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Author: Mahatma Gandhi

— MYSTERY QUOTE —

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The power of our beliefs will dramatically affect those important decisions we make. Like automaker Henry Ford said, "Whether you think you can or not, you are right." If you believe you will succeed or fail, you are probably right. If you believe strongly enough that something good or bad will surely happen to you, it will. And if you believe that your life can become no less than a beautiful work of art, your belief will make it so.

Mahatma Gandhi found this principle to be true in his own experience. "If I believe I cannot do something, it makes me incapable of doing it," the Indian leader said. "But when I believe I can, then I acquire the ability to do it, even if I did not have the ability in the beginning." Your belief has the power to marshal needed resources and attract people who can help. That belief, more than any other single factor, will bring about what you want in life.

Don't Give Up

YOU WILL NEED: * Tenacity * Focus

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

—Mohandas K. Gandhi

Wit & Wisdom

USA WEEKEND • Jan. 24-26, 2003 11

DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT MOHANDAS K. GANDHI



Fifty-five years ago this week, the life of one of the world's most peaceful men ended sadly in violence. At age 78, Mohandas Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu extremist. Honored today as the father of India, Gandhi led his people to freedom from British control, using unique methods of non-violence. Albert Einstein said of him: "Generations to come will scarcely believe that such a one as this walked the earth in flesh and blood." What do you know about this martyr for peace and tolerance? Try a quick quiz by Kenneth C. Davis, the author of *Don't Know Much About History*. Answers below.

1. Why was Gandhi also known as Mahatma?
2. What famous 19th-century American writer influenced Gandhi?
3. What did salt have to do with the Indians' struggle for independence?
4. What was the "homespun" movement?

QUIZ ANSWERS 1. People called Gandhi the Mahatma, or Great Soul. He believed truth could be known only through tolerance and concern for others. 2. Gandhi credited Thoreau's famous essay "Civil Disobedience" as a key influence. 3. In 1930, Gandhi led hundreds of followers on a 240-mile march to the sea, where they made salt from seawater in protest against the British salt law, which made it illegal to possess salt not bought from the government. 4. The British took India's raw cotton and sent it back to India as finished clothing. Gandhi urged his countrymen to boycott British textiles and instead wear homespun cloth.

A Super Callused Fragile Mystic

People of faith seem to live out of a different reality. (Wizard of Oz clip: bubble appears to Dorothy) They seem other-worldly, strange, mystical, floating in from some other reality to ask us questions to which we don't know the answer. (Glenda's question should be here)

Most of us are familiar with Mahatma Gandhi (the great spiritual leader of India). As you know, he walked barefoot most of the time, which, I am told produced an impressive set of calluses on his feet. He also ate very little, which made him rather frail and with his odd diet, he suffered from bad breath. You realize what this made him, of course...

A super callused fragile mystic plagued with halitosis.

I guess it's hard being a person of faith. When you take your faith seriously, people look at you funny. They treat you differently. You're not always part of the gang.

Rev. Paul Tucker, "God Provides the Ram, Why Choose the Bull?"

"I believe it to be perfectly possible for an individual to adopt the way of life of the future. . . without having to wait for others to do so."

Mohandas K. Gandhi

The Challenge of Gandhi's Legacy

It will be such a privilege for us to welcome Arun Gandhi, the grandson of the late Mahatma Gandhi, to our church of Tuesday, April 28, at 7:00 p.m. in the Celebration Center. We will hear the stories that shaped his grandson's life. Arun will share a very personal look at a man who has made a tremendous impact on the world.

There is no charge for this event, but a love offering will be taken at the end of the evening. After his talk, Mr. Gandhi will be available on the community hall to sign books and to chat with guests. This meeting promises to be a very special one indeed.

: With a voice to lead them, a path to follow, and a goal to pursue, the oppressed came from every side to join Mahatma Gandhi in his nonviolent pursuit of human freedom. Gandhi asks us to critique government and law according to a higher law. He reminds us to be patient with others, to do no one harm, to pursue truth with heroic passion.

I offer you peace. I offer you love. I offer you friendship.
I see your beauty. I hear your need. I feel your feelings.
My wisdom flows from the Highest Source. I salute that Source in you. Let us work together for unity and love.

Gandhi

"There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."

—Mahatma Gandhi

REDEMPTIVE LOVE.

When Gandhi was a young man in the scuth of India, he went on a journey. When he came back to the camp of which he was in charge, he found that an eighteen-year-old fellow had done a great and grievous wrong. Gandhi began to think: "How can I right this wrong? I can punish him, but punishment doesn't prove to be redemptive. I can just overlook it, in which case the young man will use it as license for doing worse. Or I can do this, and this I will do." He called the young man in and said: "In my absence you have done a very great and grievous wrong. The reason for your failure is that I have failed you. I, your teacher and example, have not been to you what I ought to have been or you would not have fallen. Because I have failed you, I am going on a two-week fast." The sullen young man left the room. Every time he sat down to eat in the next room, he knew Gandhi was not eating. Every time he put a spoonful of food into his mouth, he knew that Gandhi was starving. After three days the young man fell down on the floor and said, "Sir, forgive me." Gandhi said, "There is no forgiveness necessary, but if you feel the need of it, I grant it to you." The young man said, "Well, then, will you stop your fast?" "If I stopped my fast, I would be using it as an instrument to get you to do what is right. I am fasting because I failed you. As your teacher and as your example I must complete the fast." So for the remainder of the two weeks he did not take food of any kind. Every time the young man sat down to eat he was conscious that for him Gandhi was starving. The young man knew that Gandhi loved him so much that he was willing to enter into his sin and failure and take his shortcomings as his. - Walter L. Dosch.

If we are to teach real peace in the world, we shall have to begin with children; and if they will grow up in their natural innocence, we won't have to pass fruitless ideal resolutions, but we shall go from love to love and peace to peace, until at last all corners of the world are covered with that peace and love for which consciously or unconsciously the whole world is hungering.

Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) India

Gandhi said once that nonviolence should be practiced not because it works, but because it is right.

I do not believe that an individual may gain spiritually while those around him suffer...

I believe in the essential unity of man and for that matter, of all that lives. Therefore, I believe that if one man gains spiritually, the whole world gains with him and if one man falls, the whole world falls to that extent."

Gandhi