a law was passed in South Africa, which required Indians to register names with the Government and allow their fingerprints to be taken. Gandhiji led a resistance movement against this law. As a result he was arrested. This was the first imprisonment in his life. Thousands of others were also arrested along with him. The South African Government declared

that those arrested would be released and the registration order withdrawn, if a good number of Indians voluntarily registered their names. Gandhiji agreed to this and was released with others.

While Gandhiji was going with a good number of others to register his name, some pathans attacked him, because they thought that Gandhiji had yielded to the Government. The leader of the pathans hit Gandhiji on the head and he fell unconcious. The police arrested the pathans; but Gandhiji would not accuse them of anything.

But the government did not keep its promise. The government did not withdraw the registration order as announced. So Gandhiji collected the certificates of Indians who had registered willingly and set them to fire publicly. For this he was again arrested.

Towards the Glorious Goal

Gandhiji returned to India in 1914. He wanted to analyse the ills of the Motherland and find solutions for them. He found that India spent large sums of money on foreign cloth and that there were millions of unemployed people in India. He thought of a new India. If all the unemployed people were taught spinning, that would provide them with employment. With this object in view he propagated the use of Charkha. Thus Charkha became a symbol of nationalism and employment.

Gandhiji founded an Ashram in Ahamedabad and taught the people the lesson of self-reliance and self-support. Gandhiji allowed a family of untouchables to join the Ashram. Many of

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Propagate = to cause to increase by natural process; to multiply; to pass on; to transmit.

his friends objected to this. But he would not mind. He gave the Untouchables a new name-Harijans. He continued his work Gandhiji felt that his glorious goal in life was to fight for the freedom of the Motherland and strove for it With his coming into the political front, the nation which lay prostrate before the British stood up at his call and said 'No' to foreign rule Gandhiji spoke to the heart of India the sacred mantram 'Be free', 'Be slaves no more'!

Gandhiji helped the British during the first World war for they had promised to give India freedom after the war. But the British did not keep their word.

Gandhiji was bitterly disappointed. So he started a vigorous fight for the freedom of the Motherland. He

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Prostrate = lying with face on the ground.

exhorted the people to disobey unjust laws. He wanted people to rebel non-violently.

Day by day the momentum of the freedom struggle increased. The British were worried over this. They wanted to come to terms with Gandhiji. They invited Gandhiji to a Round Table Conference, in England. Gandhiji went to England to attend the Conference. The British refused to accept his just demands. So he returned to India and continued the fight more vigorously.

Gandhiji's writings in 'The young India', 'Harijan' and 'Hind Swaraj', provided the people with a new philosophy and inspired them.

In 1942, Gandhiji started the 'Quit India Movement'. He asked the British to quit India and leave the people to them-selves.

In the meantime the Second World war broke out. There was commotion and bustle throughout the country. Utter disorder prevailed all over the country. Gandhiji had by this time become a great national leader. He told the British that if they would set India free, Indians would gladly help Britain. But the British Government did not heed his words. Gandhiji was arrested and shut up in the Aga Khan's palace at Poona. Kasthurba who joined him there died in prison. Gandhiji was set free in 1945 when his health failed. After this, Gandhiji and other Indian leaders held long talks with the British for two years. At last they came to an agreement through the successful and conciliatory efforts of

Commotion = a violent motion or moving; Excited action.
Prevail = to gain the mastery; succeed.
Conciliate = to appease; to gain over.

Lord Mountbatten, the Viceroy. As a result of this, India became independent on 15th of August 1947. Gandhiji was the principal architect of India's freedom. Throughout India, he is therefore referred to as 'The father of the Nation'.

Gandhiji was the only man who could in recent times live upto the great ideals preached by ancient saints, seers and prophets. He lived a simple life. He was very religious. He could love even his enemies. He never got angry with others. Though meek as a lamb, he was courageous as a lion. He was respected by everyone in India and was therefore called the 'Mahatma'.

The partition of India on India's winning independence created many

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Architect = one who designs buildings; maker; the creator.

problems. The Hindus and the Muslims began to quarrel. Gandhiji preached love and non-violence. Many fanatical Hindus thought that Gandhiji was too friendly with the Muslims. On January 30, 1948, when Gandhiji was going to a prayer meeting, a mad Hindu named Nathuram Vinayak Godse shot him through the heart. Gandhiji sank to the ground murmuring only 'O Ram!, O Ram!', the name of God which he loved most. Thus ended the life of the greatest Indian that ever lived. His body was cremated the next day at Raj Ghat and his last remains were washed in the holy waters at Triveni.

The people of India will never forget the valuable services rendered by this great man in the cause of freedom. His signal services for the uplift of the Harijans and the down trodden were also very great.

He never swerved from the path of right. He used to say, "I shall be on the wrong side, but I will never be on the side of wrong!" Here lies his greatness.

Truth and non-violence (Ahimsa) constitute the warp and woof his philosophy. According to him Truth represents God. He said one cannot reach Truth by untruthfulness. Truthful conduct alone can reach Truth. Non-violence is embeded in Truth "Ahimsa and Truth are like the two sides of a coin".

Gandhiji said that one who possessed things in excess of one's requirement was a thief. He told the rich that they were not the owners of their wealth but were only trustees.

To Gandhiji, means was eqally important as the end. He said "As the means so the end. There is no

wall of separation between means and end'. He firmly believed that noble ends could not be achieved by ignoble means.

Gandhiji had given the nation a talisman to resolve any dilemma. He said, 'I will give you a talisman. Whenever you are in doubt, you apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it ? Then you will find your doubt and your self melting away'.

Ignoble = of low birth; mean or worthless; dishonourable.

Talisman = a species of charm suppose to exert some protective influence over the wearer.

Contemplate = to meditate on; to consider or look attentively; to think seriously

Questions:

1. Give an account of Gandhiji's early days
2. What do you know about his parents?
3. Describe how Gandhiji fell into bad company and how he got out of it?
4. Give an account of his education.
5. Describe Gandhiji's life in England.
6. Give an account of Gandhiji's experiences in South Africa.
7. Describe how Gandhiji tried to remove the condition of Indians in South Africa.
8. Sketch the character of Kasthurba.
9. Give an account of the part played by Gandhiji in the struggle for freedom.
10. Write an appreciation of Gandhiji's character.

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