

Nelson Mandela: A Long Walk to Freedom

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Summary

Nelson Mandela, the first black President of South Africa, fought for the freedom of his people. In his autobiography, he describes in detail the pains he had to suffer from the time when he was young. He was discriminated against by the whites along with other black people. He was an enthusiastic young man who considered staying away from his home to get freedom. He wanted to marry the person of his choice. But gradually he realised that freedom is more meaningful. He decided to bring freedom for his own people. On 10 May 1994 he was able to materialise his dreams long cherished by the black people who sacrificed their lives to give dignity to their coming generations. He gives two contradictory pictures of his country; one, in which the black people were tortured and had to suffer quietly, second, when the blacks will be free to live a life of their own. In this extract, Mandela speaks about a historic occasion, 'The Inauguration'.

P.T.O.

(2) Assignment

1. Read the passage Carefully and answer the questions that follow:
Out of the experience of an extraordinary human disaster that lasted too long, must be born a society of which all humanity will be proud.
we, who were outlaws not so long ago, have today been given the rare privilege to be host to the nations of the world on our own soil. We thank all of our distinguished international guests for having come to take possession with the people of our country of what is, after all, a common victory for justice, for peace, for human dignity.

Questions:

- (a) what is the extraordinary human disaster that Mandela refers to ?
(b) why did the speaker call it a common victory ?
(c) what did the writer wish to have ?
(d) why did the writer thank the guests ?

2. Answer these questions:

- (i) what ideals does Mandela set out for the future of South Africa ?
(ii) what do the military generals do? How has their attitude changed, and why?
(iii) what does Courage mean to Mandela ?
(iv) what 'twin obligations' does Mandela mention ?
(v) what did being free mean to Mandela as a boy, and as a student ? How does he contrast these 'transitory freedoms' with 'the basic and honourable freedoms' ?

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3. Answer these questions in (100-150) words.

- (i) Nelson Mandela joined the African National Congress as a young man. It transformed his life. What made him join it? What does it show about his values and character?
- (ii) Man is a social animal. He has some obligations to society. What twin obligations does Mandela mention? How can one fulfil these obligations?
- (iii) There are some real virtues of a human being. Nelson Mandela points out these virtues in his speech. Which of these virtues impress you the most? Do you think these virtues have become rare nowadays?