

Anglais 1-3

Réunion : Journée internationale Nelson Mandela

Date : 18/07/22

Durée : 8.08

Orateur : Prince Harry

Difficulté : niveau 3

Introduction : Intervention du Royaume-Uni prononcée à l'occasion de la journée internationale Nelson Mandela.

L'orateur est le Prince Harry de Sussex.

Éléments à fournir (vocabulaire) :

Robben Island	Robben Island
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Good morning, everybody, and thank you to the President of the General Assembly for the introduction.

It is an honor to join you all on Nelson Mandela International Day. Having spent time with many of Mandela's family members over the years, I speak to you today with humility, mindful of how much the man they loved means to so many.

Those of us not fortunate enough to know Mandela well have come to understand the man through his legacy... the letters he wrote alone in his prison cell... the speeches he delivered to his people... and those incredible shirts that he sported.

We've also come to know him through the photographs of a person who, even when confronting unimaginable cruelty and injustice, almost always had a smile on his face. For me, there's one photo in particular that stands out.

On my wall, and in my heart every day, is an image of my mother and Mandela meeting in Cape Town in 1997.

The photo was presented to me by the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

When I first looked at the photo, straight away what jumped out was the joy on my mother's face. The playfulness, cheekiness, even. The pure delight to be in communion with another soul so committed to serving humanity.

Then I looked at Mandela. Here was a man with the weight of the world on his shoulders, asked to heal his country from the wreckage of its past and transform it for the future.

A man who had endured the very worst of humanity, vicious racism and state-sponsored brutality. A man who had lost 27 years with his children and family that he would never get back.

Twenty-seven years.

Yet, in that photo and so many others, he is still beaming. Still able to see the goodness in humanity. Still buoyant with a beautiful spirit that lifted everyone around him.

Not because he was blind to the ugliness, the injustices, of the world—no, he saw them clearly; he had lived them—but because he knew we could overcome them.

In our own time, a time of global uncertainty and division, when it's all too easy to look around and feel anger or despair, I've been inspired to go back to Mandela's writings for insight into how this could be—how he could experience so much darkness and always manage to find the light. There I found a few lines that stopped me in my tracks.

In a letter from prison, he wrote:

"I feel my heart pumping hope steadily to every part of my body, warming my blood and pepping up my spirits. I am convinced that floods of personal disaster can never drown a determined revolutionary... To a freedom fighter, hope is what a life belt is to a swimmer—a guarantee that one will keep afloat and free from danger."

It moved me even more when I saw the date: August 1st, 1970. Seven years into Mandela's imprisonment, not even one-third of the way through.

In those circumstances, how many of us would have lost hope, and let our life belts slip away? How many of us would have been broken by a system designed to do exactly that?

And let's be honest: How many of us are in danger of losing those life belts right now? How many of us feel battered, helpless, in the face of the seemingly endless stream of disasters and devastation?

I understand. This has been a painful year in a painful decade. We're living through a pandemic that continues to ravage communities in every corner of the globe.

Climate change wreaking havoc on our planet, with the most vulnerable suffering most of all. The few, weaponizing lies and disinformation at the expense of the many. And from the horrific war in Ukraine to the rolling back of constitutional rights here in the United States, we are witnessing a global assault on democracy and freedom—the cause of Mandela's life.

The pandemic, the war, and inflation have left Africa mired in a fuel and food crisis, the likes of which we have not seen in decades. Worse still, this

comes at a time when the Horn of Africa is enduring the longest drought it's faced in close to half-a-century.

And what is happening in Africa is not an isolated event. The drought there is a reflection of extreme weather we are seeing across the globe. As we said here today, our world is on fire, again.

These historic weather events are no longer historic. More and more, they are part of our daily lives, and these crises will only grow worse... unless our leaders lead. Unless the countries represented by the seats in this hallowed hall make the decisions—the daring, transformative decisions—that our world needs to save humanity.

These decisions may not fit with the agendas of every political party. They may invite resistance from powerful interests. But the right thing to do is not up for debate. And neither is the science. The only question is whether we will be brave enough and wise enough to do what is necessary.

So, yes, this is a pivotal moment—a moment where multiple converging crises have given way to an endless string of injustices—a moment where ordinary people around the world are experiencing extraordinary pain.

And in this moment, we have a choice to make.

We can grow apathetic, succumb to anger, or yield to despair, surrendering to the gravity of what we're up against.

Or we can do what Mandela did, every single day inside that 7-by-9-foot prison cell on Robben Island—and every day outside of it, too.

We can find meaning and purpose in the struggle. We can wear our principles as armour. Heed the advice Mandela once gave his son, to "never give up the battle even in the darkest hour." And find hope where we have the courage to seek it.

So, on this Nelson Mandela International Day, as a new generation comes of age, a generation that did not witness Mandela's leadership for themselves, let's commit to remembering and celebrating his life and legacy every day, not just once a year.

Thank you.