

Gandhi's Talisman

I will give you a talisman.
Whenever you are in doubt, or when the self becomes too much with you, apply the following test. Recall the face of the poorest and the weakest man whom you may have seen, and ask yourself, if the step you contemplate is going to be of any use to him. Will he gain anything by it? Will it restore him to a control over his own life and destiny? In other words, will it lead to *Swaraj* for the hungry and spiritually starving millions?

Then you will find your doubt and your self melting away.

- Mohandas K. Gandhi

One of the last notes penned and signed by Gandhi. Found among his papers after his assassination on January 30, 1948.

Swaraj was defined by Gandhi as: "Real swaraj [freedom] is self-rule or self-control... The way to it is satyagraha: the power of truth and love."