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A Table Is as Good as Nine Lives

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A Table Is as Good as Nine Lives

Abstract

This is a review of the short film, *A Table Is as Good as Nine Lives* (2022), directed by Christina Leonardi.

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Author Notes

William Blizek is the Founding Editor of the Journal of Religion and Film and is Emeritus Professor of Philosophy and Religion at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He is also the editor of the *Continuum Companion to Religion and Film* (2009).



A Table is as Good as Nine Lives (2022), dir. Christina Leonardi

This short film is about life and death and the importance of family. This is a family that comes together at the table every Sunday afternoon for a favorite meal. And it is the family that matters. It is the family that gives life its value, gives life its purpose, gives life its meaning. One woman says that she can just listen to family members talk about their shared past, the things they are doing in the present, and their hopes for the future. This is the joy of living. We see members of the family as they go about their business. It's nothing fancy or exotic. It is pretty mundane, but it is what matters. This family table represents what is good in life, what is important in life.

With regard to nine lives, one member of the family says that he is not afraid of dying. He does fear getting there, but not death itself. He is conscious of time but accepts it. Another family member says that she doesn't fear death at all. "If it's my time, it's my time. It's been a great

ride.” And another says that “this is the job, what you’ve got to do, right here on earth. Do the best you can then leave it to somebody else.”

The table represents participating in, enjoying, and appreciating family—the value of life. Nine lives represents living longer. And the message of the film is “a table is as good as nine lives.”