



Gandhi Katha (Story of Gandhi)



(Celebrating 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi)

**Kathavachaka (Narrator)
Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna**



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Introduction

In most of the ancient civilizations, the entirety of knowledge has been passed down to generations by oral tradition. In India, it is called as the 'Katha Parampara.' Katha is an Indian oral tradition and is very popular in religious storytelling, performances of which are a ritual event in Hinduism. It often involves professional storytellers (Kathavahchak or Vyas) who recite Hindu sacred texts, such as the Puranas, the Ramayana or the Bhagavata Purana, followed by a Pravachan (commentary)

Based on the popularity of the oral narrative of the tradition of Katha in India, Gandhi Katha has Kathavachan by the Vyas with hymns and songs to reinforce the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi.



The online Gandhi Katha in Kazakhstan on 23 June 2020 will focus on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, his ethical leadership, moral life, his unique practices, the environmental credo and his visit to Europe. During the Global Coronavirus COVID-19 Pandemic, we can learn from Mahatma Gandhi's contribution to public health, his practices of preventive health care, wellness of Body, Mind and Spirit for coping up and staying safe physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually.

Gandhi Katha draws from the timeless wisdom and the sublime truths of the 'Upanisads' (scriptures) and presents them as a practical technique of living becoming a source of inspiration to generations of people seeking perfection. Gandhi Katha enables people to put their hearts into understanding Mahatma Gandhi and get inspired to 'Be the change you want to see in the world.' With its help, people have achieved excellence in every field of endeavor.

Mahatma Gandhi is the most well-known Indian in the world. He lived according to the messages of Bhagawad Gita -selflessly without attachment and possession in the spirit of *Yagnya*. Gandhiji followed the voice of the *Antararatma* that guided him throughout his life. He felt absolute oneness (*samatva*) with everyone following the higher precept of '*Vasudhaika Kutubakam*'. Gandhiji envisioned a world that would evolve towards peace and harmony-a world where different religions, cultures, and peoples of the world would live together with mutual respect and tolerance, rather than in suspicion and hatred. Mahatma Gandhi's thought and principles on ethics, values, spirituality is a guide for self-management and can guide the people in any part of the world as it has the strength to inspire and bring about change.

Gandhi Katha is the most enchanting and comprehensive exposition on how an ordinary mortal can rise above petty, personal preoccupations to become the extraordinary immortal Spirit in the service of the Humankind. The Katha has generated deep interest worldwide.



Kathavachaka

Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna was born and brought up in Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram in Sevagram near Wardha in Maharashtra. She has cultivated a strong ideological connect with Mahatma Gandhi's ideals since childhood. Since the past two decade, she has attempted different ways of spreading Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy to people in India and abroad by giving lectures, workshops and Gandhi Katha.

Radhakrishna has travelled to 42 countries and presented 182 lectures and Gandhi Katha. During the commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi starting from October 2018, she has visited Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Vietnam, Egypt, Turkey, Bahrain, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, Uzbekistan, Russia, Finland, Norway, Estonia, UK, France, Indonesia, Singapore, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Slovenia, Maldives, Sri Lanka and presented lectures and Gandhi Katha in Indian Missions, cultural centers, Universities and local organizations. She has given the Gandhi Katha in the Upa Rashtrapati Nivas, Raj Bhavans in Chennai, Port Blair, Kohima, Patna, Delhi, Goa, Agartala, Shimla, in Bharat Bhavan Bhopal, Gandhi Bhavan Jodhpur, Gandhi Darshan Rajghat, and other places.

Radhakrishna's lectures and Gandhi Katha is well-received by the people. To some, she tells about Mahatma Gandhi's role as a social activist, political organizer, transformational leader, freedom fighter, religious thinker, educationist, economist, visionary and journalist and a prolific writer, to others about his legacy of nonviolent resistance, interfaith dialogues for resolving conflicts nonviolently, his environmental credo, moral and ethical life, transparency, openness, sense of humor and objectivity. To the corporate and business leaders, Radhakrishna talks about ethical governance, Gandhian economics of Trusteeship and traits of transformational leadership.

An audiovisual presentation takes place along with the Katha. The duration of the Gandhi Katha is 60 minutes in Hindi and English along with hymns and songs.

During Katha the technical support and presentation will be done by Dr Ravi Chopra and the musical imputes by renowned singers, Smt Swati Bhagat and Shri Deepak Kalra. Gandhi Katha is contextual and focuses on the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi, his life of truth and nonviolence life in his voluntary self-control in the service of humanity. Mahatma Gandhi's practical actions are all the more needed in these times to remain positive and empower people to make positive life changes in the pursuit of serving humanity for which Mahatma Gandhi stands as the role model for all times!

