

Life of Pi

This is a movie directed by Ang Lee. It's interesting to get the director's thoughts from the movie. He is quite spiritual but not religious, yet he shows respect to religion.

The reason why it's successful is that it has no tendency—no tendency to tell you the material world is true and the spiritual world is fake, and no tendency to tell you the spiritual world decides the result. Ang Lee just shows the whole picture of a beautiful spiritual life. However, he thinks the results are the same and the spiritual world makes people happy and meaningful.

The movie tells us the difference between materialism and spirituality. What is a tiger? It's a scary animal, but it can be Pi's friend, at least from Pi's eyes. But the second version tells us the tiger is Pi, and he ate all the people—including his mom—to survive. What we can see from the tiger's eyes is ourselves, or more than ourselves?

Is survival enough to let him overcome disgust and pain in his heart? I'd rather die. Is taking care of the tiger enough to make him want to live and try his best? Sounds possible. The desire for himself to live is like the attraction from the material world. I think the degree of that attraction is different for different people. It's easy to lose attraction and feel meaningless.

What's the difference between spirituality and religion? I think the key is the shift from *knowing* that God exists to *having faith* in God—and ultimately, the key is **relationship**. Relationships with God can truly change people and the world. That's how religious people see it.

I think Ang Lee raised some other questions:

- Is it important for a person to choose one religion, even if he believes different religions are just distinct versions describing the same God?
- How to deal with the miseries in the world? Ang Lee shows God is watching but not helping. Is that right? Sounds true. Is that right for me? Not really.