

Before **embarking** on Civil Disobedience and taking the risk I have **dreaded** all these years, I would approach you and find a way out. My personal faith is absolutely dear. I cannot intentionally hurt anything that lives, much less fellow-human beings though they may do the greatest wrong to me and mine. *While I hold British rule to be a curse, I do not intend to harm a single Englishman or any **legitimate** interest he may have in India.*

I must not be misunderstood. Though I hold the British rule in India to be a curse, I do not therefore consider Englishmen to be worse than any other people. Much that I have learnt of the evil of British rule is due to the writings of **frank** and courageous Englishmen who have not hesitated to tell the **unpalatable** truth about that rule. And why do I regard the British rule as a curse?

It has impoverished millions by a system of **progressive exploitation** and by a ruinously expensive military and civil administration which the country can never afford. It has reduced us politically to serfdom. It has sapped the foundations of our culture, and, by the policy of **disarmament**, we have been reduced to a state bordering on cowardly helplessness.

If India is to live as a nation, if the slow death by starvation of her people is to stop, some remedy must be found for immediate relief. India must evolve force enough to free herself from that embrace of death. The conviction is growing deeper and deeper in me that nothing but **unadulterated** non-violence can check the organized violence of the British Government. Having unquestioning and immovable faith in the **efficacy** of non-violence as I know it, it would be sinful on my part to wait any longer. This non-violence will be expressed through civil disobedience.

I know that in embarking on non-violence, I shall be running what might fairly be termed a mad risk, but the victories of truth have never been won without risks, often of the **gravest** character. Conversion of a nation that has consciously or unconsciously, preyed upon another far more numerous, far more ancient and no less cultured than itself is worth any amount of risk. My ambition is no less than to **convert** the British people through non-violence and thus make them see the wrong they have done to India.

If you cannot see your way to deal with these evils and my letter makes no appeal to your heart, on the 11th day of this month I shall proceed to disregard the provisions of the Salt laws. I regard this tax to be the most **iniquitous** of all from the poor man's standpoint. It is, I know; open to you to frustrate

What does Gandhi claim is the purpose of this letter?

Why do you think Gandhi made this effort to separate the British people from the idea of British rule?

What are two negative consequences of British rule that Gandhi mentions?

What does Gandhi mean when he says it would be sinful to wait any longer?

What risks do you think Gandhi was referring to in this paragraph?

If Gandhi knew he might be arrested, why did he tell Lord Irwin of his plan?

my design by arresting me. I hope there will be tens of thousands ready in a disciplined manner to take up the work after me, and in the act of disobeying the Salt Act lay themselves open to the penalties of a law that should never have disfigured the **Statute-book**.

I have no desire to cause you unnecessary embarrassment or any at all so far as I can help. If you think that there is any substance in my letter, and if you will care to discuss matters with me, and if to that end you would like me to postpone publication of this letter, I shall gladly refrain on receipt of a telegram to that effect soon after this reaches you. This letter is not in any way intended as a threat, but is a simple and sacred duty **peremptory** on a civil resister.

I remain, Your Sincere friend.

M. K. GANDHI.

Describe the tone of this last paragraph.

Source: *Famous Letters of Mahatma Gandhi*, Indian Printing Works, Lahore (1947)

Match the bold, underlined word from paragraphs 1-3 to the correct definition or synonym.

<b>Word from paragraph 1, 2 or 3</b>	Definition/Synonym
	Getting steadily worse or more severe
	Unpleasant
	worried about
	Truthful
	Starting
	Valid
	Mistreatment
	Reduction or elimination of a country's military
<b>Choose one of the eight words above and use it in a sentence:</b>	
What part of speech is it?	

Match the bold, underlined word from paragraphs 4-7 to the correct definition or synonym.

<b>Word from paragraph 4,5 6, or 7</b>	Definition/Synonym
	Change
	Law book
	demanding of
	Usefulness or worth
	Unfair
	Most serious
	Complete