



The Current

December 2021
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For members of ECKANKAR in Illinois and Iowa

ECKANKAR, THE PATH OF SPIRITUAL FREEDOM

“This is also true of divine love. One does not see and grasp it at first glance but it grows within him like the acorn of the oak in the earth. Gradually it opens the consciousness of the receiver and flows through to the world, changing all about it.”
—The Shariyat-Ki-Sugmad, Bk. 1, p. 173



Cindy Keeling

Chelas from Illinois and Iowa enjoy fellowship following an online Chela HU Chant.

A Gift From the ECK

By Cathy Johnson

When my good friend—a fellow ECKist—discovered her stylist had moved to a new salon in my neighborhood, we happily planned to meet for breakfast. As we were sitting by the window at a lovely café in downtown Brookfield, another long-time ECK friend *just happened* to walk by. I tapped on the window to get her attention, but she didn’t see us. I went outside to say hello and invite her to join us, which she did. We had a wonderful time chatting and catching up. It was so much fun!

The ECK gave us a very special gift that morning: being able to spend time with dear friends. ★

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A Lesson in Listening

By Joe Kuhn

During the most recent Soul Adventure Seminar in Minneapolis, I was walking back to our hotel when I saw a woman who'd just missed her bus. Screaming and running after it, she threw her ticket down in disgust, then walked over to a bench, sat down, and cried. Her boyfriend came over to talk to her, and she yelled, "How would you feel if you were pregnant and missed the bus with the next one coming in 18 hours? What am I supposed to do, ignore my feelings?" This really got my attention. I've heard that last part myself.

I felt like I was in front of a stage watching something unfold. Getting an inner nudge to help them, I walked over and offered to drive them home if they would follow me to my hotel. I explained we were from out of town for a seminar and that my wife's map software would direct us to wherever they needed to go. They agreed, so I called my wife and we all met in front of our hotel.

While I drove, my wife began coaching the young couple. She said to the young man, "The most important thing you can say is, 'What I hear you say is. . .'" She asked them how they met, then offered them the HU. Our map software was set to British English, so I had a lot of problems figuring out where the "slip road on the left" was. It took three trips around the block before my wife pointed out where to turn. I've never been so confused in my life.

We provided an active example of good listening right before their eyes as I asked my wife for clarification at other turning points as well. I asked her to change the app from British English to American English, but she couldn't find that menu item. She tried a couple of times, but then we had to get back to the task at hand. At one point I looked in the rearview mirror and I could see the couple hugging each other in our back seat. I felt they could relate to our problems in communication and were feeling much better about their own.

We dropped them off near their home, thinking that we are often in the right place at the right time to share the HU and other struggles with those who need it most. It later occurred to me that this spiritual connection begins with the spiritual lesson of listening—to each other and to the Mahanta's inner guidance. ✨



Mike Saville

The Temple of ECK in Chanhassen Minnesota.

THEATER OF LIFE

The theater of life is but a play,
A scene, an act, another day.
With careful steps, HU guides your way,
A narrow path, another day.

A chance to meet another, Soul to Soul,
A beautiful moment for each to know.
As scenes unfold within your day,
Just remember: This is but a play.

By Patrick Hayden

Letter from the RESA: Making a Connection

Dear friends in ECK,

There are more ways than ever to connect with the ECK and our ECK community. We offer **20-minute HU Chants for Illinois and Iowa ECK chelas** twice a month—one on a Wednesday at 7:00 pm and one on a Saturday at 11:00 am, both on Zoom video or dial-in option. All Illinois and Iowa ECK chelas are welcome to join us in this beautiful love song to God. An optional 20 minutes of fellowship and sharing follow the outer HU Chant.

For me, this strengthens the connections within the ECK community. Please join us and check the Illinois ECK website chela calendar for the Zoom link and call-in option: www.eck-illinois.org/members

Chelas from Illinois and Iowa are also invited to join an **Inner Group HU Chant** every Monday at any time that works for you. This helps us maintain a connection with the ECK community since our in-person events are so limited. Each Monday a contemplation seed/ECK quote will be emailed to you for that day's inner group HU chant. (The quotes will also be available in the Members Area of the Illinois ECK website.)

We are looking for quotes from Sri Harold or *The Shariyat-Ki-Sugmad* to be used as contemplation seeds. Please submit your suggested quotes, with source and page number, to eckinfo@eck-illinois.org. Shorter quotes are preferred.

We invite you to participate! For both the inner and outer group HU chants, the key is to sing HU with a focus on the Mahanta's vision. As Sri Harold so aptly puts it:

“We want to make a connection between ourselves here on earth and God above, however you see this.

“A way to do this is with the sound of HU. HU is another name for God and opens your heart to the Light and Sound.

“The connection is so natural. Sing HU every day, and invite this love into your heart and being.”

—Sri Harold Klemp, *The Sound of Soul*, p. 76

With Gratitude in ECK,
Debbie Bryk-Serva
RESA, Illinois and Iowa



A Conscious Connection

By Ami Bourne-Nisson

I have made a career of waiting tables. Some days I hit the ground running. With the best of intentions, I run from the first waking moment until my head sinks into the pillow again. On such days I like to think that, as a long-time member of ECKANKAR, my connection with the ECK is so strong that it's okay to occasionally skip my formal spiritual exercises. After one such day, I had the following dream:

A couple has been seated in my station. I hurry to fill a pitcher with ice water. There's very little ice in the bin, but I manage to scrape up enough for two glasses. However, when I turn on the tap, only one drop comes out. There are several pitchers on the counter. I cobble together just enough left-over ice and water in my pitcher to serve the two customers, but if by chance I have more guests seated, there will be no more.

This dream points out the importance of making a conscious connection with the ECK by doing the Spiritual Exercises of ECK every single day. Yes, there is a certain amount of ECK (ice) in reserve, and even a little (water) from the previous day. But if I am to properly serve the Sugmad, the ECK, and the Mahanta, I need to fill myself with the ECK fully—every day. ✨

We Welcome Your Newsletter Submissions!



March 2022 issue:
Conscious Creativity: Greeting Life with the Spiritual Exercises of ECK

If you have a story, photograph, or insight that you'd like to share, please submit it by February 1. We routinely edit to condense and correct errors of fact, punctuation, and spelling. Please send your submissions to: angkeeling@me.com

For more information about ECKANKAR, The Path of Spiritual Freedom, visit ECKANKAR's website at eckankar.org or call 1-800-LOVE-GOD.

Or write:

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The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of ECKANKAR or the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master, Sri Harold Klemp.

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For local ECK information, please visit eck-illinois.org or eck-iowa.org or call 1-888-I-SING-HU.

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