

Pilgrimage

Ram Kumar sat down. Gingerly he lifted his feet and sat cross-legged on the path beside the holy river Ganges. His family had been walking with him. It had been a long day of walking, but he was sure that it was worth it.

A Sadhu is a Hindu ascetic, or holy person who often is on a sort of continual pilgrimage, doing things like visiting important temples, auspicious festivals or following a particular Guru. The other Sadhus had shared with Ram Kumar that tonight was an auspicious occasion and that attendance at the ceremony would certainly help him along his journey. For the past 5 years Ram Kumar had walked everywhere and his feet had not stopped aching from the walking. The pain was something he had learned to accept as just

another thing to overcome in his life as he pursued Moksha (liberation or salvation).

Pilgrimage is often not just an individual pursuit, but a family, and even a community one. It's not uncommon at large Hindu shrines, temples or festivals, to see whole villages arrive either by foot, tractor, bus or other means of transportation. They will often carry on continuous worship sessions during their stops, taking turns playing instruments or singing, while some attend to children, the preparation of food or other tasks.

How can we pray

Pray for those who earnestly seek that deep relationship with the divine, that they would be filled.

— 1 PETER 2:21

Pray that those who undertake pilgrimage in search of God will find the Living God, Jesus, on the journey.

— ISAIAH 40:31

Pray for revelation that people are not trapped in an endless cycle of rebirth but are invited into everlasting life with Christ.

— JOHN 3:16-17