



Spiritual Wisdom Journal

Quarterly Inspiration from ECKANKAR

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S P I R I T U A L S U R V I V A L I N A C H A N G I N G W O R L D

Focus: Understanding Near-Death Experiences

“The principles of ECK¹ teach us and give us confidence about the life hereafter while we are still here in the physical body, so that we can have Self-Realization and God-Realization, as well as move into the Kingdom of Heaven within this lifetime.”

—Sri Harold Klemp,² *How to Find God, Mahanta Transcripts, Book 2*

FEATURE ARTICLE



A Visit to Heaven

By Sri Harold Klemp

Lenny was a seeker.

Years ago, Lenny had gone hunting in a neighbor’s field with his father, brother, and a neighbor friend. Tragedy was to change Lenny’s life. Lightning

struck both him and his neighbor, who died immediately. Lenny himself went into cardiac arrest. But his brother revived him en route to the hospital. In the emergency room, however, Lenny’s heart then failed again.

The medical staff tried everything in its power to revive him, but without success. Grave, hopeless seconds flew away like falcons upon the wind. Unable to make out a sign of life, the doctor signaled a nurse to pull the plug. As she bent over to disconnect the monitors, the faintest beep sounded from the EKG.

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Life!

The team sprang into action, reviving Lenny.

He lay in a coma for six hours. But seemingly unconscious, he’d actually awakened out of the body, in the inner worlds.

A realm of stunning beauty greeted him. There he found delightful rest and peace. His was a flood of bliss and ecstasy. And in that place of unspeakable love, Lenny caught sight of his neighbor, who’d been struck by lightning and translated (died). The man was lingering near a stairway leading to an even greater light. He motioned Lenny to join him; they’d ascend the stairs together. But Lenny shook his head. No, there was still plenty to see and do on earth.

Then a man with a snowy beard and in a long white robe addressed him. Was this God? (Lenny was to learn later that this exalted being would never, ever make a pretense of being God.) The old man spoke of the changes to come for Lenny: his future.

Lenny met other beings too. One especially striking man had a gleaming bald head, but more about that later.

Lenny could recall only fragments of his inner conversations with those beings, though the beauty and tranquility of that world were like an exquisite script engraved upon his heart. His remembrance of that celestial place enfolded him in an aura of peace and contentment. So profound and pure, in fact, was this recollection that he would spend many fruitless years trying either to recapture or escape its memory. . . .

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1. ECK is the Life Force, the Holy Spirit, the Audible Life Current which sustains all life. Also short for Eckankar.
2. Sri Harold Klemp is the spiritual leader of Eckankar.

A Visit to Heaven

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One day, seized by despair while out driving, Lenny cried, “What’s going on? Help me! I give up! Do with me what you will. I need help!” . . .

Tossing and turning one night, Lenny realized he was spiritually on the edge of a precipitous cliff. He crawled from under his covers and switched on the TV. On the screen, was an ad for the ECK Worldwide Seminar in Minneapolis, Minnesota. A voice inside him said, “Call the number.” Lenny hesitated. “Call the number!” So he dialed 1-800-LOVE GOD.

A short while later, a mailing arrived from Eckankar. Inside it was a free book, *ECKANKAR—Ancient Wisdom for Today*. He skimmed it; he liked it. All right, then, it was time to visit the Temple of ECK in Chanhassen, Minnesota.

Lenny, a Minnesota resident, had driven past the temple for ten years. He’d always known he’d stop in someday, but a certain timidity kept him from it.

He finally overcame his reluctance and went to the temple. Inside, a genial host offered him a tour, to which Lenny agreed. The tour coursed along a

corridor to a chapel near the main sanctuary. There, on the wall, hung color portraits of ECK Masters.

Lenny stared at them. For the first time since his near-death experience, he finally understood his out-of-the-body journey. He recognized the ECK Master Fubbi Quantz. He was the man with the white beard and long white robe. He was the very one Lenny had once mistaken for God, the one who’d told him things about his future.

And there, too, was a portrait of Yaubl Sacabi, the bald-headed man who’d offered guidance in times of trouble.

For the first time in twenty years, Lenny knew with absolute certainty that his experience had been real. He wasn’t crazy; in fact, he was blessed.

In good time, Lenny learned about karma, reincarnation, and past lives, and he also found answers to a lifetime of questions. Best of all, he discovered the way to again enter those worlds of light, love, and infinite beauty he’d seen so many years ago. It is through the Spiritual Exercises of ECK.

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—From *ECK Wisdom on Life after Death*,
by Harold Klemp

A SPIRITUAL STORY

A Near-Death Experience

By Anne Archer Butcher, Minnesota

The trip was in the middle of spring break. I had enjoyed several days of rest and rejuvenation away from the high school where I taught while my three-year-old daughter, Sarah, spent a little time with her dad, Jon, in the next state. We were now divorced but remained good friends.

That day, I went to Jon’s house to collect Sarah so we could enjoy the rest of the week’s vacation together. I stayed for a while to visit with Jon. Then it was time for us to say our good-byes and set out for home. It was growing dark as I gathered Sarah’s belongings and loaded the car.

The back roads of Indiana were narrow and winding, but they provided the shortest way home. With caution, I made my way through the enveloping night.

Nothing, though, prepared me for the red truck. In the final seconds, the last thing I thought I saw was an unconscious driver slumped over the steering wheel. Then it hit—the large, speeding truck against my small car. The impact was ferocious.

Out of my body, I realized that the entire top of the car had been torn off by the powerful impact. The person in the car did resemble me, but it did not feel like me at all. My perspective was completely changed. It was difficult to relate to that injured body, and I realized it was most certainly *not* me, for the real me was floating peacefully above the entire scene.

I knew that nothing could compare with what I was feeling now: total contentment. Simply, I longed to stay in this sweet, floating freedom.

Yet my attention was being directed toward the spectacle below, and a second impression came to me: “Look at the scene of the car wreck. Look carefully at what’s going on down there.”

With a gentleness which I’ve come to recognize as the presence of the Mahanta³ giving me inner

“The real me was floating peacefully.”

3. The Mahanta, the Living ECK Master is the spiritual leader of Eckankar, who assists spiritual students via talks and writings, in the dream state, and in the spiritual worlds.

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A Near-Death Experience

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guidance, my attention was being redirected. I followed the guidance given and turned to examine the scene below. Watching from my perspective as Soul, which at the moment was hovering around the tops of the trees lining the highway, I studied the car wreck. I could see everything in great detail, and I gazed with detachment at the entire drama, looking at it like one would watch a play.

Suddenly, I realized the rescue team believed I was dead. I was shocked back into full awareness of my physical body.

"I'm not dead," I cried out inwardly. "I want an ambulance! I want to be rescued!"

I then heard a man speaking directly to me, very slowly, loudly, and deliberately: "Honey, if you can hear me," he pleaded, "just give me a sign that you're alive; just a sign!"

A sign! How could I signal him? The little finger of my left hand was sticking up above the rubble. I managed to wiggle the finger slowly, very slowly. I continued to gently wiggle the pinky finger of my left hand.

He saw the movement. "Dear God, she's alive! She's alive!" he shouted out to the others. "Let's get her out of here—fast!" Those were the last words I heard as I descended into the dark peace of unconsciousness.

When I arrived in the operating room, I was shocked back into full awareness. Through all the pain, I still knew that the responsibility was mine. I knew what to do, and I had to do it. I had to switch

my attention to the Mahanta and my inner guidance. I cried silently, sending an urgent distress call to the Inner Master: "I need you now more than ever! Help me. Now, now, please, now! Tell me what to do."

"Sing HU."

I weakly whispered, "HU." Tears poured down my face as I sang HU as loudly as I could and the hoarse sound filled the room.

"HU, HU," the doctor called out. "You just keep singing that word. I don't know what you're doing, but just keep it up! Sing," he urged the other doctor standing by my head. And to the nurses in the room he said, "Sing!" Everyone was singing it. The room filled with the sound of HU.

As I was dozing during my recovery, I had a vivid dream with Sri Harold. "How old was your father when he died?" the Mahanta, my inner guide asked me.

"My father? He was young—just in his thirties."

"And how old are you now? About the same age?"

"Yes."

"And how did your father die?"

"In an accident."

"And what did you wish when your father died?"

"I wished that I could die just like my daddy did. I wanted to go to be with God in heaven, just like my dad."

"And what has happened here?" His final question went unanswered. The Mahanta had disappeared. I woke up.

I now realized that my words, thoughts, and deep

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“You just keep singing that word.”

A SPIRITUAL EXERCISE TO TRY

Doorway to Heaven

Every time you walk through a doorway today, whether at work or at home, know that on the inner planes you are walking through a doorway to heaven. And that is every doorway, as long as you recognize this in your consciousness.

For example, suppose you have a difficult meeting with your boss or coworkers. As you walk through the door into the meeting, know that you are entering the room with a newer, higher consciousness.

When you get inside the room, pause a moment and ask yourself, *How is my higher awareness going to affect me? Will I be more relaxed? More tolerant and patient? Will I trust Divine Spirit to provide me with the answers and guidance I need?*

If you experiment with this technique, you will find it changes your viewpoint and lifts you higher and higher in awareness throughout the day.

—From *The Spiritual Exercises of ECK*, by Harold Klemp

A Near-Death Experience

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feelings had helped create a mold for my future.

Had I unknowingly drawn into manifestation an accident just like my father's?

Through this expanded inner awareness and the Mahanta's gentle spiritual reminders, I now experienced a deeper understanding of what had really

happened. Because of the guidance and protection I had received, and what I'd learned through the teachings of Eckankar, I felt I'd been spared from my own creation and given the opportunity to write a new future.

Back

—Adapted from *Inner Guidance: Our Divine Birthright*, by Anne Archer Butcher

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Ask a Modern Prophet about Life after Death

Can I experience heaven for myself?

Several years ago, I visited Paris in a dream. The dream showed remarkable detail, right down to the wallpaper in the hotel room.

Heaven, like Paris, is seen differently by each person who goes there. My impressions about Paris before arrival would have been more flighty, had it not been for the dream that outlined what things to expect there.

Our concept of heaven is likewise a starry-eyed fantasy. Soul Travel is a personal way to see heaven here and now. Once we see it, then we arrange our lives to better advantage both now and in eternity.

We want heaven to be jeweled cities of light (and there are such), with angels flitting about like

butterflies in a garden (there are those things too), but we yearn to tramp the hallowed heights in the company of saints, engaging them in sober debates that run into the ages. What a dull, empty, dreary, and dreadfully useless heaven!

Mercy and grace alone take no one to God Consciousness. That is a hoax perpetrated by religious thinkers, and it has misled countless laypeople in the mainstream religions.

Soul Travel is a spiritual journey that outpaces the Universal Mind kingdom. It delivers Soul to the Soul Plane, where we enter into the initial stage of self-knowledge.

—From *ECK Wisdom on Life after Death*, by Harold Klemp

MEET SPIRITUALLY LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE

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 discussions, 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:

2018 ECK Worldwide Seminar

Become the Loving Heart

October 26–28, 2018, Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA

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.

Meet people from around the world who share how the teachings of ECK help them in their lives.