



The Holy Mountain

BY ELIZABETH AND JAY ILES

You are pilgrims. You carry burdens, wear concealing clothing and seek absolution for a transgression. You climb a mountain, visiting shrines linked by perils.

Pilgrims must not:

- ◇ Speak of life outside.
- ◇ Show their face.
- ◇ Speak of the trail ahead.
- ◇ Invoke their ancestors.

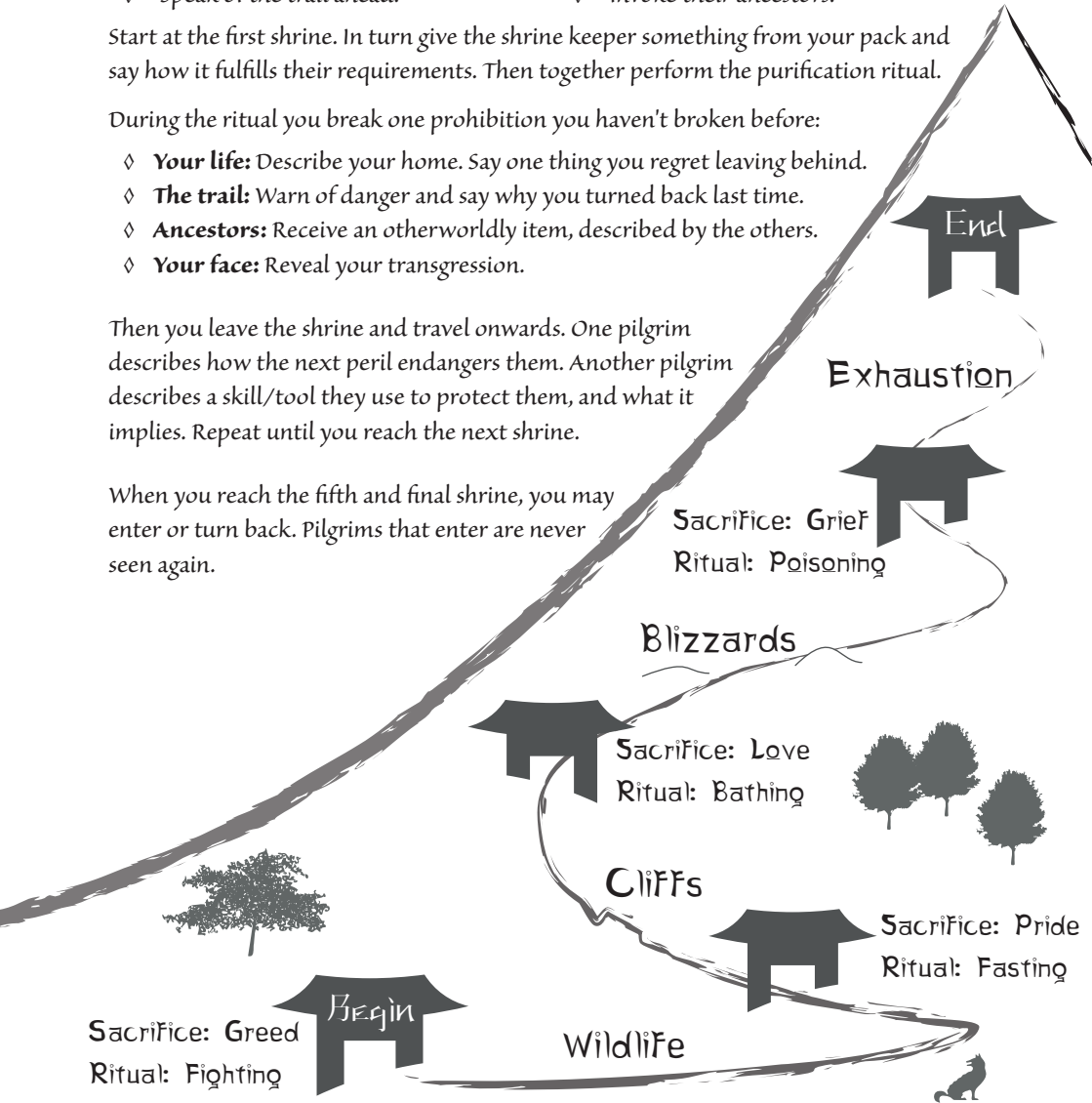
Start at the first shrine. In turn give the shrine keeper something from your pack and say how it fulfills their requirements. Then together perform the purification ritual.

During the ritual you break one prohibition you haven't broken before:

- ◇ **Your life:** Describe your home. Say one thing you regret leaving behind.
- ◇ **The trail:** Warn of danger and say why you turned back last time.
- ◇ **Ancestors:** Receive an otherworldly item, described by the others.
- ◇ **Your face:** Reveal your transgression.

Then you leave the shrine and travel onwards. One pilgrim describes how the next peril endangers them. Another pilgrim describes a skill/tool they use to protect them, and what it implies. Repeat until you reach the next shrine.

When you reach the fifth and final shrine, you may enter or turn back. Pilgrims that enter are never seen again.



Sacrifice: Greed
Ritual: Fighting



Wildlife

Sacrifice: Love
Ritual: Bathing



Cliffs



Sacrifice: Pride
Ritual: Fasting

Blizzards

Sacrifice: Grief
Ritual: Poisoning



Exhaustion

