



Mohandas Gandhi of India (1869-1948)

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Gandhi spent his life fighting evil through non-violent resistance. For him the liberation of India was a religious duty. He saw it as a step toward the liberation of all humankind from the tyranny of violence in others, but especially in themselves. When violence could be abolished universally, Gandhi said, "God will reign on earth as he does in Heaven." Gandhi was murdered on January 30, 1948.

Christ proclaimed the Kingdom of God. Gandhi, like every individual who is directed toward Christ's ideals is a bearer of that Kingdom. Icons are images of the Kingdom, windows into Heaven.

In this icon, Gandhi holds salt which he has gathered by the ocean -- an act forbidden by English colonial law. The salt also reminds us of Christ's words: "You are the salt of the earth." The Greek inscription by his head reads "Holy Mohandas Gandhi."