

The Twenty-One Leadership And Self-Mastery Principles of Mahatma Gandhi

Extracted by: Prof. Eduardo A. Morato from "Mahatma Gandhi"

1. Men should not feel honored by the humiliation of their fellow human beings.
2. Renounce material things. Lift yourself above materialism to free yourself for greater ideals.
3. All government is based on war and violence. One can counter these evils through passive resistance. *(From Tolstoy's work: The Kingdom of God Is Within You.)*
4. The basis of society is not wealth but the invisible gold of human companionship.....Pursue simple pleasures and inner tranquility, making the first possessions, self possession. *(From Ruskin's work: Unto This Last)*
5. Control all the senses at all times and all places in thought, word and deed. Greater control over the self means greater control over others.
6. The man who sheds all longings and moves without concern and is free from the sense of "I" and mine"mine" attains peace. *(From the Bhagavad Gita)*
7. Be selfless in action and free from apprehension about results or the advantages to be gotten from these results.
8. Believe in truth-force, love-force and soul-force. This is satyagraha, the vindication of truth not by infliction of suffering on the opponent but on one's self. The opponent must be weaned from error by patience and sympathy. Convert the opponent. Return good for evil until the evildoer tires of evil.
9. So long as there is even a handful of men true to their pledges, then there can be only one end to the struggle - victory!
10. Compromise is acceptable if a moral victory can be won. The triumph of principles, even if one compromises, is better than defeating an adversary.
11. It is more honorable to be right than to be law abiding.... a minority of one can bring about a change in government. *(from Thoreau's work: Civil Disobedience)*
12. Desired virtues are fearlessness, self reliance, self denial, self sacrifice, and suffering. Embrace poverty and live in harmony with people and with nature. Practice brahmacharya (celibacy), satyagraha (soul-force) and ahimsa (needlessness).
13. Obey the higher law of our being, the voice of our conscience.
14. Fasting for a public cause is justifiable if the motive is pure. Fasting for private gain or for the intimidation of an adversary is not.

15. If a people are to preach a mission of peace, they must first prove their ability in war.....A nation that is unfit to fight cannot, from experience, prove the virtue of not fighting.
16. Non-cooperation with oppressive rulers is a powerful weapon. Non-cooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with the good.
17. Moral courage, in the long run, will always triumph over tyrants, who will come and go.
18. Be a "one man boundary force".
19. Man is a battlefield for good and evil. Enemies can be won over by appealing to their good impulses.
20. Never despair of human nature.
21. Choose a dramatic symbolic act to unleash the people's power.