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European Literature

The dialogue between Pi and the investigators of the Tsimtsum sinking expresses Martel’s desire to force the reader to ask themselves why, when one can live with security found in religion, existent or non, would one choose to live with expectations of disparity. In this sample, Pi questions his investigators, asking “Which do you prefer?” on the subject of the two stories Pi told explaining his survival. Pi prefaces his question with the fact that neither of the stories can be proven. The situation presented to the investigators is analogous to the struggle human beings face pertaining to their faith in God and religion. Pi’s story of animals and courageous survival is difficult to grasp because it has never been experienced before; however, Pi’s story of murder and seemingly insurmountable trauma expresses violence and greed known to belong to the human race, and therefore is more easily believed. The idea of eternal life, as Pi’s ‘preferred’ story, is difficult to grasp and believe because no one has ever proven an afterlife to exist. Atheism is simple to grasp; nothing exists but what one can see and know to be true. One fact is often overlooked when debating whether or not to vest one’s faith in God; neither the existence nor non-existence of the afterlife can be proven in a valid sense. Martel expresses in the theme of “Life of PI” that the “better story” lies in faith.