

PAUL TWITCHELL
presents

The ECK Monthly Letter

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

OCTOBER, 1971

VOL. 6, NO. 10



PAULJI-MAHANTA

LIVING ECK MASTER OCTOBER 22, 1965 — SEPTEMBER 17, 1971



Dear Friends:

Every chela in ECKANKAR must learn humility, gratitude, and develop the courage to believe in the Mahanta, the living ECK Master, and in an omnipotence working by a mighty evolution toward an ultimate goal. The chela has to learn compassion and tenderness and the meaning of the cry in the night. Also he must learn to hope that, for himself, he might become an instrument, if not of ultimate enlightenment, then at least for ultimate Realization.

Two major obstacles stand between the chela and the listed virtues named above. First, is the psychic world that is filled with entities and negativism waiting to fasten onto those who are open to their influences. This negative power, which is the Kal, is like a gigantic ocean which is ready to suck any soul who bathes in it into its depth by currents and tows under. The psychic world is the meeting ground between man and God, and those who violate the spiritual law with the use of psychic phenomenon and the practice of it in order to make gains in this world with material goals, are in deep spiritual danger.

Secondly, dogma is the next major obstacle which stands between man and the many virtues that he needs to have in his characteristics. Dogma is the enemy of human freedom. It must be watched for and apprehended at every turn of life's road and twist of the spiritual movement of ECK. Few people understand that life is made up of dogma, for it's a sort of intolerance, in a way, which says that all life events must be fitted into a narrow mold. This narrow mold is telling that individual who has put himself into it that he cannot see life and its events any way but his own way, or that which his overseers tell him. However, each of those who are ECKists must come to the realization that they, each, belong to the chosen race of the superior being. All others are aliens, that is those who have not yet voluntarily taken up the path of ECK. These aliens, as we speak of them are, in a way, heathens or pagans who have not yet found truth. They are the agents of the Kal, and the enemy of those who are the followers of the ECK.

We are concerned with immortality and eternity. We understand man's need for an extension of himself beyond the limits of the fleeting years. Every ECKist wants to live in peace and harmony with his neighbor

whether he is a follower of the ECK or not. But we do not allow our neighbor to take advantage of our love for peace and harmony. It is our place to see that he gains the information that ECK is available for him to redeem himself and return to the essence of his true self within the confines of life. We affirm the persistence of Soul into an eternity of union with the Creator, or of exile from ITS self. But we go further, we promise man a preservation of his identity and an ultimate victory even over the so-called terrors of death. What the neighbor fails too often to understand is that immortality must be begun in time, and that man must be given the spiritual resources to survive before Soul can grow to desire more than physical survival.

Everyone in ECK will learn sooner or later that he must develop a defense against what is known as public opinion against those who are followers of ECKANKAR. There is no monster so cruel and depraved as public opinion. It is the mass mind which crushes genius, strangles initiative, promotes mediocrity and thrives on injustice. But it is the newspapers, the broadcasters and the politicians who make public opinion, not the people. The people are merely the followers or public opinion established by the public media. Public opinion is artificially created by professionals who are well versed in this field therefore we must learn how to either rise with any storm or get out of its way. Many a genius has been destroyed by public opinion. Such men have offered their work to the public, but it was so far in advance of the public's understanding that it was called madness and laughed into the wilderness. The sensitive creators often took to drink or became convinced of their insanity and killed themselves. We will never let this happen to ECK, although in the past centuries there have been the strange and fierce battles to keep ourselves surviving above the attacks of public opinion, in ancient Rome, Greece, and China.

Those following ECK have always been greatly outnumbered by the orthodox religions. This is why they alone could create public opinion against the chelas of ECK and cause it to go underground at times in order to survive. But without anyone understanding what was taking place the ECKist was steadily reaching that point where suffering was a blessing, not that state of being a masochist who takes pleasure in pain. It is clear from the Shariyat-Ki-Sugmad that the chela avoids hardship whenever he can do so without shirking his duty or comprising his principles. He also

tries, whenever possible, to ameliorate the suffering of others. When it is said that it is blessed to suffer, it's not meant that we should go out of our way to incur misery. What is meant here is simply saying that when trouble comes upon us anyway, despite our efforts to avoid it, we can find in it a hidden benediction.

Let me remind you that nowhere in the works of ECK is there offered encouragement to the popular belief that anyone can purchase divine protection against suffering by merely being good. Quite the contrary, for the Mahanta, the living ECK Master, suffers more than anyone and yet if you follow him truly he will draw you into his suffering. In pain we discover the existence of something higher than this earthly happiness and contentment. It is then that we can detach ourselves from those things which hold our senses captive and we can set our eyes upon the eternal.

The blessing to be found is one of the present moment which takes place in the very midst of suffering. Look back at the times in your life when you were calm and contented and everything seemed to be going right for you. If you find that you became selfish, hardhearted, lonely, without the regard for higher things, for God, would you be willing to stay this way your whole life? Do not vex yourself by trying to explain the suffering you have endured in this life. Do not think that some divine agency is punishing or disciplining you or that God has rejected you. Even in the midst of your suffering you are in the realm of the heavenly kingdom. You are always the child of ECK, and in ITS protecting arms.



Paulji speaks to youth at Long Beach, August, 1971.

From the Chelas of ECK

A LETTER TO ALL ECKISTS, FROM A CHELA

Dear Ones in ECK:

With the understanding of my local Mahdis (Darwin Gross) I felt it timely for this channel in its stage of growing awareness, to let the spirit of ECK flow through. May it guide in the sharing of these thoughts.

I have been greatly blessed and privileged to share in the development and growth of the ECKANKAR Portland Satsang Groups and our Center which was recently opened to the public. I have been in ECK approximately 1 year, and in that year have shared with the local ECKists a growing joy and bliss of companionship that is far beyond the comprehension of the non-ECKist.

Some of the subjects and thoughts spontaneously perceived and discussed in the last six months of our gradual growth of individual and group awareness follow:

In ECK, in physical planes of activity, i.e., physical growth of groups splitting into smaller segments for the gradual accumulation of new members in ever widening areas; and expansion of programs to disseminate information of ECK to the public; the following applies on any lower plane: negative or positive aspects apply in proportion to the individuals activity as well as group growth. For instance as Sat-Sang must sustain its growth of awareness within the group. The group must expand through bringing its individual people up in awareness and responsibility to the stage where they can branch out and start new groups to open up more new channels for the creative flow of ECK. If they do not do this, then they are remaining static in the area of increasing the ECK's growing creative awareness of ITSELF!

In our case in Portland, my fellow chelas have been marvelous in their active eagerness to let the ECK spirit flow through them outwardly into this material plane, for the benefit and uplifting of the whole area. This giving of themselves for ECK to work through them has lifted the chelas to a warmer relationship with one another and increased their awareness of the freedom to express unrestrained spiritual love! This unfettered freedom of expression to growth in each individual plus their common goals as regards the ECK center activities and its service to the public, has cre-

ated a cohesive bond amongst us of great value to all.

The recognition of ECKists of the potential in the soul unit of one another, without regard to the individual's state of personal awareness at the moment, seems to provide the basis for a greater appreciation of each individual.

Spiritually Yours in ECK
Rex L. Brumfield (Chela)

ECK TEACHING CONSCIOUSNESS

On September 4, 1971, Terry Campbell and a group of about sixty ECKists came together in Long Beach, California for what is now officially known as the Eckankar Teaching Consciousness. This consciousness has been growing for some time but the seminar at the Edgewater Hyatt House marked the first time that ECK chelas came together to establish what it really is. Many of the chelas who went didn't know at first exactly why they were there. As the conference progressed, however, they realized that they are the ones who will be leading and teaching ECK in the very near future, and that this was an introduction of the Consciousness members to one another.

Working within the ECK Teaching Consciousness, it was immediately established that the real purpose of teachers is not to teach; it is to inspire others to learn. Public education has been generally unsuccessful because educators have been conditioned to think of learning as strictly mental and through programming, minds can be forced to produce. This concept soon flounders when we see that learning is not something the mind does. It is a Soul experience and any product of this experience is merely a manifestation of the inner light and sound.

Those at the seminar found that ECK education differs from ordinary education in that it is based on the "5 I's," (rather than the three R's.)

These are: 1) INSPIRATION, the true purpose of any teacher. Real learning takes place only when the inner being is touched by something and acts to discover and create. Once inner action has been established within soul, the extent of creation is limited only by 2) IMAGINATION. All ECKists know how important this faculty is! Those in the Teaching Consciousness seek to remove any barriers to imagination, thus allowing

for unlimited growth in all directions. Through INDIVIDUALIZATION 3) allowing each soul to work at his natural pace in his natural directions, the experience of learning and the "ECKpression" of it will be seen in 4) INTERRELATION, the gradual realization that all things are light and sound and as such, are one. The last of the five I's is the I*amness of ECK. With this realization, soul no longer separates Itself from learning and see that the whole process of growth never ceases. Soul becomes clothed in light and sound rather than in workclothes. It is ready to know its place in the realm of all things.

Perhaps the whole purpose of the ECK Teaching Consciousness Seminar can be summed up in a single sentence. LET THE ECK FLOW! It is only when we open ourselves to the Sugmad that we begin manifesting as light and sound and thus teach by our very being. May the blessings be.

John McGrady

Faith With Forseen Fate

In Miss Fronie Watkins' home August 8, 1971, Mrs. Vera Schnorbus came in with a noticeably larger amount of light around the top part of her head and talked with Atlanta Eckankar Satsang class about God beyond the mind, illustrating her idea with a true story that climaxed recently. She had asked Paulji to do an Eck Vidya reading for her, which he did February, foreseeing she would be in a car accident sometime around this August but also telling her not to worry because she would be protected. She said near when the month arrived, July 26, while riding with a friend who was driving, they collided with another automobile on slick pavement during rain on an expressway. Her head was banged hard against the windshield. Her attending physician, afterwards, was amazed Vera came through it all the way she did, without brain damage or death because the glass was cracked by the impact of her head. She suffered a concussion that temporarily rendered her blind in one eye but recovered. A scratch was at her hairline, but she combed her tresses over it. Her friend was unharmed. If she had not told about it, no one in the class would have known it had happened, and still would have wondered about Vera's beautiful new radiance.

Barbara Wittmann



In the June ECK Monthly Letter we all were invited to share our projects, on how we spread the ECK. I am sending a picture to give you an idea.

I had those Eckankar signs installed in the windows of my car. In the back the one lights up at night with the car lights. In the front, which is only half the size, it sits on dashboard on top of ECK literature (in a kleenex box). On weekends I drive to my cabin near Victoria, 200 miles, or twice a month I go by ferry to Vancouver to Satsang. I always pick up youngsters. The first thing they ask is, "What is Eckankar?" when they see the sign. So I give them a pamphlet to read. I never start talking first about ECK. Are they ever ready for it, or I should say, they know about the things I talk about. I also sell ECK books this way. Sometimes nothing is said, I just chant my word. But I would like to say that even when I am only a wordless channel, it gives me a tremendous lift every time, like I had an experience with the Master.

The car I bought in the spring and I consider it an ECK car. I give out pamphlets if a car pulls up beside me and someone asks: "What is ECKANKAR?" It seems to work like a charm.

Arend Wieman

* * *

On Friday evening, August 27th, a concert of ECK music was presented under the stars in Mitchell Park, Palo Alto, Calif., with Ron Chrislock, "The Sugmad Sailors" Roger & Rosalyn Dubin and Nolan Luke, Elizabeth Turrell and her beautiful harp, Bill Wichman and Peter Grenier. The program was repeated Sunday evening in Los Gatos at the Olde Towne Theatre. These same talented ECKists, adding Morgan Chapman on the Sitar played in Lincoln Auditorium, Santa Monica Sunday Sept. 5th and at Pacifica High School Auditorium, Garden Grove, Calif. on Labor Day, Sept. 6th. They will travel the country in caravan this coming year playing at colleges, parks wherever the chelas of ECK secure engagements for them. Terry Campbell of the ECK Teaching Consciousness will be traveling with them as will Derrick Cox of ECKANKAR CAMPUS SOCIETY.

LETTER ECKschange . . .

RE: ONLY THE BOLD FIND GOD

Dear Sir:

The difficulty seems to arise from the meaning attached to the word "bold." If A.P. substituted the word "brave" I wonder if the meaning might not be cleared up.

Since we are dealing with worlds which we have had no previous experience, to our recollection, every experience could be overwhelming were it not for the presence of the Master to guide and reassure us.

J. L.

Salt Lake City, Utah

* * *

Dear Editor:

In August issue of the ECK Monthly Letter is a picture of Maxine Melendez and myself holding a banner which she had made.

Because I was helping her hold it, it was quite natural to presume that we had made it together, however, I was only helping her to hold it, she made it herself. I would appreciate it if a little correction note could be put in a future issue.

Baraka Bashad,
Evelyn Ewing

Chelas interested in donating some of their time to work in the Gift and Book shop at the FIFTH WORLD WIDE SEMINAR are asked to notify: Mr. and Mrs. Tom Hurst, 376 Ocean Ave., Laguna Beach, Calif. 92652. Please state if you have done this service before at Seminars and which ones.

Dear Editor:

The book, *THE RAZOR'S EDGE* by Somerset Maugham was made into a TV movie. It is an old movie but it was a story about ECKANKAR and I was very fascinated by it because it was ECKANKAR. Who was Somerset?

E. C.

Amarillo, Tex.

How about it readers? Would you like to try to shed some light on this for reader E. C.?

I AM ALWAYS WITH YOU

I am always with you
You say, Mahanta,
Through your physical channel
Our Master and wayshower

But the question is
Are we always with YOU?
To be sustained and unfolded
To the full extent of our potential

You can only point the way
And say: "Follow me"
You do not even look back
To see whether or not we do

For we must realize the truth
That as far as we are concerned
You are with us only to the extent
We say: "I am always with YOU"

Irene Maxwell
Merritt, B.C.



Arend Wieman, of British Columbia, had light-up signs saying ECKANKAR installed in his car. (See story - Activity Board page 4)

LETTERS TO GAIL



October 1, 1971

Dear Gail:

The basic point of my thinking in the spiritual field is ECKANKAR, the Ancient Science of Soul Travel. This is the ability to leave the body and see what is going on outside the physical self. This is not what is called the astral body—but Soul—Itself! This is not intended to confuse you, but the point I wish to make is that the real self within, is that spiritual awareness which I've referred to as the Tuza or the spiritual unit of awareness! It is often called Soul by the orthodox, but many would prefer other terms for it, therefore, it may be termed the awareness or consciousness, Soul or Tuza.

It is spoken of everywhere: In sacred literature, stories of the saints, reports about spiritual seekers, etc. It is not an uncommon thing among those who study occultism or the spiritual life. If you are able to leave the physical consciousness in the soul body, then you have little fear of death or the fact that eternity is now! Actually you are able to move into any sphere desired, as long as you are aware of a sphere being there. For example, if you had no knowledge of Australia from books or other sources and consequently never realized that land existed, then, how would you be cognizant of it? That is to say, how would you know how to get there? How would you know if there were people there? This is the same situation Soul is in when It knows nothing about the spiritual worlds. If It isn't aware of other planes existing when It leaves a body—where will It go? Nowhere except back to this world to seek another body. That is why so many come back for rebirth.

What is my objective? Knowledge is greater than any other quality which is given to the individual as a divine gift. Likewise, ability to use this knowledge is extremely important! I suppose that love comes next because the person who doesn't have the power to look upon all things with humor and friendship is bound to have a hard time! However, my meaning here is intended to convey the need for detachment from anything necessary, that is, the ability to remain detached from anything except that which you desire to be attached. Rebazar Tarzs often reminded me that love was great but to use love as the first element in life was an er-

ror—because one doesn't have the capacity to love everybody while in the human state! It is essential to love those few around us for whom we live and trust—and to give good will to all others! In reality, all he was saying was: "Use love discriminately! Give good will to all others! But make yourself be detached from whatever you desire!"

With the foregoing in mind, you will discern the necessity of taking a stand in your attitude that permits you to look upon the subtle side of all things! A definition of this is: "Being mentally acute! Given or characterized by refinement of thought, insight, perception, analytical. It is the quality or state of being subtle, the power of drawing delicate distinctions!" For example, the Japanese art, their refinement of cooking, taste, etc. An interesting hobby for you might be studying Chinese or Japanese art, writing, or something of this nature wherein great subtlety exists—or in some other area of interest to you. I'm not referring to self-improvement but to something that would provide the opportunity to develop insight! Sooner or later you will need to learn to develop insight—perhaps this will come naturally!

Actually, what you must learn is the subtleness of life, of understanding without effort, insight without strain! This subtlety of thought will make you do things, understand things, and know things as you never have before. Thus, the ability to Soul Travel depends upon a peculiar turn of mind. For example, if you want to visit another place, out of the body, you must be there—this is a directness of self! It isn't the mind at work nor is it the part in which you listen, obey and think as others think. You simply do this as a subtle, but direct movement of spirit—it is a matter of being—not looking—not doing! It is done with a lack of pressure upon yourself — you simply take all pressures off by exteriorizing without effort on your part!

I'm not sure of how clear this may be to you, but my thinking is — that Soul Travel is the most important spiritual step for the individual. You can learn this in a close study of my book "The Tiger's Fang!" This was a study of the Soul Travel effort. It was done without any strain upon me, and was at a time when I was extremely acceptable to the desires of Rebazar Tarzs. This was when he left me on the fifth plane and from then on I was on my own! This is where I hope that you will eventually end—

for it is a plane where you have freedom, where you identify yourself with IT! One never becomes God, but he becomes the co-worker as I keep pointing out! The values we find here are not the same values that we find on those planes. This is explained in "The Tiger's Fang!"

A lack of values is the problem with which this civilization is faced, despite those that the religious systems try to dangle before one's face in an effort to make them stick. They represent social values which are of little use to the individual in the last analysis. The Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," is merely a social leveler, consequently, it will keep you in a type of slavery if you are willing. It is essential that we understand that the principles of ECKANKAR and others are for the common man—and the common man is always kept in darkness, or slavery in some form or other; socially, economically, or politically. The ability to do Soul Travel will give one the freedom to get above the worry belt or trouble belt of the earth and see for yourself what has caused the pressures to be placed upon the body and mind!

Actually, the mystics have made the utmost use of morality and values. The rest of mankind seems to have forgotten the moral code, and as a result man has had a long and bloody history! My purpose in mentioning this is that once you've discovered the ability to do Soul Travel and begin to reach spiritual heights you also find new talents which were hitherto unknown. These talents enable you to be superior to the average man, and you receive many powers that are amazing and often too strong—it is then one finds he must adhere strictly to the code of God, for he will lose these powers if they are abused. You dare not use these powers over the ignorant, because the fight isn't fair. Others will recognize this superiority of yours and will attack you without knowing the reason, therefore, you will most likely become very abused, maligned and castigated. All persons who reach any degree of spiritual heights have to understand this—but they soon learn there is a protection for themselves—and will use it for protection only, nothing more!

More later.

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Dear Blessed Chelas
and Friends:

I wish to inform you each, at 1:00 a.m. on September 17, 1971, in Cincinnati, Ohio, our beloved ECK Master, Peddar Zaskq translated from his physical body. Paulji's ascension, in the company of the Masters of the Var-agi, was witnessed by at least one Sixth Initiate present.

In keeping with the honors bestowed upon Kings, Presidents and heads of states, there will be an official mourning period extending from September 21st to October 21st. This period will not be mourning in the senses of morbidness or excessive grief, but a time of reflection upon the Master, contemplation and polarization of self into the positive spiritual worlds.

It is recommended that the 30-day period be marked by tangible acts of discipline and devotion. Fasting (only one meal in each 24 hours) should be done by those who are able. If one is not able to fast, a spiritual fast of keeping one's attention on the Mahanta at all times can be substituted.

If you wish to call your groups together to contemplate, chant and gather spiritual love and strength through the group consciousness it could have many beneficial aspects.

Resist all worry and speculation. The orderly transition is taking place. Paulji's plans for the future of ECK will be revealed at the Fifth World Wide Seminar as he had planned and the present Living ECK Master will be presented at this time.

He is with you more than ever.

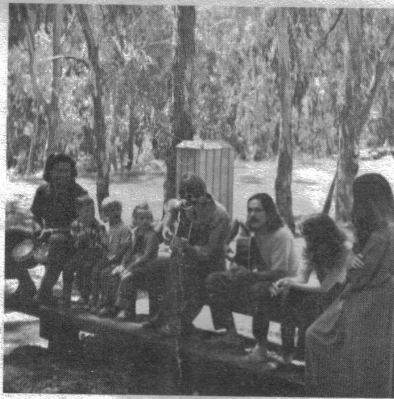
May the Blessings be.

Yours-in-ECK

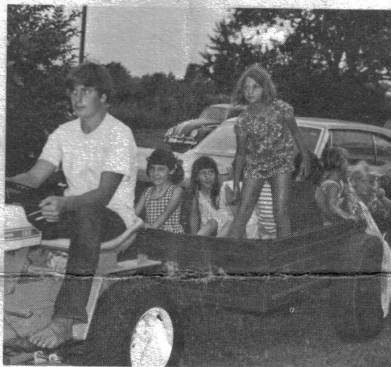
Chester Tuttle

General Administrator

ECKANKAR, ASOST



San Francisco Satsang Society sponsored a picnic Aug. 22, 1971 in Berkeley, Calif. L to R are: Bill Wishman, Chris Bruynzeel, John O'Brien, Teena Bruynzeel, Peter Grenier, Ron Chrislock, Diane Mitchell, Melodie Wiser, back to camera.



ECK children enjoy a ride behind a tractor at the Henderson Farm Fourth of July Picnic, 1971.



Orange County Satsang Society sponsored the 2nd Annual ECK-IN-THE-PARK picnic July 18th in Anaheim, Calif. Some 200 Southern California ECKists attended. Picture shows part of a group of nearly 100 who sat in a circle chanting, discussing and giving the Love-Tap.

THE PASSING OF A
MASTER

"The entire process of the passing of a Master, as well as all circumstances connected with it, are under his own control. There is never a momentary shadow of unconsciousness. He remains a traveler, even though the process of his own death. The ECK Masters are lords of life and death, and therefore nothing can interfere with them because they know the use of the shottama energies.

"It may be said that ECK Masters do not generally remain in their bodies much, no longer than the usual time allotted to ordinary mortals; however, some who wish to stay have that chance, by immortalizing their physical bodies. Some return and find a body to use—many have lived here for only a few years, and other have been on earth for centuries. It depends upon the traveler and what he wishes to do here.

—Paulji
THE FAR COUNTRY
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Fifth World Wide Seminar

Final touches are being applied to the program and activities to take place at the upcoming Fifth World Wide Seminar to be held in Las Vegas at the Flamingo Hotel October 21 through 24th.

This year a Mini-Room with program for children has been added, as well as many workshops during the general sessions so that chelas with special interests may meet in groups and talk together.

The Satsangs will be presenting portions of the program including: Ithaca Satsang, Long Beach Satsang, Ft. Lauderdale Satsang, Los Angeles Satsang, Vancouver Satsang, Portland Satsang, Toronto Satsang, Ocean Beach (San Diego) Satsang, Kirkland, Washington Satsang.

A special Leadership Workshop for all Initiates of the Mahdis and Shrad-dha levels will take place all day Sunday. Reservations should be made as soon as possible for the Seminar Director and hotel officials to plan for crowd sizes.

A World Wide Seminar is an unforgettable spiritual adventure, unsurpassed in the richness of experience and meeting ECKists from all over the world. It has to be experienced to be believed, and all who have attended them in the past would readily agree. Don't miss the highlight of the ECK Year!

FIFTH WORLD WIDE SEMINAR, FLAMINGO HOTEL, LAS VEGAS, OCT. 21 - 24