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সৰ্বশিক্ষা অভিযান, অসম
সকলোৱে পঢ়ো সকলোৱে আগবাঢ়ো

CLASS - X

ENGLISH

First Flight

CHAPTER - 2

NELSON MANDELA
LONG WALK TO FREEDOM

Part – 4

Desire for Freedom

Nipa Das

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In life, every man has twin obligations –

obligations to his family, to his parents, to his wife and children; and he has an obligation to his people, his community, his country.

Obligations : দায়িত্ব

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In a civil and humane society, each man is able to fulfil those obligations according to his own inclinations and abilities. But in a country like South Africa, it was almost impossible for a man of my birth and colour to fulfil both of those obligations.

Inclinations : প্ৰৱণতা

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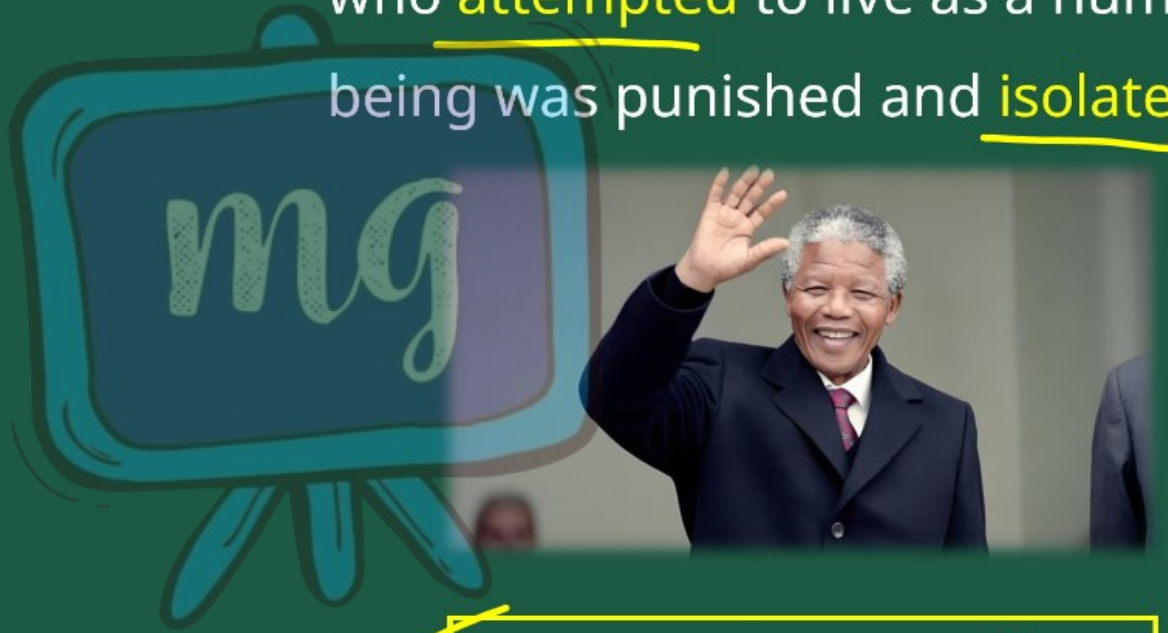
In South Africa, a man of colour who attempted to live as a human being was punished and isolated.



Attempted	:	প্ৰচেষ্টা
Isolated	:	পৃথক

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In South Africa, a man who tried to fulfil his duty to his people was inevitably ripped from his family and his home and was forced to live a life apart, a twilight existence of secrecy and rebellion.

Inevitably	:	অৱশ্যেই
Ripped	:	পৃথক

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I did not in the beginning choose to place my people above my family, but in attempting to serve my people, I found that I was prevented from fulfilling my obligations as a son, a brother, a father and a husband.

Prevented : প্ৰতিৰোধ কৰা

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I was not born with a hunger to be free. I was born free - free in every way that I could know. Free to run in the fields near my mother's hut, free to swim in the clear stream that ran through my village, free to roast mealies under the stars and ride the broad backs of slow-moving bulls.

Mealies : মাকৈ



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As long as I obeyed my father and abided by the customs of my tribe, I was not troubled by the laws of man or God. It was only when I began to learn that my boyhood freedom was an illusion, when I discovered as a young man that my freedom had already been taken from me, that I began to hunger for it.

Abided : মানি চলা Illusion : ভ্রম

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At first, as a student, I wanted freedom only for myself, the transitory freedoms of being able to stay out at night, read what I pleased and go where I chose. Later, as a young man in Johannesburg, I yearned for the basic and honourable freedoms of achieving my potential,

Transitory : অস্থায়ী
Potential : সক্ষমতা

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of earning my keep, of marrying and having a family - the freedom not to be obstructed in a lawful life. But then I slowly saw that not only was I not free, but my brothers and sisters were not free.

Obstructed : বাধা দিয়া

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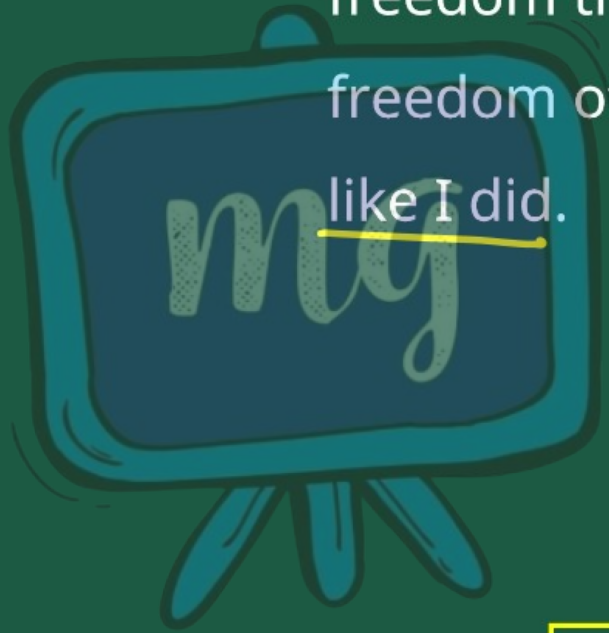
I saw that it was not just my freedom that was curtailed, but the freedom of everyone who looked like I did.



Curtailed : হ্ৰাস কৰা

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That is when I joined the African National Congress, and that is when the hunger for my own freedom became the greater hunger for the freedom of my people. It was this desire for the freedom of my people to live their lives with dignity and self respect that animated my life,

Animated : আকৰ্ষণীয় কৰি তোলা

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that transformed a frightened young man into a bold one, that drove a law-abiding attorney to become a criminal, that turned a family-loving husband into a man without a home,



- Transformed : ৰূপান্তৰ কৰা
- Frightened : ভয় খোৱা

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that forced a life-loving man to live like a monk.

I am no more virtuous or self-sacrificing than the next man, but I found that I could not even enjoy the poor and limited freedoms I was allowed when I knew my people were not free.

Monk : সন্ন্যাসী

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Freedom is indivisible; the chains on anyone of my people were the chains on all of them, the chains on all of my people were the chains on me.

I knew that the oppressor must be liberated just as surely as the oppressed.

Indivisible : অবিভাজ্য

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A man who takes away another man's freedom is a prisoner of hatred; he is locked behind the bars of prejudice and narrow - mindedness.

Prejudice: পক্ষপাত

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I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom, just as surely as I am not free when my freedom is taken from me. The oppressed and the oppressor alike are robbed of their humanity.

Robbed of : কাঢ়ি লোৱা

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ASSESSMENT

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1 What are the twin obligations mentioned in the passage ?

- A Obligations to friends and colleagues
- B Obligations to family and community
- C Obligations to oneself and society
- D Obligations to government and religion

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2 What organization did the speaker join to fight for freedom?

- A United Nations
- B African National Congress
- C Amnesty International
- D Greenpeace

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3 According to the speaker, what is the essence of freedom ?

A Serving one's own interests

B Living without laws

C Living with dignity and self-respect

D Being above others