

Chapter 2: Nelson Mandela – Long Walk to Freedom

 **Author:** Nelson Mandela (Excerpt from his autobiography)



Summary in Simple Words:

This chapter is based on Nelson Mandela's life and his speech on **10th May 1994**, the day he became the **first Black President of South Africa**. It describes the **journey from a racist system (apartheid) to a free and equal nation**. He shares his feelings, the historical importance of the day, and what freedom means to him.

Most Important Topics (Frequently Asked in Exams):

1. **What is Apartheid and how it affected South Africa**
2. **Mandela's speech – messages of unity, freedom, and equality**
3. **The role of army and military parade**
4. **Importance of the national anthems**
5. **Mandela's idea of true freedom – beyond just voting rights**
6. **Mandela's tribute to the courage of ordinary people**

Who was Nelson Mandela?

- A **freedom fighter** who fought against racial injustice in South Africa.
- Spent **27 years in prison** for standing up against the apartheid system.
- Believed in **peace, forgiveness, and equality**.
- Became **South Africa's first Black President** in 1994.

What is Apartheid?

- **Apartheid** was a system of **racial discrimination** followed in South Africa for many years.
- It gave rights and privileges only to **white people**, while **black people were treated badly** – no voting rights, poor schools, no freedom of movement.
- Mandela and others **fought against it for years**.

What Happened on 10th May 1994?

- Nelson Mandela took the **oath as President**.
- Leaders and dignitaries from **over 140 countries** attended the ceremony.
- A **military parade** was held to honor the new democratic government.
- **Old national anthem and new one** were sung to show **unity among Blacks and Whites**.



What Did Mandela Say in His Speech?

- Spoke about the **sufferings of his people** under apartheid.
- Praised **ordinary South Africans** who sacrificed their lives for freedom.
- Declared: “**Never, never again** shall it be that this beautiful land will experience the oppression of one by another.”
- Talked about **true freedom** – not just the ability to vote, but to live a life with dignity, no fear, and equal opportunities.



Mandela's Personality and Character Traits:

Trait	Explanation
Courageous	He risked his life and spent 27 years in prison for his country's freedom.
Forgiving	He never took revenge on the whites who hurt him. Instead, he forgave them.
Inspirational Leader	He brought together people of all races. He believed in unity and peace.
Humble	He gave credit to many others and didn't show pride for his own achievements.
Hopeful & Visionary	He dreamed of a South Africa where every person could live freely and equally.



Military Parade and Symbolism:

- Jets and helicopters flew in the sky in the form of the **South African flag**.
- It showed that **even the army now supports the democratic government**.
- White army generals who once would arrest Mandela, now **saluted him with respect**.

National Anthems – Symbol of Unity:

- Two anthems were sung:
 - **Old white anthem** (for the white people)
 - **New anthem** (for black South Africans)
- Everyone sang both to show that **South Africa was now united** and free from racism.

Mandela's Belief About Freedom:


- Real freedom means:
 - Living with **dignity and self-respect**.
 - No one should live in **fear, hatred, or poverty**.
 - True freedom is not just for oneself but for **everyone**.

Difficult Words Explained:


Word	Meaning
Apartheid	Racial discrimination system in South Africa
Emancipation	Freedom from control or unfair treatment
Deprivation	Being denied something important
Inauguration	Official ceremony of starting a new position (like President)
Oppression	Unjust use of power to keep people down

Sample Questions & Answers:

Q1. What was the significance of May 10, 1994, in South Africa?

 It was the day Nelson Mandela became the first Black President, ending the racist apartheid rule.

Q2. What message does Mandela give about courage?

 He says courage is not the absence of fear, but the ability to overcome it.

Q3. Why did Mandela thank international leaders?

 Because their presence showed support for the new democratic South Africa.

Q4. What does Mandela mean by "freedom is indivisible"?

☞ True freedom means everyone must be free. If even one person is oppressed, freedom is incomplete.