

**A LIFE WITHOUT MADIBA**

**By Dr. Desan Iyer**

Who will forget those steps to freedom, splendid in your grey suit and clean shaven;  
Your fist raised triumphantly as supporters ecstatically created a protective haven;  
The sun shining brightly as you smiled politely, magically emerging from this dark hole;  
Twenty seven years and counting but time standing still, your nemeses failing to rob you of your  
mythic soul.

No one knew or had any clue of the type of leader that you would one day be;  
But even through your invisibility your greatness was still there for all to see.  
The nation cried and rejoiced as you walked with glee;  
The father of the nation eventually set free.

The pain, the torture, the tears and fears, all symbolic of your fight to unite.  
You did not pick and choose when you adopted a nation;  
The colours of the rainbow truly reflective of your fight against domination.

You stood for integrity – a champion for those living in poverty;  
And those seeking equal opportunity;  
Who can forget your role in dismantling the legacy of apartheid?  
Steering us from minority rule to multicultural democracy.

You left us with memories that we will never forget.  
Your famous words, “retiring from retirement” fittingly uttered without regret.

Your warmth, your smile, your kindness – humble memories of your splendiddness,  
It's time to revere your greatness as we banish our country's past negative status.

You treated us all with love, tender and grace;

It's only fitting that we remember the smile and glow in your face.

In our eyes -a revolutionary politician, a philanthropist, an African nationalist

And democratic socialist, but in your eyes an ordinary man who became a leader in extraordinary  
circumstances.

You've reach the end of your long walk to freedom as you rest in his arms now;

So who are we to judge and decide otherwise as you leave this world at the ripe old age of  
ninety-five.

In times of need you held our hands, now it is time for us as a nation to join our hands and try to  
understand.

How long to heal no one knows;

But the longing in us to say goodbye forever within us grows.

We have to let go, your face etched in our minds, the dark wintry past forever left behind.

It's time to reminisce and let go of the negative past; this cloud within us, grey and dark, slowly  
dissipating into the horizon hoping never to come back.

The dawn of a new era –we cannot forget our father Madiba;

It's time to celebrate your life and strive for a better life without our beloved Tata Madiba.

Your teachings will remain embedded in our souls, your history sketched in our scrolls, but as we climb out of this dark hole, it is time to bid farewell to you – Madiba, as you close your eyes to rest in nature's strong hold.

**Bio:**

Dr Desan Iyer is an attorney of the High Court of South Africa and the Senior lecturer at the Law Department, University of Zululand. He teaches law modules to law students at the UZ and Richardsbay Campus in KwaZulu- Natal, South Africa. He has completed master's degree and doctorate in legal studies. He has published law articles in South African and International Journals. He loves writing legal articles as well as poetry.