Struggling To Forgive: Nelson Mandela And South Africa's Search For Reconciliation

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figures in the apartheid regime, aiming to exemplify forgiveness. Eager to forgive but not forget, Mandela supports the findings of The Truth and Reconciliation Search - enhanced by OpenText Nelson Mandela obituary part six: guiding South Africa from apartheid to democracy Mandela, the revered icon of the anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa and one
Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (/mænˈdɛlə/; Xhosa: [xolÂ¬aâ€œ-aâ€œ-mandɛ̂-l̪a]; 18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013) was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary, political leader, and philanthropist who served as President of South Africa from 1994 to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative democratic election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by tackling institutionalised racism and fostering racial reconciliation. With South Africa facing possible civil war, Mandela sought reconciliation with the white minority to build a new democracy. He led the African National Congress to victory in the country's first multiracial election in 1994. Unlike other African liberation leaders who cling to power, such as Zimbabwe’s Robert Mugabe, he then voluntarily stepped down after one term. Born Rolihlahla Dalibhunga in a small village in the Eastern Cape on 18 July 1918, Mandela was given his English name, Nelson, by a teacher at his school. He joined the ANC in 1943 and became a co-founder of its youth league. In 1952, he started South Africa's first black law firm with his partner, Oliver Tambo. Mandela was a charming, charismatic figure with a passion for boxing and an eye for women. The South African hero shows that even the secular world needs its saintsâ€¦ The way the world has been gearing itself up for the passing of Nelson Mandela, and the way that process has gone into overdrive in recent months, is not something we are used to these days. Sudden deaths do shock us and take us by surprise, and create an emotional tsunami â€“ the example of Diana, Princess of Wales, comes to mind â€“ but the recent sad passing of Mandela is in another category entirely. When Mandela forgave the enemies who put him on Robben Island and imprisoned him for 27 years, that forgiveness was certainly not cheap. But for the Mandela-worshippers in a comfortable society like our own, what price does their devotion cost?