GANDHI’S LETTER TO VICEROY LORD IRWIN

RHETORICAL ANALYSIS
Look to the prompt for contextualization

“In 1930 Mohandas “Mahatma” Gandhi led a nonviolent march in India protesting Britain’s colonial monopoly on and taxation of an essential resource: salt. The Salt March, as it came to be known, was a triggering moment for the larger civil disobedience movement that eventually won India independence from Britain in 1947. Shortly before the Salt March, Gandhi had written to Viceroy Lord Irwin, the representative of the British crown in India. The passage below is the conclusion of that letter.”
Roots: Rhetorical Situation/Context

British rule of India; Indian desire for independence
Trunk: Claim/Central Argument

British rule is immoral; needs reform,
or Indians will fight for independence (non-violently)
India’s storied culture is equal to the UK’s power and worth

Leaves: Evidence
Describes nation as huge, ancient, and “preyed upon” although it shouldn’t be (6)
Great Britain is greedy and needs to be converted for their sake making protest worth the risk

Leaves: Evidence
Strong religious diction that appeals to Christians
- “sacred duty” (74)
- “evil(s)” used x5
- “blind” service to Great Britain (16-17)
- “weapon” (19)
If Viceroy doesn’t listen, threatens protest with thousands

Inviting/conciliatory tone and a threatening undertone
Methods used evoke a sense of guilt, make the British consider their position more carefully, and gives the British reason to pity the Indians.
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