

A Musing

Podcast Transcript

007 ▸ Look Harder

It's amazing how a piece of art that is aimed primarily at kids can continue to speak to us, even as adults. Maybe it's that we miss a lot of details and messages as kids, but it's a beautiful thing to watch a childhood movie and be able to draw from it a life lesson. Lion King is one of those movies.

(Lion King and all its characters are the property of Disney.).

Subscribe

- > [Audio Podcast](#)
- > [YouTube](#)
- > amusingpod.com

00:00:00.180 - 00:00:03.060

Welcome to A Musing, I'm Diego.

00:00:12.083 - 00:00:14.823

Today's episode, Look Harder.

00:00:21.857 - 00:00:28.037

I grew up in Colombia, and back when I was a kid, movies arrived pretty late there.

00:00:28.037 - 00:00:32.597

Also, my family was rather poor, and the movies cost quite a bit at the time.

00:00:32.597 - 00:00:38.597

Needless to say, anytime that I had the opportunity to go to the movies as a kid, it was a cause for celebration.

00:00:38.597 - 00:00:45.597

Because of all that, the first movie I was actually able to see in theaters was The Lion King.

00:00:45.597 - 00:00:54.837

Man, I laughed, I cried, I walked away with this feeling that I had witnessed something special when I saw that movie.

00:00:57.277 - 00:01:02.957

Now, when I love a movie, I tend to rewatch it pretty often, at least once a year.

00:01:02.957 - 00:01:14.037

The Lion King is one of those movies, and it actually wasn't until rewatching Lion King as an adult that the deeper undertones and messages of the film became obvious to me.

00:01:14.037 - 00:01:20.297

And one of the most impactful messages, in my opinion, was brought on by a very charismatic baboon.

00:01:21.557 - 00:01:27.757

Rafiki was the sort of sage or shaman of King Mufasa's pride land.

00:01:27.757 - 00:01:37.957

The guy was brought out for a special ceremony, such as presenting the newborn prince to the kingdom, and he had important tasks, like, you know, naming Simba, for instance.

00:01:37.957 - 00:01:46.877

And then Mufasa died, and Rafiki retreated to that tree that he lived in, until just before around the third act of the film.

00:01:48.117 - 00:02:03.197

In case you don't recall some of the details, after running away from home, deceived by his uncle Scar, into thinking that he caused his father's death, Simba met Timon and Pumbaa, along with their Hakuna Matata philosophy of living worry free.

00:02:03.197 - 00:02:12.677

But then he had a reunion with his childhood best friend, Nala, who schooled him about the atrocities of King Scar's reign over the Pride Land.

00:02:12.677 - 00:02:17.417

Now, at that moment, Simba's whole world view kind of shatters.

00:02:17.417 - 00:02:18.657

He feels lost.

00:02:18.657 - 00:02:25.457

He feels torn between his birthright and responsibility and the new life that he made for himself.

00:02:25.457 - 00:02:33.777

There's also a lot of inner doubt going on inside of him because he doesn't feel worthy of going back to try to even help.

00:02:33.777 - 00:02:36.817

And this is where Rafiki comes into the picture.

00:02:36.817 - 00:02:46.997

He appears to Simba, who has no recollection of him, and tells him that he knows his father Mufasa, that he's alive and that he can show him where he is.

00:02:46.997 - 00:02:55.877

Rafiki then leads Simba on a wild baboon chase through some dark brush and a dark forest until they reach a clearing with a pond.

00:02:55.877 - 00:03:02.577

Rafiki parts some leaves and he points at the water and tells Simba that that's where Mufasa is.

00:03:02.577 - 00:03:07.277

Simba very hesitantly kind of paws over to the pond.

00:03:07.277 - 00:03:14.277

He looks, he sees himself, and then he just dismisses Rafiki, saying that it's his own reflection.

00:03:14.277 - 00:03:18.897

To which Rafiki answers, Look hard.

00:03:21.277 - 00:03:34.217

This essentially unlocks this majestic appearance of Mufasa among the storm clouds, reminding his son that by forgetting who he is meant to be, he's forgetting who his father was.

00:03:46.305 - 00:03:48.325

That brings me to you.

00:03:48.325 - 00:03:49.965

Who are you?

00:03:49.965 - 00:03:51.345

Where do you come from?

00:03:51.345 - 00:03:54.165

And I don't mean physically, geographically.

00:03:54.165 - 00:03:58.905

What gives your existence intrinsic value?

00:03:58.905 - 00:04:03.865

You know, the origin of things is one of the biggest mysteries in our existence.

00:04:03.865 - 00:04:10.865

It's gnawed at the minds and hearts of philosophers, religious leaders and scientists for ages.

00:04:10.865 - 00:04:13.805

Theories abound.

00:04:13.805 - 00:04:22.565

The faith of some leads them to find worth in the belief that an omnipotent god created them, and that he delights himself in his creation.

00:04:22.565 - 00:04:35.185

Another might believe that while on this earth, we all walk as individuals separated by the barrier of our skin, but we are all ultimately one, emanating from the life source of the universe.

00:04:35.185 - 00:04:37.985

Some don't believe anything supernatural at all.

00:04:37.985 - 00:04:41.585

They stick to whatever explanation science can or can't give.

00:04:43.925 - 00:04:48.545

I'm not here to discredit any of those thoughts or beliefs.

00:04:48.545 - 00:04:53.785

On the contrary, go with that.

00:04:53.785 - 00:05:02.545

There's a chapter in Neil deGrasse Tyson's book, *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry*, titled *The Greatest Story Ever Told*.

00:05:02.545 - 00:05:16.345

And in that beautiful chapter, deGrasse Tyson walks through the magnificent creative journey that began with the Big Bang and stretched all the way to you, listening to this podcast right now.

00:05:16.345 - 00:05:26.925

If we were handmade by an intelligent, omnipotent creator of some sort who blew breath of life into us, that makes us children of the most powerful being in the universe.

00:05:26.925 - 00:05:40.625

On the other hand, if we're all just masks being worn by the Godhead, then within this frail mass of flesh and bones, there's divinity and the magnificent source of all life.

00:05:40.625 - 00:05:54.205

And if we're all products of the causality and chance of an expanding universe, then look at how much had to happen, how much had to go perfectly right for you to be alive right at this instant.

00:05:54.205 - 00:05:59.285

Look at the multitude of species that went extinct in the fight for survival on this planet.

00:05:59.285 - 00:06:09.665

As Alan Watts put it, you are the Big Bang's creative force manifesting itself in the present time as you.

00:06:09.665 - 00:06:12.365

Perhaps one of those theories is right.

00:06:12.365 - 00:06:13.305

Perhaps they're all wrong.

00:06:13.305 - 00:06:14.965

Perhaps they're all right.

00:06:14.965 - 00:06:19.605

But no matter which one your mind grasps on to, own it.

00:06:21.305 - 00:06:25.085

Try this next time the amnesia kicks in.

00:06:27.645 - 00:06:31.105

Remind yourself who you are.

00:06:31.105 - 00:06:33.185

No, really, remind yourself.

00:06:33.185 - 00:06:36.405

Talk to yourself in the mirror if necessary.

00:06:36.405 - 00:06:45.485

Remind yourself that whether you were put on this rock by a god or you're the result of cosmic forces and events, there's intrinsic beauty in you.

00:06:45.485 - 00:06:56.185

You're a work of art, imperfectly perfect, down to your most hated defect, because the sum total of your virtues and defects is what makes you, you.

00:06:56.185 - 00:07:04.865

Remind yourself that the essence of life is within you and that whether the universe or god is your father, your royalty.

00:07:04.865 - 00:07:07.745

Walk in that authority and conviction.

00:07:07.745 - 00:07:09.685

Run after your goals.

00:07:09.685 - 00:07:11.705

Work hard for your dreams.

00:07:13.805 - 00:07:24.385

No matter what you believe in, life is composed of cycles of good and bad, and that befalls every human being, no matter the race, gender or creed.

00:07:24.385 - 00:07:29.025

Don't let life cycles make you forget your worth and value.

00:07:29.025 - 00:07:31.925

Remain at the center of all of it.

00:07:31.925 - 00:07:36.885

Conscious of the fact that greatness is within you.

00:07:36.885 - 00:07:39.925

Sometimes life cycles are loud.

00:07:39.925 - 00:07:42.445

Sometimes they're blinding.

00:07:42.445 - 00:07:49.265

And in those moments is when you have to drop the cynicism, drop the pessimism to remember who you are.

00:07:51.205 - 00:07:55.705

That's when you have to look harder.

00:08:02.645 - 00:08:05.725

I'd love to know how that goes for you.

00:08:05.725 - 00:08:10.365

You can write me at [contactamusing at gmail.com](mailto:contactamusing@gmail.com).

00:08:13.865 - 00:08:17.285

Don't forget to subscribe or follow so you don't miss the next episode.

00:08:17.765 - 00:08:22.605

And please, share this message with someone who needs to hear it.

00:08:23.665 - 00:08:31.985

Remember you can find this podcast on Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts, Spotify, iHeartRadio, Stitcher and anywhere else you find podcasts.

00:08:35.345 - 00:08:36.585

I'll catch you in the next episode.