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## Themes and symbols in life of pi

&lt;- Previous Page | First Page | Next Page -&gt; Free Study Guide to The Life of Pi by Yann Martel-Book Notes/Summary Table of Contents | Message Board | Downloadable/Printable Version SYMBOLISM/MOTIFS/IMAGERY Pi Piscine's nickname, Pi, has a symbolic relationship with the mathematical pi (p). The ratio of the perimeter (circular) from a circle to its diameter (linear) is pi. The correlation between the linear journey to North America and the cycles of doubt and faith is experienced by Pi. Mathematical relationships are calculated and explained logically and rationally by the irrational number of pi. Incredible experiences and irrational events are explained logically and rationally by Pi. Neither Pi nor pi can be limited by logic or taken to a coherent endpoint. Pi is sixteen when he shipwrecks, and pi is the sixteenth letter of the Greek alphabet. Pi even uses pi (p) to work out the perimeter of the algae island. Algae Island The island itself is symbolic as a Garden of Eden. It offers temporary redemption to Pi, but he must leave the island of Eden once he discovers the black forbidden fruit on the twisted branches of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. His illusion of the island was shattered. There is a kind of heaven and hell associated with day and night. By day, the meerkats eat without killing and showing no fear, even from Richard Parker. At night, the island carnivores and the ecosystem feed on itself. (See Chapter 92 Notes) Your browser does not support the IFRAME tag. Tsimtsum The name of the ship comes from the Kabbalist concept of tsimtsum, where God withdraws from making way for the creation of the universe. The sinking of the ship may symbolize God withdrawing from Pi to make way for Pi to develop as an independent creature. Tsimtsum is necessary for beings to become independent so that they can freely choose a relationship with God. (See Chapters 35 and 37 Notes) Orange Orange is the color of survival. The whistles, life jacket, lifeline, tarmac and Richard Parker are orange. It is also the color of the second Hindu chakra. (See Chapter 40 Notes) Animals The animals in Pi's lifeboat symbolize human qualities and can also represent humans. hyena - French cook, cowardice orangutan - Pi's mother, maternal instincts zebra - Chinese sailors, exotism tiger - Pi, animal nature meerkats - miracle, meekness Pi's Story The lifeboat ordeal is a metaphor for the human condition. We strive for higher things (religion, justice, salvation), but we are en encased in our own basic animal needs. These aspirations and needs are brought together in the lifeboat. If the aspirations are large, the journey will be dangerous. MOTIFS The motive of reconciling science and religion as equal ways of understanding the world stems from the of pi - using the irrational to the Throughout book science and religion, two seemingly opposite fields of study, blending and complementing each other. The two Kumars represent these concepts, and even they come together to marvel at the zebras in the zoo. Next, Pi's knowledge of science and his faith combines to bring about his survival. And the adult Pi ends with degrees in both zoology and religious studies. Table of Contents | Message Board | Downloadable/Printable Version &lt;- Previous Page | First Page | Next page -&gt; Free Chapter Summary-Life of Pi by Yann Martel-Online Notes Themes overarching ideas and beliefs that the authors express in their texts, including poetry, fiction, and plays. Themes make the story attractive and convincing and help readers understand the hidden messages in a story or poem. The themes in Life of Pi by Yann Martel are both controversial and mystical. Some of the main themes of Life of Pi were discussed below. Themes in the life of PiTheme #1Religious HarmonyReligion or religious harmony are among the main themes of the Life of Pi. Pi talks about various religions and refutes the idea of one religion's superiority over the other. For example, as he discusses religion with his parents, he asks them for a prayer mat and wants to be baptized at the same time. He doesn't want to choose one religion to connect with God and look down at the followers of other religions. When he learns to know that his teacher, Mr. Kumar, is an atheist he listens to his point of view and considers it's just another branch of faith. He considers God a picture of love, with love and respect for all his beings. Theme #2Importance journeyPi recounts its life-changing journey and all the experiences with the readers. During his journey, he learns many lessons such as the importance of companionship, faith in God and power of nature. He considers the ups and downs of tidal waves, terrible thunderstorms, hunger pains, known losses and bouts of the predators. Besides learning how to recover from grief and sorrowfulness, he also puts unwavering faith in God's plan for a man. He goes through a near-death experience and even drinks salt water for his survival. During these trials and tribulations, he learns the art of storytelling through this journey and defends the

old logic about science and atheism. Theme #3Faith in GodFaith in God runs parallel to other themes. Throughout the novel, Pi is talking about God as his only Savior and someone who gives him deliverance from worldly troubles and misery. When he loses his family in the midst of the sea storm, he keeps his faith alive. He thinks that at moments of wonder, it's easy to avoid small thoughts, to entertain thoughts that span the universe, which captures both thunder and tinkle, thick and thin, the close and the far. In his faith is the key to everything that is found in the world. Therefore, a person person trust God in every situation. Theme #4Wildlife and NatureThe novel shows the wildlife's best and worst sides. There are several animals as brutal lions and hyenes, including meek guinea fowls. The characters also experience natural calamity when the ocean is at its worst. Pi learns that life matters to both humans and animals. The author tries to transfer those wild animals is not always cruel. Richard Parker is as much afraid of Pi as Pi is afraid of Richard Parker. The animals add peace and beauty to this world and demand the same level of love and understanding of man. So Richard Parker becomes calm when he sees no harm coming to him from Pi.Theme #5Survival InstinctPi's father learns the value of survival instinct for a man as well as for animals. When Richard Parker, the tiger, becomes a predator, he must kill other animals as his prey to the sole purpose of survival. Pi should share the trip with Richard Parker for survival and not to die without a companion. It's also the survival instinct of Pi forcing him to drink salt water. He needs to catch sharks to break his habit of being a vegetarian to satisfy his and Parker's hunger. During his near-death experience, he learns to know how survival is instinctive and competes with other animals. Theme #6Diverse CultureThe diversity of culture is another important theme of the story. The reader get to know the Indian as well as Canadian cultural values. Pi's full name, Piscine Molitor Patel, inspired by two different cultures. His s last name, however, comes from his Indian family name Patel. The mention of large and spacious zoos in India and then the depiction of the first world in Canada both draw on the theme of cultural diversity present in the novel. Theme #7StorytellingStorytelling is another important theme that occurs in the novel because it is through this art that Pi tells the version of his life. He acknowledges his life he has brought on land as well as in the sea. He also explains the different cultural experiences he had in India as well as in Canada. He draws attention to the sentiments of religion, faith and estee for all species through this art of storytelling. Theme #8Subjective Experiences against LogicSubjective experience without logic running parallel to the major themes. When Mr. Kumar, Pi's teacher, expresses his atheist beliefs, he bases them on scientific and logical reasoning. He says there is no evidence of God and that everything that is happening in the world is due to scientific principles. He also considers religion to be superstitious, because when he suffers from polio, he argues, he has called for help to God, but his ailment is still the same. Similarly, when Pi is rescued on the Mexican shores, the officials fail to believe his survival story because they only believe in logic. Theme #9ToleranceThe importance of the can be seen in several places. First, when Pi's biology teacher supports Mr. Kumar, atheist beliefs, Pi accepts it as a different faith. Second, he patiently suffers the hardships of the journey, thinks of his family and spends time in hopes of reunion with his family. During this time, he stays with the animals, trains Richard Parker, the tiger, with a whistle, politely telling his story to the officials. Finally, throughout his religious training, he remains steadfast and trusts the process of life and remains tolerant. Theme #10Philosophy LifeThe novel also revolves around the theme of the life philosophy since Pi experienced life through faith, misery and happiness. He teaches that living a life must be a person patient and faithful. He is getting to know about life and its meaning through an adventurous journey, keeping the curiosity alive and trusting in God. Faith in God is clearly an important theme in Life of Pi, and was the most controversial in reviews of the book. Throughout the novel, Pi makes his faith in and love for God clear — it is a love profound enough that he can surpass the classic divisions of religion and worship as a Hindu, Muslim and Christian. Pi, though amazed at the possibility of lacking this faith, still respects the atheist because he sees him as a kind of believer. Pi's vision of an atheist on his death bed makes it clear that he accepts that the atheist's form of faith is one in God, without her realizing it until the end. This is the agnostic that truly bothers Pi; the decision to doubt, to lack faith in anything, is inexcusable to him. It's underscored in that essential passage in the novel when Pi asks the Japanese officials which of his two stories they preferred — he sees no reason why they shouldn't believe the better story. Pi's devotion to God is a prominent part of the novel; however, it becomes far less prominent during his time aboard the lifeboat, when his physical needs come to dominate his spiritual children. Pi never seems to doubt his faith in God as he endures his hardships, but he certainly focuses less on it. This, in turn, underscores the theme of the primate of survival. The primate of survival is the definitive theme at the heart of the book, Pi's time at sea. This theme is evident throughout his ordeal - he has to eat meat, he has to take life, two things that have always been anathema to him before his survival was at stake. Survival almost always trumps morality, even for a character like Pi, who is deeply principled and religious. When Pi tells the second version of his story to the Japanese men, this theme is highlighted even brighter because he compares his survival instincts in the second story to Richard Parker in the first — that's he, when he survive, who steals food, he who kills the Frenchman. If the first version of the story is seen as a fictionalized fictionalized from the second, the fact that he divides himself from his brutal survival instinct shows the power of that instinct. The act of storytelling and narration is a significant theme throughout Life of Pi, but especially in the narrative frame. That Pi's story is just that—a story—is emphasized throughout, with interjections of the author, Pi's own references to it, and the complete retelling of the story for the Japanese officials. (It's not to mention chapter ninety-seven, which contains two words: The story.) By including a semi-fictional Writer's Note, Martel draws the reader's attention to the fact that not only within the novel Pi's story of survival at sea is an unverified story, but the whole novel itself, and even the author's note, usually reliable, is a work of fiction. That's not to say that Martel the reader intends to read Life of Pi through a lens of disbelief or uncertainty; rather, he emphasizes the nature of the book as a story to show that one can choose to believe in it anyway, just as one might choose to believe in God — because it's preferable not to believe, that's the better story. The true definition of freedom becomes a question early in Life of Pi, when Pi refutes the allegations of people who think that zoos are cruel to limiting animals' freedom. Pi provides evidence against this and questions the definition of freedom. An animal in nature is free according to the opponents of zoos, and it is true that in its movement the animal is not constrained by a physical cage. However, it is deeply constrained by its survival needs and its instincts. If that animal is led solely by its need for food, water and shelter, is it really free? If it will never intentionally wander outside the area it defined for itself, is it really free? In a zoo, where the animal's needs are always provided, is it no longer free? The issue of freedom arises again as Pi finds himself in a battle for survival at sea. He is without responsibility to anyone else, he is without any need to be anywhere in the world, he is constantly in motion; but he has probably never been less free, because he must always put his survival above all else. An example of this is that he can no longer choose to be a vegetarian — he must eat meat to stay alive. Throughout the life of Pi, the primate of survival, of life, greatly limits freedom, and thus redefines the word. The relativity of the truth isn't highlighted as a major theme in Life of Pi until the latter part of the novel, when Pi rethinks the whole story to make it more plausible to the officials questioning him. He then asks the officials what story they liked better, as it can't be proven either, nor the what they're looking for doesn't affect — how the ship sank. This question implies that the truth does not the officials can choose to believe whatever story they prefer, and that version becomes the truth. Pi argues to the Japanese officials that there is invention in all truths and facts, because everyone observes everything from their own perspective. There is no absolute truth. The theme of science and religion as not opposed, but in concert with each other is mainly present in the frame of the narrative. It is excreted in Pi's double major at the University of Toronto of Religion and Zoology, which he admits he is sometimes mixed, seeing the laziness he has studied as a reminder of God's miracles. Likewise, Pi's favorite teacher, Mr. Kumar, sees the zoo as the temple of his atheism. The theme of the connection between science and religion also relates to Pi's respect for atheists, because he sees them worshipping science while worshipping God, which he believes is not so very different. The theme of loss of innocence in Life of Pi is closely related to the theme of the primate of survival. Its significance is reflected in the geographical structure of the book - In Part 1, Pi is in Pondicherry, and there he is innocent. In Part 2, Pi is in the Pacific, and it is there that he loses his innocence. That Part 2 begins, not chronologically with the Tsimtsum sinking, but with Pi inviting Richard Parker onto the lifeboat, it also reflects, because it represents Pi reaching out for what Richard Parker symbolizes—his own survival instinct. And it is this survival instinct that is at the heart of Pi's loss of innocence; it is this survival instinct that drives him to act in ways he never imagined he could. Throughout Part 2, there are other representative moments of a loss of innocence except the symbolic one to bring Richard Parker onto the lifeboat. The most important of these is the death of the Frenchman, who Pi describes as killing part of him that has never come back to life. That part can certainly be read as his innocence. innocence.

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