

## 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, so people hold different views all like the movie. 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 killed the cook and ate all the people 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? And for us, where is the boundary?
- How to view the miseries in the world?

The movie presents a version of God who watches but does not intervene. Is that right? In physics, there has long been a debate about whether the universe is **deterministic**—whether future events are entirely shaped by past ones, governed by the laws of nature.

If that's true, then faith—when held in the present—can influence our actions, and those actions become part of the causal chain that shapes future outcomes. In this view, faith is not just emotional comfort; it is a force that participates in shaping reality.

But does that mean good attitudes and actions lead to good outcomes? It's another trap. God has already given us His mercy and love, regardless of what we do. So what is our freedom for? to tell God we need Him and we love Him.

The hypothesis that the universe is deterministic may be flawed, and quantum mechanics has made it even more likely to be questioned.

Yet, even as we think in terms of cause and effect, we're still focusing on the material world—what can be seen, measured, and changed—rather than truly caring about the invisible, spiritual world. Still, just trying to understand the hidden relationships and deeper mysteries behind it all.