

FACT SHEET

Overview of Eckankar

Eckankar, the Path of Spiritual Freedom, is a worldwide spiritual teaching that offers keys for higher consciousness, dream study, and inner guidance as ways to unlock the path to spiritual mastery.

The goal of Eckankar is to learn to love as God loves.

With ancient roots, the modern-day teachings were introduced in 1965 by Paul Twitchell. Sri Harold Klemp, the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master, has been the spiritual leader of Eckankar for over 40 years. This October he will announce his successor.

The Role of the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master

- The Living ECK Master serves as both an inner and outer guide, helping students navigate their journey to spiritual mastership.
- The MAHANTA is the inner side of the Living ECK Master. He is one with Divine Spirit. He teaches through dreams and inner guidance.
- The Living ECK Master is the outer guide and spiritual leader for the ECK movement. He is given respect but not worshipped.
- His role is to awaken the God-Knowledge within the heart of every person.

Eckankar in the Modern World

- **Headquarters:** the Temple of ECK Campus in Chanhassen, Minnesota, USA. The Temple of ECK, the chief spiritual site of the worldwide teaching, is open to the public and is the focal point of the campus.
- **Global Presence:** enrolled students in over 120 countries with thousands of followers worldwide. Eckankar nonprofit organizations in over 40 countries.

- **Key Teachings:** “Soul” is the true, unique, immortal identity of each person; personal spiritual experiences; spiritual meditation for direct contact with Divine Spirit; Dream Study; Soul Travel, past-life awareness; karma and reincarnation; Self-and-God Realization; spiritual freedom and responsibility; service to all life.

Upcoming Historic Event

- On Saturday, Oct. 25, 2025, Sri Harold Klemp will announce the new Mahanta, the Living ECK Master, at the 2025 ECK Worldwide Soul Adventure Seminar (Oct. 24–26, 2025) held at the Minneapolis Convention Center.

Accomplishments of Sri Harold Klemp: 1981-2025:

1. Global Expansion & Outreach

- Expansion of global membership in over 120 countries
- Established a worldwide field structure of 80+ regional senior clergy representatives working within spiritual guidelines, ethics, and outreach programs to serve seekers
- Growth of Eckankar’s nonprofit organizational presence in over 40 countries, fostering a global spiritual community, along with regional ECK temples in several countries and states
- Published translations of Eckankar’s teachings in over 25 languages, making them accessible to people worldwide.

2. Furthering Eckankar’s Teachings & Spiritual Education

- Wrote over 100 books, discourses, and spiritual study materials from the basic to advanced teachings for both seekers and members.
- Pioneered “everyday spirituality” as a valid form of spiritual experience and path to enlightenment, in addition to dream study, Soul Travel, and inner spiritual experiences.
- Focused on the story-telling model for imparting spiritual truth rather than lecture.

- Revealed the many natural and miraculous accounts of ordinary people having profound spiritual experiences around the world.
- Presented the sacred sound and ancient mantra of HU (sounds like the word *hue*) as a key to higher awareness and alignment with the God Current for anyone of any culture and any path. The HU belongs to no religion. It is the Sound behind all sounds.
- Highlighted the need for service to others in everyday life as a key to spiritual advancement.
- Introduced advanced spiritual living courses.

3. Development of Major Eckankar Facilities

- Built the Temple of ECK in 1990, the primary spiritual site for the worldwide teachings, along with a multi-building spiritual and administrative campus of over 170 acres, including 2 miles of contemplation trails.

The Temple is a center for public events and classes for seekers and ECK students, as well as conferences.

- Oversaw the building and growth of the Temple of ECK Campus in Chanhassen, Minnesota with:
 - Celebrations of Life Outdoor Chapel (2002)
 - Eckankar worldwide administrative center (2004)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the meaning of the words *ECKANKAR* and *ECK*?

ECKANKAR means Coworker with God. The destiny of each Soul is to become a conscious, creative channel for God's love in the world.

ECK is another word for the Life Force, Holy Spirit, or God Current sustaining all life, energy, and worlds.

Is Eckankar a religion, teaching, path, or philosophy?

All of these descriptions apply, yet students most often describe Eckankar as a spiritual teaching or path.

It gives practical ways for people to have profound spiritual experiences—even the ultimate experience of God—in this very lifetime.

What is the role of the Living ECK Master?

As Soul, every person has the God knowledge within them. The role of the Living ECK Master has always been to awaken that knowledge and love for the divine things already within the heart.

There is always a living teacher to ensure the purity of the ECK teachings, and to present them in ways that meet the spiritual needs of the times. It is an unbroken line of succession since before the dawn of history.

In ancient times, the Living ECK Master's students often had to rely solely on the inner dream teachings they received. It is only in our modern era that the outer teachings have been widely available.

How are other religions and spiritual figures regarded?

Each religion and spiritual tradition in the world offers experience for Soul's journey. In the ECK tradition, there are not ECKist Souls, or Christian Souls, Jewish Souls, or Islamic Souls. There are just Souls, each a unique, creative, divine spark of God following the path that best suits their spiritual needs at the time. Other religious leaders and teachers are respected for their spiritual roles.

Does Eckankar seek to convert others?

Never. It is against spiritual law to push one's beliefs on others or to hold anyone to a spiritual path. The ECK teachings are based on giving others freedom to follow their own hearts.

Is Eckankar a cult?

No. Among the reasons:

- Eckankar is based on personal experience. Although it has a set of doctrines, each person tests out the teachings and chooses what to accept as truth. A core principle of Eckankar is: *"The highest truth is not written in any book. It is written in your heart."*
- There is no requirement to attend events or meetings. Students often study and practice on their own.
- There is no pressure to give financially. The suggested donation for enrolling as a student of Eckankar is \$75 a year. People are welcome to give as they are able.
- If one spouse has a problem with ECK, then Eckankar encourages the ECKist to consider finding another path agreeable to both.
- Eckankar encourages its students to give back to life through service to family, friends, and community in their own ways. Service is something Soul gives naturally in gratitude for the gift of life. The entire reason for Soul's journey is to learn the spiritual need for giving.

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