

August 15th, 1997

50th Anniversary of India's Independence

Excerpts from the book “Bapu’s Letters to Mira”, which is a compilation of letters of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi – Bapu, to his British-born daughter Mira. The book has a preface written by Mira.

Reading of Excerpts by:

Anupam Goyal

Read at:

The University of Arizona, Tucson, Arizona

At an event organized by:

India Society of Southern Arizona

I would like to read a letter written by father of the nation, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, first by a **quote from Mira**, to whom this letter is written.

“The treasure of spiritual thought and guidance which they contain, though addressed only to one, must be available to all.”

These reflect “not the grand and dramatic outer life seen by all, but the inner personal life which ran its balanced, even course of spiritual search”.

These are the comments of Gandhiji to Mira regarding his prayer to mother earth.

“Bowing to the earth we learn or ought to learn to be humble even as the earth is humble. She supports the beings that tread upon her. She is therefore rightly the consort of Vishnu. This conception, in my opinion, does no violence to truth. On the contrary, it is beautiful and is wholly consistent with the idea that God is everywhere. There is nothing inanimate for Him. We are of the earth earthy. If earth is not, we are not. I feel nearer God by feeling Him through the Earth. In bowing to the Earth, I at once realize my indebtedness to Him and if I am a worthy child of that Mother, I shall at once reduce myself to dust and rejoice in establishing kinship with not only the lowliest of human beings, but also with lowest forms of creation whose fate — reduction to dust — I have to share with them. And if considered as mere life without the earthy tabernacle, I regard myself as imperishable; the lowest form of creation is just as imperishable as my soul is.”