

CLASS-X –ENGLISH
LESSON 2-NELSON MANDELA-LONG WALK TO FREEDOM
MODULE-2

GLYMPSES FROM MANDELA'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY

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‘Long Walk To Freedom’ highlights the key moments of Nelson Mandela’s life and his endeavour as the greatest freedom fighter of the twentieth century.

- In the first decade of the twentieth century , the whites erected a system of racial domination against the blacks , thus creating the basis of one of the harshest and most inhuman societies the world had ever known.
- In the final decade, the previous system had been overturned and replaced by one which recognized the rights and freedom of all people regardless of colour of their skin.

COURAGE IS VICTORY OVER FEAR

- For Mandela, courage does not mean the absence of fear but victory over fear. According to him, brave men need not be fearless but should be able to conquer fear.
- He says, 'Time and again, I have seen men and women risk and give their lives for an idea. I have seen men stand up to attacks and torture without breaking , showing a strength and resilience that defies the imagination.'

MAN'S NATURAL GOODNESS

- The author says that no one is born hating another person due to colour or religion. People learn to hate due to circumstances and situations.
- If they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love as love comes naturally to human heart.
- In prison, sometimes they were subjected to extreme torture, and even in such situations he would see the glimmer of humanity in one of the guards. It is man's essential goodness which can't be extinguished.

Twin obligations in the life of all human beings

- Mandela mentions that every man has twin obligations. The first one is to his family- parents, wife, and children. The second obligation is to his people- his community and his country. Everyone fulfils his duties as per his inclination and interest.
- ‘But in a country like South Africa, it was almost impossible for a man of my birth and colour to fulfil both of these obligations.

THE CONCEPT OF FREEDOM CHANGES WITH AGE AND EXPERIENCE

- According to Nelson Mandela, the understanding of freedom changes with age and experience. As a young boy, he thought that he was born free and believed that as long as he obeyed his father and abided by the customs of his tribe, he was free in every possible manner.
- As he grew older, freedom to raise a family and freedom to earn his livelihood started dominating his thoughts. Gradually he realized that he was selfish during his boyhood. He slowly understood that it was not just his freedom that was being curtailed, but the freedom of all blacks.

THE OPPRESSED AND THE OPPRESSOR ALIKE ARE ROBBED OF THEIR HUMANITY

- The oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred; he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow mindedness.
- I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken away from me.

- **MANDELA SAYS**
“FREEDOM IS INDIVISIBLE, THE CHAINS ON ANY ONE OF MY PEOPLE WERE THE CHAINS ON ALL OF THEM, THE CHAINS ON ALL OF MY PEOPLE WERE THE CHAINS ON ME.”



END OF MODULE-2



THANK YOU