

GANDHI SPEAKS TO ME

by Aparajita- (Shruti Nada Poddar), 2nd October 2011

Turbulent are the days ahead
With no respite in sight
With none perhaps, to raise a voice
A voice of Truth and Might

Humanity, through heightened thoughts
Does grope for Peace within
In wired insecurities
For little worlds of 'kin'

As I seek the Voice of peace
And watch my inner core
Gandhi ji speaks to me and says
"My child – lets talk some more..."

He says to me – "I'm all for peace
For all Humanity
And may I share my thoughts with you
...in all humility?"

I wonder what you understand
By 'Peace' – my One Decree
My quest with many challenges
That my people be Free

I walked the road of challenge
To voice my hurt and pain
And wrote to authorities
Yet often, much in vain

The powerful have many friends
Can twist the nuts and bolts
And 'buy' the voice of conscience
And silence all revolts

You know how I was unjustly
Silenced of my protest...
Just for my human right and place
Just for a mere request

This led to a march for Truth
Carrying a justice Flame
Evoking every mind and heart
To fight the fear of blame"

This was a March, a Fight for Peace,
No arm or ammunition
A fight with word and heart and sense
And truth for self-salvation

I sacrificed the comfort
And love of family
Commenced my walk led by my flame
Hoping they'd walk with me

So many friends deserted me
Yet some did walk with me
We slowly lit in many hearts
The Light that came to be

The Light that leads to dignity
For woman and for man
In every time and space on earth
Against oppressive plan

I think, my child, the justice sought-
Fought with the flame of "voice"
Will every time and for all Time
Leave Falsehood with no choice

The challenge is to see how much
One can but Sacrifice
To Light the burning flame in Self
Devouring every Vice

But let not the societal trick
Hoodwink one's comprehension
Of Sacrifice as escapism
From justice and redemption

Remember how I fought with words
Relentlessly, and action!
Against the sweet diplomacy
Couching vicious oppression!

When everything seemed lost my child
I even lost my life
The world carried the burning flame
The flame of all my strife

One's flame will ever lead to Light
And Fullness in the heart
Will justice come, a question yes...
In a world so torn apart

Lead with Light and Lead with Force
Lead with determination
For every heart that seeks to be
Illumined by contagion

The victory of Tapasya¹
Is not for one alone
But for a world that yearns to see
A falsehood overthrown"

As I walk undulating roads
Evolving in the pain
Gandhi ji smiles at me and says
"My child - lets meet again!"