

# Unveiling the Truth

## Christian Ratings on Entertainment

RATING REQUEST FOR:

### AVATAR

**Genre:** Drama, Action/Adventure, Sci-Fi/Fantasy, Romance, War, Animation

**Distributor:** 20th Century Fox

**In Theaters:** December 18, 2009

**Reviewer:** Ceyon Brown

#### UT Rating:

\_\_\_ **NDIR** (no demonic influence evident-Christian presentation or very mild secular presentation.)

\_\_\_ **LDIR** (little demonic influence- undertone probably unnoticed by the average eye)

\_\_\_ **HDIN** (High degree of demonic influence-not recommended-demonic infiltration highly offensive and most likely)

**X ODIN** (overwhelming degree of demonic influence-absolutely not recommended-risk of demonic infiltration alarming and dangerous)

#### Reviewers Comments:

I actually liked it for entertainment however, the eywa was supposed to be their diety(a tree) where you could plug in and upload and download information. This kind of reminded me more on the lines of the wica religion because they depend on nature and all of that. This movie was about a oneness with nature and everything in it.

#### Main Tag Words: Avatar, Pandora, Eywa

In [Hinduism](#), **Avatar** or *Avatāra* ([Devanagari अवतार](#), [Sanskrit](#) for "descent" [viz., from heaven to earth]) refers to a deliberate descent of a deity from heaven to earth, and is mostly translated into English as "[incarnation](#)", but more accurately as "appearance" or "manifestation".<sup>[1]</sup>

The term is most often associated with [Vishnu](#), though it has also come to be associated with other deities.

The term is most often associated with [Vishnu](#), though it has also come to be associated with other deities.<sup>[2]</sup> Varying lists of avatars of Vishnu appear in Hindu scriptures, including the ten (*Daśāvatāra*) of the [Garuda Purana](#) and the twenty-two avatars in the [Bhagavata Purana](#), though the latter adds that the incarnations of Vishnu are innumerable.<sup>[3]</sup>

## Avatar

Jake Sully has been asleep for six years.

More accurately, he's been in cryogenic stasis five years, nine months and 22 days—the time needed to shuttle him and a crew of scientists and ex-Marine mercenaries from a decaying, oil-depleted Earth to the distant, forest-covered moon Pandora in the year 2154.

Jake's task, though he's ex-military himself, is altogether different. His career was cut short by injuries that left him a paraplegic. Then he got tapped to take the place of his twin brother (a researcher who died unexpectedly) in the Avatar project, led by Dr. Grace Augustine.

Dr. Augustine has pioneered a way to make contact with the moon's primary population, an intelligent, 10-foot-tall, blue-skinned, wide-eyed humanoid race known as the Na'vi. Blending human and Na'vi DNA, Augustine and her compatriots have bioengineered Na'vi-like bodies that can be linked through immersive virtual reality with "drivers," of which Jake is one.

## Spiritual Content

The Na'vi's spiritual beliefs often parallel those of Native American religions. The Na'vi worship a goddess known as Eywa, the Great Mother, a deity that seems both personal (the Na'vi pray to her) as well as encompassing the collective energy of Pandora's living things.

Thus, the Na'vi exhibit high reverence for all plants and animals. And, as mentioned, the film's environmental message is set against this spiritual backdrop. The trees, the forests and everything in them are not merely part of a natural ecology, but a spiritual one. And the violence perpetrated against Pandora's creatures is not merely a physical violation, but a spiritual one too.

The Na'vi's holiest place is the Tree of Souls. Its airborne seeds are referred to as "pure spirits." Its branches—more luminous tendrils than bark-covered limbs—are used in prayer rituals. Twice the Na'vi gather before this tree in what could be described as services of corporate healing and worship. In the first, they petition Eywa to save the wounded Dr. Augustine by transferring her soul from her human body into her avatar. The tribe's spiritual leader, a female shaman (and Neytiri's mother), says, "The Great Mother may choose to save all that she is in this body."

The Na'vi at times listen to the whispering voices of deceased ancestors. And they psychically bond with flying, almost dragon-like creatures known as banshees. During a funeral service, Neytiri tells Jake, "All energy is only borrowed. ... You have to give it back." Neytiri says of the Na'vi's initiation ceremony, "Every person is born twice. The second time is when you earn your place among the people forever."

Jake eventually prays to Eywa, telling her that the humans are about to destroy the Tree of Souls.

A Na'vi leader calls Jake's avatar "a demon in a false body." Col. Quattrich says of Pandora's vicious environment, "If there is a hell, you might want to go there for some R and R."