

**A PILGRIM'S PATH****SATISH KUMAR**

Life is a pilgrimage; a sacred journey in the quest for wisdom. But wisdom is not a thing to be found or a destination to be reached. Wisdom is an ever unfolding and ever emerging experience. A pilgrimage is as much an outer journey as it is an inner journey. When we are able to connect the inner landscape with the outer landscape, we are in the proximity of wisdom.

A pilgrim's path is not paved with concrete. A pilgrim doesn't follow a fixed agenda or a rigid plan. A pilgrim does not and cannot determine the outcome of the pilgrimage. A sacred journey is an unfolding process rather than a pre-determined produce.

A pilgrim is resilient, strong, humble and open to whatever comes along the way. This uncertainty and ambiguity is a friend of the pilgrim, who is free from fear and filled with trust in the process of the universe. Who knows what is in store for a pilgrim? Miracles can and do happen when we are able to embrace the unknown with pure heart and radiant spirit.

A pilgrim welcomes any obstacles, any difficulties, any problems along the path. Many such pilgrims have gone through the dark night of the soul and come out the other end into the dawn of delight and peace. This state of freedom from desires and attachments brings an end to all sorrows and suffering. Such a state is available at every step and every moment. The path, the pilgrim and the journey are all one. This unity, this integrity brings stillness in the movement and movement in the stillness. There is no goal, there is nothing to achieve. There is nowhere to reach. The path and the journey in themselves have their own intrinsic value.

The earth is on a journey, the moon is on a journey, the birds are flying, the bees are buzzing, pilgrims are walking. This, is to be dynamic, creative, imaginative, poetic and active for its own sake. The joy and bliss are not at the point of arrival; the sweet taste of freedom is at every step, in every moment, in the here and now. This is the Tao of being, the Zen of the art of living and a grateful way of walking in the happy country.

A pilgrim expects nothing and accepts everything. Where there is no expectation there is no disappointment. Where there is unconditional acceptance there is joy. A pilgrim walks the path of love and experiences transformation.

*As Jalal as-Din Rumi said:*

*By love the bitter becomes sweet;  
By love copper becomes gold;  
By love cloudy becomes clear;  
By love pains become healing.*



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