

# NELSON MANDELA

1918-2013



“President Mandela’s heart is like a huge, spreading tree  
protecting all his brothers and sisters.  
President Mandela’s heart embraces each and every human life.”

**Selected Tributes by Sri Chinmoy**



President Mandela and Sri Chinmoy at the headquarters of the African National Congress in Johannesburg, South Africa, on 29 January 1996.

*Lyrics of song written by Sri Chinmoy and presented to President Mandela in 1990:*

Nelson Mandela, torture-sufferer supreme,  
High Heaven's Smile and earth's solace-dream.  
Your heart has won the world's admiration-choice.  
Within, without, a perfect justice-voice.

*Immortal utterances of President Mandela set to music by Sri Chinmoy:*

"You must vow to turn misfortunes into victory."  
"Any man that tries to rob me of my dignity will lose."  
"I am not truly free if I am taking away someone else's freedom."  
"I dare not linger, for my long walk is not yet ended."



**In New York on 20 September 1998, President Mandela, First Lady Graça Machel and Sri Chinmoy share their delight.**

*Song by Sri Chinmoy dedicated to President Nelson Mandela, whose autobiography is entitled Long Walk to Freedom:*

Long walk to freedom, long walk to freedom  
To be a child of oneness-kingdom.  
Long walk to freedom, long, long, long:  
Our proudest victory's sweetest song.

*Song written by Sri Chinmoy addressing President Mandela by his reverential name, Madiba:*

Madiba, Madiba, Madiba!  
You are our Father, you are our Brother, truly you are our All.  
Madiba, Madiba, Madiba!  
You have made our hearts, you have made our lives very rich, very tall.  
Madiba, Madiba, Madiba!  
We are your dreams, we are your smiles, we are your clarion-call.

SRI CHINMOY (1931-2007) FIRST MET PRESIDENT NELSON MANDELA at the United Nations on 22 June 1990, in the context of Sri Chinmoy's service as leader of Peace Meditations for delegates and staff at UN Headquarters. The two met again on several occasions, in South Africa and in New York. Sri Chinmoy treasured President Mandela as a beloved brother, a revered friend and an inspiration-fountain for humanity. He wrote a book of soulful poetic tributes to the President entitled *Nelson Mandela: The Pinnacle-Pillar of Mother Earth*, and composed a number of songs in the President's honour. Sri Chinmoy's students had the privilege of performing these songs for President Mandela.

Sri Chinmoy gratefully and lovingly offered to President Mandela both the U Thant Peace Award (29 January 1996, Johannesburg) and the Lifting Up the World With a Oneness-Heart Award (9 March 1999, Pretoria).

**Cover photograph: At his Peace Concert dedicated to President Nelson Mandela in New York on 16 October 1998, Sri Chinmoy offers his devoted salutation to the President. Guest of honour at the concert was Mr. Jacob Zuma, then Deputy President of the African National Congress and Minister of Economic Affairs and Tourism for KwaZulu-Natal, and now President of the Republic of South Africa.**





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