

# Taking Leave From A Pilgrimage Site

"Maybe at the heart  
of all our traveling  
is the dream of someday,  
somehow, getting Home."

-Frederick Buechner

What emotions  
am I experiencing  
as I consider  
leaving?

"Pilgrimages are circular. Like sacred processions—whether around the Ka'aba in Mecca or with the Torah scrolls in the synagogue or around German country-churches at Christmas—they are progressions in a circle—one comes in order to return, not in order to stay; one fills oneself with the sacredness transpiring from the relic and one departs home."

William Melczer. *The Pilgrim's Guide to Santiago De Compostela*. (New York: Italica Press, 1993) 6.

Answer the question,  
"What do I want  
and/or need to do  
before leaving?"

*"The time for returning home usually comes before the pilgrim feels ready! The thought of incorporating all that has been experienced and learned into the life one has left can seem overwhelming and impossible. A fear of losing a sense of spiritual connection is often reported.*

*The need to make this transition invites the pilgrim to begin shifting her or his attention outward. Now is the time to consider how to let the experiences of the pilgrimage continue to teach, shape and direct. Now is the time to begin sharing the wisdom that has been gleaned."*

*JKH/G. Praying the Chartres Labyrinth: A Pilgrim's Guide. (Cincinnati: Pilgrim Press, 2008) 134.*

What words,  
images,  
feelings,  
smells,  
tastes,  
and/or sounds  
express the core of the  
pilgrimage experience  
I am having?

How and when  
would I like to say  
"Goodbye"  
to?





Walk on, pilgrims.

Walk on.

Towards not only the  
destination,  
but beyond it--  
to the embodiment of  
your hopes.

Walk on, pilgrims.

Keep on

seeking

that which you cannot  
imagine,  
yet anticipate.

Walk on, pilgrims.

Stay on

the path

that unfolds at your feet.  
The fear that approaches  
will pass by.

Walk on, pilgrims.

Sing on.

The songs that have  
nourished you  
will offer encouragement  
and peace.

Walk on, pilgrims.

Be on

the way.

Be with

The Way.

Walk on, pilgrims.

Walk on.

And on.

And on.

Ever on.

A poem-prayer for pilgrims by Jill K & H Geoffrion.



What is it that you have identified as your next steps  
in your own spiritual pilgrimage when you get home?





AND  
COURAGE.

WISDOM,

What help will you need?

LOVE,

PEACE,

BE SAFE  
AND WELL





Where will you look for that help?

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