

Poslanica indijskega veleposlanika Nj. Eksc. Sarvajita Chakravartija na spominski slovesnosti ob obletnici smrti M. K. Gandhija (2. oktober 1869 – 30. januar 1948) v Slovenj Gradcu, 30. 1. 2014

Spoštovani gospod Andrej Čas, župan Mestne občine Slovenj Gradec, cenjeni mestni svetniki, spoštovane gospe in gospodje!

Hvala, ker ste se udeležili spominske slovesnosti ob 66. obletnici smrti Mohandasa Kamarčanda Gandhija. Najprej bi se želel zahvaliti županu in Mestni občini Slovenj Gradec in Gimnaziji Slovenj Gradec in Glasbeni šoli Slovenj Gradec, da so omogočili ta dogodek v okviru festivala *Dnevi Indije v Sloveniji*. Slovenj Gradec, mesto Glasnik miru, je zelo primeren kraj za umestitev spomenika indijskemu borcu za svobodo Mahatmi Gandhiju.

Ob Gandhijevem rojstvu 2. oktobra 1869 je bila britanska oblast v Indiji že trdno vzpostavljena. Ko je Gandhi 30. januarja 1948 padel pod kroglami morilca, je za njim žalovala osvobodjena in neodvisna Indija. V tem času so razdedinjeni in razoroženi izbojevali veliko bitko, saj so razvili moralno moč, ki je pritegnila pozornost in občudovanje vsega sveta. Zgodba te preobrazbe je tudi zgodba o Gandhijevem življenju in njemu gre pripisati zaslugo zanjo. Od takrat je med hvaležnimi rojaki poznan kot oče naroda.

Gandhi tega čudeža ne bi mogel izvesti sam. Številni njegovi izjemni predhodniki in starejši sodobniki, kot so Radža Rammohan Roj, Bankimčandra Čatterdžee, Ramkrišna Paramhamsa, Svami Vivekananda, Svami Dajananda Sarasvati, Dadabhai Navrođi, Badruddin Tjabdži, Sjed Ahmed Khan, Ranade, Gokhale, Tilak, Aurobindo Ghoš, Atulprasad Sen, Dvidžendralal Roj in Rabindranath Tagore, so s svojo poezijo, glasbo in drugimi literarnimi deli širili zavedanje o usodi Indije in doprinesli k požrtvovalnosti duha, ki jo je Gandhi izkoristil kot orodje za širši politični in moralni preobrat. Kljub temu je imel Gandhi povsem drugačno predstavo o indijski politični usodi in precej nižja pričakovanja glede indijske moralne drže.

Gandhi je kot individualist služil človeštvu. Ni ustanovil nobene cerkve in čeprav je živel po verskih načelih, ni zapustil nobene dogme. Ničesar ni pripisoval Bogu in tudi ni predpisal nobene poti, da bi to dosegel, razen iskrenega in neusmiljenega iskanja s pomočjo sredstev, ki ne škodujejo nobenemu živemu bitju. Njegovo življenje je bilo posvečeno resnici, kakršno je v medčloveških odnosih mogoče uresničevati. Povzpел se je s korakom, nič večjim od človeškega, dokler ni dosegel višine, na kateri je imel občutek nadčloveškega. "Generacije, ki še pridejo, bodo morda komaj verjele," je zapisal Einstein, "da je takšno bitje iz mesa in krvi sploh kdajkoli hodilo po zemlji."

Danes, ob 66. obletnici obžalovanja vrednega atentata na Mahatmo Gandhija, ki se je zgodil 30. januarja 1948, se spominjamo njega in ostalih številnih indijskih domoljubov, ki so žrtvovali svoja življenja, svobodo in srečo za osvoboditev Indije izpod britanske kolonialne oblasti. Prizadevamo si, da bi s to razstavo poustvarili okoliščine njegovega življenja in filozofije, ki indijskemu prebivalstvu ni dala le upanja in svobode, temveč jih je navdihnila tudi za ustanovitev gibanj za družbeno in politično svobodo po vsem svetu. Spominjamo se Gandhija, ki ga je občudoval tudi Rabindranath Tagore in mu nadel vzdevek Mahatma ali *velika duša*, ne le kot domoljuba, politika in ustanovitelja indijske države, temveč tudi kot moralnega pobudnika za ozavešanje človeštva.

Prek Martina Luthra Kinga mlajšega in Nelsona Mandele, Joan Baez in Miriam Makebe, Stevena Bika in ameriškega predsednika Baracka Obame, od ašrama Sabarmati do Sao Paula in Slovenj Gradca, je Gandhijevo sporočilo nenasilja, složnosti, kolektivnega delovanja in trajnostnega razvoja preseglo svoj čas in še danes odmeva med nami, nas vodi v večji mir, skupno skrb za človeštvo in zagotavlja svetlo prihodnost našemu planetu.

Address by H.E. Ambassador of India to Slovenia, Mr. Sarvajit Chakravarti at the commemoration of the M. K. Gandhi at Slovenj Gradec, 30 January 2014

Mr. Andrej Čas, honourable Mayor of the City Municipality of Slovenj Gradec, honourable city councillors, ladies and gentlemen,

Thank you all for attending the commemoration of the 66th anniversary of the death of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Firstly, I would like to thank the Mayor and the City Municipality of Slovenj Gradec, the Grammar and the Music Schools of Slovenj Gradec for making this event possible within the framework of the *Days of India in Slovenia*. Slovenj Gradec, an international city of peace, is a most appropriate spot for the statue of the Indian freedom fighter Mahatma Gandhi to be placed.

When Gandhi was born on 2 October 1869 British rule had been established firmly in India. After the uprising of 1857, India had passed under British tutelage so effectively that her political subjection had been reinforced by intellectual and moral servility. When Gandhi was felled by an assassin's bullets on January 30, 1948 it was a sovereign and independent India that mourned his loss. Meanwhile, the disinherited and the disarmed had won a great battle by evolving a moral force which compelled the attention and the admiration of the world. The story of this transformation is also the story of Gandhi's life, for he, more than any other, was its architect. Ever since, his grateful countrymen call him the Father of the Nation.

Gandhi alone could not have wrought this miracle. Many remarkable predecessors and elder contemporaries such as Raja Rammohan Roy, Bankimchandra Chatterjee, Ramkrishna Paramhansa, Swami Vivekananda, Swami Dayananda Saraswati, Dadabhai Navroji, Badruddin Tyabji, Syed Ahmed Khan, Ranade, Gokhale, Tilak, Aurobindo Ghosh, Atulprasad Sen, Dwijendralal Roy and Rabindranath Tagore had created through their poetry, music and other writings a consciousness of India's destiny and helped to generate a spirit of sacrifice which, in Gandhi's hands, became the instruments of a vast political-cum-moral upheaval. But for Gandhi, India's political destiny would have been vastly different and her moral stature vastly inferior.

Gandhi was the servant and friend of man as an individual. He founded no church. Though he lived by faith he left behind no dogma. He gave no attributes to God save Truth and prescribed no path for attaining it except honest and relentless search through means that injure no living thing. His life was one continuous striving for such truth as can be realized in human relations. He ascended with each step no bigger than a man's, until he reached heights where he seemed more than a man. "Generations to come, it may be, will scarce believe", wrote Einstein, "that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth."

Today, on the 66th anniversary of the sad assassination of Mahatma Gandhi on 30 January 1948, we recall him and other numerous patriots of India who sacrificed their lives, liberty and happiness to liberate India from British colonial rule. We strive to recreate by this exhibition the milieu of his life and his philosophy, which gave not only the people of India hope and freedom but inspired movements for social and political freedom throughout the world. We remember Gandhi, whom an admiring Rabindranath Tagore termed the Mahatma or Great Spirit, not only as a patriot, politician and nation-builder of India but as a moral force, appealing to the conscience of humanity. Through Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela, Joan Baez and Miriam Makeba, Steve Biko and US President Barack Obama, from Sabarmati Ashram to Sao Paulo and Slovenj Gradec, Gandhi's message of non-violence, harmony, collective action and sustainable development has transcended his time and resonates among us today, guiding us towards greater peace, collective concern for the human race and ensuring the bright future of our planet.