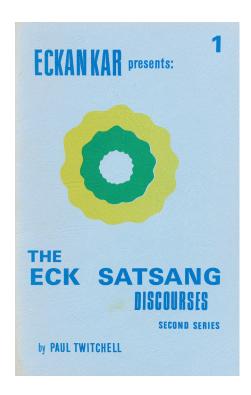
## HU

Zoé Blue M Alex Chaves Kari Cholnoky Jan Gatewood

Kelly Infield Maren Karlson Lila de Magalhaes Narumi Nekpenekpen John Seal

Davina Semo Alake Shilling Natalie F. Smith Elaine Stocki





## THE INITIATIONS IN ECKANKAR FOR CHELAS

Initiation represents the most significant spiritual step in the life of the ECK chela. It is an act that involves not only the spiritual life of the chela but it involves his entire life. It is only through initiation that the chela becomes the spiritual man, a being open to the life of the spirit, hence one who is able to participate in the life of the inner worlds of ECK.

Therefore, we find that initiation represents above all

Therefore, we find that initiation represents above all

of ECR.

Therefore, we find that initiation represents above all the revelation of the sacred knowledge. This sacred knowledge means not only everything which the chela up to this time understands about life, religion and the spiritual interpretation of Soul affairs, but the whole body of the ECK purpose in this world and its influence upon himself both spiritually and physically. In short, it is through initiation that the candidate passes beyond the natural mode of life and gains access to the God worlds. He is now introduced to spiritual values.

It is a known fact that it is through initiation that men attain the status of spiritual beings. Before the initiation hey do not yet fully share in the spiritual condition. This is why initiation represents a decisive experience for any individual who has become a member of ECKANKAR. It is a fundamental existential experience because through initiation man becomes able to assume his mode of spiritual being in its entirety. Once the decision is made then the individual must assume the responsibility that will go with his initiation into ECKANKAR.

The initiates are "the knowing ones." They are now

The initiates are "the knowing ones." They are now ready for the secret doctrine—the teachings which come to them via the inner channel. The Mahanta, the Living ECK Master, begins to teach them through the inner way. It is the communication without words, the way we call the silent language. It is a special language — a vocabulary inaccessible to the uninitiated; a phenomenon that will find its full development in the secret society of the

The dream initiation is made possible to prepare the initiate for the purpose of gradually unfolding spiritually for the final link-up with the ECK, the sound current. Following this, he will be conditioned for the Initiation of the Second Circle. It usually takes two years before he is ready for the Second Circle Initiates. Then he receives a special word fitted to the vibrations of his spiritual level which is his personal mantram. By entering into the Second Circle of Initiates he becomes a privileged person, for now he has reached that stage of spiritual development in which he is

directly under the Living ECK Master and will never have to return to the physical embodiment after his translation (death) in this life. All his karma will be worked off if he will listen and obey the word of the Living ECK Master. He needs discipline and will often undergo some hardships, some deliberately set up by the ECK Master to test the initiate. He is always watching the initiate to see if he is prepared for the next initiation — that of the Third Circle.