

The Current

For members of ECKANKAR in Illinois and Iowa

March 2024

“Every moment is known to be of infinite value, not because of what precedes or follows it, but because it is the moment of communication with God.”

—*Contemplation Seeds from the Shariyat*, p. 50



Cindy Keeling

The Old Man and the Blue Line

By Jo Ellen Nervig

I went to our new Senior Center to do laps on the track. It is a shiny light gray, with 2” medium-blue strips separating the three lanes. As I walked, I was thinking about what I could write for our assignment in the ECK Writer’s Circle. Specifically, a story we might submit to *The Current*. I had five weeks to do this, but I was down to three days and had not started.

The previous day I had caught up with an elderly, stooped gentleman in a blue shirt in the inner (slower) lane, and I passed him now and then. This day I noticed a change in him. He was straddling the blue stripe between the inner and middle lanes. I was curious and slowed my pace even more to stay well behind him. As he moved to the inner lane, I noticed his steps were not always straight ahead. His feet would stray left, front, or right, making his balance unstable. I gave him a smile of Divine Love as I passed by.

I began to mull over the lessons of my day, and it dawned on me that this was a waking dream, a gift of Divine Love! This man, determined to remain active, had changed the way he was walking (a change in consciousness) to accommodate the difficulties of balance. He was straddling the middle and inner lanes to determine his safe place in life. I realized the Mahanta was telling me that I needed to keep my balance and quit procrastinating (among other things), in order to continue maturing on both the inner and outer path of ECK. *I am always with you.*★



Jo Ellen Nervig

Tuning In

by Phyllis Mackh

In the new 2023 edition of *Animals are Souls too!*, Harold Klemp writes on page 253, “The Holy Spirit speaks in ways so subtle, so humble, that most people overlook it. . . . The Holy Spirit works and speaks to us through its creatures and through nature.” I believe I experienced this recently, along with my daughter Amy.

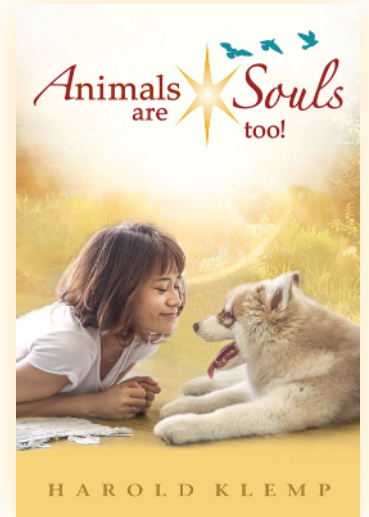
She had surgery on June 22 with very negative results, which lingered until after corrective surgery on August 24. During the time of her worst pain, she would lie on the couch by the windows in her sunroom. She said that a bright red cardinal would come, tap on the window with its beak, and just be with her for awhile. This happened several different times.

There is an old saying, “When God sends a cardinal, it’s a visitor from heaven.” The red cardinal has long been embraced as one of the most common spiritual signs that people receive. It’s thought to show that a loved one on the other side is watching over you. That interpretation felt right to me in this case. And it was a great comfort to her.

Before and after the corrective surgery, I stayed with her for eleven days and nights. When she felt well enough and said she could get by alone, I made the half-hour drive back home. I was very tired and not so very alert, but about halfway home I noticed I was behind a Jeep with the license plate “AMY516”. I was astounded because I’d never before seen a loved one’s name on a license plate.

When I got home, I told my husband about the license plate. He said that not only was her name on the plate, but also her birthday—May 16! I must have been exhausted, because the birthday hadn’t even registered with me.

This unusual occurrence made me smile. I felt it was a message for me to surrender the whole experience, and this enabled me to do just that. I continue to feel so very grateful to the ECK for our wonderful teachings and spiritual exercises that give us the understanding and vision to see the gifts of God.★



A Gift of Birdsong

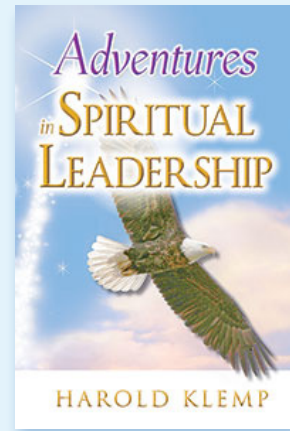
by Cindy Keeling

On a late-February morning as I was walking to our chicken coop to “let the girls out”, I heard the sweetest sound of a bird singing overhead. I looked up and saw the silhouette of a medium-sized bird sitting on a branch of our walnut tree. To my ears, the bird seemed to be singing for the joy of a beautiful morning, and it filled me with much happiness—especially as I thought it might be a robin.

I moved around to see better, and saw that it was, indeed, a robin. Seeing the first robin of the spring is always exciting, as I know that warmer weather and flowers are not far behind! It was a special moment—and a gift—of divine love.★



Frances Hartman

A happy group in Mokena, Illinois, for the *Adventures in Spiritual Leadership* class.

A Full and Happy Heart

by Niecey Houndjahoue

The months leading up to the 2023 ECK Soul Adventure Seminar were challenging ones for me, and I was contemplating not attending the seminar at all. But I had committed to volunteer service at Seminar Central, the busy hub of operations from which the seminar is run. I wanted to keep my word and was eagerly looking forward to the experience. Getting to the seminar was an adventure in itself, but once I arrived, everything simply changed for me in many beautiful and heart-opening ways.

I met a person who told me her story of finding ECKANKAR. Her life had been in danger in her native country because she chose to embrace a religion other than Islam. The more she shared of her story, the more I realized how much I had been taking for granted the ECK and the Mahanta in my own life. This dear Soul loved the Master so much that I felt grateful to share the same spiritual path.

We also discovered that we each had received a new initiation recently and had undergone similar changes related to that. She had found peace following these experiences and reassured me that I was doing great and only needed to trust the decision of the Mahanta to grant me that new initiation. Her story helped me realize that if I wanted to master life, I should allow the Master to guide me—something I'd struggled with in the past.


Best of all, during the Saturday night program, I asked inwardly to experience the session in the company of loving and fun people. Suddenly, my new friend came along and invited me to sit with her way up front—in one of the first 3 rows! She introduced me to other ladies, and we had a great time laughing and crying together. It was as if we had always been friends. By the end of the session, my heart was so full.


I also had the joyful experience of meeting another wonderful ECK lady while performing my volunteer service. Her ability to pack boxes really impressed me! We chatted happily about how satisfying it is to pack things well. The conversation turned to our work lives, and she revealed she was working in the exact field in which I wanted to build a career. She gave me lots of advice and recommended that I work inwardly with the ECK Masters to prepare for my volunteer roles at the seminars. To me, meeting people like this beautiful Soul was a gift in itself; but I also realized that I can ask the Mahanta to help me in my career as well.

Overall, my desire to serve led me to the right people to help me understand and answer the questions I had. I feel so very grateful to have absorbed so much love and knowledge—and am ready to serve and grow as a co-worker of the Mahanta.★

A Wonderland of Love

“Do this technique at bedtime. Shut your eyes as you prepare to go to sleep. Far off in the distance, look for a dot of golden light. It will be dim at first, then it will grow in size and intensity as it moves rapidly toward you.

“Watch it grow in size until you see it is the  symbol—the letters EK. Its color is that of an old bronze metal with a good many dents on the polished surface. This demonstrates the enduring nature of ECK.

“Concentrate upon the golden letters , and softly chant HU, the sacred name of God. Soon you should see the Light and hear the Sound of God. This is your key to the wonderland of God’s divine love.”

—Sri Harold Klemp, *The Spiritual Exercises of ECK*, p. 155



We need your stories!

June 2024 issue: *Our Divine Connection to Animals*

Do you have a story relating to a pet or other animal?

Please send your submission to Cindy Keeling at angkeeling@me.com.

We routinely edit to condense and correct errors of fact, punctuation, and spelling.



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