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## GANDHI -AN APOSTLE OF PEACE

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**Abstract:** Mahatma Gandhi was born as an ordinary man, yet his extraordinary deeds and non-violence philosophy changed the entire world. Gandhiji's fight for freedom and peace gave voice to many landmark movements in India and across the globe. Gandhiji maintained that true and lasting peace can be got only if there is equality and equal opportunities for all. Gandhi's life teaches us all one very meaningful lesson: principles are easy to preach, but difficult to practice. He believed that disciplined and a humane life of ethical values for all is very important. This eventually determines the quality of our lives. Gandhi sermons on non-violence and peace served as a valuable catalyst for people to ponder and rethink philosophical positions on violence, non-violence, and education. The world will experience peace, only when the individuals composing it make up their minds to do so. To achieve simultaneously the negative aim of conflict - resolution and the positive aim of establishing peace, Gandhi propounded his philosophy of peace. Thus Mahatma Gandhi was an ambassador of peace, a campaigner of truth, advocater of equality and apostle of peace.

**Keywords:** Non-Violence Philosophy, Peace, Equality, Equal Opportunities, Principles, Practice, Valuable Catalyst, Quality.

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**Introduction:** The world civilization has witnessed numerous instances of warfare, battles, and conflict. Many men preached and practiced theories of peace that made the human race to evolve into a more enlightened living. Some of the great personalities who put efforts to bring peace in the world are Mother Theresa, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru; Smt. Indira Gandhi and of course the 'Father of the nation', the hero of India's independence Sri.Mahatma Gandhi fondly known as 'Bapu'. Gandhi is the greatest 'apostle of peace' the world has seen after Buddha and Christ.

**Mahatma Gandhi was born as an ordinary man, yet his extraordinary deeds and non-violence philosophy changed the entire world. Gandhiji's fight for freedom and peace gave voice to many landmark movements in India and across the globe.** Gandhiji maintained that true and lasting peace can be got only if there is equality and equal opportunities for all. Gandhi's life teaches us all one very meaningful lesson: principles are easy to preach, but difficult to practice. He believed that disciplined and a humane life of ethical values for all is very important. This eventually determines the quality of our lives. Gandhi sermons on non-violence and peace served as a valuable catalyst for people to ponder and rethink philosophical positions on violence, non-violence, and education. The world will experience peace, only when the individuals composing it make up their minds to do so. To achieve simultaneously the negative aim of conflict-resolution and the positive aim of establishing peace, Gandhi propounded his philosophy of peace. Thus Mahatma Gandhi was an ambassador of peace, a campaigner of truth, advocator of equality and apostle of peace.

World peace is defined as an ideal of freedom, peace, and happiness among and within all nations and/or people. It is defined as an ideal of freedom, peace, and happiness among and within all nations and/or people. It generally includes an idea of planetary non-violence by which nations willingly cooperate, either voluntarily or by virtue of a system of governance that prevents warfare. The economic status of the nations too plays a crucial role in determining the degree of success of any peace initiative.

Peace can never be achieved by talks or efforts. It has numerous facets of social, ethical, religious and political elements and copious ways to deal with them to bring and stabilize worsened situations under control. The true character of a conflict must be identified and may perhaps be attributed any of those hidden elements. Gandhi's perception of bringing peace and resolving conflict had such a diversified

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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.

According to Gandhi Truth is - *"Indeed a civilian resister offers resistance only when peace becomes impossible"* - Mahatma Gandhi

Gandhi's notion of peace is centred on non-violence, individualism, soul force and forgiveness. People fail to go with peace and surrender to other forces. The political, economic states of affairs of the nation swiftly take precedence amid promising hopes for peace. Gandhi elegantly put this as a notion for nations who love peace and harmony: *"Peace will not come out of a clash of arms but out of justice lived and done by unarmed nations in the face of odds."*

More than half of the fighting occurring in the world is caused due to quarrel between religious groups. Inter-religion and intra-religion differences are not new. A fight for a natural resource easily turns into a religious-rage when there is a mixture of various religions in a particular region. A battle over the right to use a resource in a region is often fought with the existing feud in faith and beliefs of the people. The inter-religious differences among the groups rose to the level of destructing each other sending devastating waves to the entire region. A careful study on the conflict on this region would reveal the truth about how incongruent and corrupt political systems kindle the religious feelings of the people. The differences in economic and political structures in these nations have taken toll the true character of the Islamic religion. As Gandhi put it, *"The very word Islam means peace, which is Nonviolence. Without prayer there is no inward peace."*

Each one of us finds happiness in practicing some spiritual exercise that gives us a short-time relief from day-to-day pressures. The central power of peace as many people believe lies in the practice of spirituality. We try to fight with the outside world full of fuss and chaos and finally resort to the spiritual way of seeking inner peace. Some of us are even flopped in attaining the inner peace when our thoughts and relationships become hollow and worthless in times of grief and pain. The importance of peace is felt and experienced only at such times and one needs to master his (her) mind, body and soul to develop peace. *The gap between the inner peace and global peace must be filled with a path of nonviolence and a better understanding of the divergence between the self-identity and the global requirements.* Gandhi believed that *"Prayer is the only means of bringing about orderliness and peace and repose in our daily acts."*

Our religions too tell us the same to us. Gandhi was fascinated by *"The Bhagavad Gita"*, an essential scripture of Hinduism. According to him, *"Salvation of the Gita is perfect peace."* Gandhi believed that we all should strive to pray for global peace. Let us expand our horizons to bring peace in disturbed regions worldwide. Let prayer be a fuel that runs the vehicle of peace.

Nobel peace prize winners such as Mr. Martti Ahtisaari (2008), Mr. Muhammed Yunus (2006), Ms. Wangari Maathai (2004) and Ms. Shirin Ebadi (2003) have effectively changed their parts of the world to maintain amity and bring peace into existence, hitherto had seen only injustice, inequality and communal turbulence. Great leaders of the U.S.A. the Nobel winners Mr. Jimmy Carter (2002), Mr. Al Gore (2007) and Mr. Barack Obama (2009) had played a crucial role for understanding the global conflicts through political lens, effecting lasting peace across the globe.

In conclusion, we can say that certainly Peace and non-violence are the two pillars of any peace process that upholds the human race's very livelihood. These are like the two sides of the coin and two eyes of a human being. Peace must be the fruit of any non-violent action or protest to settle a dispute. Only such a resolved state of dispute will be full of peace and harmony. Peace is the fundamental spirit of humanity. Therefore, the final accord the parties willing to agree is nothing but the final outcome itself. They shall not build up their conflict on top of the outcome of the peace process. The rationale behind achieving

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peace is in the positive understanding of “give and take”, humanity, forgiveness and non-violence. The right understanding will take the world in the right path. As an exemplary figure in politics, spirituality and nation building, Gandhi must also be understood rightly. Gandhiji maintained that there cannot be true and lasting peace unless there is equal opportunity for all:

"You cannot have a good social system when you find yourself low in the scale of political rights, nor can you be fit to exercise political rights and privileges unless your social system is based on reason and justice. You cannot have a good economic system when your social arrangements are imperfect. If your religious ideas are low and grovelling, you cannot succeed in ensuring equal status for women, and the access to opportunities for all is the ultimate that would bring independence to the people of India."

So Gandhiji saw peace as three-fold: That the goal of the struggle for peace and democracy is for the good of all; not just the good of the majority. That one has to be prepared to make sacrifices to attain this. That political power in itself does not result in peace and democracy; we have to work and strive for peace and democracy. Thus Gandhiji's life has taught us one very clear lesson: it is easy to postulate principles, but very difficult to put them into practice. Believing in peace and a good life for all is very well but the final step is putting into practice what we have learnt or begun to believe in. The key to Gandhi's peace education are his ethical and ontological formulations of means-ends relations; the need to uncover root causes and causal determinants and to free oneself from entrapment in escalating cycles of violence.

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