

Ratatouille: an un-kosher God

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CLIP #1 - 23:23 -24:58...“(1) A rat working as a chef in a Parisian restaurant.. **PAUSE...** what a concept eh? A rodent with a culinary calling!... and has been given an amazing sense of **smell & gastronomic sensitivity** **PAUSE...** a rat named Remy that envies us humans> > Earlier in film >“(2) I know I’m supposed to hate humans but there’s something about them. They don’t just survive, they discover, they create... I mean, just look at what they do with food...” **PAUSE..**

Remy wanted to be a **part of that culinary scene...** was a rat who longed to **fit in...** to be **given a chance...** to not be judged by the **color of his fur...** **LNG PAUSE**

“**A rat becoming a great chef!**” << what a wonderful metaphor for the film’s core message... trying to preach a **gospel of impartiality...** to humorously **expose and unpack our pre-judging stereotypes...** “R” is a tale that debunks our **preconceptions** about the limitations of others...**PAUSE...(SLOWLY)**our misunderstandings about what’s **clean and unclean...** **LONG PAUSE...**

It’s a wonderful kid’s film... with an important life lesson! **LONG PAUSE...** An important **God lesson...** “(3) For **God does not show favoritism...**” Rom 2:11, NIV His love is **impartial...** **judges all alike... w/GRACE!!** **PAUSE...**

“**Anyone can cook**” > title of Chef Auguste Gusteau’s book!(O rest his soul)... anyone can cook; **even a rat!** This proposition forms the **central conflict** within “R”

narrative... **PAUSE...** if we’re honest if forms the central conflict **within most of us...** **LONG PAUSE**

We all **stereotype...** put **limits** on others... **pre-judge people...** “We’re not really all are created equal... some **are better** than others... some **get it**, others not!... **insiders/on the outs!**... some **have taste/some don’t!**...” **LONG PAUSE...**

Face it.. all resonate a bit with food critic **[(4)Anton Ego]**, “I’inflexible cuisine critique” > “(5) Amusing title; Anyone can Cook. What’s even more amusing is that Gusteau actually seems to believe it. I on the other hand take cooking seriously and no, I don’t think anyone can do it.” We’ve all got that **harsh cynical edge** to our hearts... **PAUSE**

And we’ve probably all experienced it from someone else’s heart..**[(6) Alfredo Linguine – a nobody...so insecure/unsure]...** **[(7) Collette/chef - patriarchal prejudice of French cuisine scene... hit head on glass ceiling a few times]...** **LONG PAUSE...**

We live in a harshly judging world... one of **prejudice, separation, jugmentalism, schism...** **it’s between us & it’s within us!...** **PAUSE...**

It’s a world that seems to **foment prejudice...** to the 3rd and 4th generation... **PAUSE...** [**dark scene where >Remy’s dad tries to scare his son away from his culinary calling**] **[CLIP #2 – 59:33 -60:53 – “forward”]**

There are many messages in this world that say, this is **the only way... its nature...** and you **better be afraid** << the enemy sows these fearful thoughts and ideas... in order to **divide O’s good creation...****PAUSE...** marriages... friendships... co-workers...even the church!

(8)In the early church they struggled with difference!... especially between **Jews and Gentiles...** **prejudice**

was palpable... a Jew would never eat unkosher Gentile food... never believe that 'Anyone can Cook!'

That religious community kept separate, with 'their own'
PAUSE... until Christ came > spoke a new gospel...
one of reconciliation, unity in diversity, hope!> **"This is not the way things are... U can change nature(I can) we can all feast at one table!..." LONG PAUSE...**

Christ's Spirit taught one stubborn Jewish Christian that very lesson one day... **PAUSE...** I asked you to read ACTS 10 this week... Truth of that story > same truth of Ratatouille... LISTEN to the GOSPEL of Jesus Christ
[(9-18) READ ACTS 10 – MESSAGE (food images)]

They probably had a feast together! **PAUSE... (SLOW)**
"It would have been totally inconceivable to Peter that the Spirit of God would work in this way..."

PAUSE... (19)like accepting that a rat could cook...

It would have been totally off the radar for the religious establishment... to believe that this was **God's crazy plan...** they would have thought Peter and his pals were insane!... **PAUSE...** **"Jesus was who?... he rose from what?... and now you think he's where? He's done what for humanity?.... "Totally free? A gift?... you have totally lost it..." LONG PAUSE...**

[CLIP #3 – 89:05 - 90:35 FREEZE] PAUSE... (20)You watch a movie like Ratatouille... live into the ethos of a fictional scene like that... and you feel it... deep inside it's there!... the **kid inside that wants to believe in the miraculous... innocence** that yearns to say, "Yes it's true! It really is true!" **LONG PAUSE...**

The story of Ratatouille > like so many other human stories > is hitting on a nerve > God put in each of us...

[Seed of Religion – a yearning for something fantastic... unbelievable... "out of this world!"]... ,

"(21)We have come from God and inevitably the myths woven by us, though they contain error, will also reflect a splintered fragment of the true light, the eternal truth which is with God." Tolkien

Ratatouille is **filled with splintered fragments...** we all operate with a prejudicial judgmental performance based view of life...

And we **long for a grace to trump that reality!!!...**
for God to **really be here with us...** for the **'doesn't matter who you are'** msg of X to be real!... to be personally true... **PAUSE... all dying to taste that!!!**

Oh to taste it again... to remember **how it once was... how it will be!....** to have things made right again... be fully alive... **innocent and young** again... believe like a child... **"that fairy tales can come true... PAUSE...**

[CLIP #4 – 95:32 – 97:00 FREEZE...]

(22) When Jesus told all of those parables/performed all those miracles... all of those **disparate** souls (east of Eden, longing for new life) > must have **felt something wake up... a deep, innately human, memory come back!... LONG PAUSE...**

Breaking those fishes and loaves... **"Enough for all of you!... all of you!"**.... turning water into wine>**"Drink up everyone! Savor the best vintage you've ever had!.. on me!"**... **"Look, A huge harvest of wheat!..." PAUSE...** "a Prodigal son accepted back home...no matter how great the sin... and treated to a most magnificent feast!..." **LONG PAUSE... Christ sitting at a feast with you!... passing you his bread and wine... "(23) Take and eat; this is my body." MT 26:26**
LONG PAUSE... **"life giving food for U!... & U... & U and all of us...no matter how different."** **PAUSE...**

(SLOWLY) But do you really believe it?... can you get past your critical cynicism... your “in control” pre-judging and negativity?... PAUSE... Are you willing to give your whole heart to the new?...to a new message? to an “all accepting” new grace?... “to Christ’s good news?” PAUSE...

[Clip #5 – 98:54 – 100:47 – “finest chef in France!”]

ACTS 10 - Peter's Vision

(9) There was a man named Cornelius who lived in Caesarea, captain of the Italian Guard stationed there **[A GENTILE]** . He was a thoroughly good man. He had led everyone in his house to live worshipfully before God, was always helping people in need, and had the habit of prayer. One day about three o'clock in the afternoon he had a vision. An angel of God, as real as his next-door neighbor, came in and said, "Cornelius."

(10) Cornelius stared hard, wondering if he was seeing things. Then he said, "What do you want, sir?"

The angel said, "Your prayers and neighborly acts have brought you to God's attention. Here's what you are to do. Send men to Joppa to get Simon, the one everyone calls Peter. He is staying with Simon the Tanner, whose house is down by the sea."

7-8As soon as the angel was gone, Cornelius called two servants and one particularly devout soldier from the guard. He went over with them in great detail everything that had just happened, and then sent them off to Joppa.

The next day as the three travelers were approaching the town, Peter went out on the balcony to pray. It was about noon. Peter got hungry and started thinking about lunch. While lunch was being prepared, **(11)he fell into a trance [imagine the SMELL fresh middle eastern falafel triggered his vision]**.

He saw the skies open up. Something that looked like a huge blanket lowered by ropes at its four corners settled on the ground. Every kind of animal and reptile and bird you could think of was on it. Then a voice came: "Go to it, Peter—kill and eat."

14Peter said, "Oh, no, Lord. I've never so much as tasted food that was not kosher."

15The voice came a second time: "If God says it's okay, it's okay."

16This happened three times, and then the blanket was pulled back up into the skies.

(12) As Peter, puzzled, sat there trying to figure out what it all meant, the men sent by Cornelius showed up at Simon's front door. They called in, asking if there was a Simon, also called Peter, staying there. Peter, lost in thought, didn't hear them, so the Spirit whispered to him, "Three men are knocking at the door looking for you. Get down there and go with them. Don't ask any questions. I sent them to get you."

21Peter went down and said to the men, **"(13) I think I'm the man you're looking for. What's up?"**

22-23 They said, "Captain Cornelius, a God-fearing man well-known for his fair play—ask any Jew in this part of the country—was commanded by a holy angel to get you and bring you to his house so he could hear what you had to say." Peter invited them in and made them feel at home.

23-26 The next morning he got up and went with them. Some of his friends from Joppa went along. A day later they entered Caesarea. Cornelius was expecting them and had his relatives and close friends waiting with him. The minute Peter came through the door, **(14) Cornelius was up on his feet greeting him**—and then down on his face worshipping him! Peter pulled him up and said, "None of that—I'm a man and only a man, no different from you."

27-29 Talking things over, they went on into the house, where Cornelius introduced Peter to everyone who had come. Peter addressed them, "You know, I'm sure that this is highly irregular. **(15) Jews just don't do this—visit and relax with people of another race.** But God has just shown me that no race is better than any other. So the minute I was sent for, I came, no questions asked. But now I'd like to know why you sent for me."

30-32 Cornelius said, "Four days ago at about this time, midafternoon, I was home praying. Suddenly there was a man right in front of me, flooding the room with light. He said, 'Cornelius, your daily prayers and neighborly acts have brought you to God's attention. I want you to send to Joppa to get Simon, the one they call Peter. He's staying with Simon the Tanner down by the sea.'

33 "So I did it—I sent for you. And you've been good enough to come. And now we're all here in God's presence, ready to listen to whatever the Master put in your heart to tell us."

(16) Peter fairly exploded with his good news: "It's God's own truth, nothing could be plainer: God plays no favorites! It makes no difference who you are or where you're from—if you want God and are ready to do as he says, the door is open. The Message he sent to the children of Israel—that through Jesus Christ everything is being put together again—well, he's doing it **everywhere, among everyone.**

(17) "You know the story of what happened in Judea. It began in Galilee after John preached a total life-change. Then Jesus arrived from Nazareth, anointed by God with the Holy Spirit, ready for action. He went through the country helping people and healing everyone who was beaten down by the Devil. He was able to do all this because God was with him.

39-43 "And we saw it, saw it all, everything he did in the land of the Jews and in Jerusalem where they killed him, hung him from a cross. But in three days God had him up, alive, and out where he could be seen. Not everyone saw him—he wasn't put on public display. Witnesses had been carefully handpicked by God beforehand—us! We were the ones, there to eat and drink with him after he came back from the dead. He commissioned us to announce this in public, to bear solemn witness that he is in fact the One whom God destined as Judge of the living and dead. But we're not alone in this. Our witness that he is the means to

forgiveness of sins is backed up by the witness of all the prophets."

(18) No sooner were these words out of Peter's mouth than the Holy Spirit came on the listeners. The believing Jews who had come with Peter couldn't believe it, couldn't believe that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out on "outsider" non-Jews, but there it was—they heard them speaking in tongues, heard them praising God.

46-48 Then Peter said, "Do I hear any objections to baptizing these friends with water? They've received the Holy Spirit exactly as we did." Hearing no objections, he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.

Then they asked Peter to stay on for a few days...

Your love is better than ice cream
Better than anything else that I've tried
And your love is better than ice cream
Everyone here know how to fight

And it's a long way down
It's a long way down
It's a long way down to the place
Where we started from

Your love is better than chocolate
Better than anything else that I've tried
Oh love is better than chocolate
Everyone here knows how to cry

It's a long way down
It's a long way down
It's a long way down to the place
Where we started from...