



Excerpts from Long Walk to Freedom

"I am fundamentally an optimist. Whether that comes from nature or nurture, I cannot say. Part of being optimistic is keeping one's head pointed toward the sun, one's feet moving forward. There were many dark moments when my faith in humanity was sorely tested, but I would not and could not give myself up to despair. That way lays defeat and death."

"No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."

"A leader ... is like a shepherd. He stays behind the flock, letting the most nimble go out ahead, whereupon the others follow, not realising that all along they are being directed from behind."

"Freedom is indivisible; the chains on one of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me."

"I had no epiphany, no singular revelation, no moment of truth, but a steady accumulation of a thousand slights, a thousand indignities and a thousand unremembered moments produced in

me an anger, a rebelliousness, a desire to fight the system that imprisoned my people. There was no particular day on which I said, Henceforth I will devote myself to the liberation of my people; instead, I simply found myself doing so, and could not do otherwise."

"A Nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones"

"Without language, one cannot talk to people and understand them; one cannot share their hopes and aspirations, grasp their history, appreciate their poetry, or savor their songs."

"I have never cared very much for personal prizes. A person does not become a freedom fighter in the hope of winning awards."

"And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others."

"I could not imagine that the future I was walking toward could compare in any way to the past that I was leaving behind."

"People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite... Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never explained."

A.K.M. RAISUL HUQ BAHAR

TODAY is Nelson Mandela International Day. The whole global community, irrespective of colour, creed, belief, and political as well as continental divide, will celebrate Mandela Day with a new pledge to carry forward the high ideals of this great man to a new height. This year, the people of the world are in a sombre mood as they observe the day because Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, 94, the icon of peace and harmony, has been in hospital for more than one month.

Mandela is the man who not only freed the black people of South Africa from the clutch of 300 years of apartheid and racial discrimination created by the white colonial rulers but also set an example of political leadership which is unique all the way. He is the man who took up arms to wage war against the inhuman and indescribable oppression and blatant exploitation of the white ruling clique of Pretoria to emancipate the black majority of South Africa. He was elected as the Commander of African National Congress (ANC)'s armed wing. Mandela was put in jail for 27 years by the despotic rulers for his uncompromising stance and relentless struggle against any sort of inhuman and discriminatory treatment to his countrymen.

Mandela, in his famous autobiographical book *Long Walk to Freedom*, wrote about the concept of leadership in detail and compared it with the shepherd who drives the herd of sheep to its home from the grazing field from behind. He himself is the symbol of this distinctive leadership. Passing the most precious 18 years of his 27 years jail life in an isolated cell of Robben Island, Mandela set an unquestionable example of leading a people, subjugated by the most brutal form of

slavery, to the rainbow horizon of freedom.

He led his party and organised his people from behind bars to a political movement to attain the goal of abolition of all racial disparity and segregation. The western world, particularly the US which once branded Mandela as a terrorist, accepted the idea of reconciliation instead of suppressing the dissenting voice and put pressure on the apartheid rulers of Pretoria to stop political oppression and

and relinquished the post when he was at the zenith of his popularity.

These and many other exceptional leadership attributes in Mandela made him an exceptional statesman, parallel to none in contemporary political history. Mandela loves his people and his people too love him. But Mandela is not the leader of his nation only. He is a leader of world stature. All peace-loving, democratic minded and progressive people the world over respect him and recognise him as their own leader.

Mandela, born in July 18, 1918 in a village in South Africa's Cape Province, had his primary education in Methodist School, secondary in a Western-style institute in Thembuland, graduation in Fort Hare University, and law in the University of Witwatersrand. He was a founding member of ANC's Youth League. In 2009, United Nations decided to celebrate International Mandela Day every year on the birthday of the world peace hero on July 18. From then on every year Mandela



Day has been celebrated with great enthusiasm, much admiration and newer commitment to further the ideals of peace, justice, harmony and social amity to establish a just global order.

We are a very proud nation because we achieved our independence through an arduous armed struggle of nine long months against the colonial Pakistani occupation forces, and because we found this great freedom fighter amidst us during the silver jubilee celebration of our Independence Day in 1997 along with another iconic figure Yasser Arafat of Palestine Liberation Struggle. Today, on the 5th Mandela Day, we pay our rich tribute to this great man.

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The writer is Chittagong Bureau Chief, *The Daily Star*.

Five leadership lessons from Mandela

1) "A good leader can engage in a debate frankly and thoroughly, knowing that at the end he and the other side must be closer, and thus emerge stronger. You don't have that idea when you are arrogant, superficial, and uninformed."

"I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear."

2) "It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership."

"Resentment is like drinking poison and then hoping it will kill your enemies."

3) "Long speeches, the shaking of fists, the banging of tables and strongly

worded resolutions out of touch with the objective conditions do not bring about mass action and can do a great deal of harm to the organisation and the struggle we serve."



"Do not judge me by my successes, judge me by how many times I fell down and got back up again."

4) "Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people."

"Action without vision is only passing time, vision without action is merely day dreaming, but vision with action can

change the world."

5) "What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead."

"Courageous people do not fear forgiving, for the sake of peace."

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by Mort Walker



- ACROSS**
- 1 Amorphous mass
- 5 Pouch
- 8 Con job
- 12 Portrayal
- 13 Id counterpart
- 14 Actress Jessica
- 15 "The danger has passed"
- 17 Borscht ingredient
- 18 Shelton or Lively
- 19 Chopping spree?
- 21 Breakfast for many
- 24 Jam ingredient?
- 25 Treaty
- 28 Teeny bit
- 30 Cow's chaw
- 33 Ostrich's cousin
- 34 Small chalkboard
- 35 Work with
- 36 Suitable
- 37 Gasp for air
- 38 Impale
- 39 Masseuse's workplace
- 41 Not this way!
- 43 Plot
- 46 Supermarket section
- 50 Cupid's alias
- 51 2,000 pounds
- 54 Legal wrong
- 55 "Wham!"
- 56 String
- 57 Gospels follower
- 58 Longing
- 59 Robert of "Airplane!"
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- 2 Snatch
- 2 Take to the hammock
- 3 —
- 4 St. Thomas
- 5 Witness
- 6 —
- 7 Khan
- 7 Stopper
- 8 Israeli indigene
- 9 Unambiguous
- 10 Help a hood
- 11 Partner
- 16 Journey segment
- 20 Pinnacle
- 22 Big bash
- 23 Rise
- 25 Pod
- 26 Pump up the volume
- 27 Curtail
- 29 "Beetle Bailey" dog
- 31 NAFTA signatory
- 32 Society newcomer
- 34 Unwanted email
- 38 Tattletale
- 40 Nuisances
- 42 Stratego situation
- 43 — good example
- 44 Gator's kin
- 45 Catch sight of
- 47 Old portico
- 48 Australian parrot
- 49 Conclusions
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- 53 Have

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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BEHAVING WITH NO MANNERS, I SUPPOSE THAT EUROPEAN LOWBROW FROM SOFIA IS A BULGARIAN VULGARIAN.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals I

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