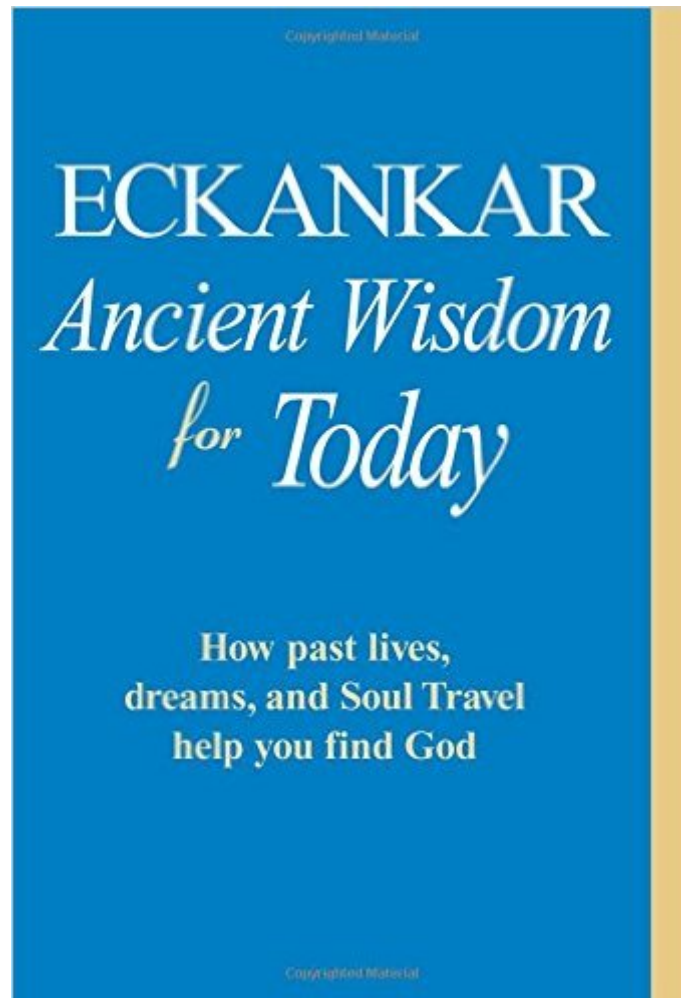


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# Eckankar: Ancient Wisdom For Today



## Synopsis

"Eckankar is a religion for the individual--what many of us hoped religion would be. Its purpose is to help individuals find their own way back to God through direct personal experiences."ECKANKAR--Ancient Wisdom for Today offers a compelling introduction to the ancient teachings of Eckankar. This book explores spiritual experiences to connect with people of all backgrounds. It contains surprising gems for those who consider themselves to be spiritual but not religious.If you yearn for spiritual freedom and truth, this book presents easy-to-apply steps toward your goals. It shares vivid examples from Harold Klemp, the spiritual leader of Eckankar, showing how to live a truly spiritual life in a material world.The book presents a range of concepts popular in modern culture--karma, reincarnation, seeing an inner light, prophecy, near-death and out-of-body experiences. Eckankar shows how these spiritual experiences are relevant to everyday life. Past lives, dreams, and Soul Travel are more than intriguing ancient mysteries. They are the natural activity of Soul. Soul is the True Self, the inner, most sacred part of each person.With a prove-it-to-yourself message to seekers, this book shows how Eckankar is a living religion. Real learning comes from your own experiences.ECKANKAR--Ancient Wisdom for Today is refreshing, bold, and a timeless guide for today's spiritual adventurers!

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Eckankar is a contemporary religious movement begun in 1965 by Paul Twitchell [1909-1971; author of Eckankar: The Key to Secret Worlds, The Spiritual Notebook, The Tiger's Fang, Difficulties of Becoming the Living ECK Master, etc.], and has since been carried on by the "living ECK

masters" Darwin Gross [1928-2008; author of *Your Right to Know*, and subject of *From Heaven to the Prairie: When You Know, You Know! The Story of the 972nd Living ECK Master*, etc.] and current master Harold Klemp [b. 1942; author of *Autobiography of a Modern Prophet*,

On the surface this seems like a very good little book that has a lot of info on Eckankar, and a new perspective on the spiritual purpose of life. There are many truths presented in this book, but there is also an underlying dishonesty. This dishonesty is why I gave the book a one star rating... sorry. What is NOT mentioned is that the "Mahanta" (the Inner Master who is also the Outer Master, i.e. Harold Klemp) is the main focus of this new religion. Prior to Klemp taking over, in 1981, Eckankar was considered a "Spiritual Path." Now, Eckankar has guidelines and rules which are written and "suggested" that all members follow or else. The "else" can be a demotion of initiations, sanctions on duties, or a shunning by other members. The Mahanta demands that the Eckist (member) have total surrender to him, and absolute reliance on him for guidance and protection of all things, in all situations. This means that mental attention is to be placed on the Mahanta (Klemp), and on his words and image, at all times and even during sleep so that one "dreams" of the Mahanta as well. Eventually, the member (chela/student) becomes completely dependent and attached to the Mahanta which is the real goal prescribed through the Eck (Eckankar) teachings. Anything else is just secondary to this main goal. One (Soul) is also told that this reliance will continue throughout all initiations regardless of how many one receives. By the way... Eckankar sees the "God" of all religions as being or residing on the 2nd (Astral) Plane/heaven or on the 4th (Mental) Plane/heaven. Therefore, a High Initiate (5th Plane or higher) is higher in consciousness than the "God" the rest of the world worships (let alone the prophets or saviors)!

ECKANKAR: ANCIENT WISDOM FOR TODAY is getting a lot of airtime on TV and seems to be guiding people who are weak-minded enough to listen. The trouble is, this is not all genuine old Eckankar as I learned it in the early 1970s. Not saying that was all too bright either, but give me a break, it was the 70s! In short, Eckankar (based on the Hindu word for the number one) was oriented around the teachings of Paul Twitchell and had to do with ASTRAL PROJECTION. When my friend and I studied it, Eckankar was intended as training to allow you to learn to release your soul into the astral plane while you slept. There you could learn and understand it all. Twitchell in his sincere wish for a spiritual reawakening even thought a soul could commune directly with God on the astral level. This book delves into nonsense about dreams and peace, and I don't know what else. Twitchell was a true believer in astral projection, which is to say out-of-body experience, and

put all his energy into sharing that aspect. Some believe in projection, some do not. I do, but I still do not understand what it is--all I know is I have done it. Is it a hallucination? A dream? Hypnogogic or hypnopompic state? All of the above? Maybe, but it gave us hope at a time when hope was scarce and Christianity was growing horrid. A new cult or religion? Far from it, in its original form. As I say, it was about mastering astral projection and in that way becoming a better person. As a Buddhist priest, I still cherish Twitchell as one of my earliest teachers. In short, it was a deeply personal and weird way of reconnecting with God. It is a pity to see Twitchell's harmless astral projection ideas (which at worst could be interpreted as advanced meditation) now changed into some sort of new religion.

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