

Quotes of Mahatma Gandhi on Satyagraha:

SATYAGRAHA (see also Passive Resistance V. Satyagraha), Satyagraha is soul-force pure and simple, and whenever and to whatever extent there is room for the use of arms or physical force or brute force, there and to that extent is there so much less possibility for soul force- Satyagraha in South Africa: P.113

Satyagraha is literally holding on to Truth and it means, therefore. Truth-force. Truth is soul or spirit. It is therefore, known as soul-force. It excludes the use of violence, because man is not capable of knowing the absolute Truth and, therefore not competent to punish. - Young India: Mar .23.1921

This doctrine of Satyagraha is not new: it is merely an extension of the rule of domestic life to the political. Family disputes and differences are generally settled according to the Law of Love. The injured members has so much regards for the others that he suffers injury for the sake of his principles without being angry with those who differ from him,- Young India: May 11,1919.

Satyagraha has, therefore, been described as a coin on whose face you read Love, and on the reverse you read Truth. It is a coin current everywhere and has indefinable value,-Young –India: May 11, 1919

Satyagraha is capable of application in the social no less than in the political field. It may equally be employed against Government, society. or one's own family ,father, mother husband and wife, as the case may be .For ,it is the beauty of this spiritual weapon that when it is completely free from the taint of Himsa and its use is actuated purely and solely by love, it may be used with absolute impunity in any connection and in any circumstances whatever,- Young India: Mar. 1.1928

In my opinion, the beauty and efficacy of Satyagraha are so great, and the doctrine so simple, that it can be preached even to children,- Young India:Nov.5,1919

Satyagraha is a struggle in which the oldest and the weakest in body may take part, if they have stout hearts - Harijan:Feb,11,1939

The world rests upon the bedrock of Satya or Truth. Asatya meaning untruth, also means non-existence: and Satya or Truth also means that which is. If untruth does not so much as exist, its victory is out of the question. And Truth, being that which is, can never be destroyed. This is the doctrine of Satyagraha in a nutshell,- Satyagraha in South Africa: P.285

What is Satyagraha? It has often been described. But just as the sun cannot be fully described even by the myriad-tongued Sheshnag, so also the sun of satyagraha cannot be adequately described. And through we always see the sun. But know really very little of it, even so we do ever seem to see the sun of Satyagraha, but we know precious little about it. - Teaching of Mahatma Gandhi: P.493

My mission is to teach by example and precept, under severe restraint, the use of match less weapon of Satyagraha, which is a direct corollary of Non-violence and Truth,- Young India: Feb,7,1925

Satyagraha, as conceived by me, is a science in the making. It may be that what I claim to be a science, may prove to be no science, may prove to be no science at all, and may well prove to be the musings and doings of a fool, if not a mad man. It may be that what is true in Satyagraha is as ancient as the hills. - Harijan: Sept 24, 1938.

The Science of Satyagraha has not been woven out of my brain. It has come to me in dribblets and by scientific research. It is the result of the hardest labour human beings is capable of. I have applied to this research all the skill of a scientist. I have worked at it unceasingly and unremittingly, and this is the result. - Conversations of Gandhiji: P.40

It is a fundamental principle of Satyagraha that the tyrant, whom the satyagrahi, seeks to resist, has power over his body and material possessions, but he can have no power over the soul. The whole science of satyagraha was born from a knowledge of this fundamental truth. - Young India: May 21, 1931.

Satyagraha is a method of carrying conviction and of converting by an appeal to reason and to the sympathetic chord in human beings. It relies upon the ultimate good in every human being. - Incidents of Gandhiji's Life: P.282

There can be no Satyagraha in an unjust cause. Satyagraha in a just cause is vain if the men espousing it are not determined and capable of fighting and suffering to the ends, and the slightest use of violence often defeats a just cause. Satyagraha excludes the use of violence in any shape or form, whether in thought, speech, or deed. Given a just cause, capacity for endless sufferings and avoidance of violence, victory is a certainty,- Young India: Apr 27, 1921

Satyagraha is self- dependent. It does not require the assent of the opponent before it can be brought into play. Indeed, it shines out most when the opponent resists. It is, therefore, irresistible.- Young India: May 11, 1919

Satyagraha abhors secrecy. It is the openest form of warfare I have known. Similarly, Satyagraha abhors cowardice, and he who preaches it with any selfishness about him.- Young India : Sept 15, 1927.

The word ' Satyagraha' is often most loosely used and is made to cover veiled violence. But as the author of the word, I may be allowed to say that it excludes every form of violence, direct or indirect, veiled or unveiled , and whether in thought, word or deed.- Harijan: Apr.15 , 1933.

Satyagraha is a method of carrying conviction and of converting by an appeal to reason and to the sympathetic chord in human beings. It relies upon the ultimate good in every human beings.- Incidents of Gandhiji's Life: P.282

It is breach of satyagraha to wish ill to an opponent or to say a harsh word to him or of him with the intention of harming him. And often the evil thought or the evil word may, in terms of Satyagraha, be more dangerous than actual violence used in the heat of the moment and perhaps repented and forgotten the next moment. - Harijan: Apr. 15, 1933

Satyagraha is never vindictive. It believes not in destruction, but in conversion. Its failures are due to the Satyagrahi, not to any defect in the law itself,- Harijan: Sept. 15, 1946.

Satyagraha is gentle, it never wounds. It must not be the result of anger or malice. It is never fussy, never impatient, and never vociferous. It is the direct opposite of compulsion. - Harijan: Apr 15, 1933

Satyagraha proceeds on the active principles of Love which says: "Love those that despitefully use you. It is easy for you to love your friends. But I say unto you, love your enemies ". - Harijan: May 14, 1938.

In the dictionary of Satyagraha, there is no enemy. But as I have no desire to prepare a new dictionary for Satyagrahi, I use the old words giving them a new meaning. A Satyagrahi loves his so-called enemy even as his friends.- - Harijan: Sept. 16, 1939.

Satyagraha is utter self-effacement, greatest humility, greatest patience and brightest faith. It is its own reward, - Thus Spake Mahatma Gandhi – I: P. 110.

It is a force that works silently and apparently slowly. In reality, there is no force in the world that is so direct or so swift in working, - Thus Spake Mahatma Gandhi – I: P. 111.

And when once it is set in motion, its effect, if it is intensive enough, can overtake the whole universe. It is the greatest force because it is the highest expression of the soul, - Thus Spake Mahatma Gandhi – I: P. 111