

1  
We pass through this world but  
suec & obsequies you miss will  
never be available to you again.

## PUBLICITY GUIDELINES

2.  
Use your aims & objects in life & as a  
general rule, avoid as far as possible  
deviate from it.

# Nelson Mandela

The one understood principle very  
well

By Himself

early 50s  
4  
In 1954 already we invited all S.A.S  
to send the words for the Charter.  
We also invited leaders of all political  
parties of that day to join us in  
preparing for a Congress of the people.  
N.P. Liberal Party 5

# Mandela

THE AUTHORISED BOOK  
OF QUOTATIONS

A good pen can also remind us of the  
happiest moments in our lives, bring noble  
ideas into our dens, our blood and our souls.  
It can turn tragedy into hope and victory.

FROM A LETTER TO ZINDZI MANDELA, WRITTEN ON ROBBER ISLAND, 10 FEBRUARY 1980

# Contents

Publisher Contacts

About the book

Nelson Mandela with *Nelson Mandela By Himself* still images

Introduction from the book

Nelson Mandela biography and headshots

Editors' biography and headshot

Q&A with Sahn Venter and Sello Hatang

About the Nelson Mandela Foundation

Selected Quotes

Audio

About PQ Blackwell

# Publisher Contacts

---

For more information or to obtain material featured in *Nelson Mandela by Himself*, please contact the publisher in your country, or

South Africa (Macmillan)

Terry Morris

Tel: +27 11 731-3440

Email: [terry@panmacmillan.co.za](mailto:terry@panmacmillan.co.za)

United Kingdom (Macmillan)

John Butler

Tel: +20 7014 6179

Email: [j.butler@macmillan.co.uk](mailto:j.butler@macmillan.co.uk)

Rest of World:

Abby Aitcheson

PQ Blackwell Ltd

116 Symonds Street

Auckland, New Zealand

Tel: +64-9-300-9955

Email: [abby.aitcheson@pqblackwell.com](mailto:abby.aitcheson@pqblackwell.com)

Please note that any requests for interviews, images or material made to The Nelson Mandela Foundation will be automatically referred to PQ Blackwell.

# About the book

---

[137 words]

*The first wholly accurate and authorised record of Nelson Mandela's most inspiring and historically important quotations.*

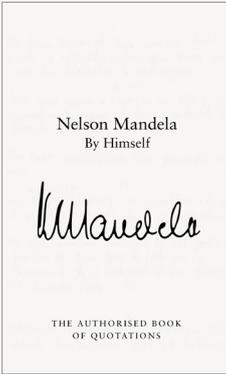
*Nelson Mandela By Himself* is the definitive book of quotations from one of the great leaders of our time. This collection – gathered from privileged authorised access to Mandela's vast personal archive of private papers, speeches, correspondence and audio recordings – features more than 2,000 quotations spanning over 60 years, many previously unpublished.

Mandela's inspirational quotations are organised into over 300 categories for easy reference, including such aspects as what defines greatness in 'Character', 'Courage' and 'Optimism', while we learn from the great man the essence of democracy, freedom and struggle in the categories 'Democracy', 'History', 'Racism', 'Reconciliation' and 'Unity'.

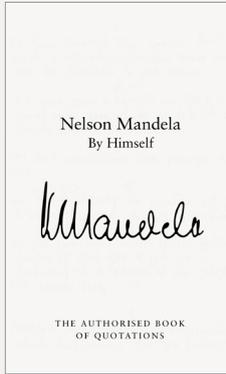
*Nelson Mandela By Himself* is the first, and only, authorised and authenticated collection of quotations by one of the world's most admired individuals.

# About the Book

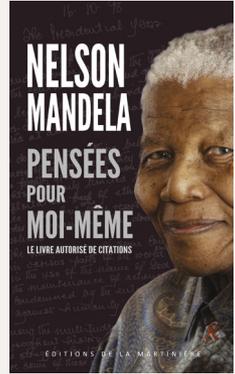
## Covers



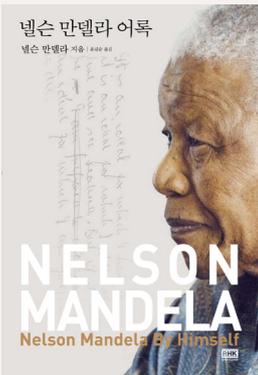
Macmillan  
South Africa/UK  
English



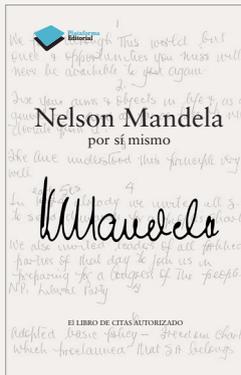
Penguin  
Australia/New Zealand  
English



Fejaune  
France  
French



Random House Korea  
Korea  
Korean



Plataforma Editorial  
Spain  
Spanish

# Nelson Mandela

with *Nelson Mandela By Himself* stills

Any use of publicity images below for *Nelson Mandela By Himself* must be accompanied by the following copyright line:

Photograph by Debbie Yazbek copyright © The Nelson Mandela Foundation.



Michelle Obama with the editors of *Nelson Mandela by Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations* Sello Hatang and Sahn Venter.



Michelle Obama with the editors of *Nelson Mandela by Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations* Sello Hatang and Sahn Venter.



Michelle Obama with the editors of *Nelson Mandela by Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations* Sello Hatang and Sahn Venter.



Michelle Obama with Nelson Mandela as he reads from his latest book, *Nelson Mandela by Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations*.



Michelle Obama and daughters Malia and Sasha with Nelson Mandela.

# Introduction from the book

---

[1,276 words]

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela is one of the most quoted – and misquoted – people in the world. This is ironic given that for much of his adult life he could not be quoted at all. In South Africa, quoting Mandela carried with it the threat of a criminal record and a possible prison sentence. Under the apartheid regime, people who were banned or imprisoned could not be quoted, and Mandela was successively banned from December 1952 and was in custody from 5 August 1962 until 11 February 1990.

Of course the words of an accused uttered in open court were exempt from this restriction, and the words he spoke at his October–November 1962 trial and his famous speech from the dock at the Rivonia Trial on 20 April 1964 were quoted in the media. Despite this exemption, people still feared quoting him. The final words in his four-and-a-half-hour-long speech at the Rivonia Trial have become the stuff of legend in the history of the struggle against apartheid:

*During my lifetime I have dedicated myself to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.*

These words characterise the essence of Mandela and his comrades' courage, commitment and leadership in the struggle to end apartheid.

In the quarter-century following the end of the trial on 12 June 1964, a silence born out of fear more or less hung over the name Nelson Mandela within South Africa. For decades it was uttered virtually only in secret or in defiance of the increasingly repressive tactics of the apartheid regime and its agents. Some of his words were smuggled out of prison and released by the African National Congress (ANC) in exile, but Mandela had effectively been silenced.

The silence was broken when, speaking from the balcony of the Cape Town City Hall on Sunday 11 February 1990, the newly released Mandela addressed a crowd of

thousands of supporters, who had gathered on the Grand Parade to hear his voice, and an audience of millions through television and radio:

*Friends, comrades and fellow South Africans, I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy and freedom for all. I stand here before you not as a prophet but as a humble servant of you, the people. Your tireless and heroic sacrifices have made it possible for me to be here today. I therefore place the remaining years of my life in your hands.*

This time the whole world heard and read his words and he continued to be widely quoted. His words were publicised internationally: during the period in which he was locked in negotiations alongside his comrades for an end to white minority rule; when he was campaigning for South Africa's first democratic vote; upon his election and inauguration as president; during his travels through South Africa, Africa and the world; when he was carrying out his charity work; and upon his various retirements. Even long after his official 'retirement from retirement' announcement on 1 June 2004, when he famously said, "Don't call me, I'll call you", we, at the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory, still process thousands of requests for the authentication of quotations.

We found that many of these, often lifted from websites purporting to contain accurate information about Mandela, were not correct. One of the main 'quotes' by which Mandela is misquoted contains, in actual fact, the words of American author Marianne Williamson from her book *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of a Course in Miracles*. She wrote: "Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure." This quote, and especially Williamson's closing words, "As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others", are often incorrectly credited to Mandela.

Our aim in producing this book, therefore, was firstly to provide an accurate and extensive resource for the public and secondly to document in one collection a significant range of Mandela's quotes. The result is a collection of more than sixty years of quotations. In editing this book we were struck as much by the gravitas of his words – expressed when he was facing the death sentence in 1964 and in struggles against apartheid – as by their simplicity.

We were moved by the way in which his words directly link to his values and principles and these are what make Nelson Mandela one of the most loved and admired individuals of the twenty-first century. He chooses his words deliberately, he means what he says and he wants his audience to easily grasp their meaning. As he said on 14 July 2000:

*It is never my custom to use words lightly. If twenty-seven years in prison have done anything to us, it was to use the silence of solitude to make us understand how precious words are and how real speech is in its impact on the way people live and die.*

His emphasis on the importance of connecting with an audience through the clarity of words is further demonstrated by this quote from a speech he delivered on 21 September 1953:

*Long speeches, the shaking of fists, the banging of tables and strongly worded resolutions out of touch with the objective conditions do not bring about mass action and can do a great deal of harm to the organisation and the struggle we serve.*

Of course Mandela is also well known for his sense of humour and his ability to find amusement in even the most challenging circumstances. Frequently during our research we came across him making very amusing remarks. In 2005 he explained the value he placed on humour:

*You sharpen your ideas by reducing yourself to the level of the people you are with, and a sense of humour and a complete relaxation, even when you're discussing serious things, does help to mobilise friends around you. And I love that.*

We have selected more than 2,000 quotations from many thousands more to create sixty-three years of thoughts and sentiments by Mandela. The quotations have been divided into 317 categories within which they appear in chronological order, providing an interesting insight into how his ideas evolved and in many cases remained the same. For example, the following quotations on the principle of non-racialism delivered in 1964 and 2005 respectively:

*We of the ANC had always stood for a non-racial democracy, and we shrank from any action which might drive the races further apart than they already were.*

and

*I hope that our movement will always hold that commitment to non-racialism dear in its thoughts, policies and actions. It is that commitment, even in circumstances where we could have been pardoned for deviating from it, that amongst other things earned us the respect of the world.*

Quotations have been selected from his speeches as far back as 1951, recorded interviews from before he was sent to prison, letters dating back to 1948, diary extracts including from his 1962 trip to Africa and the United Kingdom, as well as impromptu remarks, among others. We have, in the main, used full quotations and have provided citations in each case.

We can all honour Nelson Mandela by quoting him correctly and accurately and by recognising the contexts within which his words were uttered.

Sello Hatang and Sahn Venter

EDITORS ON BEHALF OF THE NELSON MANDELA FOUNDATION

MARCH 2011

# Biography

## Nelson Mandela

[157 words/109 words]

[Long]

Nelson Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa, on 18 July 1918. He joined the African National Congress in 1944 and was engaged in resistance against the ruling National Party's apartheid policies after 1948 before being arrested in August 1962. In November 1962 he was sentenced to five years in prison and started serving his sentence at Robben Island Prison in 1963 before being returned to Pretoria, where he was to later stand in the Rivonia Trial. From 1964 to 1982, he was again incarcerated at Robben Island Prison and then later moved to Pollsmoor Prison, during which his reputation as a potent symbol of resistance to the anti-apartheid movement grew steadily.

Released from prison in 1990, Mandela won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 and was inaugurated as the first democratically elected president of South Africa in 1994. On 5 December 2013 Nelson Mandela died in his home in Houghton, Johannesburg, at the age of ninety-five.

[Short]

Nelson Mandela was born in Transkei, South Africa, on 18 July 1918. He joined the African National Congress in 1944 and was engaged in resistance against the ruling National Party's apartheid policies for many years before being arrested in August 1962. Mandela was incarcerated for over twenty-seven years, during which his reputation as a potent symbol of resistance to the anti-apartheid movement grew steadily. Released from prison in 1990, Mandela won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 and was inaugurated as the first democratically elected president of South Africa in 1994. On 5 December 2013 Nelson Mandela died in his home in Houghton, Johannesburg, at the age of ninety-five.

# Headshot

Nelson Mandela

A headshot may be reproduced as black-and-white or colour, please specify when requesting images.

Note that any use must be accompanied by the following copyright notice:

Photograph by Andrew Zuckerman.

Copyright © The Nelson Mandela Foundation.



# Biographies

## Editors

Sahm Venter is Senior Researcher at the Nelson Mandela Foundation. She was a journalist for more than twenty years, working mainly for foreign media and international news agency The Associated Press as a correspondent and a Senior Producer for its television arm. The majority of her journalism career has focussed on covering the anti-apartheid struggle and South Africa's transition to democracy, and she counts as two career highlights being part of the media corps at Victor Verster Prison when Nelson Mandela was released on 11 February 1990, and returning with him to visit Robben Island. She serves on the board of Ahmed Kathrada Foundation. She was a member of the editorial team for Nelson Mandela's bestselling book *Conversations with Myself*, published in 2010

Sello Hatang is the CEO of the Nelson Mandela Foundation. Previously he was Head of Information Communications and spokesperson at the South African Human Rights Commission. He participated in the post-1994 transformation of the National Archives, including archival support for the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and is a former Director of the South African History Archive (SAHA). He serves on the boards of SAHA and the Open Democracy Advice Centre. He is a founding member and Advisory Council member of the Council for the Advancement of the South African Constitution (CASAC). He was a member of the editorial team for Nelson Mandela's bestselling book *Conversations with Myself*, published in 2010.

# Headshot

## Editors

A headshot may be reproduced as black-and-white or colour, please specify when requesting images.

Note that any use must be accompanied by the following copyright notice:

Copyright © The Nelson Mandela Foundation.



Sahm Venter and Sello Hatang



Sahm Venter and Sello Hatang

# Q&A

With Sahn Venter and Sello Hatang

*There has been a number of Nelson Mandela quotation books published. Why was there a need for this official book of quotations?*

We are constantly asked by members of the public from around the world to authenticate quotations which made us realise that a lot of material exists with either incorrect quotations or quotations that are not even by Nelson Mandela. We decided to provide a resource to assist people with such queries.

*Why now?*

We have been collecting quotations for a few years and after we had completed our work on Mandela's book *Conversations with Myself*, we had the time to compile the quotes into book form.

*Where were the quotes sourced from, and how have you been able to verify them?*

The quotes come from a very wide range of sources – letters from 1948, speeches from 1953, interviews from 1961, court testimony from 1962, conversations, notebooks and diaries. We consulted letters that were in Mandela's handwriting or had been signed by him and which were obviously his own words. Audio and video sources were also consulted.

*Did you come across material where the provenance and date were difficult to determine?*

We did occasionally come across such material which was mainly from video interviews which had been compiled in such a way that this information had been left omitted.

In such instances all efforts were made to source the detail, although we haven't always been successful.

*In the course of researching for the book, have you discovered anything about Nelson Mandela that you didn't already know?*

Rather than discovering new information about Mandela, our awareness deepened about how his principles and values remained consistent over the years; the simple way in which he communicates complex ideas was reinforced through our research; and of course his legendary sense of humour continues to surprise and inspire.

*Was it difficult to categorise and organise the material?*

The categories just seemed to grow and grow from what we initially expected. We had thought that we might be able to get away with a few broad categories but that was not to be. In the end we decided on more than 300 categories in order to help the reader locate specific quotations. Each category has been further organised chronologically from earliest to latest in an attempt to demonstrate any change in position.

*Is there something particular about the way Mandela writes, speaks and corresponds that demonstrates his qualities as an exceptional leader and man?*

Whether he was talking to ordinary people or presidents and royalty, he made each individual feel valued. He often highlights the importance of characteristics such as taking criticism and listening. We were struck as much by the gravitas of his words as by their simplicity.

*Is there any quote or quotes that speak to you as the most revealing of his character?*

“We pass through this world but once and the opportunities you miss will never be available to you again.” This cuts right through to his essence, a man who is wise and pragmatic and seemed to have lived his whole life by this maxim. If he had not seen the opportunities to fight apartheid he would not have become involved; if he had not seen the opportunity for the armed struggle he would not have faced the death sentence and ultimately been sentenced to life in prison. If he had not taken the opportunity he foresaw after South Africa’s then Minister of Justice visited him in hospital in November 1985, he would never have started talking to the apartheid regime about eventual negotiations with the African National Congress.

*What’s your favourite quote in the book and why?*

Sello Hatang: “It is never my custom to use words lightly. If twenty-seven years in prison have done anything to us, it was to use the silence of solitude to make us understand how precious words are and how real speech is in its impact on the way people live and die.” For me it’s a lesson in how we sometimes take words for granted. It teaches me to listen before I speak which is something I don’t do often enough.

Sahm Venter: “I believe in surrounding myself with strong characters who will tell me when I am wrong.” This quote speaks to Madiba’s insistence on listening to criticism. It’s a valuable lesson to all of us, particularly those in positions of power.

*Are there plans to expand, update and revise the material?*

We are planning an enhanced e-book which will contain audio and video of some of the quotes. We are also considering different editions of the print version. Whilst this collection of quotations is comprehensive, it is not exhaustive and as we continue to come across material we will certainly include it in future editions.

*Where are the royalties of this book going to?*

Royalties from sales of the book accrue to Nelson Mandela who has donated 40% to the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory in order for us to continue our work. Mandela launched the Centre of Memory as a non profit organisation in 2004 to conduct research, collect and make accessible information about his life and times. This book, as well as *Conversations with Myself* and *Nelson Mandela: The Authorised Comic Book* are examples of the work of the Centre of Memory.

# About The Nelson Mandela Foundation

---

[81 words]

The Nelson Mandela Foundation was founded by Nelson Mandela soon after he stepped down as President of South Africa in 1999. Its mission was to support his continuing work for a wide range of charitable causes. In 2006 the Foundation's Board of Trustees adopted a new vision for the organisation: the Foundation, through its Centre of Memory as its core work, contributes to the making of a just society by promoting the vision, values and work of its Founder and by convening dialogue around critical social issues. The Centre delivers to the world an integrated information resource on the life and times of Nelson Mandela and draws on this resource to provide a safe and non-partisan space for public discourse.

# Selected Quotes

---

Portions of this text may be reproduced for the purposes of review of *Nelson Mandela by Himself* without seeking further approval, and must be accompanied by the following copyright line:

Copyright © 2010 by Nelson R. Mandela and  
The Nelson Mandela Foundation

or

From *Nelson Mandela By Himself: The Authorised Book of Quotations*

## ON SPEAKING

Long speeches, the shaking of fists, the banging of tables and strongly worded resolutions out of touch with the objective conditions do not bring about mass action and can do a great deal of harm to the organisation and the struggle we serve.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS TO THE ANC TRANVAAL CONGRESS, ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'NO EASY WALK TO FREEDOM' SPEECH, TRANVAAL, SOUTH AFRICA, 21 SEPTEMBER 1953

## ON THE FUTURE

Many people in this country have paid the price before me and many will pay the price after me.

STATEMENT TO THE COURT AFTER BEING CONVICTED OF INCITING WORKERS TO STRIKE AND LEAVING THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY, OLD SYNAGOGUE, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA, NOVEMBER 1962

## ON THE LIBERATION MOVEMENT

If I had my time over I would do the same again. So would any man who dares call himself a man.

STATEMENT TO THE COURT AFTER BEING CONVICTED OF INCITING WORKERS TO STRIKE AND LEAVING THE COUNTRY ILLEGALLY, OLD SYNAGOGUE, PRETORIA, SOUTH AFRICA, NOVEMBER 1962

## ON CHALLENGES

Difficulties break some men but make others. No axe is sharp enough to cut the soul of a sinner who keeps on trying, one armed with the hope that he will rise even in the end.

FROM A LETTER TO WINNIE MANDELA, WRITTEN ON ROBBERN ISLAND, 1 FEBRUARY 1975

## ON FRIENDSHIP

I like friends who have independent minds because they tend to make you see problems from all angles.

FROM HIS UNPUBLISHED AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL MANUSCRIPT WRITTEN IN PRISON, 1976

## ON EQUALITY

I have never regarded any man as my superior, either in my life outside or inside prison.

FROM A LETTER TO GENERAL DU PREEZ, COMMISSIONER OF PRISONS, WRITTEN ON ROBBERN ISLAND, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 12 JULY 1976

## ON TIME

I never think of the time I have lost. I just carry out a programme because it's there. It's mapped out for me.

FROM A CONVERSATION WITH RICHARD STENDEL, 3 MAY 1993

## ON DEATH

Death is something inevitable. When a man has done what he considers to be his duty to his people and his country, he can rest in peace. I believe I have made that effort and that is, therefore, why I will sleep for the eternity.

FROM AN INTERVIEW FOR THE DOCUMENTARY *MANDELA*, 1994

## ON IDEOLOGY

I had no specific belief except that our cause was just, was very strong and it was winning more and more support.

ROBBEN ISLAND, CAPE TOWN, SOUTH AFRICA, 11 FEBRUARY 1994

## ON FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

A critical, independent and investigative press is the lifeblood of any democracy. The press must be free from state interference. It must have the economic strength to stand up to the blandishments of government officials. It must have sufficient independence from vested interests to be bold and inquiring without fear or favour. It must enjoy the protection of the constitution, so that it can protect our rights as citizens.

AT THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS INSTITUTE CONGRESS, 14 FEBRUARY 1994

## ON CHARACTER

It is in the character of growth that we should learn from both pleasant and unpleasant experiences.

FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS' ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL DINNER, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 21 NOVEMBER 1997

## ON LEADERSHIP

Real leaders must be ready to sacrifice all for the freedom of their people.

CHIEF ALBERT LUTHULI CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS, KWADUKUZA, KWAZULU-NATAL, 25 APRIL 1998, SOUTH AFRICA

## ON WORDS

It is never my custom to use words lightly. If twenty-seven years in prison have done anything to us, it was to use the silence of solitude to make us understand how precious words are and how real speech is in its impact on the way people live and die.

CLOSING ADDRESS 13TH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE, DURBAN, SOUTH AFRICA, 14 JULY 2000

## ON LIFE

What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others that will determine the significance of the life we lead.

90TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION OF WALTER SISULU, WALTER SISULU HALL, RANDBURG, JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA, 18 MAY 2002

## ON FREEDOM FIGHTERS

We tried in our simple way to lead our life in a manner that may make a difference to those of others.

UPON RECEIVING THE ROOSEVELT FREEDOM AWARD, 8 JUNE 2002

## ON INTEGRITY

Those who conduct themselves with morality, integrity and consistency need not fear the forces of inhumanity and cruelty.

AT THE BRITISH RED CROSS HUMANITY LECTURE, QUEEN ELIZABETH CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON, ENGLAND, 10 JULY 2003

## ON AIDS

When the history of our times is written, will we be remembered as the generation that turned our backs in a moment of global crisis or will it be recorded that we did the right thing?

46664 CONCERT, TROMSO, NORWAY, 11 JUNE 2005

## ON HUMOUR

You sharpen your ideas by reducing yourself to the level of the people you are with and a sense of humour and a complete relaxation, even when you're discussing serious things, does help to mobilise friends around you. And I love that.

FROM AN INTERVIEW WITH TIM COUZENS, VERNE HARRIS AND MAC MAHARAJ FOR *MANDELA: THE AUTHORISED PORTRAIT*, 2006, 13 AUGUST 2005

## ON SELFLESSNESS

A fundamental concern for others in our individual and community lives would go a long way in making the world the better place we so passionately dreamt of.

KLIPTOWN, SOWETO, SOUTH AFRICA, 12 JULY 2008

## ON DETERMINATION

Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do.

FROM A LETTER TO MAKHAYA NTINI ON HIS 100TH CRICKET TEST, 17 DECEMBER 2009

# Audio

## Conditions of use

Some of the quotes included in *Nelson Mandela By Himself* have been drawn from two major collections of recorded interviews with Mandela which were made in the course of producing his autobiography *Long Walk to Freedom* and Anthony Sampson's authorised biography, *Mandela: The Authorised Biography*, and donated to the Nelson Mandela Centre of Memory Archive by Ahmed Kathrada and Richard Stengel.

Selected audio clips from these interviews and other sources are available for media use for the purposes of promotion and review of *Nelson Mandela By Himself*. No fees will apply.

Copyright © 2010 by Nelson R. Mandela and The Nelson Mandela Foundation.  
Please contact PQ Blackwell to obtain audio files.

Abby Aitcheson  
PQ Blackwell Ltd  
116 Symonds Street  
Auckland, New Zealand  
Tel: +64-9-300-9955  
Email: [abby.aitcheson@pqblackwell.com](mailto:abby.aitcheson@pqblackwell.com)

# Audio

## Transcripts

When people are determined they can overcome anything.

*From a conversation with Morgan Freeman, Johannesburg, South Africa, 14 November 2006*

[Duration: 0:05 sec]

I approach every problem with optimism.

*At home, Soweto, South Africa, 14 February 1990*

[Duration: 0:05 sec]

I can't remember losing my sense of control; after all, in that situation you can only survive if you keep calm and cool.

*At home, Soweto, South Africa, 14 February 1990*

[Duration: 0:18 sec]

It was difficult to concentrate on the negative aspect of your life. The important thing is that I was in the company of men of great experience and great talent.

*Revisiting Robben Island, Cape Town, South Africa, 11 February 1994*

[Duration: 0:17 sec]

I am committed to ensuring that the president of a country like ours must not live in a style which is totally different from that of the masses of the people who put him in power.

*From an interview with Tom Cohen and Sahn Venter for the Associated Press, Tuynbuys, Cape Town, South Africa, 22 September 1994*

[Duration: 0:16 sec]

South Africa is a country of many races. There is room for all the various races in this country.

*From an interview with Brian Widlake for ITN Television (UK), Johannesburg, South Africa, 31 May 1961*

[Duration: 0:07 sec]

During my lifetime I have dedicated my life to this struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal for which I hope to live for and to achieve. But, my Lord, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die.

*Speech from the dock, Rivonia Trial, Palace of Justice, Pretoria, South Africa, 20 April 1964*

[Duration: 1:26 sec]

I can only say that I felt morally obliged to do what I did.

[Duration: 0:11 sec]

It is useless and futile for us to continue talking peace and non-violence against a government whose reply is only savage attacks on an unarmed and defenceless people and I think the time has come for us to consider, in the light of our experiences in this stay-at-home, whether the methods which we have applied so far are adequate.

*From an interview with Brian Widlake for ITN Television (UK), Johannesburg, South Africa, 31 May 1961*

[Duration: 0:14 sec]

There's nothing as bad as a leader making a demand which you know can never succeed.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, circa December 1992*

[Duration: 0:08 sec]

People will feel I see too much good in people. So it's a criticism I have to put up with and I've tried to adjust to because, whether it is so or not, it is something which I think is profitable.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 29 December 1992*

[Duration: 0:20 sec]

I accepted that if you have a problem, you must face it and not gloss over it.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 29 December 1992*

[Duration: 0:21 sec]

Success in politics demands that you must take your people into confidence about your views and state them very clearly, very politely, very calmly, but nevertheless state them openly.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 29 April 1993*

[Duration: 0:21 sec]

A common touch is of immense advantage, especially on the part of a head of state.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 2 February 1993*

[Duration: 0:09 sec]

The masses like to see somebody who is responsible and who speaks in a responsible manner. They like that, and so I avoid rabble-rousing speeches.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 3 February 1993*

[Duration: 0:21 sec]

A softer approach, especially when you are confident of a case, brings about results far more than aggression.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 8 February 1993*

[Duration: 0:09 sec]

We are fighting for a society where people will cease thinking in terms of colour.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 8 March 1993*

[Duration: 0:06 sec]

I didn't want to be presented in a way that omits the dark spots in my life.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 16 March 1993*

[Duration: 0:12 sec]

Once you have rid yourself of the fear of the oppressor and his prisons, his police, his army, there is nothing that they can do. You are liberated.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 9 March 1993*

[Duration: 0:14 sec]

I don't think I was fundamentally different from what I was before I went to jail, except that in jail I had a lot of time to think about problems and to see the mistakes that we had committed. I came out mature.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, circa March 1993*

[Duration: 0:19 sec]

Prison – far from breaking our spirits – made us more determined to continue with this battle until victory was won.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 10 March 1993*

[Duration: 0:11 sec]

When you are a public figure, you have to accept the integrity of other people until there is evidence to the contrary.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 3 May 1993*

[Duration: 0:08 sec]

Well, it would be an exaggeration to say I never become depressed. Many people, of course, may not discover that.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, circa April or May 1993*

[Duration: 0:09 sec]

At the beginning of the year, I used to take resolutions that this is what I would do, then I find that I can't even stick to that resolution for two days.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 3 May 1993*

[Duration: 0:08 sec]

I never think of the time I have lost. I just carry out a programme because it's there. It's mapped out for me.

*From a conversation with Richard Stengel, 3 May 1993*

[Duration: 0:07 sec]

# About PQ Blackwell

---

PQ Blackwell is an acclaimed creator and publisher of internationally bestselling illustrated books. Distinguished by their editorial excellence, design and production quality, PQ Blackwell's award-winning books are highly sought-after by many of the world's foremost illustrated book publishers and are marketed in over 35 countries. PQ Blackwell's co-publishing and licensing partners include Hachette Livre, Chronicle Books, Farrar Straus & Giroux, Macmillan, Harry N. Abrams, HarperCollins and the La Martinière group of companies, among others.

PQ Blackwell collaborates with some of the world's leading photographers and individuals, including international luminaries Nelson Mandela, Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Aung San Suu Kyi, and eminent photographers Albert Watson, Andrew Zuckerman, Tim Flach, Ron von Dongen, Mark Laita, Rachael Hale McKenna and *New Yorker* photographer Platon. Its projects include the *New York Times* bestseller *Conversations with Myself* by Nelson Mandela featuring a foreword by Barack Obama and published in 28 languages; *The Birth of the 787 Dreamliner*, produced in collaboration with Boeing; and *M.I.L.K.: Moments of Intimacy, Laughter and Kinship* – a collection of images founded on humanity that has been exhibited at venues around the world, including New York's Grand Central Terminal, the Sydney Opera House and London's Science Museum, the associated books of which have sold three million copies in more than ten languages.

[211 words]



PQ Blackwell

PQ Blackwell Ltd  
116 Symonds Street, Auckland, New Zealand  
Tel: +64 9 300 9955  
Email: [contact@pqblackwell.com](mailto:contact@pqblackwell.com)  
Web: [www.pqblackwell.com](http://www.pqblackwell.com)

1

We pass through this world but  
once & opportunities you miss will  
never be available to you again.