

Spiritual Companionship on Pilgrimage

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Spiritual Companionship on Pilgrimage



*Time for personal exploration
of the communal aspects of pilgrimage...*

We are pil-grims on the way to God,
We are pil-grims on the way to God.
We are pil-grims on the way to God,
We are pil-grims on the way to God.

Tune: We are marching in the light of God...



Explore with words, feelings, images, or movement...

What types of spiritual companionship
do I find most helpful (value the most)
at home?



What types of spiritual companionship
am I finding most helpful
on this pilgrimage?



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Follow this quote wherever it takes you...



*"A single Catalan woman
who made the [pilgrimage] in a group
described her companions
as being like a multipaned mirror.*

*While walking and getting to know them she could see
different parts of herself in each.
In this mirroring process
she decided that she liked the reflections."*

*Frey, Nancy. Pilgrim Stories: On and Off The Road to Santiago.
(Berkeley: University of California Press, 1998.) 93.*

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Explore...

When on this pilgrimage
is being with others
most likely to be a distraction
from my spiritual goals?



When
on this pilgrimage
is being with others
most likely
to nurture me
spiritually?



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"The ascetic
and penitential nature
of pilgrimage
did not hold back pilgrims
from staying in good humor.
They were known for singing
and sometimes for
playing instruments or dancing..."



Girault, M. e. P.-G. Visage de Pèlerins au Moyen Âge:
Les pèlerinages européens dans l'art et l'épopée. Zodiaque. 22.

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Victor and Edith Turner, anthropologists whose ideas and theories about pilgrimage have deeply shaped the way scholars approach the phenomenon, suggest that the pilgrimage experience is one of liminality, a time in which a person is separate and apart from everyday life and expectations, apart from the normal patterns and strictures of society. A pilgrim is in an in-between space for a little while, a time both of great transition and great potential. In this place you can learn and experience things that it would not be possible to learn while not on pilgrimage. A pilgrim experiences *communitas*, the elimination of differences between people of different ages, classes, and nationalities. Barriers between people are thrown aside as a great feeling of unity and connectedness brings people together in a way that seems impossible within the regular structures of society.”

Kerry Eagan. *Fumbling: A Pilgrimage Tale of Love, Grief, and Spiritual Renewal on the Camino De Santiago*. New York: Doubleday, 2004. Pages 17-18.

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Explore...



What (if any) types of spiritual support do i feel led and willing to share with other pilgrims?



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in what ways
do you experience
harmony and
dissonance
with this quote?

“And let there be
no purpose
in friendship
save the
deepening
of the spirit.”

Kahlil Gibran,
“On Friendship”
in The Prophet



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Consider...



*What might i like to do
so that my needs
for giving and receiving
spiritual companionship
are met this week?*

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