



**GANDHI:  
THE HIDDEN POWER**

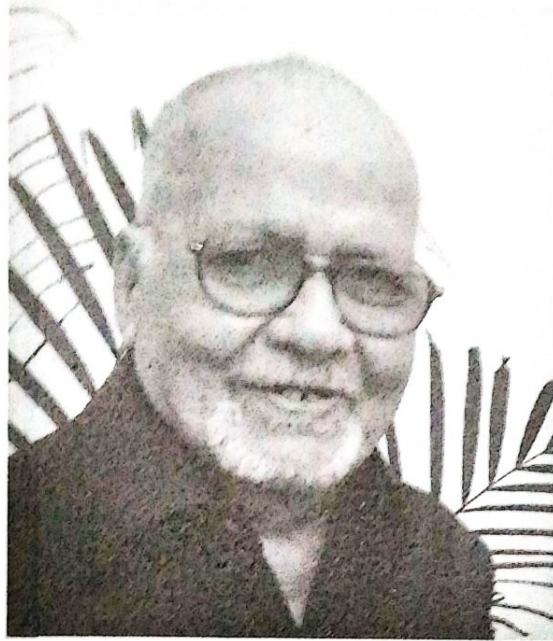
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ISBN 978-1-68563-585-5

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MR. JOSEPH GOMES

This book is dedicated to my father Mr. Joseph Gomes who always believed in me and my abilities and capabilities to excel. He used to fondly call me the apple of his eye and he was convinced that his daughter would make him feel proud one day. Thank you dad for believing in me. Whatever, I am today is only because of the Almighty and my wonderful parents.

## CHAPTER TWELVE

# GANDHI ON PEACE



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“There is no path to peace, peace is the path” - Mahatma Gandhi.

Once in a thousand years, a few great people walk the face of the earth and leave their mark forever. They make such an impact on humanity which is almost immeasurable by human standards. Mahatma Gandhi was one of them. He made India an independent country without using any nuclear weapons, army, or malice. There's so much to learn from the man who showed the true value of simple living and high thinking.

Gandhi once said: 'I honour the place in you where the entire universe resides...a place of light, of love, of truth, of peace, of wisdom. I honour the place in you where when you are in that place and I am in that place there is only one of us. Each of us must learn to work not just for oneself, one's own family or nation, but for the benefit of all humankind. Universal responsibility is the key to human survival. It is the best foundation for world peace'.

Gandhi is universally known as an Apostle of Peace and Non-violence. Gandhi himself made a skillful use of satyagraha to achieve peace and harmony and thus proved his point. He always believed that peace contains a negative and a positive sense, the absence of configuration, elimination of wars, absence of conflicts

between different classes, castes, religions, and nations is a negative sense and love, rest, mental equilibrium, harmony, co-operation, unity, happiness are the positive indices of peace. Gandhi said that the root of every violence or conflict is untruth and that the only permanent solution of conflict is truth. Consequently, to resolve conflicts, he conceived of a novel technique which he called Satyagraha. Literally, it means Satya with Agraha or, unwavering search for the truth. And since the only way of getting to truth is by non-violence, it follows that satyagraha implies an unwavering search for the truth using non-violence. Therefore, Gandhi emphasised satyagraha as the most potent method of ensuring an enduring peace.

**Gandhiji believed in twin-principles of Peace: Truth and Non-violence.** Attainment of peace should be the ultimate goal of any youthful human emotions and actions. Once their minds are at rest, they can concentrate their energies for spreading the message of peace. Youth should know that social harmony is an index of peace. They should strive peacefully to make their and other people's social lives happy and undisturbed which is the aim of any society. Gandhi also warned youngsters against misinterpreting religions. All the religions such as Hinduism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Jainism, etc. have preached peace and harmony so that society can enjoy a happy and peaceful life. Gandhi dedicated his life to the wider purpose of discovering truth, or Satya. Gandhi summarized his beliefs first when he said "God is Truth".

He would later change this statement to "Truth is God". Thus, Satya (Truth) in Gandhi's philosophy is "God". Truth was Gandhi's favourite human value which inspired his autobiography "My Experiments with Truth". Satya Meva Jayate was his slogan. Gandhi wanted every individual and society to practice truth at any cost. He emphasized that all religions, philosophies, societies have unambiguously advocated truth. According to him, truth was God and that truth must manifest itself in the thought, word and deeds. He did accept that the path of truth will always be full of hardship, difficulties, sufferings, and sacrifice.

Non-violence and truth are the essence of Gandhian philosophy. Gandhi was the first to apply non-violence in political field on a massive scale. Gandhi derived the idea of non-violence from the principles 'Ahimsa Paramodharma' and 'Vasudeva Kutumbakam', which mean to earn complete freedom from ill-will, anger and hatred, and to nurture love for all.

Mahatma Gandhi said that there is no way to peace and that peace is the way. Peace, as Gandhi envisaged it, is far more than the absence of war and violence. It implies a state of positive and constructive world order, where individuals, groups and nations do not dominate or exploit one another and live in cooperation and mutual aid. Peace is thus a cementing force for the society and the world. Mahatma Gandhi said that peace and truth cannot be separated. **"The way of peace is the way of truth. Truthfulness is even more important than peacefulness."** For Gandhi peace based on truth is stable and also promotes internal spiritual growth in man and social progress. The concern for peace in Gandhian approach leads to the realization of the oneness of humanity and interdependent character of nations. Gandhi saw the entire humanity as one and argued for universal brotherhood. Mutual goodwill and friendship among all the peoples are necessary condition for peace.

Gandhi said, **"If we have no charity, and no tolerance, we shall never settle our differences amicably and must therefore always submit to the arbitration of a third party."** Today's conflict management techniques and resolution process has clear shadow of what Gandhiji had faced, issues internationally in his time. A war-hunger nation has nothing in this world whilst a starving nation needs every kind of help from the world. A nation endangering peace in the world has no security for itself.

**Peace can never be achieved by one-dimensional and unilateral talks or efforts.** It has numerous facets of social, ethnical, religious and political elements and ample ways to deal with them and stabilize worsened situations under control. The true character of a conflict must be identified and solved through peace. Gandhi's

perception of bringing peace and resolving conflict had such a diversified point of interest every time when he insisted on taking fast to bring hostile situation under control. Whether there is a riot in the eastern Bengal or unrest in the north-western part of India, peace lived in his soul consciously demanding him to take on fast even if he resides in another corner of the country. Thus, peace becomes universal and eternal.

Today world peace continues to be at the hands of world powers that use violence and warfare. To achieve a peaceful treaty is not that simple. Global peace has been hindered by many challenges that include both natural and human-made causes. The rationale behind achieving peace is in the positive understanding of "give and take", humanity, forgiveness and nonviolence.

Gandhiji's views on peace, as he wrote or said on various occasions when violence and warfare prevailed over nonviolence and peace in the world. Truth - "Indeed a civilian resister offers resistance only when peace becomes impossible"

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