



THEMES OF LIFE OF PI 1

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Faith/ belief in God

Faith helps Pi **survive** (role)

- Has always had a spiritual connection with God
- From childhood he felt a connection with the divine that was beyond religion and ritual

Unconventional approach to religion

- Influenced by three religions → follows the rites of all
- When the leaders ask him to choose he says he 'just wants to love God' → believes religion provides a way to express love for God to feel closer to the creator of the universe

Does not see the **differences between religion and seeing the world**
"If there's only one nation in the sky, shouldn't all passports be valid to it?"
pg 79"

- Compares **events** that take place → different **religions**
- Thanks the **deities** from all religions when something good happens

Territory "Animals are territorial. That is the key to their mind"

Guarding territory → common trait in **animal kingdom**

- Mark in some way (urine)
- **Dominant** animal usually has **control** over boundaries

Pi argues **animals** are **better off** in zoos because they do not have to **defend** their territories from **predators** (cases are territories)

- Human homes = territories = humans are **similar** to animals

Imperative to survive → **establish boundaries with RP**

- Proves to be the **alpha male** (pg 168)

Lifeboat becomes **like a zoo enclosure** where Pi and RP are trapped (pg 188)

Anthropomorphism "I may have anthropomorphised the animals till they spoke fluent English"

Only animals with human characteristics

- As a child Pi treats the animals in the zoo as **close friends** and even imagines that they **talk**
 - Allows the mother orangutan to search thru his hair
 - Allows elephant to search his pockets
- **Contradiction:** Pi anthropomorphised animals but stresses how they **wild nature** and **biological features** make them not like humans
 - He uses figurative language
 - Says he isn't giving the Three-toed sloth human traits BUUUUT then says they are like 'Yogis deep in meditation'
- **More contradictions:** When Pi describes Richard Parker for the first time → We think he is **human**
 - Pronouns used '**he**' and '**him**' rather than '**it**' (which is used for animals)
- **Richard Parker's Look**
 - 'Threatening canines and incredible muscles' → **wild strength**
 - 'Formidable sideburns' and 'a stylish goatee' → **human terms**
 - Pi is terrified of him (wild animal) but *keeps talking to him like a person*
 - Imagines tiger in his thoughts and gives him **dialogue** → all the food they miss
- Second Story:
 - Richard = Pi (symbolic)
 - Places all the **awful** things he had to do on RP's shoulder → **shifts blame**
 - He didn't kill the Frenchman (RP did it)
 - Lays blame on animal to **protect himself** from the **horror** of what he did
 - **HUMANS ARE EQUALLY CAPABLE OF SAVAGERY AND CRUELTY** → survival
 - Animals have 2 imperatives: **avoid enemies + get food and water**
 - This is what Pi ends up doing to battle for **survival**

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