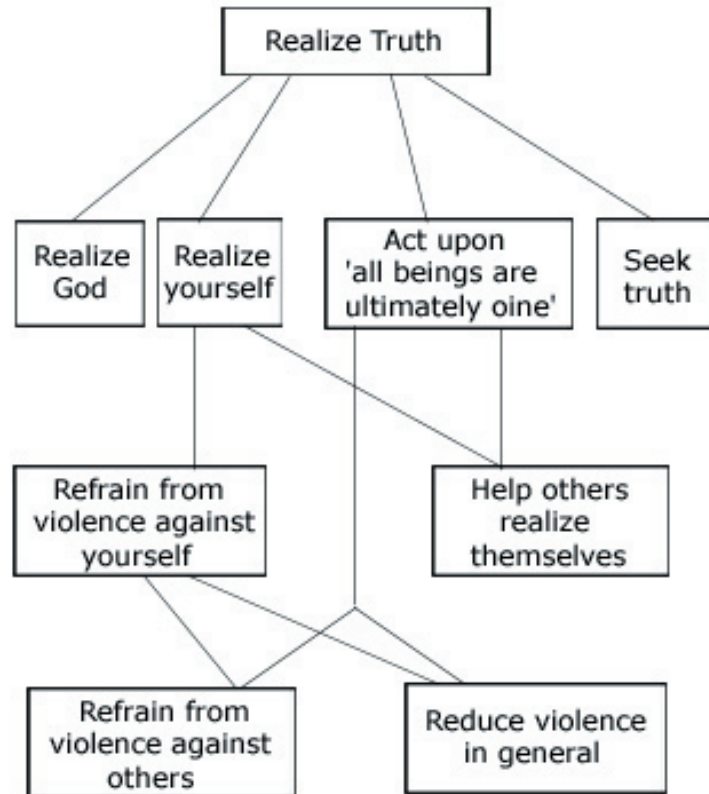


Excerpts from **Gandhi And Deep Ecology** - By Thomas Weber

For Gandhi, ahimsa meant 'love' in the Pauline sense and was violated by 'holding on to what the world needs' (Gandhi, 1932: 5). As a Hindu, Gandhi had a strong sense of the unity of all life. For him, nonviolence meant not only the non-injury of human life, but as noted above, of all living things. This was important because it was the way to Truth (with a capital 'T') which he saw as Absolute - as God or an impersonal all-pervading reality - rather than truth (with a lower case 't') which was relative, the current position on the way to Truth.

Figure 1. Arne Naess' Systematization of Gandhian Ethics



1. Self-realization presupposes a search for truth.
2. In the last analysis, all living beings are one.
3. Himsa (violence) against oneself makes complete self-realization impossible.
4. Himsa against a living being is himsa against oneself.
- 5/ Himsa against a living being makes complete self-realization impossible.
(adapted from Naess, 1965: 28-33)

Source: *Journal of Peace Research*; Vol-36, Number-3, May 1999

<http://www.mkgandhi.org/environment/environment.htm>

