ECKANKAR TEACHES THAT the Mahanta is the inner, or spiritual, form of the Living ECK Master. It is the highest state of God consciousness known to man. The role of the Mahanta is to teach and guide Souls who are ready on the path home to God.

HUMAN LEADERS
The three most recent Living ECK Masters, or Mahantas, are Paul Twitchell, Darwin Gross, and Harold Klemp. Klemp became the Mahanta in 1981.

ORIGINS
Eckankar claims that its teachings have been “on earth since the dawn of human history.”

ECKANKAR CLAIMS THAT ECKists believe Sugmad (God) is the endless source from which all forms were created, and that the ECK, the Sound Current, flows out of Sugmad and into lower dimensions.

ACCORDING TO ECKANKAR
ECK is another word for the Life Force, Holy Spirit, or Audible Life Stream.

AN INTRIGUING INSIGHT
Hu or Huma is an Arabic-based name for God in Sufism (a concept, mystical dimension, or philosophy of Islam). Huma is found in the Islamic creed, La Ila Ha Ila Allah Hu: “There is no God but Allah,” i.e. Sufi rendering: “There is no reality except God.”

AN AD PROMOTING ECKANKAR
and posted on Youtube in 2014 says: “Discover how past lives, dreams, and soul travel can help you step out of the crowd and master your spiritual destiny. By looking within you can explore your dreams, past and present relationships, and gain valuable insights to improve the quality of your life every day.”

BUT THE BIBLE SAYS HUMANS are conceived in sin (Psalm 51:5) and that our hearts are by nature “deceitful above all things and desperately wicked.” (Jeremiah 17:9) Jesus warned that, apart from God’s redemptive work, evil — not good — lies deep within us all (Mark 7:21-23).

FORMER LIVING ECK MASTER
Darwin Gross, in Your Right to Know, © 1979 IWP Publishing: “No one teacher, living or past, can give us the actual understanding of truth. The knowledge and understanding of truth is wholly dependent upon the individual to make his way to truth.”

BUT JESUS SAYS IN JOHN 14:6 “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.”

ECKANKAR ON SOCIAL ISSUES
Eckankar respects individual opinions on abortion. Same-sex marriages may be performed with the ECK Wedding Ceremony by ordained ministers of Eckankar.

DOES ECKANKAR MATTER?
Eckankar, with its Hindu-Islamic-New Age connections, may not be attracting the numbers that it once did. But the concepts on which it is based are still alive today. If you care about what happens after this life, you should care about the beliefs in which you invest yourself now, and avoid such false systems as Eckankar.

SOURCES INCLUDE

A CRITICAL QUESTION
Who or what ultimately qualified Paul Twitchell to speak authoritatively on matters of faith and truth?

WHAT IS ECKANKAR?
Eckankar is a spiritual movement with international headquarters located near Minneapolis MN.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
The word Eckankar means Co-worker with God. The final spiritual goal of all ECKists is to “become conscious co-workers with God and to find divine love.”

NAME OF FOLLOWERS
Those who study the ECK teachings are known as ECKists.

NUMBER OF ADHERENTS
Eckankar once had an estimated yearly paid membership of up to three million followers worldwide. Today Eckankar claims that there are “tens of thousands of ECKists around the world.”

HOLY BOOKS
The holy scripture of Eckankar is the Shariyat-Ki-Sugmad (Way of the Eternal), a two-book set that teaches spiritual meaning and purpose, authored by Paul Twitchell. Some of the key beliefs taught in the Shariyat-Ki-Sugmad are: Soul Travel, karma, reincarnation, love, and Light and Sound.

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by Daryl E. Witmer

ECKANKAR Co-Worker with God or Victim of Deceit?