

LIFE OF PI - Yann Martel - ING

Life of Pi is Yann Martel's best-selling novel. Yann Martel is the son of Canadian diplomats. He was born in Spain on June 25, 1963 and has lived everywhere: from Alaska to Costa Rica, from France to Mexico and even India. It is precisely this continuous travel and the deepening of different cultures that have deeply influenced his way of writing, providing him with a rich cultural knowledge that is the background to his works. To write his most famous novel, Yann Martel confirms that composing the novel was difficult, in fact it took 2 years. He claims to have decided, after the small disappointment due to the lack of success of his second novel, to take a plane to Bombay, India, where he spent six months visiting mosques, temples, churches and zoos. One day he was at the Indian Coffee House on Nehru Street, an anonymous place with tables and chairs recovered, and there Yann started chatting with an old man with light-colored eyes and a great mass of white hair despite his skepticism. But the old man began to tell a true story whose origins date back to Pondicherry and which would surely make him believe in God.

The old man began to tell the story and as a first question asked Yann if he had already visited the botanical garden and if he had noticed the train tracks, adding that there was another station there called "Zootown"... In the days that followed, Yann continued to think about the story heard by the old man and the name of the protagonist, so he looked him up in the phone book. They met several times and the protagonist, Mr. Patel told him everything in detail. While he was doing his number, his heart was beating fast, Mr. Patel answered, they saw each other on several occasions and Yann listened to the story very accurately. Mr. Patel also showed him the diary he kept at the time of the events and the newspaper clippings that testified to his short and ambiguous period of fame.

Plot

This novel tells the story about a young Indian boy, Piscine Molitor Patel, called Pi by all, typical boy of the time, animal lover and very religious. One day his parents, as well as the owners of a zoo, decide to leave India and move to Canada for economic reasons. So they embark on a Japanese merchant ship and with them the animals, but the journey turns out to be more difficult than expected, because a storm hits the ship causing it to sink and decimate the animals. When the waters calm down, Pi finds himself on a small lifeboat with few supplies, just as few were his hopes; he soon realizes that his parents

and brother had died during the shipwreck. Shortly afterwards he finds himself with some nice companions: a tiger, a hyena, a wounded zebra and an orangutan. The situation was very complex because not much time passes since the hyena kills the orangutan and the zebra, in turn the tiger comes out from under the bow deck and kills the hyena in turn. Pi has to face this situation despite the fear of the tiger remaining alive. Initially Pi seeks refuge on a small raft tied to the lifeboat where she tries to eat and live because she wanted to stay at a safe distance, but when she comes to the conclusion that she can't risk dying every time she tries to take something from the supplies left on the lifeboat, Pi gradually tries to get to know her, train her, collect rainwater and catch fish; the tiger has been named after the poacher who had caught it: Richard Parker.

Slowly they manage to establish a relationship and gain trust with each other. After facing another storm, the small boat arrives on the shore of an island inhabited only by meerkat, which however hides a bad secret: every night, due to a mysterious chemical process, every element of the island becomes toxic, like water, which becomes acidic, killing the fish swimming in the fresh water puddles and the meerkats are forced to take refuge in the trees, while the tiger takes refuge in the lifeboat. Pi understands the danger of the place when he finds a human tooth inside a carnivorous plant, so he understands that he has to leave the island and after gathering supplies, he leaves with the lifeboat and the tiger.

After 227 days at the mercy of the ocean, he arrives in Mexico, where the paths of Pi and the tiger divide: Pi is rescued by some local fishermen, while the tiger disappears forever in the jungle, never turning back to the boy. Once transported to the hospital, Pi tells his adventure to two Japanese policemen sent by the insurance company to rebuild the shipwreck of the merchant ship. The policemen were astonished by Pi's story, and asked him to provide a more credible version. So Pi tells them another version: in his second testimony instead of animals, there are people from the ship's crew, in particular the French cook, Pi's mother and a Japanese sailor. But the version, for when it was more logical and credible the cops preferred to report the first, the story of the surviving boy with the tiger.

The novel was published in 2001, and in 2010 the famous director Ang Lee decided to make a film about the novel, titled after the book of the same name. The film was a huge success with both the public and the critics, winning 4 Oscars awards: Best Director, Best

Soundtrack, Best Special Effects and Best Cinematography. Director Lee remains quite faithful to the novel but as often happens in many films some details are omitted or added. For example, at the beginning of the film emerges the figure of a dancer that Pi falls in love with but is forced to leave to go to Canada; in the book Pi manages to train the tiger and always in the book the two Japanese cops are not mentioned because the book wants the reader to choose which version to believe, as there is no cook, included in the film by Pi's testimony to tell the second version. But the choice to add, to eliminate some details and fragments does not alter either the story or the message it wants to convey. Both projects have succeeded in conveying different messages to those who have seen and read the story, for example the proof that living together between man and animal is possible, starting with knowledge to continue with respect and understanding by man of the fauna that surrounds him; another message is expressed in the concept of "spirit of survival" that can be well seen in the story of Patel after more than 200 days on a lifeboat at the mercy of the sea. In the last minutes and in the last pages the second version of Pi is described and treated, in which he strongly supports his metaphorical theory: the tiger was himself, the orangutan was his mother, the zebra wounded a sailor and the hyena the ship's cook, the story in this second version is dominated by the ferocity of the man with cannibalism. The novel was published in 2001, and in 2010 the famous director Ang Lee decided to make a film about the novel, titled after the book of the same name. The film was a huge success with both the public and the critics, winning 4 Oscars awards: Best Director, Best Soundtrack, Best Special Effects and Best Cinematography. Director Lee remains quite faithful to the novel but as often happens in many films some details are omitted or added. For example, at the beginning of the film emerges the figure of a dancer that Pi falls in love with but is forced to leave to go to Canada; in the book Pi manages to train the tiger and always in the book the two Japanese cops are not mentioned because the book wants the reader to choose which version to believe, as there is no cook, included in the film by Pi's testimony to tell the second version. But the choice to add, to eliminate some details and fragments does not alter either the story or the message it wants to convey. Both projects have succeeded in conveying different messages to those who have seen and read the story, for example the proof that living together between man and animal is possible, starting with knowledge to continue with respect and understanding by man of the fauna that surrounds him; another

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