

# Pilgrimage.

- Cherry
- comfort zone

- what are pilgrimage =

- ① importance for individual.
- ② Saarth
- ② cohesive + plurality.
- ③ Kurba mela

70 ml.  
Prayag  
largest gathering

repentance for sin

- darsan
- tirthos
- firds
- Prayag.
- Sankalpa.

Sri Vrindivan  
Ganges River

- What is → Carep.
- ①
    - journey
    - out of zone.
    - Kurba
    - Maha Eck.
- constant  
- all they bring  
- spirit, hel, 1 cross

- ② Sacredly
    - darsan.
    - natural or temple.
- Individual.

- ③
  - sins
  - ~~resonance~~ in faith.

- ④ Cohesion
  - Saahas and gum.
  - ability for ordnery.

The Hindu pilgrimage is an important feature within Hinduism as it allows the individual to experience a relationship with their faith, allows the worship of sacred sites and also strengthens the Hindu faith by a cohesion of the pluralistic nature of Hinduism. Pilgrimage is an essential and important aspect in Hinduism.

The Hindu pilgrimage involves a journey to sacred sites that is coupled with intense prayer and acts of devotion and charity. The pilgrim often carries little with them and travels either by foot or light transport. According to academic Diana Eck, "the pilgrim only brings with them faith". Pilgrimages are often journeyed to sacred sites - that can either be natural, or man-made, e.g. the temple of Sri Vindisran and the ancient city of Prayag, where the Kumbha Mela occurs. The Kumbha Mela, the largest

human gathering in history takes place once every 12 years and involves 70 million pilgrims. The focus of the mela is on the river Ganges, which is said to possess the liquid energy of Shiva's divine power. The mela is an example of pilgrimage that enables the pilgrim to strengthen their faith and often puts them out of their comfort zone. According to Wanda Eck, the satyagraha - or statement of intent for a pilgrimage and the physical act of visiting the sites are the two central features, however specific detail about pilgrimage is unknown.

The Hindu pilgrimage offers the individual the chance to experience sacrality of sites. Significant natural features - known as tords or tirthas are places where Eck believes, the physical and earthy realm cross over with the

spiritual dimension. The journeying to significant temples to worship deities also demonstrates pilgrimage's importance to Hinduism. It offers the pilgrim a chance to "see" or "darshan" their god - as Hindus believe the actual manifestation of a deity resides in their ~~image~~ image, then demonstrating the significance of Hinduism in providing unique experiences that enable pilgrims to enhance and enrich their faith.

Holds  
Pilgrimage ~~holds~~ an important role for the individual as it enables an individual to strengthen their faith and also gain repentance for sins.

By washing in the River Ganges, a pilgrim is believed to be clear ~~at~~ of sins, by the divine power of God.

The role of pilgrimages also provides an opportunity to strengthen an

individuals' faith by strengthening it, just by the transformative experience of sacred sites, prayer and ritual. It is an unofficial requirement to contribute to charity and the less fortunate as a means of gaining spiritual progression and a sense of personal and social fulfilment and responsibility.

Finally, pilgrimages offer the individual the opportunity to experience the more sacred factions and pluralistic elements in the Hindu religion. *Sahas* and *gurus* represent the most faithful of the Hindu religion that provides the opportunity for the Hindu pilgrim to sit, learn and question the *gurus* of his/her religion. They acquire the right to walk in the front of processions as indication of their advanced spiritual enlightenment. The pluralistic and divided nature of Hinduism ensure



that pilgrimage unites factions of Hinduism with a common goal of personal and spiritual enlightenment that helps to solidify the religion as a whole entity.

Hindu pilgrimage is a significant practice as it allows the ability for an experience at sacred sites, personal <sup>and</sup> spiritual rejuvenation and finally, a chance to unify the Hindu religion by the participation of a variety of factions. Hindu pilgrimage ~~to~~ holds a significant place in their religion.