

## Chapter Review

- This chapter is taken from 'Long Walk to Freedom', the autobiography of Nelson Mandela. It describes the day South Africa became a democratic nation and Mandela became its first Black President.
- The inauguration was held on 10 May 1994 in the amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria. It was the largest gathering of international leaders on South African soil.
- Mandela took the oath of office. The highest military generals saluted him and pledged loyalty, though only a few years earlier they would have arrested him. This showed how deeply the country had changed.
- Two national anthems were sung, one by the whites and one by the blacks, which showed the equality of both groups. Mandela said the ceremony was a common victory for justice, peace and human dignity.
- He recalled that in the first decade of the twentieth century the white South Africans had made a system of racial domination, one of the harshest societies the world had known. Now that society had given way to a new, just one.
- He said that the country should never again experience the oppression of one by another. He declared 'Let freedom reign. The sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement!'
- Mandela spoke of the brave people who gave their lives for freedom: Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Chief Luthuli, Bram Fischer, Robert Sobukwe and many more. He felt their courage was far greater than his own.
- He explained that in his youth he thought only of his own freedom: the freedom to stay out at night, read what he liked, go where he pleased. As an adult he understood that his people's freedom was taken away too, and this hunger for his own freedom became the hunger for the freedom of his people.

- Mandela said courage is not the absence of fear but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear.
- He ended by saying that two kinds of freedom matter, to be free of chains in both body and mind, and that the oppressor and the oppressed both need to be liberated, as both are robbed of humanity.

### Key Terms

**Amphitheatre** – An open circular space with seats rising around it.

**Inauguration** – A ceremony of starting an office or a period of rule.

**Apartheid** – The system of racial separation in South Africa, ended in 1994.

**Oppression** – Cruel and unjust treatment of people.

**Segregation** – Keeping groups of people apart on the basis of race.

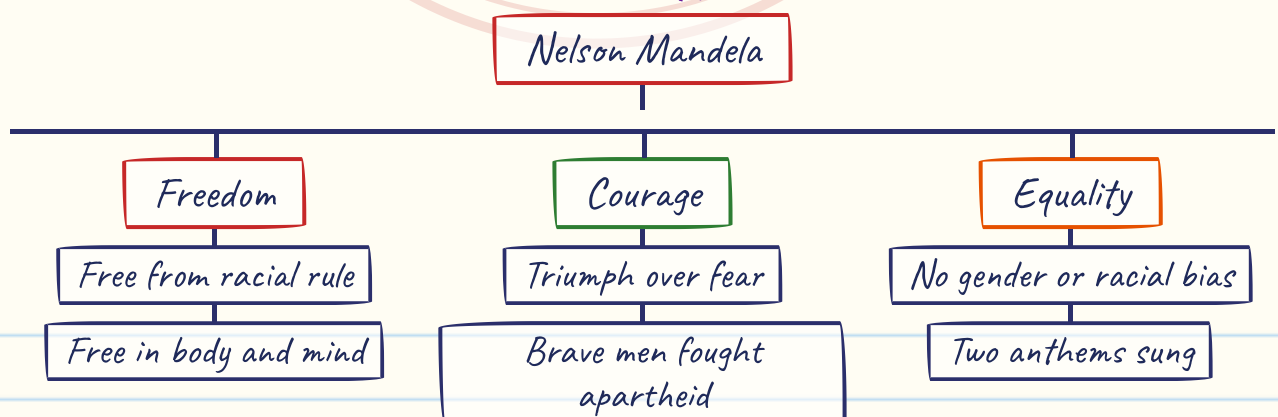
**Liberate** – To set free.

**Valour** – Great courage in the face of danger.

**Magnanimity** – Generosity and a noble, forgiving nature.

### Diagrams / Flowcharts

#### Mandela and His Ideals



### *Mandela's Journey of Understanding*

Youth: wants only personal freedom



Sees that the whole race is not free



Joins the African National Congress



Fights, is jailed 27 years



Becomes first Black President

### About the Author and Setting

- Nelson Mandela (1918-2013) was a South African freedom fighter and the country's first Black President. He received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 together with F. W. de Klerk, and the Bharat Ratna in 1990.
- The extract is from his autobiography 'Long Walk to Freedom'. It focuses on 10 May 1994, the day he was sworn in.
- Language note: the chapter is full of long, formal sentences, because it is a speech and a reflective memoir.

### Key Messages

- Freedom is indivisible: one person is not free until everyone is free.
- True courage is to overcome fear, not to be without fear.
- The oppressor is also a prisoner of hatred; both must be freed.

### Textbook Exercise Questions

**Q.1** Where did the ceremonies take place? Can you name any public buildings in India that are made of sandstone? (p. 18)

**Ans.** The ceremonies took place in the amphitheatre formed by the Union Buildings in Pretoria.

In India, the Parliament House, the Rashtrapati Bhavan, the Supreme Court and the Madras High Court are made of sandstone.

**Q.2** Why is 10 May an 'autumn day' in South Africa?

**Ans.** In South Africa, May falls in autumn. It was on this day in 1994 that the first democratic, non-racial government was installed, with the largest gathering of world leaders.

**Q.3** What does Mandela mean by 'an extraordinary human disaster'?

**Ans.** He means the cruel system of apartheid, in which black people were treated as less than human. Its end became 'a glorious human achievement' when a Black man became President of South Africa.

**Q.4** What 'twin obligations' does Mandela mention?

**Ans.** He says every man has two obligations. The first is to his family, parents, wife and children. The second is to his people, his community and his country.

**Q.5** How did the military generals show respect to Mandela? What had changed?

**Ans.** They saluted him and pledged their loyalty to the new government. Earlier, they would have arrested him; now they stood to honour a Black President.

**Q.6** Why did two national anthems get sung at the ceremony?

**Ans.** One was sung by the whites and one by the blacks. It showed that both races were now equal citizens.

**Q.7** What ideals did Mandela set out for the new South Africa?

**Ans.** He wanted to end poverty and suffering, and to build a society free from discrimination based on race or gender.

**Q.8** What does Mandela mean when he says 'courage is not the absence of fear'?

**Ans.** A brave man is not one who does not feel afraid, but one who conquers that fear. Many brave people feared deeply but still fought for freedom.

**Q.9** How did Mandela's understanding of freedom change from boyhood to manhood?

**Ans.** In boyhood he wanted only personal freedom, such as to stay out at night and move freely. As an adult he saw that all blacks were denied freedom. Then his hunger for personal freedom turned into a hunger for his people's freedom, and he joined the ANC. That change made him a bold, selfless man from a frightened young man.

### Board Exam Questions (Important)

**Q.1** Why did Mandela feel privileged and thank the world leaders? (3-4 lines)

**Ans.** Not long ago South Africans had been treated as outlaws. The presence of so many world leaders to see him sworn in showed it was a victory for justice, peace and human dignity, so he felt privileged to host them.

**Q.2** Who were Mandela's 'heroes'? Name any four.

**Ans.** He mentions Oliver Tambo, Walter Sisulu, Chief Luthuli, Bram Fischer and Robert Sobukwe, among others who sacrificed their lives and gave

up their freedom.

**Q.3** What are the 'two kinds of freedom'? Explain in 80 words.

**Ans.** Mandela says there are two kinds of freedom: the freedom of the body and the freedom of the mind. A person is not truly free if he is only released from chains. A free person must also respect the freedom of others.

Even the oppressor is not free, since he is chained by prejudice and hatred. Hence both oppressed and oppressor need to be set free.

**Q.4** Why does Mandela say the sun shall never set on so glorious a human achievement? (Reference to context)

**Ans.** He says this at the end of his speech, expressing hope that the new democratic South Africa would last forever, built on justice and equality, and that no such oppression would return.

**Q.5** Value-based: What can we learn from Mandela's life?

**Ans.** We learn to fight injustice peacefully, to forgive enemies, to sacrifice personal comfort for the nation and to show courage in the face of fear.