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Today when the culture of violence has deeply impregnated society at all levels, to revindicate Mahatma Gandhi's message of non-violence takes courage. But, perhaps, less than the courage he himself showed throughout his entire life and that earned him a reputation as a man with an overwhelming degree of humanity, candour and goodness.

Gandhi said that violence could only be effectively met by non-violence, since non-violence is the greatest force at the disposal of mankind and mightier than the mightiest weapon of destruction devised by man's ingenuity. Violence, he suggested, when it appeared to do good, had only a temporary effect while the evil it did was permanent. And he contended that "an eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind". Yet,



he also taught people never to bow to anyone, even at the cost of their lives.

And he trusted in humankind's best qualities saying that "all through history

the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall."

"You must not lose faith in humanity", he also said. "Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty".

His death came while he was going to pray with scores of his followers. As this Pakistani newspaper reported: "A man probably between 30 and 35 in a khaki tunic, who was in the congregation, fired four shots from a revolver at a range of about two yards as Mahatma Gandhi was approaching". He was shot in the chest and immediately collapsed. He died half an hour later.

As the editorial in "Dawn" said: "Thus has fallen one of the world's greatest men—a martyr to his convictions. Thus has ended the life of the greatest Hindu of modern times – at the point of a Hindu's revolver". But Gandhi's message had to live on.