

CULTURES IN MOTION: FROM ULURU* TO GRACELAND

Coordinators: Frank Carden and Arlene Spiller

From Uluru* to Graceland, people of all cultures and religions have made sacred journeys to confirm their faith and their part in a larger identity. This study group explores the vast and varied cultural territory that pilgrimages have covered across the ages. We view the phenomenon and experience of pilgrimages through multiple lenses of history, religion, sociology, psychology, anthropology, art and literature. Social scientists say that pilgrimage travel expresses a universal and primal, if not subliminal human drive. Customs that at first appear foreign, reflect our common humanity when viewed closely. Guest speakers include a practicing Muslim, who shares his experience of the Haj; a practicing Buddhist who shares her pilgrimage experiences and an IRP member who has made the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.

*Uluru was formerly known as Ayers Rock in Central Australia.

Readings and other Materials/Online Services:

A coursepack includes items from sources such as:

- L. Davidson & D. Gitlitz: *Pilgrimage From the Ganges to Graceland*
- J. Clift & W. Clift: *The Archetype of Pilgrimage: Outer Action with Inner Meaning*
- V. Raguin & D. Bangdel (Eds.): *Pilgrimages and Faith*
- R. Niebuhr: "Pilgrims and Pioneers" in *Parabola*, Vol. IX, No. 3, 1984
- S. Coleman & J. Elsner: *Pilgrimage: Past and Present in the World Religions*

Frank Carden is a retired clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst. He is interested in the interplay of religious belief and human psychology. **Arlene Spiller** developed a deep interest in religious teachings, philosophy and practice while helping to promote interfaith dialogue for the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

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The coursepack and occasional YouTube videos are used in the study of pilgrimage customs, traditions, practices from different cultures across the globe and across time. Visual images depicting pilgrimage behaviors from ancient times to the present day enhance our understanding.

Week 1: Introduction

Reading: *Ganges to Graceland*, Introduction; *The Archetype of Pilgrimage*, Chapter 3

Discussion: Has anyone been on a pilgrimage? Where? What is the difference between traveling as a tourist and as pilgrim? *The Wizard of Oz* as an archetypal pilgrimage story.

Week 2: Prehistoric pilgrimage sites as evidence of our primal and universal human need.

Reading: Carl Jung's personality theory as summarized by C. George Boeree, web.space.ship.edu/cgboer/jung.html; Uluru, Stonehenge and other prehistoric sites as pilgrimage destinations

Discussion: What is the meaning of this history for us in light of Jung's theories?

Week 3: The Classical World: Sacred Travel in the World of Greece and Rome

Reading: *Pilgrimage Past and Present in the World's Religions*, Chapter 1

Discussion: The Olympic Games and other well-known and not so well-known Greek and Roman rites viewed as pilgrimages.

Week 4: Pilgrimages in the Hindu Tradition, Part I

Week 5: The Hindu Tradition, Part II; Pilgrimages in the Buddhist Tradition, Part I

Week 6: Pilgrimages in the Buddhist Tradition, Part II; Pilgrimages in the Jewish Tradition, Part I

Week 7: Pilgrimages in the Jewish Tradition, Part II; Pilgrimages in the Christian Tradition, Part I

Week 8: Pilgrimages in the Christian Tradition, Part II

Week 9: Pilgrimages in the Muslim Tradition

Week 10: Pilgrimages as big business

Week 11: Geopolitical issues

Week 12: Secular Pilgrimages