

*Rashmi Doke

(Research Scholar)

**Dr. Arunaprakash

(Associate Professor)

J.R. College

Dhanora, Maharashtra, India
Email : rashmidoke@gmail.com

Multiple Adventure and Thrilling Experience of Pi in Yann Martel's, Life of Pi

Abstract -

“Yann Martel blends fact and fiction with wily charm... one reads Life of Pi not so much as an allegory or magical–realist fable, but as an edge-of-seat adventure... In its subject and its style, this enormously lovable novel is suffused with wonder.”

The Guardian

(Life of Pi. p. back cover.)

Yann Martel is a winner of the Man Booker Prize for his the most famous novel ‘Life of Pi’. Yann Martel is a Canadian travelling writer. He visited India and set a novel. The novel is about struggle for survival. The protagonist of the novel is Pi, who shared his boat with a ferocious and unbelievable animal Richard Parker, a 450 pound Bengal tiger in Pacific Ocean.

This fantasy novel is based in times of political anarchy in India. In 1975 prime minister of India, Indira Gandhi found guilty on her election campaign in 1971. She was asked to resign. Instead of resigning, she declared a state of emergency. This political condition caused threat to the business of Pi's father, who is the owner of a zoo. Speculating that Indira Gandhi may even take over his zoo he decided to sell off zoo's animal and migrate to Canada.

During this sea journey, unluckily a harrowing shipwreck completely changes Pi's life and fate. Pi lost his family and found himself alone on a lifeboat with four zoo animals they are wounded zebra, spotted hyena, seasick orangutan and 450 pound Bengal tiger, Richard Parker. After a much fighting for existence and survival, at last Pi shared his lifeboat with tiger, Richard Parker and spent 227 days with him as a savior and loyal companion.

Key Words : struggle, thrilling, survive, adventure, carnivorous

Multiple Adventure of Pi -

1) Shipwreck -

The disastrous shipwreck completely changes Pi's fate and brings him a new blue world. The world where there is no one close to him only animals and sea creatures become his companions on this sea odyssey. The narrowness of the Pacific Ocean, dangerous shark, fish, large dolphins make his sea journey adventurous Pi's will to live is strong and the same will power keeps Richard Parker alive. The dark evil and cruel shipwreck destroy Pi's life and he loses everything. After that evil and cruel shipwreck Pi find himself alone with zoo's animal on a lifeboat in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Genuinely Pi is a brave boy and consoles himself, tackles the situation for survival.

“Vishnu preserves me, Allah protects me, Christ saves me can't bear it.”

(Chapter 37, p. 98)

He believes in God, followers of three religions. He always said “God is one.” His faith on God gives him strength. He knows that this ferocious, carnivore Richard Parker (tiger) is strong and impossible to defeat him as well, he takes a brave decision to tame him as a pet animal.

2) Pi's boat companion of sea odyssey -

When one can share anything with other the condition is either he is helpless or that one his best companion. Pi faces both conditions equally. In the novel Pi's father is a zoo keeper and he gave Pi and his elder brother Ravi a good knowledge about animals behavior and Keeping in mind all the instruction as well as information of his father he is able to live with not only clever hyena, seasick orangutan wounded helpless zebra but the most ferocious animal Richard Parker a 450 pounds Bengal tiger.

Initially, this fictional story is unexpected to believe but woven very skillfully that to make us believe of Pi's adventure's sea journey. As per Darwin thinking the four animals on a life boat fighting and butcher each other. Spotted hyena killed wounded zebra and seasick orangutan and finally Richard Parker killed spotted hyena before hyena going to attack on Pi. "I had to tame him. It was at that moment that I realized this necessity. It was not a question of him or me but of him and me. We were, literally and figuratively, in the same boat. We would live-or we would die-together."

(Chapter 57, p. 164)

By killing hyena Richard Parker became Pi's life savior. The most of time Richard Parker attack on Pi but Pi never lost his heart or afraid any more he makes his best to pet him by using his whistle as a zoo master or trainer. Pi has an animal love and this affection bring them together for 227 days. At last Pi's boat came to the land of Mexico. The one thing feels unhappy to Pi that farewell of Richard Parker who was only reason to keep him alive. He thanks to Richard Parker for saving his life. Pi intimately affectionate towards Richard Parker and farewell him by saying "God be with you."

3) Carnivorous Island and Carnivore Animal -

Pi is a brave boy he never afraid and faced the situation as his possible way. In this adventures sea voyage Pi overcome a number of adventures experience. His sea journey is full of adventures. He accepted three religions as a Hindu boy people never accept the concept of following Muslim and Christine religion. He prays and worships Vishnu. God save him, God is one. God survive him. He has a deep faith on God that makes him possible to survive on his ordeal. Pi spends times in the carnivorous Island with carnivore animal, Richard Parker. This makes hair stand on the hand. He makes this carnivores ferocious animal as his best companion on his adventures sea journey.

Pi's Thrilling Experience -

1) Pi lost his family -

To lose the family is the greatest pain in the world. Family support one, love one and console one whenever one in disturb mood or fail in work.

“I was alone and orphaned, in the middle of the Pacific, hanging on to an oar, an adult tiger in front of me, shark beneath me, a storm raging about me.”

(Chapter 57, p. 107)

After ship sank Pi alone on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean and came in to a danger as Richard Parker in the lifeboat and cruel shark was under the ocean. Pi's father loves him so, he take precaution that in any condition Pi or his elder brother Ravi not to close or touch tiger at any excitement. As his father gave a live goat to a tiger and, tiger attacked and killed it to satisfy his hunger. His father life lesson useful him on a lifeboat. He cried, screamed with trauma and called his parents and brother who were swallowed by this monstrous Pacific Ocean.

2) Animal struggle for survival -

One by one Pi come across thrilling experience. At first Pi with the company of three animals spotted hyena, wounded zebra and seasick orangutan. Hyena is very cleaver and ferocious animal killed another two animal on a lifeboat. They fight butcher each other as the Darwin theory, "survival of the fittest." This animal behavior resemble of today's modernize human world. Where everyone is self-centered and never care to the close one of their. This concrete jungle human becomes a emotionless animal. At last he shared his lifeboat with Richard Parker; this was Pi's thrilling experience which makes our hair stand on the hand.

3) Life Lesson of Pi's Father -

Animals are emotionless; being a zookeeper Pi's father wanted to makes their children acquaintance the ferociousness in animals. Pi's father Mr.Patel gave a live goat to the tiger and he killed and ate it. This incident teaches Pi a lot of thing in life. This life lesson becomes helpful for Pi to survive on a lifeboat with a giant Richard Parker. He remembers Ravi's word, "You are going to be a next goat." This thrilling experience of Pi broke him completely, but makes him believe that keep some distance from this carnivore animal.

4) Carnivorous Island -

Carnivorous means flesh eaters or meat eaters. Carnivorous Island, where the trees are carnivorous who grab or ate animals, insect or human being. This carnivorous Island symbolizes religion and thousand of meerkats represents followers of religion. Pi has a deep faith on religion and spirituality.

"The Island was carnivorous. This explained the disappearance of the fish in the pond."

(Chapter 97, p. 281)

It is Pi's faith that spends near about a month on this carnivorous Island. In the morning Island looks magnificent, but at night because of acid reaction make Island carnivorous, so the

dead fish floated on the water of pond. Pi lives on Island of eating algae. Pi finds human teeth in the fruit that realized him someone become a victim of this Carnivorous Island and may be the Pi next one. Pi enjoyed quality of time on the Island with the company of meerkats and Richard Parker. Speculating he would be the next victim of this Carnivorous Island he left the place as soon as possible with Richard Parker. This magical, dreamy Island attack Pi, trees are grow up without soil. This place is unbelievable to him. If the place hadn't carnivorous, Pi would live there lifelong.

5) Comparison -

In an interview Yann Martel confessed that he was inspired by Max and Cat of Moacyr Scilar. Reading of Robinson Crusoe, Jungle Book which story is similar to Life of Pi. All these stories goes with ordeal, struggle for survival, believe on God. In max and cat, Max found alone with Jaguar adrift in an ocean. In Life of Pi, Pi found alone with a Bengal Tiger Richard Parker as well. But in Life of pi, Pi start sea voyage with four animal, hyena, orangutan, zebra and tiger. Pi affection with tiger reminds us the Mogli in Jungle book who has a lot of love towards jungle animals.

“I bent down, picked up the fish and threw it towards him. This was the way to tame him.”

(Chapter 61, p. 181)

Pi caught fish for Richard Parker as he wants to tame him. After catching flying fish he turned to big giant and strong Dorado fish. As Dorado fish came near Pi's raft, all the fish vanished. Pi's effort to catch the big Dorado fish, it's remind as Satiago's struggle for catching fish in the 'Old Man and Sea.'

Faith on God -

Pi's faith and believe on God is the way to overcome all the adverse condition and make him able to survive 227 days with a Richard Parker (tiger). Pi kept busy himself of his daily routine planning. In the morning, afternoon and night time he pray to God with some other work. At the earliest part of his life starts from his home. His home has all the religious books and symbols and goddesses idol. Pi raised in a Hindu religion and accepted Christian and Islam religion.

“Bapu Gandhi said, ‘All the religions are true, I just want to love God.’

(Chapter 23, p. 69)

He accepted Gandhiji's thinking and followed it. Whenever he found himself alone or in a danger he imagines the presence of God and prays for God.

“The presence of the God is the finest.”

(Chapter 21, p. 63)

Pi was alone returning to the house, he feels fear and to tangle the condition he took support of God. After ship sank, Pi on a lifeboat he and saw Richard Parker struggling to stay on the water.

Pi prayed, “Jesus, Mary, Muhammad and Vishnu, how good to see you Richard Parker.”

(Chapter 37, p. 97)

To defend himself from Richard Parker he prayed, “God preserve me.”

(Chapter 51, p.140)

Pi was terrified of sharing a lifeboat with Richard Parker he alert every time from tiger attack.

“God is with me, I will not die, Amen.”

(Chapter 53, p. 148)

When the Pi was thirsty and feels going to be dying. He reminds Christ on the cross died of suffocation and need of water. Pi kept busy himself by following religious prayer on a

lifeboat and it brought him comfort. Pi's believes that Almighty power was always with him and this improves his confidence. He always recalled Vishnu, Jesus and Allah for safety.

Conclusion -

Pi is a brave boy. He decides to survive with Richard Parker in any hard condition. Pi suffers from thrilling experience and faced adventurous journey by using a weapon of faith in God. His faith of God makes him mentally strong to go ahead his odyssey. In a letter to Martel, Barrack Obama described Life of Pi as: An elegant proof of God, and the power of storytelling.

Work Cited

REFERENCES

Martel, Yann. *Life of Pi*. New Delhi: Peguine, 2002.

Stewart, Jeanette. "Obama send Yann Martel *Life of Pi* appreciation letter". 6 April 2010.

<<http://nationalpost.com/afterword/obama-sends-yann-martel-life-of-pi-appreciation-letter>>

"Life of Pi Critical Essay Yann Martel."

<<https://www.enotes.com/topics/life-pi/critical-essays>>

"Sparknotes –Literature Study Guide-Life of Pi."

<<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/lifeofpi/study.html>>

Popmatter- *Life of Pi*-A novel by Yann Martel." 4 Sept. 2002.

<<http://www.popmatters.com/review/life-of-pi/>>

"Busted halo faith shared joyfully." 20 Feb. 2003.

<<http://bustedhalo.com/blogs/faith-of-pi>>

"UKEssays-Essay- *Life of Pi* Reason for Survival." 23 March 2015.

<<https://www.ukessays.com/essays/english-literature/life-of-pi-reasons-for-survival-english-literature-essay.php>>

"Research Journal of Krishna Daiya." 11 sept. 2013.

<<https://www.rjelal.com/RJELAL%20VOL.1.ISSUE.3/Dr.%20KRISHNA%20DAIYA%20322-326.pdf>>