

and **REVIEWS**

**An Autobiography:
The Story of My Experiments
with Truth**

Author: Mohandas K. Gandhi
Publisher: Beacon Press
Reviewer: Lee Adams

The unique is bound to rouse our curiosity. Though you may pick up Gandhi's autobiography out of natural curiosity concerning an extraordinary man, you may find, upon conclusion, that you have learned as much about yourself as Gandhi. For this is not primarily a personal history. (If you are interested solely in this aspect of his life, such a biography as Louis Fischer's is suggested.)

It is a compilation of articles written weekly for the paper Navajivan, upon his release from prison in 1924. His most personal as well as his public experiences are laid bare for no other purpose than to serve the reader with a yardstick in the light of which he might perform his own "experiments with truth."

This motivation is clearly confirmed in the manner of his writing. The burning desire for truth at all costs to pride precluded rationalization and sentimentalism in this book. The realization that his conclusions were not absolute precluded dogmatism.

HIS CONVICTION that theory apart from experience was useless, and his love of child-like simplicity precluded the abstruse. His ability to distill essence and condense them in verbal form precluded irrelevancy—in so far as is humanly possible.

Since the book was not written continuously, there are cases of needless repetition, instances in which it seemed to presume upon our understanding of what has gone before, and lapses in time sequence. What is remarkable is not that he fell prey to the obvious pitfalls of his method, but rather that he was snared so rarely.

On the whole, the method favors the reader. Each chapter, seldom longer than three or four pages, contains in itself an expanded idea. Thus 500 pages lend readily

The Adversary

Author: H. H. Lynde
Publisher: Random House
Reviewer: Sally A. Parsons

The phrase "Day of Judgment," is apt to conjure many emotions in the human soul, not the least of which is fear.

For a period of twenty-four hours H. H. Lynde transports us to a small, quiet village nestled on a California hillside, and proceeds to probe into the recesses of men's minds as they face up to that day on which they have been persuaded that the world will end.

Because the author is primarily concerned with people and their ideas, the book offers us more than pure narrative or story. It presents penetrating philosophical thoughts relating to life and man's purpose on earth.

THUS, as many of the townspeople advance to the top of the hill overlooking the town, garbed in white robes in preparation for eternity, a more skeptical, sophisticated faction gathers for a dinner party.

It is here that the author is on home ground, manipulating the strings of philosophical discourse among the assembled group as they discuss the problem which confronts them all: What is the unseen enemy—the adversary—that seems to be everlastingly threatening the security of man?

As the plot thickens with suspense, and finally resolves itself, the answer gradually emerges. It is neither death itself nor the endless march of time that frustrates us, but the human element in us

all—anger, greed, pride, sex, and primarily fear.

FOR ROGER NORBECK, world famous news reporter, driven to mental and physical inaction by a heart attack, it is fear of our imminent destruction by the atom bomb, and for his wife, Miriam, fear of losing her girlish ability to live life to the fullest.

Miss Lynde's hopeful solution for living happily together on this planet involves the necessity of true compassion for one's fellow beings; the belief that although he may be weak and corrupt, man is worth saving and protecting.

It is regrettable that the author does not seem able to successfully blend her exciting and suspenseful narrative with her worthwhile thought.

Unfortunately her excessive use of metaphorical language and several incredible situations make the plot and characters seem unreal, thus giving little solid basis for her fundamentally sound ideas.

Nevertheless, The Adversary makes wonderfully thought-provoking reading in these confused, tension-ridden times, so laden with literature of the slick, action-packed variety.

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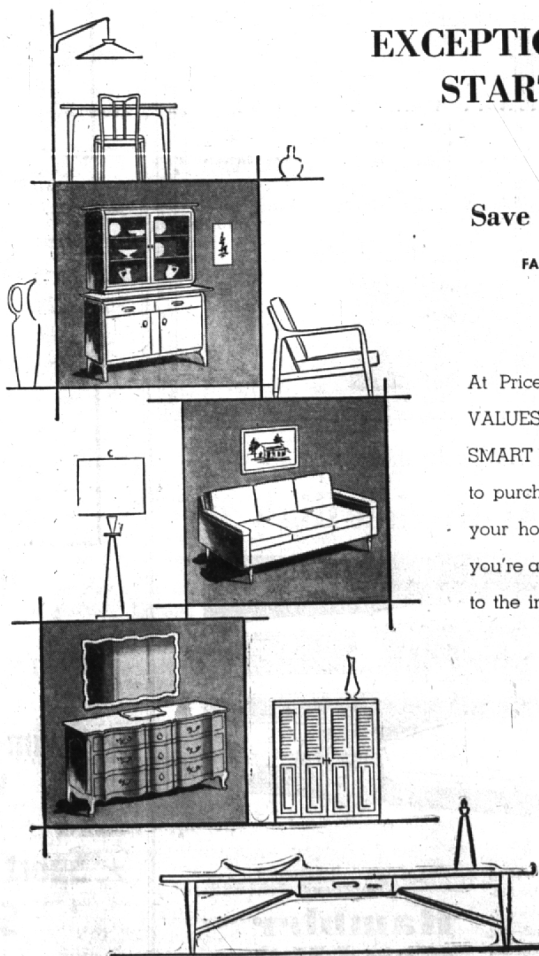
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