



NELSON MANDELA'S LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

Struggle Against Apartheid:

In his autobiography, Nelson Mandela reflects on his journey as a freedom fighter during the dark days of apartheid in South Africa. The oppressive practice of apartheid led to discrimination based on race and color, depriving dark-skinned individuals of their basic rights.

Inauguration as South Africa's First Black President:

On May 10, 1994, a historic moment unfolded as Nelson Mandela took the oath, becoming the first black president of South Africa. Dignitaries worldwide witnessed this significant day, marking the birth of a new democratic nation. Mandela emphasized the establishment of a government free from discrimination.

Mandela's Vision for a Unified Nation:

In his inauguration speech, Mandela expressed gratitude to the international community and pledged to eradicate the suppression that plagued South Africa. He envisioned a nation where all its citizens, regardless of race, would coexist without oppression. The ceremony symbolized hope and the end of an era marked by racial discrimination.

Freedom for Oppressors and the Oppressed:

Mandela recognized the need for freedom not only for the oppressed but also for those who once suppressed others. He believed that both oppressors and the oppressed were prisoners in their own ways. According to Mandela, true freedom involves overcoming fear and fulfilling one's duties toward family, country, and community.

Life's Dual Obligations:

Mandela highlighted the dual obligations in a person's life - toward family and the larger community. Despite the challenges in a country like South Africa, he emphasized the importance of fulfilling these duties. As Mandela matured, he realized that the illusion of freedom masked the reality of exploitation, not just for himself but for his family and others.

Conclusion:

Mandela's journey, encapsulated in "Long Walk to Freedom," teaches us that bravery lies not in the absence of fear but in conquering it. He emphasized the shared responsibility of achieving freedom for both the oppressed and the oppressors, as true liberation encompasses everyone.

Nelson Mandela: A Brief Character Sketch

Nelson Mandela, a visionary leader, displayed unwavering courage as a freedom fighter against apartheid. His inspirational oratory reflected a commitment to unity and equality. Compassionate and reflective, Mandela envisioned freedom for both oppressors and the oppressed. As he matured, he recognized the dual obligations of family and community, acknowledging the illusion of freedom in the face of exploitation. Defined by bravery, Mandela's enduring legacy lies in his pursuit of justice, reconciliation, and a belief in the inherent goodness of humanity.

Extract Based Questions:

1. Never, never, and never again shall it be that this beautiful land will again experience the oppression of one by another. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement'

Q/A:

a) Who is the speaker?

Answer: The speaker is Nelson Mandela

b) Which is the beautiful land the speaker refers to here?

Answer: The beautiful land in South Africa

c) What is the glorious human achievement' that the speaker talks about in the extract?

Answer: The freedom that people of South Africa have attained freedom after the fight against apartheid/the first democratic non-racial government.

2. 'It is from these comrades in the struggle that I learned the meaning of courage. 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. I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it.'

Q/A:

i) Who learned the meaning of courage?

Answer: Nelson Mandela

ii) What has he seen again and again?

Answer: He has seen men and women risk and give their life for the idea of freedom, again and again

iii) What has he noticed (seen) about the people?

Answer: He has seen men stand up to attacks and torture showing strength and resilience.

Top 10 PYQs:

Short Answer Questions (40-50 words each)

1. What did Nelson Mandela remember on the day of the inaugural ceremony? (2020)

Answer: On the inaugural day, Nelson Mandela felt the weight of history as he reflected on the birth of apartheid, its impact on his people, and the prolonged struggle for freedom against racial discrimination. He recalled the sacrifices of past freedom fighters and the eventual triumph that replaced the oppressive system with one recognizing the rights and freedom of all, regardless of skin color.

2. Nelson Mandela speaks of 'Twin Obligations'. Elucidate. [Board SQP 2020]

Answer: According to Nelson Mandela, every man has two obligations—one is towards his family and the other is towards his people and his country. But in the reign of apartheid, if one tried to fulfill his duty towards his people, he was ripped off from his family and home.

3. Freedom is inconsequential if it is behind bars of prejudice and narrow mindedness. How would you explain this statement? Support your answer with suitable examples from the real world. [CBSE-QB, 2021]

Answer: Nelson Mandela believed that freedom is indivisible. His hunger for his freedom became the greater hunger for the people. He couldn't live his life with dignity and self-respect if his people were bound in chains. The chains on any one of his people were the chains on all of them. Mandela realized that the oppressor must be liberated as surely as the oppressed. A man who takes away another's freedom is a prisoner of hatred prejudice and narrow-mindedness. He is not truly free if he is taking away someone else freedom. Surely, he is not free when his freedom is taken away from him. A person's freedom is of no use if he doesn't expand the horizons of his thoughts and think like a narrow-minded person. A person's freedom is insignificant if he takes the freedom of another man, thus, the oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.

4. Why was Nelson Mandela overwhelmed with a sense of history? How did he succeed in ending the apartheid regime in South Africa? [Delhi Board Set- II 2020]

Answer: Mandela was overwhelmed with a sense of history because in the first decade of the twentieth century a, few years after the bitter Anglo- Boer War which was even before his own birth, the white- skinned people of South Africa patched up their differences and erected a system of racial domination against the dark-skinned people of their own land. But now in the last decade of the twentieth century, and his own eighth decade as a man, that system had been overturned forever and replaced by the one that recognised the rights and

freedoms of all people, regardless of the colour of their skin.

This marked the victory of democracy. Nelson Mandela set the ideals of liberating people from the bondage of poverty, deprivation, and suffering. He had also set the ideal for a society where there would be no discrimination based on the gender or racial origin of the person.

5. Why was the apartheid regime in South Africa one of the harshest and most inhuman systems in the world?

Answer: The apartheid regime was based on the racial discrimination and exploitation of blacks in South Africa. The basic fundamental rights were only for the whites and the blacks were deprived of these freedoms. Oppression, torture, and exploitation of the blacks were common features of the apartheid regime.

6. "Depths of oppression" create "heights of character." How does Mandela illustrate this? Can you draw similarities between the freedom struggles of Africa and India?

Answer: "Depths of oppression" certainly creates "heights of character". Mr. Mandela described that how the decades of brutality and oppression of the white people made African patriots like Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Luthuli, Dadoo and many more out of ordinary people. They all were the men of courage, wisdom and large heartedness. They suffered a lot for the freedom of the nation and the equal rights of the black people. In our country too, there were many extraordinary patriots like Mahatma Gandhi, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Bhagat Singh, Raj Guru and many more who struggled a lot for the freedom of our country and her people but remained courageous while facing utmost cruelty at the hands of British.

7. Which 'extraordinary human disaster' did Mr. Mandela spoke about at the beginning of his speech?

Answer: The 'extraordinary human disaster' Mr. Mandela mentioned at the beginning of his speech, he was referring to apartheid. It was a system prevalent in South Africa, which segregated people based on their race.

8. How has the attitude of the military generals towards Mr. Mandela changed?

Answer: There is a change in the attitude of the military generals towards Mr. Mandela. They saluted him and pledged their loyalty. This change in their attitude is significant because during apartheid the same military generals would have arrested him instead of saluting him.

9. What does Mr. Mandela say about the oppressor?

Answer: About the oppressor, Mr. Mandela says that an oppressor who takes away the freedom of someone else, is not free either. An oppressor is a prisoner of hatred. Such a person is a captive of prejudice and narrow-mindedness. Mr. Mandela feels that the oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.

10. Give a character-sketch of Nelson Mandela highlighting his struggle against the apartheid regime for the human rights of his people.

Answer: Nelson Mandela was the hero of all black heroes who waged a relentless fight against apartheid and the racial regime in South Africa. He suffered untold suffering and torture in prison but led the country to install the first democratically elected government in South Africa. Nelson Mandela was not born with a hunger to be free. Later on, he realized that his boyhood freedom was an illusion. He also realized his concept of freedom in his youth was also 'transitory' and was limited to his freedom. Only when he joined the African National Congress, did his freedom become the greater hunger for the freedom of his people. Only then, a frightened young lawyer transformed into a bold 'criminal'. A family-loving husband was forced to lead a life of a monk in secrecy. He was grateful for acknowledging the unimaginable sacrifices of thousands of black heroes for the freedom of their people. Modestly, he realized that freedom is indivisible. He realized that he could not lead a free and honorable life if his people were in chains. He had a wider vision of humanity.