

WAYSHOWERS COLLEGE

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GROUP SHEPHERD INITIATION

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The group stands in a circle holding hands. The Group Shepherd stands in the center. The Group Shepherd begins by saying his name, what he does for a living, and how long he has been searching. He points to someone in the circle and asks him to express the same, keeping the energy moving clockwise to the left. The Group Shepherd makes sure each person speaks up as he is sharing.

INITIATION CEREMONY

Still in the circle with the members holding hands and the Group Shepherd standing in the center, the Group Shepherd is cleansed by the circle participants in unison. (See Group Cleansing technique and follow)

Then the Group Shepherd is given a Love Feast. (See Love Feast technique guidelines) The Group Shepherd or someone he chooses reads the following message:

“I cleanse you and bless you, and I respect you as I respect myself. Let this group be the watering hole to quench your thirst on your path of spiritual search for yourself. The moment your thirst has been quenched, the group has fulfilled its purpose. I, for one, look forward to learning from you in my path of spiritual growth. As we search in freedom, let us never forget our free will, our personal loyalties, our reverence and kindness to ourselves and each other in this galaxy system of ours.”

Then, one at a time, each person in the group anoints the Group Shepherd. (See anointing technique guidelines)

After the Group Shepherd is anointed, they then anoint each person in the group. (Use the same message above for group shepherd anointing. (See below)

Note: To reaffirm the reason the group is meeting, the Group Shepherd reads the message at the beginning of each meeting.

Anointing Technique

1. Each person has a partner. They cleanse themselves
2. One at a time they anoint each other by taking the right hand, starting at about waist level and raising it slowly to the third eye of the other person.
3. The forehead is touched and a cross or circle is made.
4. Ask each person how he feels.

Love Feast Technique During Group Shepherd Initiation

1. The Facilitator and the group form a circle with one chair in the middle. The Group Shepherd sits in the chair; the group remains standing.
2. Share that you will go first and that all will follow your example.
 - a) Demonstrate how the hands will be placed gently on the shoulders of the person in the chair.
 - b) They will be saying the Group Shepherd's name then let the Group Shepherd know their name. (DEMONSTRATE) They will then share, in first person, positive feelings about the Group Shepherd. Should they feel uneasy expressing feelings, they may use a phrase such as "The God within me salutes the God within you". Return to standing in the circle.
3. Say that the person on your left will go next after you, continuing clockwise everyone around the circle has had a turn. Also, everyone walks clockwise inside the circle.
4. Have everyone cleanse and take a deep breath.
5. Ask the Group Shepherd to remain relaxed and simply to receive. They do not say anything during the technique. You start. **CONTINUED....**

Love Feast Technique During Group Shepherd Initiation, Continued...

6. When everyone has shared positive feelings with the Group Shepherd, everyone cleanses. Ask the Group Shepherd how they feel. Then everyone shares how they feel.
7. Tell them they will all get to work with this technique during their next meeting.

(END)