

Life of Pi CRT

When an individual creates an idea, the mind instinctively processes the likelihood and expenses before deciding to commit. This is done to lower the chance of failure as individuals often feel humiliated, disappointed and regretful as a result of unsucccess. Most ideas are often discarded due to the potential of failure being too high by human judgement. Many factors such as reputations, likelihood of success, and harmony of personal beliefs often dilute ideas before they have a chance to flourish. However, human judgement is flawed and never perfect, thus ideas that have potential are often overshadowed along with the failures. In *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel, the author develops the idea that choosing to ignore certain factors is often essential to reaching the desired results. Penetrating the bubble of rules set by society is usually required to start and develop ideas. Ignoring the probability of success and proceeding regardless of calculations results in more experience and development than the unattempted. Setting aside beliefs and values is sometimes essential to reaching an individual's goal. Staying within the mind's rubric of success denies various ideas created by the creative mind, thus the importance of ignorance should be identified.

Overcoming the haunt of society's expectations is often required to establish ideas. Society often creates sets of rules that when broken, are often paid by an individual's reputation. The fear of such rules limits the potential of developing ideas and often neglects potential. This is shown in *Life of Pi* when Pi “got up from [his] desk [...] [and] wrote: *My name is Piscine Molitor Patel, known to all as Pi Patel.*” (28) All of his peers were “called out from [their] desks in the order in which [they] happened to be sitting,” (27) unlike Pi who willingly grabbed attention regardless of his reputation. By writing his name on the board he rejected the normal response and did something that his peers would remember. Had he resigned to fear, his hated

nickname of “pissing” (25) would have remained to his character. It was the breach in the societal norm that enabled Pi to reach satisfaction regardless of the consequences that could have resulted from his decision. His peers could have seen it as a joke, he could have gotten into trouble by the professor, so many things could have resulted in a tarnished reputation, however, Pi carried on with his idea regardless. Though the results were not clear, the step outside the bubble of normality concluded in Pi’s benefit. Another example of Pi exceeding the circumference of normality is when Pi decided to follow the religions of “a Hindu, a Christian and a Muslim.” (87) The expectations in society in *Life of Pi* was to practice only one religion as stated by the wise men “*practice--singular!*” (87) Pi however continues to practice all 3 religions and is contemptuous with himself as he believes “all religions are true.” (87) If Pi were to listen to the 3 religious representatives, he would have not been satisfied as “he just want[ed] to love God” (87) but since he was firm and disregarded the societal normality he was able to withstand the conflict from the religious representatives and keep following his desired goal. Often societal normalities conflict with our personal desires. Ignoring those expectations results in the desired outcome as it is most often the fear of consequences that prevent individuals from attempting.

When individuals start planning and calculating the probability of success in their idea, more often than not, the estimation is far lower than comfort. Due to the unlikelihood of success individuals often forget about the idea. In *Life of Pi*, Pi decided “[he] had to tame him” (206) despite the unlikelihood of a wild Bengal tiger being tamed by a little boy with an orange whistle. Pi, however, succeeded in taming the tiger and benefited crucially as a result. He managed to share the lifeboat and did not have to resort to his draft of a raft. Had he given up due to the exponential probability of failure, Pi would have been forced to survive on the raft despite the bigger lifeboat right beside him. However, Pi was able to overcome and ignore the odds and

the results were in his favour. This situation is repeated when Pi “took stock of the lifeboat.” (172) Pi planned on looting the supply locker located at the rear end of Richard Parker’s den. Knowing entering Richard Parker’s territory was dangerous because “[he] invaded it's territory,” (54) Pi still attempted to carry on with his plan. He managed to avoid any interaction with Richard Parker and raid the supply locker of its contents. The odds of Richard Parker not noticing Pi was slim yet he overcame the fear of failure. Because he avoided and ignored the high odds against him, he was able to reach his desired goal. These decisions enabled Pi to survive far longer than if he had not. Halting ideas because of their unlikelihood does not always mean failure is inevitable.

Much like societal expectations and low possibility, the values of an individual can also be ignored to benefit the person. Although individuals are taught to value and act upon their beliefs, sometimes they get in the way of potential success. Ideas that potentially could benefit the individual are often masked by the neglect to stray away from their beliefs. An example of this is shown when Pi decides to consume fish and meat from the ocean despite the fact of being vegetarian. At first his dissatisfaction with himself is shown as “tears flowing down [his] cheeks” (231) was evident. However, “a person can get used to anything, even to killing.” (234) Pi’s attitude towards the life of animals altered and he managed to take action that would have disagreed with his past self. However, killing the sea creatures enabled him to reach his desired outcome: survival. Since there was a serious lack of vegetation on the lifeboat, attempting to survive solely on plants would have been insufficient and would result in death. Another instance this situation was present in was when Pi “forgot even the very notion of time.” (242) Knowing when to pray was something valuable to Pi’s religious character thus keeping track of time had value. However, “time is an illusion that only makes us pant,” (242) panting being excess

breathing due to excitement or exertion. In Pi's scenario both of these actions would have been harmful. Because of this harmful effect it had on Pi's physical capabilities, Pi decided to give up on keeping track of time. As Pi stated, if he were to have continued keeping track of time, the days would have been longer and harder to withstand and require more effort. If Pi were to take actions that agreed with his values, his survival would have been very different or nonexistent due to the scenarios he was forced to engage in.

Ignorance is often viewed with a negative connotation. However, voluntary ignorance required much more attention and effort than learning and adapting. Without ignorance and ignoring the risks, individuals often cannot reach their desired outcome. Evidently, breaking societal normalities require confidence and ignorance towards the consequences however it rewards a more direct pathway towards the end product. Although success rates can sometimes be towering with doubt, refusing to remind the mind of the probability results in more confidence and determination. Values and beliefs often interfere with our route to success. Being able to set aside the emotions enabled the individual to act upon how they want without the dread of regret from their past self. It is important to identify the relationship between ignorance and reaching the desired outcome. A world based off of solely guaranteed answers results in a colourless life and predetermined outcomes. However, refusing to identify certain scenarios enabled the individual to reach their conclusion without taking the effort to reach certainty.