



Pilgrims and Tourists

Discussion Guide

- ❖ What relationship to land does a pilgrim have? And a tourist?
 - How can tourism harm culture and sacred lands? How might it protect them?
 - What are some of the strategies indigenous people employ to counteract destructive land practices, such as resource extraction or irresponsible tourism?
- ❖ The federal government is currently considering raising Shasta Dam and flooding yet more Winnemem Wintu land, in order to provide more water for large-scale agricultural production throughout California and for urban water needs.
 - What responsibilities do the government, and by extension the U.S. citizenry, have toward native people and their lands?
- ❖ How would you balance ecological and social responsibility with the increasing global demand for resources, such as the proposed natural gas pipeline that will disrupt sacred lands in Altai or the water from an enlarged Shasta Dam that will submerge Winnemem sacred sites?
- ❖ What role do indigenous spiritual leaders play in the fight to preserve sacred lands? In cultural preservation? Does their message—and their values—have resonance far from their homelands?
- ❖ Is there a spiritual leader in your life? What kind of guidance does that person provide?
- ❖ Have you ever felt a difference between visiting a constructed sacred place, such as a church or temple, as compared to a special place in nature?
- ❖ Sacred places are now recognized as “the oldest protected areas on the planet.”
 - What are the forces that have led to the Russian and American governments’ failure to support protection of culturally important places?

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