

## GANDHI'S REFLECTIONS...

Echoes of Peace, Non-violence, and Harmony

Editorial Team: Dr. Sushil Kumar, Saif Terai, & Anil Agrawal

MARCH 2024

ISSUE 1



### MESSAGE TO OUR READERS

Welcome to the first issue of the MGPCO's monthly newsletter! We are launching this publication with content fueled by Mahatma Gandhi's principles.

The MGPCO's focus is to promote Gandhi's message of peace, harmony, and social justice. This newsletter aims to share articles, stories, and insights that embody Gandhi's teachings in action. Our goal is to show the continued relevance of Gandhi's ideas and their potential impact on our world.

Join us on our journey to uncover Gandhi's wisdom and work towards a future characterized by Gandhi's values. Together, we can make the world a better place while honoring Gandhi's legacy.

Editorial Team

### Join our Newsletter mailing list

Please email us your name and email address to: [newsletter@mgpco.org](mailto:newsletter@mgpco.org)

### Please contribute content for this Newsletter

We welcome our readers to contribute an article, or a story, anecdote, or an experience relevant to this Newsletter, please send your content to [newsletter@mgpco.org](mailto:newsletter@mgpco.org).

### Give Us Feedback on this Newsletter

We will appreciate hearing your comments: [newsletter@mgpco.org](mailto:newsletter@mgpco.org)

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## Life-size Statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Ottawa

### Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi

(2 Oct 1869 – 30 Jan 1948)

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, popularly known as Mahatma Gandhi, was born in India on October 2, 1869. After earning a degree in law from the Inner Temple, UK, in 1891, he moved to South Africa where for the next 24 years he led a peaceful and non-violent struggle against racism and discrimination faced by the Indian community.

In 1915 Gandhi returned to India and soon became the leader of India's struggle for independence from British rule. After years of peaceful civil disobedience and resistance, freedom came to India in August 1947.

Forever committed to non-violence and truth, Gandhi has been hailed as an apostle of peace and has inspired many of humanity's leaders who employed non-violent resistance in their struggle against oppression and tyranny.



**The life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi, unveiled on Oct 2, 2011, stands on Carleton University Campus in Ottawa, Canada.**

## Gandhi's Favourite Spiritual Hymn:

### 'Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye' (A Godlike person is one who...)



The video is a rendition of the song "Vaishnav Jan to Tene Kahiye Je..."

The song conveys the message of kindness and humanity towards others. This hymn highlights the values including compassion, selflessness, humility, and devotion. The 'Vaishnav Jan to' became the most beloved religious song of Mahatma Gandhi as a part of daily worship.

वैष्णव जन तो तेने कहिये,  
जे पीड परायी जाणे रे ।  
पर दुःखे उपकार करे तो ये,  
मन अभिमान न आणे रे ॥

सकल लोकमां सहुने वंदे,  
निंदा न करे केनी रे ।  
वाच काष्ठ मन निश्चल राखे,  
धन धन जननी तेनी रे ॥

समदृष्टि ने तृष्णा त्यागी,  
परस्त्री जेने मात रे ।  
जिह्वा थकी असत्य न बोले,  
परधन नव झाले हाथ रे ॥

मोह माया व्यापे नहि जेने,  
दृढ़ वैराग्य जेना मनमां रे ।  
रामनाम शुं ताली रे लागी,  
सकल तीरथ तेना तनमां रे ॥

वणलोभी ने कपटरहित छे,  
काम क्रोध निवार्या रे ।  
भणे नरसैयो तेनुं दरसन करतां,  
कुल एकोतेर तार्या रे ॥

वैष्णव जन तो तेने कहिये,  
जे पीड परायी जाणे रे ।  
पर दुःखे उपकार करे तो ये,  
मन अभिमान न आणे रे ॥

**Call Them A Vaishnav (Devotee Of Lord Vishnu), The  
One Who Knows The Pain Of Others,  
Who Helps Those Who Are In Sorrow,  
Without Pride In Their Mind.**

**Who respects everyone in the world,  
Does not criticize anyone.  
Keeps speech, actions, and mind pure,  
Blessed is the mother of such a one.**

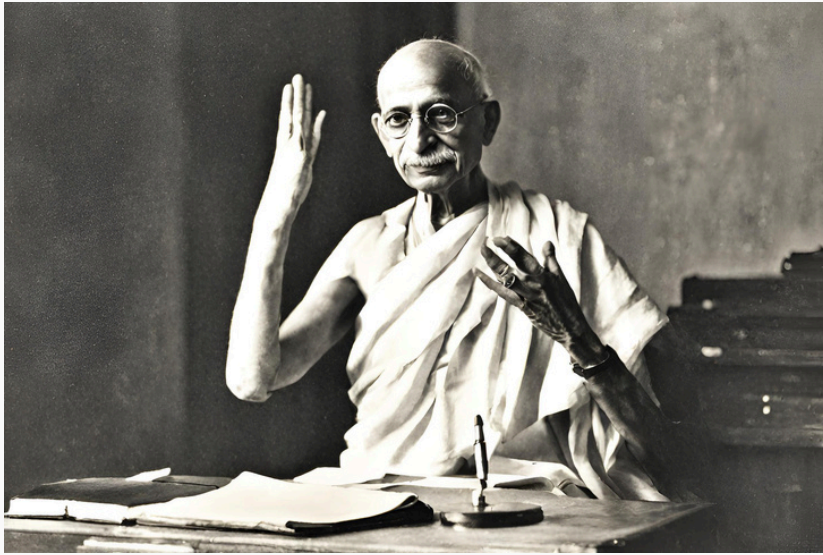
**Who Sees Everyone/Everything Equally, has  
Renounced Desire, Greed And Avarice,  
Respects Women As He Respects His Own Mother,  
Though His Tongue May Tire He Will Utter No Untruth,  
Never Covets Wealth of Others.**

**Whom attachment and illusion do not entangle,  
In whose heart resides firm detachment.  
Who is deeply attached to the name of Rama,  
All sacred places dwell within their body.**

**Who Has No Greed And Is Not Deceitful,  
Who Has Renounced Lust And Anger,  
The Poet Narsi Would Like To See Such A Person,  
By Whose Virtue, His Entire Family Gets Salvati.**

**Call Them A Vaishnav (Devotee Of Lord Vishnu), The  
One Who Knows The Pain Of Others,  
Who Helps Those Who Are In Sorrow,  
Without Pride In Their Mind.**





# Echoes of Gandhi: Past Lectures Revisited

- 1) **2024 "Notes from the Climate Struggle" by Bill McKibben (In the current Issue)**
- 2) 2023 "Impact of Jain Religious Tradition on Gandhi" by J. Humar
- 3) 2022 "Peace in a Picemeal World" by Jaya Row
- 4) 2021 "Mahatma Gandhi & Islamic Non-violence" - Panel Discussion
- 5) 2021 "Turning the Tide on Non-violence in Education" by Jill Carr-Harris
- 6) 2020 "Mahatma Gandhi - Beyond the Civil Rights Movement - Panel Discussion
- 7) 2019 "Gandhi and Human Rights" by Vinay Lal
- 8) 2019 "Gandhi in the Modern Times) - Panel Discussion
- 9) 2019 "Jai Jagat: A 10,000 KM March..." by Jill Carr-Harris
- 10) 2018 "Gandhi and the Human Rights to Peace" by Douglas Roche
- 11) 2018 "Reflections on Gandhi, the Great Law of Peace and Indigenous Resurgence" by Taiiaki Alfred
- 12) 2017 "Samdarshana and Sambhava: Gandhi on the Plurality of Religions" by Dr. Bindu Puri
- 13) 2017 "Mahatma Gandhi Today" - Panel Discussion
- 14) 2016 "A Centre for Peace (A Vision for the Sacred islands in the Ottawa River)" by Douglas Cardinal
- 15) 2015 "The Mahatma, the Pope, and the Planet - Gandhian Reflections on the Pope's Recent Letter on Environment" by Dr. Noel Salmond
- 17) 2014 "Gandhi's Solution to Religious Conflicts" by Dr. Arvind Sharma
- 18) 2014 "Non-Violence Conference (A Weapon of the Strong)" - St. Paul University
- 19) 2013 "Gandhi's Religion and the Politics of Hinduism" by Vinay Lal
- 20) 2013 "Gandhi as Social Visionary: The Grassroots Work of Ekta Parishad" by Paul Schwartzentruber
- 21) 2012 "In Search of Pax Gandhiana" by Dr. Anthony J. Parel
- 22) 2011 "Encountering Gandhi on the Rideau River" by Dr. Noel Salmond
- 23) 2010 "Mythic Origins of Non-violence" by Devdutt Pattanaik
- 24) 2009 "The Influence of Vaishnavism on Mahatma Gandhi" by Dr. Harsha Dehejia
- 25) 2008 "Gandhi and Women" by Trichur Rukmani
- 26) 2007 "Gandhi, Religion & Non-violence" by Dr. Paul Younger
- 27) 2007 "Gandhi and the Question of the Worship of Images" by Dr. Noel Salmond
- 28) 2006 "Gandhiji's Ideals: Truth and Non-violence, Religion and Non-Violence" by Dr. Trichur Rukmani



## Past Lecture # (1)

# Our First Event of 2024 – Gandhi Memorial Day, featuring BILL MCKIBBEN'S TALK ON "NOTES FROM THE CLIMATE STRUGGLE"



### Summary of the Talk:

During a talk on the climate struggle, Bill McKibben discussed the urgency of addressing the climate crisis and the recent signs of unraveling of the planet, such as rising ocean temperatures and devastating wildfires. He emphasized the need for movement building and collective action to make big changes and shift the global zeitgeist in order to avoid catastrophic consequences and ensure a sustainable future. McKibben also highlighted the importance of Gandhi's legacy and the principles of nonviolence in inspiring meaningful social and environmental change.

### Key points discussed in this talk:

- 1. Urgency of the Climate Crisis:** McKibben emphasizes that we are in an existential emergency and that time is running out to address the climate crisis. He highlights the escalating impacts of climate change, such as rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and the increasing threat of displacement and refugee crises.
- 2. Transitioning to Renewable Energy:** McKibben emphasizes the need to shift away from fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy sources like solar and wind power. He highlights the rapid decrease in the cost of renewable energy and the importance of scaling up its deployment.
- 3. Building Movements for Change:** McKibben stresses the importance of building broad and powerful movements to address the climate crisis. He draws inspiration from figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., who used nonviolent social movements to bring about change.
- 4. Engaging Older Generations:** McKibben highlights the role of older generations in the climate movement, noting that their experience and structural power can be a force for change. He emphasizes the importance of intergenerational collaboration and support.
- 5. Political Engagement:** McKibben discusses the need to engage with political processes and policymakers. He mentions endorsing candidates like Joe Biden in order to secure policy changes that prioritize climate action.
- 6. Nonviolent Direct Action:** While McKibben acknowledges the importance of nonviolent direct action in movements, he suggests being strategic in choosing tactics. He highlights the power of symbolic actions, gestures, and movements to capture attention and mobilize people.
- 7. Technological Innovations:** While McKibben acknowledges the continuous development of technological innovations, he emphasizes that the existing renewable energy technologies are already sufficient to address the climate crisis. He encourages a focus on political and social changes to implement these technologies at a large scale.

Overall, McKibben underscores the need for swift action, building effective movements, and engaging with political systems to combat the climate crisis.

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."



## Spreading Peace, Cultivating Harmony: Gandhi's Way

**Our Mission:** Educating communities on Gandhi's principles of peace and non-violence, and fostering harmony across cultures.

### Kick-off Event of the Year 2024

Gandhi Memorial Day (Feb 2) with Bill McKibben's lecture on "Climate Control," engaging over 400 attendees in discussion on climate change and sustainability.

#### Essay Project

Engaging high school students in writing an essay on Gandhi's principles, fostering a new generation of peace advocates.

#### Community Service

Acts of service ('Seva') through environmental cleanups, food drives, tree planting, supporting homeless shelters, and inner harmony.

#### Monthly Journal

"Gandhi's Reflections" - Disseminating Gandhian wisdom, and sharing information on MGPCO activities and peace initiatives globally.

### A lecture Series: "Gandhi's Legacy: A Beacon for Peace and Harmony"



The lecture events will be held during the months of spring and summer, in collaboration with local speakers and diverse organizations.

**We aim to celebrate Gandhi's principles, teachings, and values.**

The events will include insightful lectures, panel discussions, and cultural performances, aimed at inspiring unity, peace, and eco-consciousness.



The lecture series will culminate in **Gandhi Jayanti 2024**, celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, 2nd of October, a day of remembrance and reflection, reinforcing our commitment to his ideals of peace and non-violence.

### M.K. Gandhi Annual Lecture 2024 — Concluding Event

Concluding the year with our flagship event featuring distinguished speakers exploring Gandhi's enduring relevance in modern times.

Our Website: [www.gandhiji.ca/joinus](http://www.gandhiji.ca/joinus)

**We invite you to join us and embrace Gandhi's Legacy in 2024.**





SECONDARY SCHOOL AND POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS, WE INVITE YOU TO COME ABOARD A JOURNEY OF REFLECTION AND CREATIVE WRITING: **UNVEIL THE POWER OF GANDHIAN THOUGHT.**

## WRITE AN ESSAY ON GANDHIAN PRINCIPLES

Get published in "Gandhi's Echo: Voices of Tomorrow" eBook

Select a topic for the Essay here: <https://gandhiji.ca/essay>



### SECONDARY SCHOOL AND POST-SECONDARY STUDENTS

The 'essay-writing' initiative by Mahatma Gandhi Peace Council of Ottawa (MGPCO) is to engage young minds in exploring the relevance of Gandhian thought in today's world. This is your chance to research and reflect on, write about peace, sustainability, and social justice, and have your voice heard.

### STEPS

- Go to <https://gandhiji.ca/essay>, register yourself, and choose a topic that inspires you.
- Research, reflect, and **write your essay in English or French** (750 words). No AI.
- Submit your essay: <https://gandhiji.ca/essay-submit> [By June 30, 2024]
- A Committee will evaluate your essay (*criteria on the Essay-project page*).
- Attend a public ceremony at the City Hall - You may win an award (top 3), or be a presenter (top 10), and receive a certificate/memento (everyone).

### AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- Top essays will be awarded and recognized at a special public ceremony.
- All essays will be compiled and published in an eBook titled "Gandhi's Echo: Voices of Tomorrow," attributing each essay to its writer.

For Information, contact:

Mamata Dutta, Essay Project Coordinator (613-406-1970) | Anil Agrawal, President (613-859-8654)

**LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD – SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY TODAY!**

"Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will."



# JOIN OUR CAUSE: BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE

Your Time, Passion, and Skills Can Shape a Better Tomorrow



## APPEAL: VOLUNTEER WITH US!

### WHAT ARE YOU WILLING TO DO?

- Join our Board of Directors
- Speak at our events (*on peace, harmony, social justice, sustainability, climate change, protection of earth, etc.*)
- Contribute to our Newsletter ([Contribute](#))
- Join our Community Service activities ([Poster](#))
- Provide General Volunteering Service ([Volunteer](#))

Sign up as Volunteer: <https://gandhiji.ca/volunteer/>



## THE 11 VOWS OF MAHATMA GANDHI - THEIR OBSERVANCE & RELEVANCE

[Reference: <https://www.gandhi-manibhavan.org/educational-resources/the-eleven-vows-of-gandhiji.html>]

From Editor's Desk

### Introduction

Gandhi was all about peace, freedom, and nonviolent protests – his impact will never be forgotten. His 11 Vows helped India win its freedom and still make sense in today's world. This article breaks down these Vows, showing what they're all about and why they matter in today's fast-moving world.

### The 11 Vows

- 1. Truth (Satya):** Gandhi thought that truth is basically what life is all about. He totally lived truthfully, always being honest in what he said, did, and thought. In today's online world full of fake news, it's super important to stick to the truth to create a reliable and honest society.
- 2. Ahimsa (Non-violence):** One of Gandhi's most famous teachings is non-violence, known as Ahimsa. It's not just about not physically harming anyone; Ahimsa is about not holding grudges against anyone. Ahimsa promotes resolving conflicts peacefully through open dialogue and empathy, not through force or pressure.
- 3. Non-stealing (Asteya):** Asteya means not taking what isn't yours. It's about more than just not stealing; it's also about respecting others' time, ideas, and stuff. It calls for showing respect for other people's stuff and rights. Today, as we are talking about copyrights and online privacy, Asteya is more vital than ever.
- 4. Self-discipline (Brahmacharya):** Gandhi thought that Brahmacharya wasn't just about abstaining from physical intimacy, but also about practicing self-discipline in all areas of life, including thoughts and behaviors. In a time when too much is available, this idea reminds us to practice self-control, consume in moderation, and live in awareness.
- 5. Non-possession (Aparigraha):** Aparigraha is about living a modest life and not getting too attached to things and not hoarding. Today, where life is all about consuming food and information, the idea of Aparigraha pushes for sustainability and instead of being obsessed with things, encourages living a more meaningful and fulfilling life.
- 6. Body Labour (Sharirshrama):** Gandhi believed that physical work was essential to stay in touch with the realities of life. If we incorporate some exercise or physical body movement in our sedentary lifestyle, we can boost our physical health, stay humble, and appreciate the value of all types of work.

continued...

## ... 11 Vows of Mahatma Gandhi:

**7. Taming of the taste buds (Aswada):** By controlling your palate, one can develop better eating habits and cut down on excessive eating. More and more people are turning to basic, more wholesome eating habits as a way to tackle issues such as obesity and food waste.

**8. Fearlessness (Abhaya):** Gandhi was always fearless, bravely facing difficult situations, and showing true courage. He encouraged people to stand up for their beliefs and fight for justice, even in the face of opposition.

**9. Equal respect for all religions (Sarva Dharma Sambhava):** Gandhi maintained an attitude of equality for all religions. He treated all religions with respect and advocated for humanity to live together peacefully. This idea is super important for keeping the peace and preventing conflicts in our diverse communities.

**10. Economic strategy (Swadeshi):** The idea behind Swadeshi economic strategy is to become self-reliant and help local economies thrive. With all this globalization stuff going on, we should be mindful about what we're buying and support local businesses.

**11. Untouchability (Asprishyatanivaran):** Gandhi was totally against untouchability and advocated for treating everyone equally and fairly. Let's keep condemning and fighting against discrimination and inequality so we can make society more inclusive.

## How Gandhi's principles can be used in today's issues

Even though Gandhi practiced and gave these Principles in the early 1900s, they still offer valuable advice for dealing with today's global issues. Gandhi's teachings offer a roadmap for dealing with climate change, economic inequality, social injustice, and conflicts in a sustainable and peaceful way.

## Conclusion

Gandhi's 11 Vows are not just fancy concepts - they're actually super helpful tips to make our world a better, sustainable, and kinder place. If we follow these Vows, we can tackle the issues of modern times and still honor Gandhi's teachings and values.



## APPEAL: CONTRIBUTE CONTENT FOR THE NEWSLETTER



### SHARE YOUR VOICE: CONTRIBUTE TO OUR TAPESTRY OF PEACE

Your Insights and Stories  
Can Inspire a Legacy of  
Harmony and  
Sustainability

## INSPIRE CHANGE, ONE STORY AT A TIME

### Our Appeal to the Ottawa Community

We believe that every voice holds the power to inspire, educate, and transform. As we weave together our monthly newsletter, we invite you to share your experiences, insights, and visions related to peace, nonviolence, harmony, and sustainability.

Whether it's an article, a personal story, an innovative idea, or a piece of art, your contribution can light the way for others in our journey towards a more compassionate and sustainable world. Together, let's create a rich mosaic of thoughts that can stir hearts and move minds towards positive change.

Join us in this endeavor to shape a future where peace and harmony reign supreme. Your story matters—let it be heard.

**Contribute or reference an article,  
story, video, image, poem, etc:**

<https://gandhiji.ca/newsletter/>



## GANDHI'S PHILOSOPHY AND BUDDHISM - PART I

Contributor: Saif Terai

Mahatma Gandhi and Buddha share principles that resonate across time and cultures. In this article the first in the series we explore four principles that are common between the two.

**Non-Violence, Ahimsa:** Both Gandhi and Buddha emphasized, ahimsa. Although the intensity and circumstances in which they faced violence were different, they believed in the peaceful resolution of disagreements. Among several two quotes from Gandhi about non-violence:

Non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind. It is mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by the ingenuity of man.

This quote is from a speech Gandhi gave at the opening of the Non-Violence Training Camp at Wardha on July 10, 1940.

Non-violence is not a passive state, but the most active and powerful of all. It requires the strength and courage of the lion but at the same time the tenderness and gentleness of the lamb.

This quote is from a speech Gandhi gave at the Kingsley Hall in London on October 17, 1931, during his visit to England for the Second Round Table Conference

Buddha's teachings also advocated non-violence. His path to enlightenment involved avoiding harm to all living beings. The Dhammapada is a collection of the verses of the Buddha, verse 129 says:

All tremble at violence ....Putting oneself in the place of another, one should not kill nor cause another to kill.

**Truth and Honesty, Satya:** Gandhi's commitment to truth and honesty, Satya aligned with Buddha's emphasis on right speech. Both believed in living authentically and adhering to moral integrity. Gandhi famously said, "Truth is God," echoing the Buddha's teachings on truthfulness.

**Self-Discipline, Brahmacharya:** The word Brahmacharya has two root words - 'Brh' implies greatness; 'Brahma' refers to the supreme creator. 'Charya' means to follow and conduct oneself in a particular way. Therefore, 'Brahmacharya' means to conduct oneself

continued...

### ... **Gandhi's Philosophy and Buddhism - Part 1** (contd)

consistently with Brahma, to follow the way of the Brahma. Gandhi practiced brahmacharya in thought, word, and action. Buddha's teachings also emphasized self-control and moderation. Both recognized the power of inner discipline for personal growth. Aside: Brahmacharya in common usage implies celibacy, however, the real meaning expands several aspects of life.

Brahmacharya is the search for Brahman.....It is a way of life. It is the control of all the senses in thought, word, and deed. It is the supreme means to the realization of God. It is the greatest penance. It is the highest yoga. It is the ultimate truth. It is the essence of all religions. It is the key to peace and happiness. It is the law of life.

This quote is from a speech Gandhi gave at the Kingsley Hall in London on October 17, 1931, during his visit to England for the Second Round Table Conference. He titled this speech "My Spiritual Message". It is a clear audio recording of his voice. It can be heard at Gandhi's Kingsley Hall Address - KarmaTube

Practicing Self Discipline is mentioned in several places in the Pali Cannon. In the Vinaya Pitaka, the rules and discipline of the sangha (monastic life) are written. Buddha's discourses are written in the Sutta Pitaka, self-control, ethical behavior, and right conduct are mentioned. In Buddha's first discourse, Dhamma Chakka Pavattana Sutta, right action and right livelihood are mentioned. Lastly, the Abhidhamma Pitaka delves into the philosophical and psychological analysis – his teachings on mindfulness, mental purification, and ethical intentions align with the principles of self-discipline.

Non-Possession, Aparigraha: Gandhi advocated non-possession (aparigraha) and living a simple life. Buddha renounced material possessions and taught detachment from worldly desires. Both believed in the freedom that comes from letting go of attachments. The Pali word for non-attachment or desire towards worldly existence is aloha. Another complementary term is 'nekkhamma,' which means renunciation from worldly desires and living a holy life.

Alobha is one of the three virtues, the other two are non-hatred adosa, and amoha devoid of delusion.

*NOTE: In the next article, we shall explore other aspects of Gandhi's philosophy and its alignment with Buddhist practices.*



## WHO WAS GANDHI? ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW



### **Summary of the Video (by ChatTube app):**

Gandhi had several significant mentors in his leadership journey, including his mother Putlibai, who influenced his character and principles from a young age. He was also inspired by Raychandbhai, a Jain philosopher who taught him about truth and morality. Additionally, Gandhi was influenced by Leo Tolstoy's writings on nonviolence, John Ruskin's ideas on social reform, and the teachings of Jesus Christ. These mentors played a crucial role in shaping Gandhi's leadership style, philosophy, and approach to social change.

### **What lessons can be learned from Gandhi's life and actions for today's society?**

Gandhi's life and actions teach us the power of nonviolence, civil disobedience, and standing up for justice. His principles of truth, nonviolence, and selflessness can inspire people to strive for positive change through peaceful means. Gandhi showed that even one person's actions can make a significant impact on society and that collective, unified efforts can bring about real change. Additionally, his emphasis on compassion, tolerance, and equality can guide us towards a more harmonious and just society.

## HOW MAHATMA GANDHI CHANGED THE WORLD - FROM AVERAGE STUDENT TO INSPIRING LEADER



### Summary of the video (by ChatTube app):

Gandhi's journey can inspire students to achieve greatness by showing that even someone who was once an average student with low self-esteem and shyness can become a powerful force for change in the world. His transformation from a shy and quiet boy to a leader who led his nation to independence demonstrates the power of perseverance, self-acceptance, and dedication to a cause. By embracing his weaknesses and using them to fuel his passion for peace and justice, Gandhi teaches us that anyone can make a difference no matter their background or circumstances. His story encourages students to believe in themselves, work hard towards their goals, and never underestimate the impact they can have on the world.

### How did Mahatma Gandhi's journey from student to leader inspire others?

Gandhi's journey from a shy and average student to a powerful leader inspired others because it showed that anyone, regardless of their background or initial limitations, can make a significant impact on the world. His transformation from a timid boy with low self-esteem to the father of a nation and a symbol of peaceful resistance demonstrated the power of perseverance, self-awareness, and determination in achieving one's goals. Gandhi's ability to channel his shyness and quiet demeanor into a strong, unwavering voice for change inspired countless individuals to believe in their own potential to make a difference and stand up for what they believe in.