Breaking Down: Movie "Inception"

Spine

A great expert in subconscious infiltration is hired to break the energy monopoly conglomerate and assembles his team for the task. They exploit the idea of dream within a dream to go down several layers of sleeping in order to seed the idea of dissolving a company into the brain of the company owner's son.

Act I

Dom and Arthur ("extractors") use subconsious to retrieve information while experiencing a shared dream with their target (Saito). That demonstrates how good they are as well as introduces an obstacle in the form of Dom's wife (Mal).

Saito later approaches Dom to hire him for a very subtle and difficult task in exchange for a favour — Saito will help Dom to see his children who live separately from their father due to unfortunate circumstances.

Act II

Dom assembles his team of best experts to perform this extremely sophisticated task. They have got the only one chance to accomplish their job on a 10-hour flight. The team submerges in the dream together with their target — son of the monopoly energy company owner. Waking up from the dreams should be done with very neat precision. As the characters plundge deeper in the dreams, the tension rises and in the what was supposed to be the last layer Dom's wife appears and intervenes by nearly killing the target. With the last effort and defibrillator they succeed to bring the target to life in one more layer down. Thus they succeed to plant the idea in the head of the owner's son and perfectly time their waking. Dom convinces his wife to stop pursuing him and that she is only his imagination. However, the waking of Dom remains uncertain as he falls even deeper.

Act III

The mission is accomplished and the energy monopoly will be stopped for now. We see with Dom's eyes that he wakes up and sees everyone is happy and satisfied as well as Saito's promise is fulfilled — he meets his children and is happy. However, the fact whether he has truly woken up or he sees this in the eternal dream remain unresolved.

Conclusion

This story is interesting to me (as, I guess, to many other people) because it shows how our brains may actually work. It might be another story about mind games, however, its demonstration is alluring. Another side is the effect that people may believe that their subconscious is penetrable and be intimidated. The story is also about measuring things and timing precisely which keeps us watching to see if the team succeeds to make it in time (even though, deep inside we know they will succeed).