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Metaphors and the Integration of Faith and Reason in Ang Lee's Life of Pi

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Abstract

The film *Life of Pi* narrates a fable about the relationship between an individual and the mindbody realm, based on the transformative journey of an Indian boy, Piscine Patel, who found himself in a tumultuous battle between hope and despair, faith and reason, as he navigated the vast, unforgiving expanse of the open sea after a harrowing shipwreck. Once deeply rooted in his religious beliefs, Piscine began to lose faith in his objects of devotion. In his despair, he heeded his father's teachings, ingrained deep within his heart, and began to struggle for survival at sea using reason. When the external environment dampened Piscine's will to survive, the illusions of faith provided him with spiritual support, allowing him to rekindle his rational thinking and confront the challenges ahead. Throughout his arduous drift at sea, Piscine was accompanied by a fierce tiger, symbolizing the raw power of rationality, and a delicate lotus, embodying the essence of pure faith. Together, these symbolic representations serve as a poignant metaphor for integrating faith and reason in a state of perpetual flux, highlighting the intricate dynamics between faith and reason in the face of uncertainty.

Keywords: Faith, Reason, Hinduism, Metaphor, Integration.