

Topic - An Analysis of Mahatma Gandhi's: The Story of My Experiments with Truth

⇒ "The Story of My Experiments with Truth" is one of the greatest autobiographies of the world. It is as great as Rousseau's Confessions, Helen Keller's The Story of My Life.

⇒ An Autobiography: - An Autobiography is a personal revelation. It is a self-portrait of the author. It may be called a narrative of the author's life. Thus, the aim of autobiography has been to give truth about oneself. It may also reveal one's outlook towards the worldly affairs.

⇒ The revelation of truth has been Gandhiji's main aim in writing his autobiography. To him truth was God and he devoted his entire life to the realization of truth. The narration of his experiences and experiments with truth at the moral and spiritual enrichment of the readers of his autobiography.

⇒ Gandhiji himself writes explaining the purpose of his writing,

"It is not my purpose to attempt a real autobiography. I simply want to tell the story of my experiments with truth. I believe that all these experiments will not be without benefit to the readers"

This autobiography has a deep educative and didactic purpose. It was written as a means of education and reform.

⇒ This autobiography covering his life from early childhood through to 1921. It was written in weekly instalments and published in his journal, Navjivan from 1925 to 1929.

⇒ Mahadev Desai translated the book from Gujarati to English in 1940. In his preface, Desai notes that the book was originally published in two volumes, the first in 1927 and second in 1929.

⇒ An autobiography is divided into five parts. The first part of an autobiography begins with Gandhiji's birth and parentage and ends with his return after studies from England in 1891. In short, in this part Gandhiji describes his childhood, his shyness, love for truth, his early child marriage, etc.

⇒ The second part of an autobiography relates to a year's stay in India and the first South African phase till 1896. The third part of an autobiography deals with his stay in Durban and the Bombay Interlude till 1902. The second and the third part deal with his experiences in South Africa.

⇒ In these two parts we find the future Mahatma in outline. About this phase of his life Gandhiji says;

"Thus God laid the foundations of my life in South Africa and showed the seed of the fight for national self-respect".

When Gandhiji left South Africa and returned to India, he was known as a holy man and people called him a "Mahatma" or "great soul".