

Where You Go, I Will Go

There are no prizes for guessing that this opening prayer and confession is based on the story of Ruth and Naomi!

Two women united in grief
and with the common purpose
of making their own way in the world
one determined to return
to her never forgotten homeland
the other determined to stay with her
come what may.

**Where you go I will go
Where you lodge I will lodge
Your people shall be my people
And your God shall be my God.**

Two women set out on a journey
towards the land of memories for one
towards the land of the unknown for the other
their survival dependent
on the benevolent wastefulness of the harvesters
their fortunes dependent
on the compassion and favour of distant kin.

**Where you go I will go
Where you lodge I will lodge
Your people shall be my people
And your God shall be my God.**

God of Naomi and of Ruth
forgive us when we have raced ahead on our journey
and forgotten to wait for those who trail behind
forgive us when we have clung to what is familiar
and been too fearful to accompany others into the unknown
forgive us when we take our survival and our fortunes for granted
and fail to show compassion and favour to your wider family.

**Where you go I will go
Where you lodge I will lodge
Your people shall be my people
And your God shall be my God.**

God of Naomi and of Ruth
Enthuse us as we commit to journey together
mindful of those whose journey is difficult
encourage us to broaden our horizons and take risks
which enable the living out of hopes and dreams
encircle us with your love and compassion
that we might throw open the hospitality of your kin-dom.

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