

**GREAT INDIAN  
PERSONALITIES**

**MADAN MOHAN MALVIYA**



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*With Illustrations*



*Kolar Krishna Iyer*



**SWATHI BOOK HOUSE**

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## **MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA**

We all dream in several ways about our lives. We also dream that our wishes should be realised. We wish to live on a grand scale but we do not follow noble ways. We think that reaching a higher position means earning more and more money and to wallow in wealth. We hope to live honourably and expect the society to honour us and we end our lives in day-dreaming.

There are some who develop an understanding about life right from their childhood and in the process of converting their dreams into reality, they go up in their lives step by step, have an excellent awareness about the society and utilising all their resources for the betterment of the society attain an honourable position. Madan Mohan Malaviya was one such who found a permanent place in the hearts of the people.

Malaviya's life gives us the message that just dreaming is not enough and that our life would become full-fledged when we realise our dreams. Though born into a family of Pandits, the lack of financial resources proved a hindrance to him. Yet he was not disheartened. In spite of his failure in pursuing higher education, he started his career as

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a teacher and earned name as the best teacher. He entered the field of journalism and brought honour to it. By setting a University he fulfilled his dreams. Such was the perseverance of Malaviya and he stands head and shoulders above many of his contemporaries.

Mahatma Gandhi wrote about Malaviya as follows:

“When I came back to my country to work here, I first went to Lokamanya Tilak. I found him as lofty as the Himalayas. I thought that it was not possible for me to climb up that unscalable height. I then went to Shri Gokhale. He appeared to me like a deep ocean. I found that it was not possible for me to enter so deep. I came back. Lastly I approached Malaviya. He seemed to me as crystal like as the stream and I decided to have an ablution in the sacred stream.”

Madan Mohan Malviya was a staunch nationalist. Mahatma Gandhi was inspired by the life of Malviya.

Malaviya came from the family of Pandits. Though the financial position was low and stood in his way for taking up higher education he was not dispirited. He started his life as teacher.

He then entered the field of journalism and brought name to that profession.

He founded a University (Benaras Hindu University) and got his dream fulfilled.

His life teaches us that it is not enough to dream, but we should work hard to make them true.

Malaviya was born on 25 December 1861 in Prayag (Allahabad) in a family of Pandits.



His parents were Brajnath and Moona Devi.

His father was a great Sanskrit Scholar. He was a great devotee and relying on god, he spent his whole life in the service of god. He used to read out the slokas from the Bhagavadgita and entertain the

devotees by narrating the episodes from the epics and accepted whatever little was presented to him by the devotees and with the little money he got that way, he pulled along. The money given by the devotees never proved sufficient for the maintenance



of the family. He resigned to himself with the idea that we get what is destined for us.

Malaviya was the fifth child of the eight children of Brajnath.

From his childhood, Malaviya used to learn Sanskrit verses by sitting on the lap of his father.

Malaviya was keen in obtaining higher education. But his father could not afford the high expenses of higher study. But his mother who had brought some gold jewellery from her father's house, mortgaged them and made the required money available.

Malaviya joined the Moore college in Allahabad. The Principal of that college was Harrison, a Britisher. He was a strict disciplinarian. Malaviya attracted the attention the Principal. So he could get a small scholarship. By 1881, he completed his F.A. and obtained B.A., degree by 1884.

Malaviya had a good voice. He used to sing devotional songs and win appreciation of his fellows. He also wrote poems.

He played female roles in dramas enacted in the college.

### **AS A TEACHER**

As his father was a Sanskrit scholar. Malaviya used to recite Sanskrit verses ever since he was a small boy.

Malaviya wanted to master Sanskrit language. He had his early education under a Pandit named Haridev.

Malaviya's mother urged her son to find some job to get money for maintaining the family.

So he joined a local school on a salary of Rs. 40/- per month.

Malaviya's younger uncle Gangadhar Prasad was a Pandit. He used to attend the meetings of the pandits.

Madan Mohan Malaviya used to accompany his uncle Gangadhar Prasad to the meetings of Pandits.



One day there was a prolonged discussion on a subject on which the Pandits expressed different views and they did not know to bring it to end.

It was the year 1881. Malaviya was only 15 years old youth, studying F.A. in Moore college.

**End of Preview.**

**Rest of the book can be read @**

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