

Name _____ Date _____

HOMEWORK

A pilgrimage is a journey that has moral or spiritual significance. Wallace Clift and Jean Dalby Clift, two scholars who have studied religious pilgrimages, suspect that pilgrimages are an essential part of the human experience. They believe that pilgrimages have been a part of nearly all societies throughout the world.

Most pilgrimages are trips taken to shrines, buildings, or lands thought to be sacred by people of a particular faith. Sometimes the pilgrim goes to perform important symbolic rituals. People of nearly every faith, from Christianity to Hinduism to Zoroastrianism, may undertake or participate in a pilgrimage. Muslims travel to Mecca, for example, while Christians travel to Jerusalem, Lourdes, or Rome.

One of the interesting features of these journeys is that they are, somewhat paradoxically, individual and collective experiences at the same time. One person or many people can go on a pilgrimage. It is evident that such rituals are meant to help the individual pilgrim progress in their faith, and learn how to overcome inner difficulties along the way. But what about the pilgrimage as a collective experience?

"Crowds" psychologists such as Stephen Reicher of the University of St. Andrews in the U.K. believe that collective pilgrimages have a positive impact as well, even those involving huge crowds as occur in India where thousands, even millions, of people are sharing the journey. The result of any pilgrimage is intended to be a deep feeling of harmony with others that does not subside after the pilgrimage is completed. When the pilgrim returns home, their renewed commitment and abiding sense of peace may persuade other prospective pilgrims to make the same journey.

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Course Book: REX AND QSKILLS

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1. What is the purpose of the first two paragraphs?
2. What's another way of saying *pilgrimages are an essential part of the human experience*?
3. Which of the following statements about pilgrimages is NOT true?
4. In paragraph 3, another way to say *paradoxically* would be _____.
5. According to the passage, who is an authority on crowd behavior?
6. What is intended to happen after a pilgrim returns home?