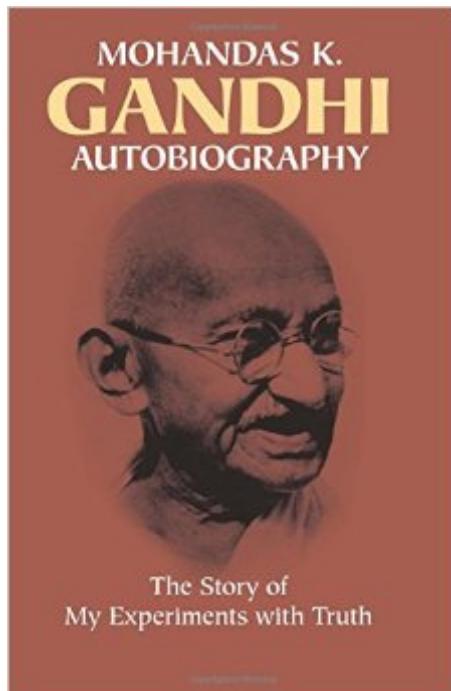


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Mohandas K. Gandhi, Autobiography: The Story Of My Experiments With Truth



Synopsis

"My purpose," Mahatma Gandhi writes of this book, "is to describe experiments in the science of Satyagraha, not to say how good I am." Satyagraha, Gandhi's nonviolent protest movement (satya = true, agra = firmness), came to stand, like its creator, as a moral principle and a rallying cry; the principle was truth and the cry freedom. The life of Gandhi has given fire and fiber to freedom fighters and to the untouchables of the world: hagiographers and patriots have capitalized on Mahatma myths. Yet Gandhi writes: "Often the title [Mahatma, Great Soul] has deeply pained me. . . . But I should certainly like to narrate my experiments in the spiritual field which are known only to myself, and from which I have derived such power as I possess for working in the political field." Clearly, Gandhi never renounced the world; he was neither pacifist nor cult guru. Who was Gandhi? In the midst of resurging interest in the man who freed India, inspired the American Civil Rights Movement, and is revered, respected, and misunderstood all over the world, the time is proper to listen to Gandhi himself " in his own words, his own "confessions," his autobiography. Gandhi made scrupulous truth-telling a religion and his Autobiography inevitably reminds one of other saints who have suffered and burned for their lapses. His simply narrated account of boyhood in Gujarat, marriage at age 13, legal studies in England, and growing desire for purity and reform has the force of a man extreme in all things. He details his gradual conversion to vegetarianism and ahimsa (non-violence) and the state of celibacy (brahmacharya, self-restraint) that became one of his more arduous spiritual trials. In the political realm he outlines the beginning of Satyagraha in South Africa and India, with accounts of the first Indian fasts and protests, his initial errors and misgivings, his jailings, and continued cordial dealings with the British overlords. Gandhi was a fascinating, complex man, a brilliant leader and guide, a seeker of truth who died for his beliefs but had no use for martyrdom or sainthood. His story, the path to his vision of Satyagraha and human dignity, is a critical work of the twentieth century, and timeless in its courage and inspiration.

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Customer Reviews

This book should not be read for literary purposes. It will come as an disappointment for people who expect poetry or prose in their readings. My idea was to learn more about Gandhi and I was very satisfied as this book nearly accomplished that for me. This book is as simple to read as the man himself. Gandhi tells us most sincerely and honestly that he would not have been what he became, if it was not for certain events that changed his life. Even in his writings Gandhi reflects his modesty and simplicity. He does not fall short of acknowledging his weaknesses and his wrongs. Great philosophy right out of the mind of the great philosopher!

Well, we all follow "the experts" (although at 48, I am beginning to learn). We all follow the authorities. What would happen if one just kept a totally blank mind toward everything and learned from just plain LIVING. Gandhi makes it clear at the beginning of the book that this is the only way to gain truth. Not to be strongly influenced by others. His agreements and fondness of other theologians really only comes after his experiments. They have to agree with him first. As you begin to read this book, you are on a journey. It's like being a Martian or being from another planet simply because Gandhi will simply not take anything as truth unless he has experimented with it himself. He was very much the spiritual scientist. This book is also very easy reading. The chapters are short enough to stop and come back to as well. And it is journey which Gandhi makes clear that anybody can follow. You can't really follow this man's experiments. He wants you to do your own experiments. So this book is really quite an adventure. Gandhi's politics, as he makes clear in this book, really stem from his experiments in truth. You can begin yourself. Wake up, tell your wife she is fat, and see what happens! Gandhi came to the conclusion of always practicing "ahimsa". He would practice it over and over again to see if it worked. And he came to the conclusion that it did. As he once said, "Ahimsa is heaven". Ahimsa means non-violence in thought, word, and deed. One can still defend oneself while loving one's enemy. He saw "satya", or truth as synonymous with non-violence. This man stole at one point, eat meat, was far from celibacy. Buy and read this fabulous scientific inquiry into "How to Live". Then start experimenting for yourself. Good luck on

your journey. And please be careful! Gandhi nearly killed himself SMOKING!

I have always admired Mr. Gandhi, but really knew very little about him. This book tells of his early life, something most biographies skip choosing to focus on his life in India. Great historical detail of colonial India, living in England and South Africa. A must read for anyone interested in Mr. Gandhi or that period of history. The book has also influenced greatly the way I view life. A very spiritually uplifting book, even for non-Hindus.

I am not good with reviews, so I decided to write down all of Gandhi's quotes about truth: God, as Truth, has been for me a treasure beyond price. May He be so to every one of us. An error does not become truth by reason of multiplied propagation, nor does truth become error because nobody sees it. Truth is by nature self-evident. As soon as you remove the cobwebs of ignorance that surround it, it shines clear. Morality is the basis of things and truth is the substance of all morality. Even if you are a minority of one, the truth is the truth. I believe in the fundamental truth of all great religions of the world. In short, Gandhi teaches that it doesn't take an army to learn the truth, nor does it take an army to become a part of that truth. His story explains that an individual dedicated to the empowerment of honesty and love can overcome any violence or hatred that can exist. It is within this context that one can use this book to change themselves.

Want to read this book, but the Kindle edition for sale here is plain awful and clearly was not edited or proofread. It is rife with misspellings, formatting errors, and random line breaks in the middle of sentences. Oh well -- I should have checked out the sample first, but for 0.99 cents it seemed like a no-brainer. I suppose if you really want a cheap version, it could suffice, but I will either be looking for a hard-copy or getting it somewhere else.

A book which influenced the way I think and view life. There is no other book of its kind. An autobiography of a man who defeated an empire with his non-violence and without a blood shed. Great reading and very moving for all those who love truth and humanity

I have had misgivings about Gandhi, his thoughts, and his actions. I believe, after I have read this book, that unfortunately, I had a very superficial knowledge about this great person. I still do not agree with many of his policies, do not see him as absolutely infallible, and certainly do not wish to deify him. However, these views have been instilled in me by Gandhi himself as he points out in this

marvellous book, that he does not think that he is always correct. He mentions, time and again, that what he says and does, is only his opinion. But he sincerely practices what he preaches, and shares his ideas with all of us in the hope of making the world better. His humility, straight-forwardness, and love of truth touches us all. A truly great man and a very inspiring book.

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