

Learning from gandhi



Remembering a great soul

Jesus Christ gave the motivation and Gandhi showed the method.

Martin Luther King Jr

Our country gave birth to a mighty one, and he shone like a beacon not only for India but for the whole world.

Jawaharlal Nehru

Generations to come, it may be, will scarcely believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth.

Albert Einstein

A great man with a deep understanding of human nature, Mahatma Gandhi made every effort to encourage the full development of the positive aspects of our human potential and to reduce or restrain the negative.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama

Mahatma Gandhi came and stood at the door of India's destitute millions, clad as one of themselves.

Rabindranath Tagore

Learning from Gandhi

**Gandhiji's thoughts on environment
and development**



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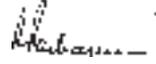
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Foreword

Of all the great men that have made a difference to human civilization in recent times, *Gandhiji* proved to be perhaps the most effective communicator of all. He was a man of few words, but his understanding of the universe around him was so profound that even with very simple words and illustrations that he articulated so profoundly, he was able to move the minds and hearts of a vast multitude of people in a direction that pointed to their welfare. It was not only India that listened to what *Gandhiji* said; his words had a major impact on thinking and action all over the world. One relatively unknown area where *Gandhiji's* philosophy and wisdom was well ahead of its time relates to his understanding of environmental issues and his insights into the nexus between human actions and their implications for the ecology of this planet.

Many have attempted to capture *Gandhiji's* all-encompassing wisdom on paper, on film, and on tape. Here is another venture in this direction, stemming from TERI's deep belief and hope that the children of today will be the leaders of tomorrow. It is our foremost duty to help them imbibe a sense of pride in their world and the motivation to work hard towards constant improvement of the scenario around us, which so often appears so bleak. This book distils the essence of Gandhian environmentalism into lucid and evocative reading for children. It highlights *Gandhiji's* respect and love for nature and his advice on 'simple living, high thinking' through many of his quotations on environment and development.

This book owes much to the late Dr T N Khoshoo's well-read *Mahatma Gandhi: an apostle of human ecology*, also published by TERI. We hope the readers of this book find it inspirational.



R K Pachauri
Director-General, TERI

I will give you a talisman.

Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test.

Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man [woman] whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him [her].

Will he [she] gain anything by it?

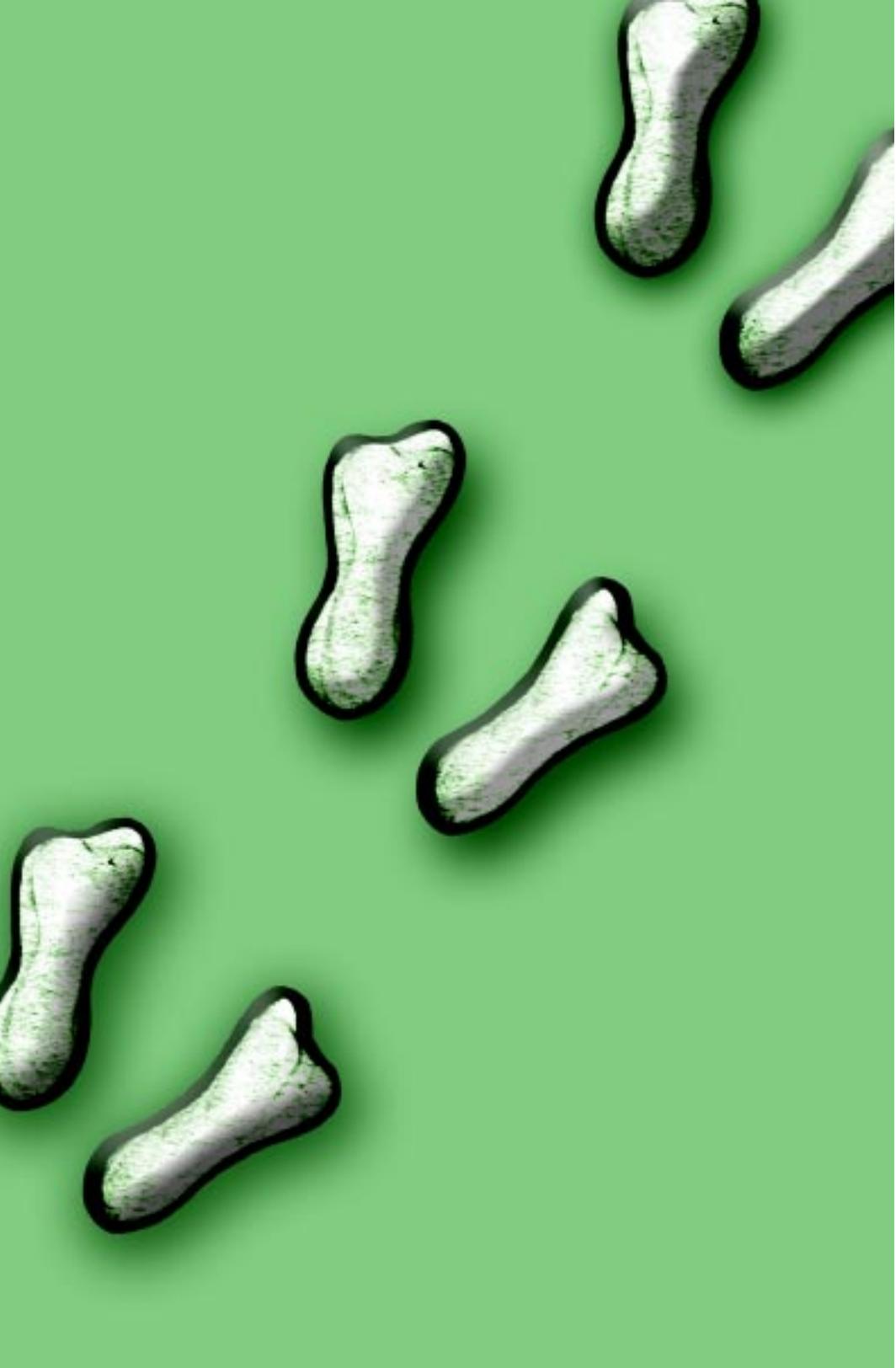
Will it restore him [her] to a control over his [her] own life and destiny?

In other words, will it lead to *Swaraj* [freedom] for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?

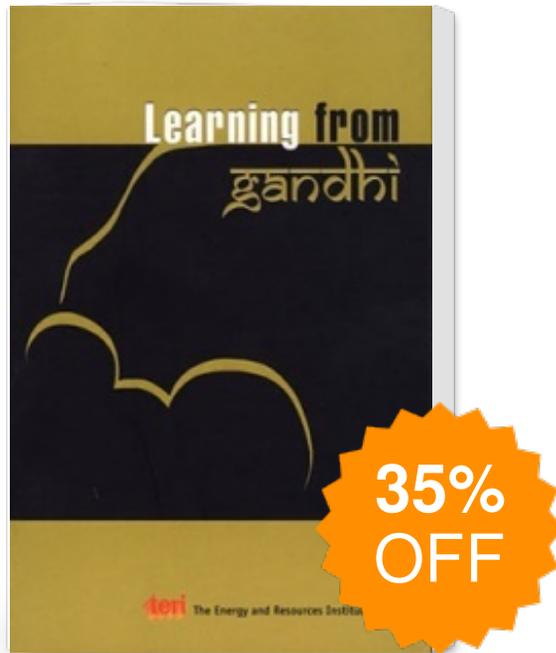
Then you will find your doubts and your self melt away.



Gandhi's Talisman



Learning from Gandhi



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