



STRUGGLING OF SELF SURVIVAL AND ASTONISHING ADVENTURES IN *LIFE OF PI* BY YARNN MARTEL AND *ROBINSON CRUSOE* BY DANIEL DEFOE

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ABSTRACT

Life of Pi novel by Yarnn Martel. This novel concerned with struggling to survive through seemingly impossible prospects. In this story a boy endures an extraordinary long period at sea with man eating tiger on the boat. In here one could find a courageous struggle with faith and reason, and the reasons are portrayed by the author for survive is merely acceptable. And the basic theme of individual survival could find in Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe*. In this novel an individual man who spends many years in an isolated island. The protagonists of these two plays get changes in their attitude fear to hope because of their strength to survive, this extremely shows that anyone will often do extraordinary, unexpected, and sometimes heroic things to survive. This paper is going to compare the self survival and the astonishing adventures of the two characters of the two novel *Life of Pi* and *Robinson Crusoe*.

INTRODUCTION

In *Life of Pi*, the protagonist, Piscine Molitor Patel was an Indian boy from Pondicherry, explores the issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while he stuck on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. In the second novel *Robinson Crusoe* one could find the similarities of the first novel *Life of Pi*, in which *Crusoe* individually trapped in the island and struggled to survive like *Pi*. *Crusoe* sets sail from the Queen's Dock in Hull on a sea voyage in August 1651, against the wishes of his parents, who want him to pursue a career, possibly in law. After a tumultuous journey where his ship is wrecked in a storm, his lust for the sea remains so strong that he sets out to sea again.

METHODOLOGY



Robinson Crusoe mainly aware of the tension between society and individuality. As the novel begins, Robinson breaks free of his family and the middle-class society in which they live in order to pursue his own life. But his life actually changed in the mid of the novel, Robinson gets exactly what he asks for when he finds himself stranded alone on his island. There, he lives entirely as an individual apart from society and is forced to struggle against nature to survive. In *Life of Pi* also Pi is stranded on a lifeboat in the middle of the Pacific ocean, with only an adult Bengal tiger for company. He is soon forced to give up his lifelong pacifism and vegetarianism, as he has to kill and eat fish and turtles. Much of the action of *Life of Pi* consists of the struggle for survival.

SELF SURVIVAL IN LIFE OF PI

The theme of Survival in one of the main themes portrayed in *Life of Pi*. Without the will to survive, Pi would have died very early. Instead of being negative and sad, Pi decides to try to make the best out of a bad situation, and his attitude throughout the entire novel is amazing. He keeps himself busy by continuously checking on Richard Parker, and also by praying. The struggle to survive also leads the characters to commit deeds of both great heroism and horrible ghastliness. Pi finds an amazing resourcefulness and will to live within himself, and he decides to live peacefully along with Richard Parker instead of trying to kill the tiger. When he leaves the island Pi even waits for Richard Parker to return to the lifeboat before pushing off. The French cook, on the other hand, sinks to murder and cannibalism in his attempts to survive.

In Pi's second version of the story, Richard Parker is an aspect of Pi's own personality, which means that the tiger's violence is actually a manifestation of a side of Pi's soul that will do anything to keep living. Pi did One very smart thing that he made a schedule, and that help organize his day, and gave himself a routine to do every day. Without a schedule, it is hard to think that he would have survived. Pi is a vegetarian, but when he was on the boat, he decided that in order to keep himself alive, he would have to eat fish, and other animals that would come his way. The first time he kills a fish, Pi weeps, and that shows how emotional he was about it. But after a while, it becomes like second nature to him, and that shows how much he grew as a person over the entire time he was on the boat.

Pi's crisis which involved the changing of his name also pushed him to the extreme in finding spiritual guidance and in attaching himself to three faiths. If one faith doesn't suit his immediate needs, he can try the next in sequence until one does fulfill his emotional requirements. During the time that his schoolmates excluded him from the social structure by casting him aside through the name calling, Pi was forced to create his own society.

SELF SURVIVAL IN RABNSON CRUSOE



Robinson becomes independent and learns how to make and do things for himself, discovering creativity he didn't know he had that capacity. Through this one could say that being separated from society leads Robinson becoming a better person. Robinson himself seems to come to this conclusion, as he realizes that his experience brings him closer to God and that living alone on the island allows for a life largely without sin. He makes harvests, and hunts only what he needs, so there is nothing for him to be greedy. And while he is alone, he does not suffer from lust or pride.

Crusoe's arrival on the island does not make him get back to a brute existence controlled by animal instincts, and, unlike animals, he remains conscious of himself at all times. In fact, his island existence actually deepens his self awareness as he departs from the external social world and turns inward. The idea that the individual must keep a careful calculation of the state of his own soul is a key point in the Presbyterian doctrine that Defoe took seriously all his life. One can find that in his normal day-to-day activities, Crusoe keeps accounts of himself enthusiastically and in various ways. For example, it is significant that Crusoe's makeshift calendar does not simply mark the passing of days, but instead more egocentrically marks the days he has spent on the island: it is about him, a sort of self-conscious or autobiographical calendar with him at its center. Similarly, Crusoe neurotically keeps a journal to record his daily activities, even when they amount to nothing more than finding a few pieces of wood on the beach or waiting inside while it rains. Crusoe feels the importance of staying aware of his situation at all times. Crusoe teaches nature itself to voice his own self-awareness. . If he were to stay at home, he would live a life already arranged for him by his father and by the constraints of English society. By setting out to sea, Robinson prioritizes his sense of individuality over his family and society at large.

Loss of innocence

Loss of innocence occurs when a young person first develops consciousness to the suffering, evil and pain around them. The person is put into a position where they have to act and respond in a manner that is advanced for their age. Each of the protagonists in the Life of Pi and Robinson Crusoe had lost their innocence to survive in alien place.

When Pi is along with his family and zoo animals are moving from Pondicherry, India to Canada the ship they are traveling sinks in the sea . Everyone on the ship is killed with the exception of Pi and the tiger, Richard Parker. This disaster puts Pi on a raft in the middle of the ocean, responsible for his survival as well as dealing with extreme grief and the care of Richard Parker. Pi lost his entire family in the shipwreck, this kind of extreme pain he has ever experienced in his young life. Pi is facing pain unlike anything he has ever experienced, acting like an adult, but still a child. The death of everyone he loves and counted on to survive, causes Pi to quickly grow-up and finally he lose his innocence. Pi ate some of the flesh of the French castaway that Richard Parker attack in order to survive, this is a vivid

example of the loss of innocence. Pi understands suffering now, he understands anxiety and because of this, he has lost his childhood innocence.

In Robinson Crusoe, When the savages come ashore, Crusoe has a choice between hiding and hoping to go unnoticed, and attack. If he attacks, he needs to kill them all so that the survivors won't return with back up. He also figures that if he saves a prospective victim of cannibalism, he can turn Friday into a companion and supporter in a quest to leave the island. Each alternative is risky. If Crusoe hides, he might be exposed. If he goes on the attack, he might fail to kill all. Crusoe struggles with this impasse for years, thus making it a case of sequential decision-making. By hiding, he is essentially decide inaction. He eventually changes his mind and goes on the attack when the savages land on a beach closer to his hide out. In other words, he switches to action when inaction becomes riskier. By this analysis, Crusoe is being rational. He weighs his options in the light of interest and he responds to changes in the probability of the outcomes. This type of rational decision analysis is amoral, it is unaffected by moral contemplation, shows that he became vulgar ad lost his human innocence.

CONCLUSION

The predominance of survival is the definitive theme Pi's time at sea. This theme is clear when he must eat meat, he must take life, two things which had always been abhorrence to him before his survival was at stake. Survival almost always trumps morality, even for the characters like Pi and Crusoe. Because Crusoe is also finds struggled to survive in alien place and they both lost their innocence.

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