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## **The Assassination of Gandhi Part I**

**Lead: On the evening of January 30, 1948, India's first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, addressed the nation through All India Radio. Mathatma Gandhi, the prophet of nonviolence, had been assassinated.**

**Intro.: *A Moment in Time* with Dan Roberts.**

**Content: *Friends and comrades, the light has gone out of our lives, and there is darkness everywhere, and I do not quite know what to tell you or how to say it. Our beloved leader, Bapu as we called him, the father of the nation,***

*is no more. Perhaps I am wrong to say that; nevertheless, we will not see him again, as we have seen him for these many years, we will not run to him for advice or seek solace from him, and that is a terrible blow, not only for me, but for millions and millions in this country.*

**For most of his life Gandhi had campaigned for an independent subcontinent and lived to see Britain abandon its huge imperial claim in 1947. Yet, he was opposed to the partition that resulted in two countries, India and Pakistan. He believed Hindus and Muslims could live in peace and unity. His dream was not realized and soon after independence British and religious**

**leaders agreed to a partition. Soon after that the bloodletting began and millions were displaced or injured.**

**Horrified at what was taking place on January 30, 1948 Gandhi began a fast and did not eat until opposing religious leaders agreed to stop the bloodshed. So great was his moral influence on both religious communities that they did so five days later. Twelve days after he broke his fast, Nathuram Godse, a Hindu extremist, who believed Gandhi was too conciliatory toward India's Muslims, shot Gandhi three times in the chest at close range in a garden in Delhi as he was about to lead evening prayer. Godse and a co-conspirator were hanged on November 15, 1949.**

**Next Time: a martyr to Indian independence.**

**Research by Ann Johnson, at the University of Richmond, this is Dan Roberts.**

**Resources**

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