



Spiritual Wisdom Journal

Quarterly Inspiration from ECKANKAR

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SPIRITUAL SURVIVAL IN A CHANGING WORLD

Focus: Dreams of Past Lives Can Unlock Your Future

“It is easiest to trace past lives through a study of your dreams.”

—Sri Harold Klemp,¹ *A Modern Prophet Answers Your Key Questions about Life*, Book 1

FEATURE ARTICLE



The Ultimate Purpose of Dream Study

By Sri Harold Klemp

Through dreams or inner experiences, the student of the ECK dream teachings is trying to learn to take responsibility for his actions.

There is no point in asking the Mahanta,² the Inner Master, for certain experiences if you aren't going to benefit from them. We don't wait for someone else to come along and solve all of our problems. We look for an active way to take care of our own lives.

In a hotel I saw a sign management had posted for the benefit of the employees. The title was “Don't Pass the Buck.” The sign read, “Blaming others is a bad excuse which keeps us from

change and growth. Let's look at ourselves clearly and honestly. Only then can we improve and overcome our shortcomings.” This refers to self-responsibility. It was very well stated.

The dreamer in ECK must look at himself clearly. He must understand that the circumstances he finds himself in today are those he created for himself sometime in the past. As the creative dreamer, he can take control of his life today and begin to change his circumstances into something that will make him happier.

To be the creative dreamer is to work with the creative principle of Soul. Soul is a spark of God. The creative principle that we are trying to learn to express is the creative power of God.

As one learns to express these creative abilities, he becomes a Co-worker with God. No matter what comes up, no matter how difficult the circumstance, he finds a way to make the situation a little bit better. He is able to come out of it a little bit happier than when he went into it.

Creative dreamers, whether they are on the path of ECK or not, are generally people who are responsive to their own dreams. They are highly successful in life and in their chosen profession.

Dream Insight for Our Lives Today

In the dream teachings of ECK, we learn to identify the problems that are plaguing us. The Inner Master begins to open up small scenes from our past. We sometimes perceive these as disjointed dreams. These dream experiences give

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1. Sri Harold Klemp is the spiritual leader of Eckankar.

2. 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.

The Ultimate Purpose of Dream Study

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us a way to start finding out who and what we are.

As we move into the higher states of consciousness, we become more aware of our responsibility—first of all to ourselves, but also to other people. Our responsibility to others is mainly to allow them the same freedom we want for ourselves.

The experiences you have in dreams are to give you another perspective on your life today.

People occasionally have a dream about a past life with another person. Misunderstanding its purpose, they may use it to try to put a hold

on that person, who has no recollection of the mutual past life. It becomes a control factor.

When the Dream Master shows you a karmic picture from a past life, it is mainly to give you an insight into yourself as you are today—the most perfect spiritual being you have ever been in all your lives. That is who you are today.

By the same token, if the Dream Master gives you an experience about a future event, the aspect about the future is secondary. Again, it is really about today. If you keep this in mind, you will interpret the experience in a way that will give you more perspective about your present life and how you can live it better.

—From *The Art of Spiritual Dreaming*,
by Harold Klemp

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A SPIRITUAL STORY

Another Step Home to God

By Rian Beyers, Nebraska



When I was a child, I had a recurring dream. I was dressed in a soldier's uniform, fighting alongside other men. Bullets flew across unfamiliar terrain as we engaged in a firefight with our enemies.

I was in command. One by one, my men were killed, leaving me the last man alive. As the enemy troops moved toward me, I noticed they were wearing traditional Vietnamese-looking hats. If I was caught, I might be forced to reveal valuable information that shouldn't fall into enemy hands.

I looked down and saw my name on the uniform and the weapons I carried. Then my life ended.

I had this same dream for many years. But I didn't recognize the landscape.

I grew up in South Africa, and at that time our country had no access to television service. It wasn't until several years later that television became widely available and I had my first glimpse of the Vietnam War.

I was shocked. The landscape was the same one I saw in my dreams. The uniforms of the American soldiers, the weapons they carried, even the way the Vietnamese soldiers dressed—

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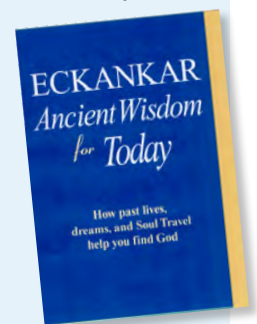
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Another Step Home to God

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everything was the same, down to the smallest detail.

I didn't know what to think. After that, every time I saw a movie or show that accurately depicted the experiences of a soldier in the Vietnam War, I had a strong emotional reaction.

As I got older, I began to wonder if this was a past-life experience. I'd heard about reincarnation but wasn't sure if it was true.

Then I found Eckankar and learned that past lives are indeed real. Remembering our previous lives, and the lessons they taught us, can help us understand more about ourselves today.

I realized my recurring dream had actually been a memory of my past life as a soldier in the Vietnam War. But I wondered why this particular past-life memory created such a strong reaction in me. What did it mean?

Many years later, I visited the United States for the first time. I felt drawn to go to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC. This monument honors United States soldiers who died or went missing in action during the Vietnam War. Inscribed on the monument are more than fifty-eight thousand names.

When I arrived, I was taken aback to see the

vast number of names on the monument's wall. I wondered if the name I saw in my dreams was there too. But since the names weren't listed alphabetically, I couldn't imagine finding it.

I stopped and did a short contemplation, asking the Mahanta to help me.

"If my dream is real," I asked the Inner Master, "can you help me find my name on the wall?"

A few moments later, I came out of contemplation and began walking along the monument. I hadn't gone very far, when I had a nudge to look at the wall. Inscribed there was the name I saw so many times in my dreams.

As I gazed at the name, I suddenly felt a burden lift from me. I realized I had felt responsible for the deaths of my men. Now I understood there was no need for guilt. We had all done the best we could.

This experience validated that my recurring dream really was a past-life memory. With the Mahanta's help, this recognition helped me release a hidden burden I had unknowingly carried with me.

Now I know that life doesn't end with death. Soul is eternal. Every experience in this life and past lives can help me take another step closer to becoming a Co-worker with God.

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—From the 2016 *Eckankar Journal*

A SPIRITUAL EXERCISE TO TRY

Inviting the Dream Master



The Dream Master, who is really the Mahanta, the Living ECK Master, will not work with the dreamer unless invited in some way.

Before going to sleep, inwardly give permission to the Dream Master to be with you. Imagine unburdening yourself, giving your problems to him, and letting your mind relax its concerns and worries. Ask the Dream Master to help clear up the karmic conditions of whatever is standing in the way of your spiritual growth.

Then go to sleep, aware that you are resting in the care of the Dream Master who will look out for your best interests.

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



Sri Harold Klemp gives the blessing of the Vairagi ECK Masters at the 2015 ECK Worldwide Seminar.

Ask a Modern Prophet about Dreams of Past Lives

I would like to see my past lives. How do I go about this?

It is easiest to trace past lives through a study of your dreams.

To awaken such past-life dreams, make a note of things you greatly like or dislike. Do that also with people. Then watch your dreams. Also note if a certain country or century attracts you. There is a reason.

When we practice the Spiritual Exercises of ECK faithfully, the Inner Master will open us up to those things that are important to see concerning past lives. Most of them need not concern us. No matter what we were in the past during any other life, we are spiritually greater today.

The wealth and position we enjoyed in past lives mean nothing unless we know how to lift ourselves from materialism into the higher worlds. This does not mean to shun the good things of this life—family, home, wealth. God loves the rich man as much as the poor. We get no special benefits if we fall for the negative tricks of asceticism or unusual austerities.

We live the spiritual life beginning where we are today. We look to see the hand of Divine

Spirit guiding us toward the greater consciousness, which leads us to becoming a more direct vehicle for Spirit.

—From *A Modern Prophet Answers Your Key Questions about Life*, Book 1, by Harold Klemp

I just read about the Dream Master. . . . Who makes the dream—you, or me, or both of us?

Thank you for a very good question. It is one that many have not thought about. They think the Mahanta would just come to you whenever he pleases.

But that is not so. The spiritual law won't let him, because your state of consciousness is like your home. He would not think of coming into it unless you invite him in.

So, how does a dream with the Mahanta happen?

Many lives ago, you became tired of life, and you called to God to show you the way to your home in heaven.

In answer to your call, Sugmad (God) sent the Mahanta to show you the way to your true home.

He has never left you.

—From *A Modern Prophet Answers Your Key Questions about Life*, Book 2, by Harold Klemp

MEET SPIRITUALLY LIKE-MINDED PEOPLE

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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.



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

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Discover Your Spiritual Mission
October 21–23, 2016,
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.