**Film - The Seventh Seal - Summary**

The Seventh Seal was an excellent movie. Full of different religious themes, it conveyed many different perspectives on the inevitable reality of our mortality and how different people cope with death. The main character of the story was a Knight by the name of Antonius Block, a man who played chess with Death himself. The story is set in the time of the Black Plague, when thousands of people were dying every day. This fear of a painful and agonizing death lived in the minds of every character of the story and was the main theme. How do these people cope knowing that a painful death by the plague is waiting for them just around the corner? Where do they draw their hope?

For Antonius, it was the hope of the afterlife. A crusader of the church, he believed in God and the afterlife, although he was struggling in his faith, and needed God to speak to him in order to believe that there really was a deity. The source of his hope when facing the end of this life is in the next life. But he struggled greatly to believe this. One of my favorite quotes from the movie was said by Antonius: “We carve an idol made out of our fear and call it God.” It is easy to see Antonius’ doubt in this quote. Because of his fear and uncertainty, when death comes to take him, he challenges death to a game, which, although his chances of victory are slim, will give him time to figure out the answer to the question that he is looking for. Is there a God, or is the purpose of all life just death and nothingness?

Another character of the story was Antonius’ squire, Jons. He was just as scared of the Plague and his own death as Antonius was, if not a great deal more so. He coped with death in a different matter though, not really believing much in the existence of the afterlife, he took more of a pessimistic approach to his life and death. Believing that life after death was pure nothingness, he simply tried to live his life while ignoring death as much as he could. Trying to stay away from the plague and discussion of it as long as he could. This view of his is expressed best when he comes across a shepherd whilst traveling with Antonius. When Jons goes to ask the Shepherd for directions, he finds the shepherd has been dead for quite some time, when he returns to Antonius he claims that the dead man was alive and eloquent, speaking plenty – he just didn’t feel like telling Jons which way to go. This utter avoidance of death is a common theme shown by Jons. Jons even describes a self-portrait he made by saying that this is Jons the fool, the man who lives care free, without worry. Living in his own world for as long as he can (paraphrased).

Although there were many other characters in the story, these two views were the main theme of this movie the Seventh Seal. Is the end of this life really the beginning of the next? Or the end of this life just that, the end?