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Writing Biography

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Nelson Mandela: Making History

"I learned that courage is not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who doesn't feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear." Nelson Mandela

During most of Mandela's life the Dutch were in control of all of South Africa. He faced trials and hardships, but he never gave up. He kept fighting against segregation between races.

Nelson Mandela made the dream of his people a reality. This is his legacy.

Rolihlahla Mandela, which means troublemaker, was born on July 18, 1918, into the Madiba clan in Mvezo, Transkei. Rolihlahla was given the name Nelson from his primary school teacher because at that time all school children had to have Christian names.

During his childhood, he played with boyhood friends and toys made of sticks and

clay. When Nelson was 9 his father died. His family was very poor after his father died and they lived off of maize, sorghum, pumpkin, and beans.

Nelson went to mission school first before he studied law. He was expelled from Fort Hare University in 1939 after a school wide protest that he joined. Soon after

Nelson heard of the arranged marriages his family was planning and fled to Johannesburg and continued on with his studies in 1942 and joined the African National Congress.

Nelson tried for an LLB (Bachelor of Laws) but being indigent, he never graduated. He started studying at the University of London after his imprisonment in 1962, but he did not complete that degree either. In his last years of imprisonment he completed his LLB and graduated in

1989. Nelson went to prison for encouraging protests, black workers to go on strike,

illegally leaving the country, and for trying to overthrow the government. By the sound of this,

you might think he was a criminal. Instead he was a hero. He stood up to the Dutch

Government

and tried for equality.

In 1994, after many hard trials, Nelson finally became the nation's first

democratically elected president and lead his country at age 76 . The people loved him so much

that in 2009, his birthday was made a national holiday. He received more than 250 honors

including the Nobel Peace Prize for trying to dismantle the country's apartheid

system. On December 5, 2013 the great hero died peacefully in his home age 95.

He is remembered for his great accomplishments, hard work and dedication to his country.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." Nelson

Mandela

<http://www.biography.com/people/nelson-mandela-9397017>

<http://www.nelsonmandela.org/content/page/biography>

http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/n/nelson_mandela.html

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