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Salem Press Announces a New Addition to the *Critical Insights* Series ***Critical Insights: Life of Pi***

Yann Martel's 2001 novel *Life of Pi* earned him the Man Booker Prize and also served as the basis for the critically acclaimed 2012 movie of the same title. The essays featured in this volume survey the novel's critical reception, discussing topics ranging from narrative techniques through religion and philosophy to the cultural role of zoos, and also provide a brief introduction to the author's life and work.

This volume, like all others in the *Critical Insights* series, is divided into several sections. It begins with an introductory piece, "On *Life of Pi*," by volume editors Ádám T. Bogár and Rebeka Sára Szigethy, which offers a comprehensive introduction to the titular novel and its multifaceted interpretations. This is followed by a Biography of Yann Martel, written by Gerardo Del Guercio.

A collection of four critical contexts essays are intended to treat the novel (1) from a historical vantage point, (2) in terms of its critical reception, (3) using a specific critical lens, and (4) by comparing and contrasting it with another important work. This section opens with an article by Nicolae Bobaru titled, "*Life of Pi*: A Postmodern Castaway Novel Transcending Boundaries," followed by a piece written by volume editors Ádám T. Bogár and Rebeka Sára Szigethy, "...Faith in the Act of Storytelling': The Critical Reception of *Life of Pi*." This essay focuses on the critical responses, including early reviews from the novel's release to later and more reflective critiques. The following two articles are written by Ester Lánco and Shu-Jiang Lu respectively. The first, "Survival through Meaning: Reading *Life of Pi* through the lens of Logotherapy," offers a particular critical lens by examining the novel through the lens of logotherapy, or the concept that the principal motivation of an individual is to look for the meaning of life. The final essay, "Life in Stories: Narrated Time in *Life of Pi* and *To Live*," compares and contrasts Yann Martel's and Yu Hua's novels.

Following these four Critical Context essays is the **Critical Readings** section of this book, which contains the following essays:

- Pi's Life and What It Tells Us: A Jungian Reading of the Symbols of *Life of Pi*,
Debaditya Mukhopadhyay
- The New "Demonic" Animal: Crediting God and the Better Story in *Life of Pi*, Rachel L.
Carazo

- Regarding Others: Ethical Human-Animal Encounters in *Life of Pi*, Alice Bendinelli
- Empathizing with Animals through Fiction: Animal Studies in *Life of Pi*, Monica Sousa
- Confined Freedom and Free Confinement: The Ethics of Captivity in *Life of Pi*, Heather Browning and Walter Veit
- Believing without Evidence: Pragmatic Arguments for Religious Belief in *Life of Pi*, Alberto Oya
- Faith as Fiction or Narrative as Salvation? Ang Lee's Cinematic Adaptation of *Life of Pi* as a Pascalian Leap of Faith, Christian Jimenez
- Transmedial Pi (3.1415926...) Part One: Text and Context, Naomi Simone Borwein
- Transmedial Pi (3.1415926...) Part Two: Visualization and Adaptation, Naomi Simone Borwein
- What We Bring to the World: Narrative-Making as Hermeneutical Practice in *Life of Pi*, Francesca Pierini
- On the Tail of Trauma: The Stories We Tell Ourselves and Others, Jen Yoder
- *Life of Pi* and Homer's *Odyssey*: Suffering, Survival, and Storytelling, Adam Lecznar
- Otherness in Pondicherry, Regina A. Bernard

In the final section, **Resources**, easy-to-follow lists are provided to help guide the reader through important dates and moments in the author's life. A selection of further reading is then provided. Each essay in *Critical Insights: Life of Pi* includes a list of **Works Cited** and detailed endnotes. Also included in this volume is a **Chronology of Yann Martel's Life**, a list of **Works by Yann Martel**, a Bibliography, biographies of the **Editors** and **Contributors**, and an alphabetical **Index**.

The *Critical Insights* Series distills the best of both classic and current literary criticism of the world's most studied literature. Edited and written by some of academia's most distinguished literary scholars, *Critical Insights: Life of Pi* provides authoritative, in-depth scholarship that students and researchers will rely on for years. This volume is destined to become a valuable purchase for all.

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