A LONG WALK TO FREEDOM



The Autobiography of NELSON MANDELA

Mandela, N. (1995). Long Walk to Freedom. Abacus.

CHAPTER OUTLINE

- · Description of presidential inauguration in Pretoria
- Brief discussion of apartheid
- Production of great leaders during struggle
- Discusses dual obligations of public servants
- Connects personal to public dreams
- The right to living without oppression
- Hilltop metaphor, looks to the future

SYMBOLISM

LOCATION.

held at Union Buildings, former seat of white supremacy MILITARY.

performed gestures of loyalty: formerly would have arrested **FLAG**.

symbol of the rainbow nation

ANTHEMS.

both anthems of black and white South Africa sung



APARTHEID

"Perhaps it requires such depth of oppression to create such heights of character." (Mandela, 1995:748)

THE POLICY.

Legislatively-backed racial segregation initially between white and three categories of non-white South Africans, restricting freedoms in public and private life

THE OPPOSITION LEADERS.

Policy of apartheid caused great leaders to arise in defense

- Robert Sobukwe: president of Pan-Africanist Congress
- Walter Sisulu: deputy president of ANC
- Yusuf Dadoo: anti-apartheid activist

PERSONAL STRUGGLE

"Freedom is indivisible; the chains on any one of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me."

(Mandela, 1995:751)

DUAL OBLIGATIONS.

- · dual obligation to the people and to family
- · in an inhumane society, certain (marginalized) people cannot fulfill both obligations
- · admits he didn't fulfill role as husband and father

PERSONAL TO PUBLIC FREEDOM.

A longing for freedom for self became a longing for freedom for his people

LIBERATION

"I knew as well as I knew anything that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed."

(Mandela, 1995:751)

OPPRESSOR AND OPPRESSED.

- Liberation of both the oppressor and the oppressed is necessary, as oppressed has lost his/her own humanity in a prison of "hatred... prejudice and narrow-mindedness"
- · Frierian concept of liberation of oppressor being found in the hands of the oppressed

RIGHTS AND REALITY.

- Realistic view that while SA had acknowledged the right to live free of oppression, the fight against oppression must continue
- At the hilltop, one can see many more hills to climb (Moses, MLK Jr. reference)

"If they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite."