



# Spiritual Wisdom Journal

Quarterly Inspiration from ECKANKAR October–December 2014 Vol. 4, No. 4

SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL IN A CHANGING WORLD

## Focus: Spiritual Relationships between Animals and People

“If there is something we really need to learn, a pet will sometimes be the instrument used by Divine Spirit to help us learn it.”  
—Sri Harold Klemp,<sup>1</sup> *Animals Are Soul Too!*

FEATURE ARTICLE



## A Crow's Thank-You

By Sri Harold Klemp

The local paper, the *Star Tribune*, carried an item . . . in a question-and-answer column about animals. It was less a question than a statement. This person wanted to tell something about crow behavior. He said one day he was out by a pond and saw a crow tangled in a fishing line that was hanging down from a branch of a tree.

So the man got in a boat, paddled over, and worked at the fishing line until he was able to get the line off the crow. Then the crow flew up in the tree.

The man paddled back and got in his pickup truck. Then the crow flew down, landed on the cab of his truck, and rode it the few blocks to the man's home.

When he got there, the crow began to call and call. Pretty soon a group of about ten other crows came, and they all flew in a circle around his home. The man said, “I don't care what anyone says; I know the crow was thanking me for saving its life.”

*Continued on page 2*

## Inside

- 2 A Spiritual Exercise to Help You Appreciate Your Animal Friends
- 3 Questions and Answers about Animals
- 4 How to Meet Spiritually Like-Minded People

The *Spiritual Wisdom Journal* is an online newsletter published by Eckankar, [www.Eckankar.org](http://www.Eckankar.org).

It is sent out quarterly to anyone who signs up for a [free subscription](#).

To share this newsletter with a friend, copy this link and paste it in your e-mail: [www.SpiritualWisdomJournal.org](http://www.SpiritualWisdomJournal.org)

## A SPIRITUAL STORY

## A Shared Bond of Love

By Amanda Morris

When I was growing up, I enjoyed having dogs as pets. I always had a special connection with them. So as an adult, I adopted several dogs.

The first was Bear, a black Labrador retriever. It wasn't long before we realized that Bear needed company. My husband and I are not home most of the day. So we visited a local animal shelter and adopted Sugar.

A short time later, one of our neighbor's dogs, a yellow Labrador retriever named Josh, began to visit us regularly.

The neighbors tried to keep him home by chaining him in their yard. But soon Josh showed up at our front door again, this time dragging his chain with him. He'd made up his mind that he

*Continued on page 3*

## A Simple Exercise to Appreciate Your Animal Friends

At different stages in our life we find it very, very helpful that Divine Spirit has sent us a good animal friend—a dog or a cat or a parakeet, even a goldfish. Something to show the divine love that is so necessary for all beings.

In this exercise, you practice keeping an open heart throughout everyday life. It's very tough; I have to work at it all the time too. No one technique will work for everyone, but there are ways to keep your attention on having an open heart.

So here's the spiritual exercise: If you have a pet, love your pet. Love it a lot. As the love comes, let it pour through you. And show your love by how you treat your pet every single day.

The habit of love is catching; it builds, gains momentum, and becomes easier. But like a plant that needs daily watering and loving care, the habit of love takes constant attention.

Love won't come through unless the heart is open.

—From *Animals Are Soul Too!* by Harold Klemp

## A Crow's Thank-You

*continued from page 1*

I thought this was just a beautiful story. There are all kinds of little expressions of God's love that turn up, even in the daily newspaper. It's this link between life—between Souls. Cats are Souls, as are dogs and crows. They're Souls in certain forms.

Hearing me say this would offend some people. Because a lot of people feel they are the special creation of God, and they try to elbow out others, especially of the lower animal world—like cats and dogs and crows. . . .

You are Soul. We are Soul. And this expression of Soul extends far beyond the human form.

—From *The Master's Talks in The Year of Graceful Living—2011–12*, by Harold Klemp

[Back](#)

### Eckankar on Facebook

Visit [Eckankar's Facebook page](#), and feel free to "Like" it. Or go to our Web site at [www.Eckankar.org](http://www.Eckankar.org), and click to "Like" the Eckankar Facebook page there.

## Animals Are Soul Too!

by Harold Klemp

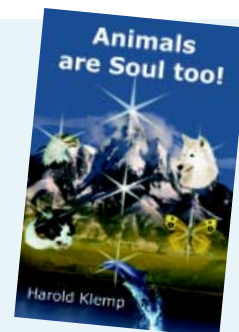
The stories in *Animals Are Soul Too!* show that animals can love unconditionally. As Soul, they are also here on earth to learn to give and receive divine love just as we are. They are examples of God's love in action.

As Harold Klemp writes:

*You, me, our pets—we are all Soul dwelling here in the world of nature. . . . You will see that nature itself reflects the laws of ECK, the Holy Spirit. We can observe the working of Divine*

*Spirit in the habits of birds, the cycles of plants, and the instincts of reptiles and mammals.*

*All sing the glory of God; all teach the secrets of life.*



Visit [www.ECKBooks.org](http://www.ECKBooks.org) to get your copy today.

You can also order it by calling or writing:

- (952) 380-2200
- ECKANKAR, PO Box 2000, Chanhassen, MN 55317-2000 USA

## Ask a Modern Prophet about Animals

### *Is it possible to communicate with animals?*

Soul often communicates on the inner planes through telepathy—not the kind we sometimes find here on earth, but a finer kind. It is also possible to communicate through the transference of images. When animals communicate with people, it is usually through this latter method, the transference of images.

There are times, however, when the communication takes place via a greater power. And the ECK, the Holy Spirit, is able to work through us at a time when our heart is open to God's love.

—Answer from *Animals Are Soul Too!* by Harold Klemp

### *When animals meet their goal, do they become ECK Masters the way we do? Where is heaven? What is heaven?*

Souls in animal forms do not get the initiations as we do. Their spiritual unfoldment is handled in other ways.

Animals can follow their own path to mastership if they want to. Only through the lower worlds, though. For example, earth allows several levels for Soul to gain experiences in life, including the mineral, plant, fish, animal, and human stages.

But there's no fixed spiritual law about a rock having to stay a rock. Or a daisy staying a daisy.

By choice, though, most Souls want to taste life at all levels. They do go from the lower to higher body forms. So animals could move up to human. Yet that would take many lifetimes.

Sometimes, in a spirit of fun, we ask, "Why on earth would a cat want to be a kid? It's more fun to be a cat."

(But do you think a cat would go back to being a mouse? Probably not.)

Heaven is inside us. No one can point to a place and say, "It's here," or "It's there." It is a state of consciousness. As Soul moves to higher states of consciousness, it may choose to live and serve in places of more love and beauty. So people think that heaven is a place.

Higher Souls may live in finer places.

Yet heaven is not a place. It is a state of consciousness.

—From *A Modern Prophet Answers Your Key Questions about Life*, Book 2, by Harold Klemp

## A Shared Bond of Love

*continued from page 1*

wanted to stay with us. His owners agreed, and now we had three dogs.

Over time, this experience repeated itself. We adopted Ginger, a neighborhood dog; then Buddy, a rescue dog; and then Raven, another neighborhood dog. Six dogs in all, each one a special blessing in our lives.

There were also times where other neighborhood dogs would simply come to visit. Some would jump the fence into our yard, and some came through the dog door along with our own dogs. They even found their way into our bed.

Although it might seem unusual to some people, I didn't question this or wonder too much about it. It seemed normal for us. Dogs just knew there was a special bond of love between us.

One night, I had a dream.

*I am a warrior, and our people are under attack. We are at war.*

*I go into battle and bring with me a special weapon—a select group of warriors to help me defend our land from the invaders. They are my dogs. Trained for battle, we fight together against the enemy. We are as close as family.*

*The battle rages, and one of the dogs falls. It is Bear. The rest of us continue to fight until the enemy retreats. I return to the body of my friend and carry him home.*

*Back at home, I dig a hole and fill it with water. I place my friend inside a sacred marble vessel so he appears to be standing inside it. Then I pick it up and set it down in the mud to hold it in an upright position. Into the hole I put a pair of my shoes, symbolizing that I will follow him into the afterlife. I also add a map of all the places we have traveled together. Nearby, I see another dog sitting at attention, watching me and standing guard.*

*Continued on page 4*

## You Are Invited to a Spiritual Gathering

Eckankar seminars are an opportunity to join with other spiritual seekers and students of Eckankar for one to three days of workshops, small group discussion, inspiring creative arts, programs for youth and families, and outstanding speakers. Sri Harold Klemp is the featured speaker at the two major Eckankar seminars (spring and fall) each year.

Coming in October:

**2014 ECK Worldwide Seminar**  
***A Year of Spiritual Healing***  
**October 24–26, 2014**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA**

**“Truth reveals itself through the Light and Sound of God. Whether it comes to an animal, to you, or to someone else, it fills your heart with love. And when your heart is full of love, what room is there for fear?”**

—From *The Slow Burning Love of God*,  
 Mahanta Transcripts, Book 13, by  
 Harold Klemp

For more information, to preregister for this seminar, or to see a short video including an excerpt of a seminar talk by Sri Harold Klemp, go to [www.ECKseminars.org](http://www.ECKseminars.org).



Meet people from around the world who share how truth reveals itself to them.

## A Shared Bond of Love

*continued from page 3*

Then I woke up.

This was a powerful dream for me. Now I understood why I had such a deep connection with dogs. In this past life, I had formed a bond of deep love and friendship with my battle companions. I knew that all six of my dogs had been with me in that lifetime, as close to me as any family could be. Now we were together again.

But the dream had another meaning too. Three days later, Bear died. The dream prepared me for Bear's death. It was a reminder that animals are Soul and Soul is eternal. I had lived before, as had Bear.

Now I know that our bond of love forms an unbreakable connection through all our lifetimes, and someday we may be together again.

—From the 2014 *Eckankar Journal*

[Back](#)

**You've always known there's something more...**

Now explore! To have your free\* copy of *ECKANKAR's Spiritual Experiences Guidebook* and CD sent to you by mail, click this box or visit [SpiritualExperience.org](http://SpiritualExperience.org).



You can also request it by calling or writing:

- 1-888-LOVE GOD, Dept. ISEG (USA only)
- ECKANKAR, PO Box 2000, Chanhassen, MN 55317-2000 USA

\*For anyone not a member of Eckankar.