

Become a Light to the World

From *The Shariyat-Ki-Sugmad*, Book Two, pp. 246–47

*T*he collective body of initiates work for a common cause, to assist the MAHANTA, the Living ECK Master to spread the message of ECKANKAR to all worlds including the physical universe. Each is a channel within himself, not a spiritual medium, but that through which the ECK power reaches the world. The initiate channels the power to uplift and enlighten all those within the worlds who have not been touched by the divine message of ECK.

There are four orders within the body of ECK Initiates which each initiate may become a part of to give service to the MAHANTA, the Living ECK Master and ECK Itself in specific paths. These orders are: First, the Arahata Marg, the teaching order. Within this path the initiate is able to give spiritual assistance by being a teacher of the message of ECK. He definitely works for the higher cause of ECK by giving out the message to those who want to know and understand more about it.

Second, the Bhakti Marg, the order of love. One gives service by volunteering work in the works of ECK because of his great love for the MAHANTA, the Living ECK Master and the ECK Itself.

Third, the Giani Marg, the order of wisdom. The initiate gives his services by writing, painting, and other forms of creative arts for and about ECKANKAR. He gains himself while at the same time giving of himself to others through the creative forms.

Fourth, the Vahana Marg, the order of the missionary. The initiate gives of himself to the ECK as a carrier of the message of ECK into the world and among the masses of mankind. These are the preachers and true messengers of the spiritual truths of ECKANKAR.

These four paths are generally the way to serve the MAHANTA, the Living ECK Master, although an initiate does not have to look for hard lines drawn between these paths. In fact, he can be a little of each if he doesn't particularly want to become one or the other. However, it is good to be within the confines of one path and say this is the way for himself, as it means the initiate can concentrate his strength, energy, and mind in one direction. Such as in the Bhakti Marg he can give and serve by working among the poor, in the hospitals, and with the elderly. He can take up spreading the truth of ECK through service to the blind and the needy, bringing love and happiness to those who are handicapped.

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Every initiate in ECK is linked up with the ECK, the Audible Life Stream, and is an added force for the whole movement of ECKANKAR. Therefore, he becomes a channel of his own under the Living ECK Master, and his responsibilities should never be lightly taken for each initiate is a potential light of the world.

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What spoke to your heart as you read the above passage?



ECKANKAR Seminar Handout

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