

2007 GANDHI AWARD ESSAY ENTRIES

High School ...

First Prize

Octavia Nadirah Knight

Grade - 12

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Peace

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The essence needed to make the guns cease
 The word needed to urge people to release
 The fire of hatred inside to give us that...peace
 Young people steady thinking the world is so simple
 Walking through a life that's so dangerously eventful
 Vigilantes taking power into their own hands
 Trying to create a new justice with deadly plans
 Can no one remember the man of greatness?
 The man who made the world confess
 That justice could be obtained without creating the mess
 Of hate and violence
 And built the plan that has guided the world ever since
 He said, "Peace will not come out of a clash of arms..."
 This is what he convinced the swarms
 Of people who'd lost so much
 To death, poverty, and sorrowful things as such
 Making them lower their fire-arms
 As they pushed their hearts
 To go through a path of compassion
 So they could fashion
 Their confused passions
 Into loving incarnations
 Of peace, sincerity, and understanding
 He said, "...but of justice lived and done by unarmed nations..."
 Oh how our leader stood at such a difficult station
 To urge generations
 Of both the young and old
 As he tried to let it be known
 That we should all live at standards
 That place examples for our surrounding homes
 For everyone to live out the message they wanted released in a gentle tone
 He wanted to let people know they must live out peace
 Not simply talk about it over the phone
 And to let it be done without the need for guns
 Those machines that steadily kill our strong sons
 And make our daughters wail
 As the mothers and wives watch their men march to jail.
 He said, "...in the face of all odds."
 Let us show the world how peace can come from gentleness
 Not violence

Or any other kind of nonsense
No matter what situation our nation finds us in
Through happiness and sadness
Tears of joy and sighs of regretfulness
Let the words and memories of this man of honesty and sincerity
Shine through the clouds of hate like
The man who triumphed in India's independence
Follow the man himself...try to be...
Mahatma Gandhi.

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