

Short film reviews

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Movie 1: Life is easy. Why do we make it so hard?

The speaker, Jon Jandai, starts off by saying he has always wanted to say one thing in his life, that thing being the fact that life is easy and fun. He then goes on to explain why he thinks life is easy, and not as hard as we make it to be. He was born in a poor village, and in his childhood, everything was fun and easy. This seems like a subjective opinion to me, and varies from person to person, but yes, when we are kids, we are usually given easier tasks to do. He was then told to pursue success, and for that he would have to go to Bangkok to study. He goes to Bangkok and does not find that fun. The notion of working hard for success is what had been told to him. He did not find Bangkok fun and did not find much success even after working much harder than he had before. The work he put in was not equal to the reward he got, and this left him thinking, why isn't hard work paying him back? In my opinion, this was mainly because of two things, the way he was taught at university, and his interest in learning. Not everyone finds studying fun, and that is understandable. You cannot expect work put into studying to give material rewards, can you? He did not find the knowledge gained at the institution constructive, which is his opinion, and I do not completely agree with it.

He also says farming only takes two months in the year, which gives a person a lot of free time. I cannot comment on this with certainty, but farming is not easy for all of us. He then says he went back home, and started living life the way he wanted to, and found the work to reward ratio was much better than in Bangkok. Here, he just had to grow plants in the garden, and do a little work to feed 6 people, instead of working much harder and eating one bowl of noodle. He also says we need not work so hard and do complicated things to live our life happily. We can build our own houses, grow our own plants, and live the way we want to.

However, I do get his point. I agree with him on the fact that we must strive to live the way we want. We need not follow everyone in the rat race just because everyone thinks that is the way to go. It very well may not be the way to go for everyone. So, we must step back, and reflect upon ourselves when we find ourselves thinking "Why am I not getting what I want?" and think if what we are doing is really what we want to do. He figured out that learning and studying was not for him, and he went back to doing what he loved, which is something I respect and admire about him. When we are faced with a situation, we must not overcomplicate things. We should keep things easy, and only do what we want to do. We need not bother about what the world thinks of us, if we are happy with the way we live. While I do not agree with him about farming and such being easy, I completely agree with him about the crux of his talk, which is keeping life easy, and staying happy the way we want to be. Self-sustenance does seem like an interesting prospect though, but it is rare now, as society is an interdependent structure. Finally, I agree with him, as he says "Life can be easy, or life can be hard, that is our choice to make" as that is exactly what we need to realise.

Movie 2: Right here, right now

This film is one that effortlessly conveys the notions of Karma, how something as small as negligence, can lead to something disastrous, or on the other side, how something as small as a little attention, can cascade into something that is lifesaving.

The movie starts off with a common scene, where a mom is trying to convince her son to have food before going outside. The boy denies, and neglects her concern for him, and leaves the house. The mother, now frustrated by this gesture, starts to get agitated, and goes to the maid. She then vents that anger onto the maid, and now this makes the maid angry too. The maid then walks out, and scolds her daughter, and the chain continues.

The results of this anger that is being passed on have progressively severe effects too. It started off with a simple denial and goes all the way to cheating a person and firing a person from his job! It ends with the very same boy who denied food in the beginning being hit by a car and left on the road. This shows the stark effects that a small act of unnecessary arrogance, that could have been easily avoided nonetheless, can have.

The second part of the film starts off from a few seconds after the first scene of the first part. Here, it shows that boy complimenting his younger brother for a picture he drew. Now, this small act makes the younger brother happy. However, this happiness too spreads in an equivalent way to before. It forms a chain too, and happiness cascades to result in bigger and bigger effects, from something as small as appreciation for a drawing, all the way to saving a person's life, that person being the same boy, who was left on the road in the first part, who appreciated his brother's efforts, and ignored his mom's concern.

This film is a stunning depiction of karma, and how two ridiculously small, negligible actions resulted in changes in the lives of such a large group of people. It shows how profound and powerful all our actions can be and shows how much of a difference we could make, just by keeping our emotions in check and not hurting others. We must strive to create chains like the ones in the second part of the film, which spread happiness and help multiple people along the way, and it may even help us out when we need it the most. Other than the so-so picture quality of the movie (which is completely understandable, considering the year and budget), I would say this movie does convey a message that all of us need to realise and act upon, not just know.