

What Is A Pilgrimage?

By Vimala Thakar

What is a pilgrimage? And who is a pilgrim?

Life itself is a pilgrimage. The whole lifetime is the time for undertaking a pilgrimage. A willingness to live, a willingness to look at Life when it manifests before us in innumerable aspects and forms is required. Sometimes it appears as pleasure and sometimes as pain; sometimes as honour and sometimes as humiliation; sometimes as joining together and sometimes it divides us in an irreversible separation.

Manifestations of Life have been innumerable and perhaps shall ever be innumerable, inconceivable by the human brain. That is the beauty of Life. That is the essence of the Infinite or Eternity of Life. Are we willing to look upon our whole life time as a time for undertaking a pilgrimage? Is it not a movement or a journey towards a place which you regard as holy or sacred?

A pilgrim is a person who undertakes a journey willingly, not under pressure. A pressurised journey cannot be a pilgrimage. If there is a reluctance to live, if there is a resistance to various aspects and manifestations of Life, it will not be a pilgrimage. It will not have that perfume of sacredness or holiness....

Life itself is the Divinity, the Wholeness. The homogeneity of Life is something sacred and perhaps we are going to undertake a journey from fragmentation to homogeneity, from partialness to Wholeness, from the movement of knowing to the action of understanding, from the slumber of knowledge and experience to the state of being Awake, to Awareness – that could be perhaps the implication of our pilgrimage.

When you undertake a journey, say to the Himalayas, or to Mecca or Medina, or to Jerusalem and so on, soon you are open, you are receptive, you are eager to learn to see for yourself. To discover every step that you take, is as important to you if not more, than the pre-determined destination....

During these days we will launch upon a journey together to discover individually and collectively, the secret of Wholeness and homogeneity, the secret of understanding and Awareness, the secret of dimensional transformation.

