



When I saw this lone pine tree still standing in Rikuzentakata, what I recalled were not any of the trees that I have seen in my trips across the sea, but rather one which had once been imagined in a movie.

The movie was "The Sacrifice", directed by Andrei Tarkovsky.

This thought-provoking movie is based on the idea of both sacrifice and miracles.

In this movie, a man tells his son a story about a young monk who is instructed by his mentor to water a dead tree that sits atop a stony mountain.

Day after day, the young monk carries water up the mountain, and waters the tree.

One day, after three years of continuous care, the young monk reaches the mountain-top, and discovers, to his surprise, that flowers have blossomed on the once dead tree.

For the monk, it was a miracle.
For the father, it was a lesson to his son that miracles do happen.