

STUDY MATERIAL - 09

‘THE STORY OF MY EXPERIMENTS WITH TRUTH’: PART 5- SUMMARY (contd...)

Part 5, Chapter 19

When a Governor Is Good

- The government asks Gandhi to leave. He refuses and recommends the government make amends to the tenants.
- The lieutenant governor agrees to form his own inquiry, with Gandhi on the committee.
- This inquiry finds in favour of the tenants, and the *tinkathia* system that has been in place for a century is abolished.
- Score another win for the Gandhinator.

Part 5, Chapter 20

In Touch with Labour

- Gandhi leads a strike of mill-hands in Ahmedabad who are seeking higher wages.
- It goes on for 21 days, and Gandhi reminds the strikers of their duty to maintain peace.

Part 5, Chapter 21

A Peep into the Ashram

- Gandhi's ashram moves to a new spot of land. The ground is infested with venomous snakes, and Gandhi discusses his community's practice of not killing them, despite the danger they pose to children.
- He says God has protected them from the snakes.

Part 5, Chapter 22

The Fast

- The strike is ongoing. The mill-hands are becoming more menacing, and Gandhi fears they'll go back on their pledge to remain peaceful.
- So, he decides to fast (i.e., go on a hunger strike) until the mill-owners settle with the strikers. They do settle. Ta-da!

Part 5, Chapter 23

The Kheda Satyagraha

- Cultivators in Kheda wish not to pay the yearly revenue assessment because of a widespread failure of the crops.
- The government isn't in any mood to listen, so Gandhi advises the cultivators to undertake Satyagraha.
- They refuse to pay the assessment.

Part 5, Chapter 24

"The Onion Thief"

- The battle continues. The authorities begin to take the people's possessions since they won't pay the assessment.
- The officers also attach standing crops to their land.
- Gandhi suggests that the tenants remove the crop of onion that the officials had wrongly attached.
- Several of them do and are arrested for it.
- Gandhi says since the people are no longer afraid of jail, this repression actually inspires them.

Part 5, Chapter 25

End of Kheda Satyagraha

- The government orders that the poor don't have to pay the assessment.
- Gandhi feels victory is limited, however, because the people can't determine who qualifies as poor, and the collector doesn't change his ways.
- But, at least, Gandhi says, the people have learned about Satyagraha.

Part 5, Chapter 26

Passion for Unity

- Gandhi takes up an invitation to meet with the British government about the war. He also works to secure the release of the Ali Brothers (Muslim leaders) from jail.

Part 5, Chapter 27

Recruiting Campaign

- Mr. G. recruits Indians for the war effort, a surprising move for someone as non-violent as he is. He writes a letter to the viceroy in which he states that participation in the war must give Indians the right to home rule.

Part 5, Chapter 28

Near Death's Door

- An attack of dysentery nearly kills Gandhi.
- Once more, he sticks to his diet.
- A strange doctor, Sjt. Kelkar, whom Gandhi affectionately calls a crank and "Ice Doctor," comes and applies ice to Mr. G's body.
- He's unsure if it actually helps, but it gives his mind the energy to resume eating.

Part 5, Chapter 29

The Rowlatt Bills and My Dilemma

- Whoa, now a doctor talks Gandhi into drinking goat's milk.
- Our hero says that while this meets the letter of his vow—which was against cow's and buffalo's milk—it violates the vow's spirit.
- He says his desire to live and take up the Satyagraha fight proved stronger than his devotion to truth. Describing this, he's pretty distraught.
- The Rowlatt Committee makes recommendations that Gandhi determines would be against the self-respect of the people to accept (he doesn't describe them).
- So, they take up Satyagraha.

Part 5, Chapter 30

That Wonderful Spectacle!

- The government intends to pass legislation based on the Rowlatt Committee's recommendations but hasn't yet.
- So, Gandhi thinks, "Hmm, how do we disobey a law that hasn't yet been passed?"
- He comes up with the idea that all India should observe a day of fasting and prayer.
- Gandhi puts out the call, and people respond positively.
- The day of fasting and prayer is observed.
