

APPENDIX I

Summary of *Life of Pi*

Piscine Molitor Patel, the narrator, was born into a family that ran a zoo in Pondicherry in the 1960s. While later describing his life there, he explains the opposition to zoos. He offers his viewpoints on why creatures respond less adversely than defenders of the thought propose.

As a nod to the French swimming pool, the narrator explains how he got his full name. When he starts secondary school, his classmates make fun of him by changing his first name to "Pissing," so he starts calling himself "Pi" as a nickname. He claims that the name honours the transcendental number, which is the ratio of a circle's diameter to its circumference.

Pi also describes a few unusual situations involving proper names as he recounts his experiences: two guests to the zoo, one a sincere Muslim and the other a severe nonbeliever, bear indistinguishable names; In addition, a clerical error led to the 450-pound Bengal tiger at the zoo being given the name Richard Parker because the tiger's name was mistaken for the name of his human captor. One day, Pi and his older brother Ravi are given an unplanned lesson about the dangers that the animals at the zoo pose. It begins with a goat feeding another tiger, and then the family tours the zoo, where his father explains each animal's aggressive biological characteristics.

Pi is not vegetarian and was brought up Hindu. He investigates Christianity and Islam at the age of fourteen. He becomes a follower of all three, much to the dismay of his parents (and the frustration of his religious mentors), declaring that he "just wants to love God." He tries to comprehend God through the lens of each religion and discovers advantages in each. Pi's father decided to sell the zoo and immigrate to Canada with his wife and children a few years later, in February 1976, when Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi declared "The Emergency."

The second piece of the original starts in July 1977 with Pi's family on board the *Tsimtsum*, a Japanese tanker shipping creatures from their zoo to North America. The ship encounters a storm and sinks a few days out of Manila. A spotted hyena, an injured Grant's zebra, and an orangutan named Orange Juice are all in a tiny lifeboat Pi manages to escape. The hyena kills Orange Juice and the zebra, much to the boy's annoyance. Under the boat's tarp, a tiger has been hiding: Richard

Parker was the one who, before the hyena attack, had climbed aboard the lifeboat with Pi's ambivalent assistance. Richard Parker kills and eats the hyena as soon as he emerges from his hideout.

Pi creates a small raft out of rescue flotation devices out of fear, ties it to the boat's bow, and makes it his retirement home. He uses food as a positive reinforcement and seasickness as a punishment to begin training Richard Parker to be submissive, using a whistle as a signal. Pi quickly establishes himself as the superior animal and eventually allows his feline companion to share the boat. In the end, he acknowledges that Richard Parker was the one who assisted him in surviving his ordeal.

While adrift in the Pacific Ocean, Pi describes a variety of events. Exposure renders him blind and unable to fish at his lowest point. He talks to a marine "echo" while in a delirium. At first, he thinks it is Richard Parker because he has learned to speak, but it turns out to be another blind castaway, a Frenchman, who boards the lifeboat to kill and eat Pi but is killed by Richard Parker right away. Pi's boat eventually lands on an algae-covered network of floating islands inhabited by hundreds of thousands of meerkats. Pi and Richard Parker soon regain strength, but when the boy discovers that the island's plant life is carnivorous, he has to go back to the ocean. Pi is heartbroken by Richard Parker's abrupt departure into the nearby jungle after the lifeboat washes onto a beach in Mexico two hundred twenty-seven days after the ship sinks.

In the third section of the book, Pi and two Japanese Ministry of Transport people looking into the shipwreck have a conversation. He meets them at the Mexico hospital, where he is recuperating. When Pi tells them his story, the officials find it unbelievable. After that, Pi tells them a second story in which he is stranded on a lifeboat, not with animals from the zoo but with the ship's cook, a Taiwanese seaman with a broken leg, and his mother. The cook kills Pi's mother and the sailor for food after amputating the sailor's leg for fishing bait. Before long, the cook is killed by Pi, who feasts on him.

The investigators observe connections between the two tales. They quickly conclude that the tiger represents Pi, the orangutan Pi's mother, the hyena the cook, and the zebra the sailor. Pi asks the officials which version they prefer because he points out that neither story can be proven nor explains the cause of the shipwreck: either the one with or without animals. In the end, they settled on the tale about

animals. Pi expresses gratitude toward them and says: " Thus it goes with God." After that, the investigators depart and submit a report expressing belief in the initial narrative.

APPENDIX II

Biography of Yann Martel

Émile Martel and Nicole Perron, a French-Canadian couple who attended the University of Salamanca, gave birth to Yann Martel in Salamanca, Spain, in June 25, 1963. Her father teaches at the Universities of Alaska and Victoria, while her mother is enrolled in Hispanic studies. His family moved to Madrid, Spain, Fairbanks, Alaska, and Coimbra, Portugal, shortly after his birth. Victoria, British Columbia, as well. He was raised in San José, Costa Rica, Paris, France, and Madrid, Spain, with assignments in Ottawa, Ontario, between jobs. His parents joined the Canadian foreign service. Martel attended Trinity College School in Port Hope, Ontario, for his final two years of high school and Trent University in Peterborough, Ontario, for his bachelor's degree in philosophy.

As an adult, Yann Martel worked as a security guard at the Canadian embassy in Paris, a dishwasher at a tree planting camp in northern Ontario, and a parking attendant in Ottawa. He also went to India, Iran, Turkey, Mexico, and South America. He started writing plays and short stories that were "tarnished by immaturity and macabre," as he put it, while he was still in college. In 2003, Yann Martel and the Kuipers moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

In 1988, Martel's short story *Mister Ali and the Barrel maker* was published in *The Malahat Review*. His interim report, *The Facts Behind the Helsinki Roccamatios*, was also published in 1990 by *The Malahat Review*, for which he was awarded the 1991 Travel Prize and was included in the 1991–1992 *Stroller Prize Anthology*. In 1992, *Malahat* gave his brief tale *When I Heard Donald J. Rankin's Confidential String Show with One Off-Fiddle*, by American writer John Morton, for which he won a gold Public Magazine Grant. His short story *Industrial Grandeur* was published in 1993 in the cultural magazine *Border Crossings*. In the same year, a bookstore in Ottawa hosted Martel's reading and published a limited edition of some of his works, *Seven Stories*, that was handcrafted.

Life of Pi, Martel's second novel, was released on September 11, 2001. It was nominated for numerous awards, including the Man Booker Prize in 2002. It became a best-seller in multiple nations and spent 61 weeks on *The New York Times Bestseller List*. Martel had been in New York before in the day, leaving on the night of the tenth for Toronto to distribute his original the following day. After reading a review of the novel *Max and the Cat* written by Brazilian author Moacyr

Scliar and published in The New York Times Book Review, he was partially inspired to write a story about sharing a lifeboat with wild animals. The Brazilian media initially criticized Martel for not consulting Scliar. In The Author's Notes on Pi's Life, Martel freely admitted that he had been influenced by the New York Times review of Scliar's work and thanked the publication. This demonstrated that Martel could not steal from a work he had not read at the time. After that, Nancy Lee, a writer, helped select Life of Pi for the 2003 Canada Reads competition on CBC Radio. Additionally, its French translation, Histoire de Pi, was entered in the 2004 competition for the French version, Le combat des Livres, which Louise Forestier, a singer, won.

In 2002, Martel taught a course titled "The Animal in Literature" while Samuel Fischer was a Visiting Professor at the Institute of Comparative Literature at the Free University of Berlin. He then worked as a Saskatoon Writer at the Residential Public Library for a year beginning in September 2003 in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. He worked with Omar Daniel, the resident composer at the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, on piano, string quartet, and bass pieces. You Are Where You Are is a composition based on Martel's text that includes portions of phone conversations from everyday moments. Martel was a visiting scholar at the University of Saskatchewan from 2005 to 2007.

His third novel, Beatrice and Virgil, was published in 2010. The work attempts to approach this period through imaginative synthesis rather than through the lens of historical witnesses. It is a symbolic depiction of the Holocaust. The primary characters in the story are an essayist, a taxidermist, and two soft toys: a donkey and a red howler monkey.

Martel ran a book club with Stephen Harper, the Canadian Prime Minister, from 2007 to 2011. Over four years, Martel sent Harper a book every fortnight, including graphic novels, children's books, plays, poetry collections, and novels. 101 Letters to the Prime Minister was published as a book in 2012. He is credited as the motivation behind the Polish magazine Histmag's decision to present Prime Minister Donald Tusk with their book; However, this was a one-time event involving only ten books, all of which had been submitted by their publishers and chosen by readers of the magazine. High Mountains of Portugal, Tusk's fourth novel, was released on February 2, 2016, with very positive reviews. It tells the story of three people in Portugal at different times who, each in their unique way, overcome love and loss. Within the first month of its release, it made The New York Times Bestseller list.



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