

**ODE TO MADIBA**  
*POEM BY HLENGIWE MOYO*

Iqhawwe emaqhaweni (*a hero amongst heroes*)

Indoda emadodeni (*a man amongst men*)

Ubaba wesize (*a father of a nation*)

Ntata Mandela you are our African pride

Though you are no longer with us, the strong pulse of your passion beats in our hearts like the thuds of an echoing African drum

Your love for your ethnicity came with an undoubted authenticity yet you so implicitly loved all humanity

You were not just South Africa's greatest son, you were a worldwide symbol of reconciliation

Our hearts are filled with adoration, in the celebration on the life of a leader of a rising nation

Though your fight was to be physically emancipated, your heart was already liberated

Though outwardly oppressed, you fought to express the freedom that you inwardly possessed

You were a man clothed with tenacity

Branched with dignity

A man of great integrity

Draped with a sense of security

Though 6 foot tall, you were a giant-tenacious, courageous, audacious

Indoda elesibindi (*a daring man*)

Your liberated mind allowed great foresight

You saw beyond past pains and present problems, into a future with freedom, fruitfulness and fairness

Fiery eyed with a rose coloured heart

A strong visionary embodied with meekness

Your humility was not a sign of weakness

But of a strength that could only be projected through kindness

Through selflessness, through soundmindedness

The sound of your voice still reverberates in our minds as we reminisce on the inspired words of a dedicated activist

Freedom- an ideal for which you were prepared to die became a reality in which you lived

Madiba, mighty man of valour

A great leader

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You were called a peacemaker  
In our eyes, you were a giant slayer  
As you rose up against the giant of oppression, segregation  
You stood up against the beast of apartheid, the appetite for imperialism and antagonism  
An advocate for peace and forgiveness  
A humanitarian who preached fairness  
Dare I say, a Hero  
A father-figure founded in fertile fields of Africa  
The motherland prides herself for birthing a man of such virtuous stature  
A liberator  
Today we stand in pride of who we are  
You fought hard for our future  
Through reconciliation came education  
Today we are an empowered generation  
Having occupations that used to be an unconceivable dream  
Jobs, homes, health-all within our conceivable reach  
We are no longer bound by the stronghold of inferiority  
We are not held by the chains of incapacity  
We now stand on towers of possibility  
With that, we miss you incredibly  
You fulfilled your purpose  
Siziduduza ngenyembezi  
Sizikhohlisa ngemiculo  
Our tears console us  
Our music inspires us  
Siyakubongela tata (*we are grateful for you*)  
Lala ngokuthula baba (*rest in peace*)  
We are grateful for your service  
Rest in peace baba Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela