On the 18th July 1918 in the village of Mvezo in Umtata, South Africa, a baby was born to parents Gadla and Nosekeni. This baby would go on to become one of, arguably the greatest political activists there has ever been and his name was of course, Nelson Mandela.

Nelson’s given birth name was actually Rolihlala (pronounced Xholilala in the Xhosa language) which ironically was a colloquial word for ‘trouble maker’.

In 1939 Mandela began his studies at the University of Forte Hare in Alice on the Eastern Cape, studying English and Politics amongst many subjects on a varied course. He took up ballroom dancing, was active in the drama society and gave Bible classes as part of the Student Christian Association.

Though Mandela was aware of the African National Congress (ANC) he avoided any involvement at this time and in fact was a supporter of the British war effort when the Second World War broke out.

In 1943 Mandela continued his study in Law at the University of Witwatersrand as the only black Africa student and was subject to racism. It was here that he would become increasingly politicised and began marching with the ANC and later become a member of its executive committee.

In 1952 Mandela was arrested and found guilty of the crime of ‘statutory communism’ which was a term the government used to describe opposition to Apartheid. He received 9 months imprisonment with hard labours, suspended for 2 years.

For those that may be unaware, apartheid, (the Afrikaans word for “apartness”) was the policy that **governed relations between** South Africa's white minority and non-white majority for much of the latter half of the 20th century, sanctioning racial segregation and political and economic discrimination against non-whites.

On the 5th August 1962 police captured Mandela with fellow activists and was remanded in Johannesburg’s Marshal Square prison (later moved to Pretoria). He was charged with the crime of ‘inciting workers to strike’ and on the 12th June, 1964 Mandela was found guilty on this and 3 other charges. He was sentenced to life imprisonment.

Mandela was to spend the next 18 years internment at the Robben Island prison in Cape Town, where he would spend his days quarrying lime.

In 1982 he was transferred to Pollsmore prison where he would contract tuberculosis and was moved again in 1988 to Victor Verster prison.

by 1989 the then South African president P.W. Botha became ill, suffering a stroke. 6 weeks later he was replaced by F.W. de Klerk who believed that apartheid was unsustainable and with the ‘Free Nelson Mandela’ movement in full swing later met with Mandela to discuss the situation.

On the 11th February, 1990, Mandela was released from prison, holding his wife’s hand the moment was beamed all around the world, he gave a speech declaring his commitment to peace and this was in essence the beginning of the end to apartheid in South Africa.

Nelson went on to become the first black president of South Africa with his inauguration taking place in Pretoria on the 10th May 1994 – televised to over 1 billion people globally. He would be president for 5 years until his eventual retirement.

Mandela died on the 5th December 2013 at the age of 95 at his home surrounded by his family. A warrior, a revolutionary, a legend.

But wait, this particular story isn’t over. The talk I have planned for you today isn’t actually about Nelson Mandela at all, but what came later.

In 2009 an author by the name of Fiona Broome created a website to detail her observance of a particular phenomenon which would later become termed ‘the Mandela effect’. Whilst at a conference, Fiona recalled the tragedy of Nelson Mandela’s death in the late 1980’s whilst still in prison, and as we have already learned, this was clearly not the case.