

Part 2 Chapter 90

Part 2 Chapter 90 Summary

Richard Parker went blind. For days, before Pi discovered his blindness, he rubbed his eyes and meowed. Then when Pi threw him a fish, it hit him in the face and he made no reaction. Then Pi began to go blind. The next day, his blindness was complete. Pi was barely alive and had again resolved to die. He said his goodbyes to Richard Parker and then heard a voice speaking back to him asking if someone was there. He went on to have a lengthy conversation about food with the voice. At one point he thought it must be Richard Parker speaking to him. The conversation continues. The other individual was blind also. Pi kept falling asleep and falling into a delirious state. The voice asked for food and Pi tells him he has none. Through their blindness the two found each other and embraced weeping. The two fall onto the tarpaulin and the man began to grab at Pi and spoke of eating him. The man moved off the tarp, mistakenly, into Richard Parker's territory. The tiger consumed him.

Part 2 Chapter 90 Analysis

The author writes this chapter in a stream-of-consciousness, dazed style. The lines between what is real and what is hallucination becomes blurred to the point that the reader does not know whether the events in this chapter really happened or was it just a maddening hallucination about another man or about the tiger having a conversation with Pi. Each one of these possibilities is suggested in this chapter. Furthermore, if it is another man, is it Pi or the tiger who kills and consumes him? Pi states that the experience of going blind and the death of this man caused a part of him to die permanently.

Part 2 Chapter 91

Part 2 Chapter 91 Summary

Pi boarded the man's boat to scavenge for food and anything else of value. Feeling around, he found some turtle meat, fish, biscuit crumbs and water. Pi wept and wept and in 2 days, his vision returned. The sight he saw in the boat was horrific. The man's body had been dismembered and picked apart by Richard Parker. Pi took one of the arms and used it for bait. Then he found himself eating at the flesh of the body. Once he caught a fish he stopped eating at the body and resolved to pray for the man's soul daily.

Part 2 Chapter 91 Analysis

Pi's sight is restored. Curiously, he goes blind just before the killing and eating of the other castaway and regains his sight following the grisly episode. Morally, Pi sinks lower than death in his cannibalism and he knows it because he resolves to pray for the man daily. Since the body is so dismembered, however, he never knows who the person is. Could the man have been another castaway from his ship?

Part 2 Chapter 92

Part 2 Chapter 92 Summary

Pi saw trees in the near distance. He was so used to illusions and hallucinations he was not sure whether they were real or not, but he continued to stare. As the boat approached the island, Pi discovered that the trees were real and he stepped off the boat to investigate. The island had no soil; it was just a mass of algae. He was elated that they found the island and yelled at Richard Parker that they were saved. He began eating the algae until he was full. Richard Parker, wobbly from weakness, leapt from the boat and disappeared over a ridge. After a few wobbly days, Pi was able to walk again. Each night, both Pi and Richard Parker returned to sleep in the boat. After a few days, Pi decided to explore the island. He found that it was all algae and inhabited by meerkats, a small, furry, carnivorous animal related to the mongoose. The meerkats fed on freshly dead fish that they had not killed. Pi was mystified. Both Pi and Richard Parker grew stronger and returned to life. Pi decided to vacate the boat and sleep in a nearby tree. The first night he discovered that all the meerkats vacated the island floor and slept in the trees. Pi woke up one night to see all the ponds full of dead fish. In the morning the fish were all gone. It was a mystery. Later, Pi found what he believes to be a fruit tree. He picked the fruit, wrapped in layers of leaves and found a human tooth in each of the half dozen that he picked. The mystery of the island was revealed to him; it was a carnivorous island by night. The island had eaten all the fish and a human. It had not eaten the meerkats because they escaped to the trees at night. Pi and Richard Parker reluctantly boarded the lifeboat and pushed off.

Part 2 Chapter 92 Analysis

Once again, the author writes this chapter in a way that it is not clear as to whether this episode really happened to Pi or whether it was a dream or hallucination. Nevertheless, the island seems to be a symbol of Pi, Richard Parker and their floating island, the lifeboat. Everything with which they come into contact, they consume as carnivores, including a human being. Pi is repulsed and terrified by the island.

Part 2 Chapter 93

Part 2 Chapter 93 Summary

Pi was completely tired of his crisis, but death would not come to him. During this time of the last days of his suffering, in his lowest times, his mind turned to higher thoughts and his heart turned to God.

Part 2 Chapter 93 Analysis

This chapter is full of despair and hopelessness. Even though Pi now wants to die, his death will not come. Even in his darkest moments, he experiences redemption in his religious beliefs and in God.

Part 2 Chapter 94

Part 2 Chapter 94 Summary

Pi, Richard Parker and the lifeboat finally landed in Mexico. Pi was extremely weak. Richard Parker had already jumped off the boat. Before disappearing forever, he stopped for a few moments on the beach still staring into the jungle. Pi hoped he would look back and make some sign to conclude their relationship. He didn't. Pi was now all alone and felt abandoned by his family and Richard Parker. He cried, wishing he had said something to the tiger, thanking him for saving his life. Later that day, he was found by some locals and taken by police to a hospital to recover. From there, doors opened and generosity flowed from Mexicans and Canadians to help him.

Part 2 Chapter 94 Analysis

Pi's tale as a castaway comes to an end on a Mexican beach and he is almost too weak to notice. What he does notice is that his companion, Richard Parker, abandons him without so much as a glance back. The tiger is able to put the ordeal immediately behind him and leap into a new jungle. Pi desired a conclusion to the relationship, which he never received. He wanted to know that he held some chord of significance to the tiger.

Part 3 Chapter 95

Part 3 Chapter 95 Summary

The author tells the story of two men from the Japanese Ministry of Transportation that were dispatched to the town in Mexico where Pi recovered to interview him regarding the sinking of the ship. They interviewed Pi for 3 hours and supplied the transcript to the author.

Part 3 Chapter 95 Analysis

The purpose of this chapter is to set up what is to follow in Part 3. The following chapters include an interview with Pi about his ordeal as told to the Japanese officials.

Part 3 Chapter 96

Part 3 Chapter 96 Summary

The interview with the Japanese officials began. The date was February 19, 1978. The men wanted to hear from him how the ship sank and what happened to the cargo on the ship. They began by asking Pi to tell them what happened in as much detail as possible.

Part 3 Chapter 96 Analysis

The interview begins with introductions. The men feed Pi a cookie and then ask him to tell them his story. He obliges.

Part 3 Chapter 97

Part 3 Chapter 97 Summary

"The story."

Part 3 Chapter 97 Analysis

Pi tells his story to the officials, which obviously he does not need to repeat since he just finished telling it to the reader.

Part 3 Chapter 98

Part 3 Chapter 98 Summary

After Pi finished telling his story, the two men remarked to each other, in Japanese, that they found the story interesting. Then they excused themselves to take a short break.

Part 3 Chapter 98 Analysis

The two officials are skeptical of Pi and his fantastic tale. He had no idea about their feelings because they spoke only Japanese in front of him.

Part 3 Chapter 99

Part 3 Chapter 99 Summary

The officials returned from their break to tell Pi that they did not believe his story. Then they proceeded to pick the story apart. Pi proved his points and defended his memory. Finally, the men demanded to hear the real story, or in Pi's understanding, a story without animals. Pi proceeded to tell them a horribly gory tale about the shipwreck and his survival that did not involve animals. After the ship sank, the cook, from a lifeboat, threw Pi a lifebuoy and pulled him into the boat. There were four in the lifeboat: Pi, his mother, the cook and a sailor. The sailor had broken his leg from a fall. The cook, who was a bully, amputated his leg and used it for bait. The sailor soon died and the cook butchered him. Pi and his mother were horrified. Pi's mother continually berated the cook for eating the sailor and the cook eventually butchered Pi's mother in front of him. After a few days, in a moment of opportunity, Pi stabbed the cook with a knife and killed him. Then Pi ate him. Pi concluded his story. The Japanese men drew the parallels to his original story and asked him a battery of follow-up questions. The men conceded that the reason the ship sank lies at the bottom of the Pacific Ocean. Pi then asked which story they preferred. They both reply that they like the story with the animals. "Thank you. And so it goes with God," Pi replied. The men left.

Part 3 Chapter 99 Analysis

Pi offers an alternate story to the Japanese officials because they don't believe his original story. The second story he offers is hopelessly gory and tragic. Instead of animals, there are people and they eat each other. Pi is the biggest cannibal of them all. The suggestion of the alternate story offers a tragic twist leaving the reader to wonder which story is true. Each reader will have different viewpoints on this subject.

Part 3 Chapter 100

Part 3 Chapter 100 Summary

The author recalled the letter he received from the Japanese official that recounted the interview with Pi to have been "difficult and memorable." He admired Pi's intellect and wit. He included his final report in the letter to the author. Essentially, the final report said that Pi had no conclusive knowledge about the reason the ship sank. It also discussed weather, crew fitness, etc. The report concluded with a note about Pi and his amazing fortitude in surviving his ordeal, especially given that he had to survive in the company of an adult tiger.

Part 3 Chapter 100 Analysis

The Japanese official decides to believe Pi's original story and believe in the tiger. He offers the reader a further characterization of Pi, post crisis, saying that he is an amazing, courageous and intelligent young man. Plus, he survived longer than any other known castaway.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

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