

TEACHINGS
OF
MAHATMA GANDHI

EDITED BY
JAG PARVESH CHANDER
WITH A FOREWORD BY
Dr. RAJENDRA PRASAD
EX-PRESIDENT, THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

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ETHICS OF FASTING
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GANDHI AGAINST FASCISM
THE UNSEEN POWER
GITA THE MOTHER
THE GOOD LIFE
THE CONGRESS CASE

THE PENSIVE MOOD (A Collection of Poems)

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Foreword

CURING the last forty years or more of his most?

' busy and eventful life, Mahatma Gandhi has spoken much, and written a great deal, on a large variety of subjects of great interest and importance to India and to the world at large. His writings and the reports of his speeches are enshrined in the columns of newspapers and particularly of the weeklies which he has conducted. It is difficult to find out his views on a particular subject without reference to old files which are not easily available. Only some of his writings have been published in book form, e. g., My Experiments with Truth and Satyagraha in South Africa. His articles in Young India were published in 3 volumes by Mr. S. Ganesan. His speeches have also been collected and published by Mr, G. Natcsan But all these publications are out of date as they were published several years ago. Since then a great deal more has been written

Gandhiji is a growing personality and he has never allowed himself to be a slave of consistency. His latest views on any subject are therefore of great importance to the public. They are not easily

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available in a handy form. Sjt. Jag Parvesh Chander has attempted to collect together his writings under appropriate headings in a chronological order in this

book. One can at a glance get at Gandhiji's views on a particular subject and see the development of his thoughts on that subject as disclosed in his own words in his writings.

The book will prove of immense help to any serious student of Gandhian literature as a book of reference. That Gandhiji covers a vast variety of subjects is apparent from the fact that the book contains more than 340 headings under which his writings and speeches are divided.

The compiler has devoted much time and labour and I hope his labours will be appreciated by the public.

RAJENDRA PRASAD

. . * Introduction

>HEN man forsakes the sacred and ancient path of Truth, and in the insolence of his evanescent power desecrates all that is holy and of a permanent value in the land, God the Merciful and Jealous Custodian of Right sends His personal messengers to reinstate in the human breast the eternal and fundamental things that constitute the greatness of Man. And these are the things that differentiate him from the beast who only obeys the law of the jungle. The Creator, through His inscrutable ways, sees that man must remain a man and fulfil his destined mission. The purpose that lies behind this division between man and beast must be realized.

* ~

; ^ These prophets, who are the pride of the age in which they are born, hold communion with their Master. The divine message they interpret through their intellect and translate it in the customary human language for the benefit of the world. They practise in their own lives what they preach to others. They keep aloft and burning the flame of Righteousness amidst the "encircling gloom" of Greed, Selfishness and

Expediency.

The twentieth century in a way has been the blackest chapter in the history of mankind. Violence has been the guiding star of modern times. Exploitation is "the theft of the faith of the ruling powers,

and this is the freedom, a major portion of the population is held in abject slavery.

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God wanted man to be free and live on the basis of perfect equality. But that was not to be. The powers that were given to man for nobler purposes were misused. Intelligence with which man was blessed was wholly used in a way that negated the ambition of God. Realising the hideous sins that man was committing, God sent Gandhiji to warn the misguided ; reform the wrong-doer and lead the miscreants to the right path.

To-day the world may not admit but Gandhiji is indisputably the latest in the glorious and glittering line of the prophets. His life is a heritage of all the good that his predecessors said and did. The earlier prophets were maligned as impostors ; their teachings were reviled as the odd fancies of an obsessed mind. They were persecuted, stoned and even crucified. Such is the tragedy of life ! Such is the reward that mankind offers to its guides, friends and well-wishers !

Gandhiji too has suffered much at the hands of his cruel foes."

But undaunted by physical tortures the prophets preach the divine gospel ; unmindful of calumny they work for the uplift of those who besmear the dew-like purity of their lives ; unconcerned with the seeming failure of their mission, they pursue their work with a zeal that baffles the critic.

Posterity repents for the sins committed against them and spontaneously enshrines their sublime teachings in the imperishable Book of Life.

Look at the sufferings of Christ and look at the

popularity of the Bible ! When he was crucified, the cross became a symbol of the fulfilment of the spirit of

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retribution. To-day the Cross is worn next to the heart. It serves as a reminder of his gospel. The Cross to the Christians is as dear as the heart itself. Not a trumpet was beaten and not a bugle was blown to honour his selfless service. But to-day millions of bells toll from the belfry storeys in the praise of the Great Teacher. No dirge was sung at his funeral procession but to-day every Sunday the jubilant air re-echoes melodiously the soft and soothing music of the hymns sung to invoke the mercy of Christ.

To me at least, Gandhiji is as big a prophet as Christ was, or for that matter any other prophet. It has been my cherished wish to condense his inspired thoughts in a handy book. No other prophet has written or spoken so much as Gandhiji has done. The circumstances in which he is living have forced him to do so. The complexity of modern life demanded his tackling the intricate problems that face mankind.

For an ordinary busy man engrossed in his daily routine work, it is physically impossible to acquaint himself with Gandhiji's views on a particular subject. First, even the Young India and the Harijan files are not available in the market, let alone the expense involved in buying them. Secondly, even if one could borrow from a friend, the difficulty of collecting his ideas on any subject is overwhelming. So much so that one's enthusiasm and energy needed for the research work will vanish by the time.

Taking these facts under consideration I took upon myself the task of classifying Gandhiji's writings and speeches under different heads and arrange them alphabetically. In this book the reader has just to

look at the Contents and then turn over to the particular pages and he has before him the choicest wisdom of Gandhiji.

I have taken utmost care to avoid repetition of his views. The best and the most necessary quotations and articles are given. Selection has been done with devotion and pruning with diligence.

The book has a unique reference value and is indispensable both to his admirers and critics.

I thank Mr. K. L. Chopra, B. A., one of the Managers of the Bharat Insurance Co. Ltd., Lahore for helping me in editing some of the portions of this book. Though he is an insurance man primarily, he has an acute sense of discrimination in choosing and placing the right passage in its right place.

JAG PARVESH GRANDER

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