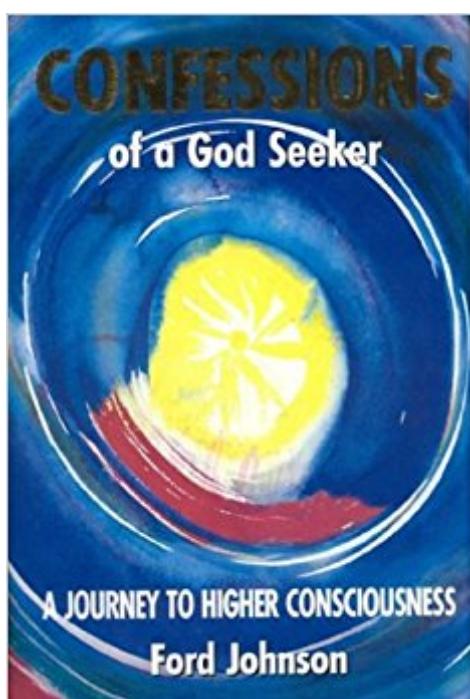


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Confessions Of A God Seeker: A Journey To Higher Consciousness



Synopsis

Confessions assembles the puzzle pieces that answer the questions: -Why are we here? Is there a spiritual purpose to life? What+s the connection between spirituality and science?+ The book reveals the true history of the Gospels, Eckankar, Shabd Yoga, and other religions. It outlines a new spiritual paradigm explaining who we are as spiritual beings and our relationship with God.

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Customer Reviews

Answers the most profound questions: Is there a spiritual purpose in life? Provides strong look into the mysteries of spirit. -- The Midwest Book ReviewI cannot tell you how much we loved your book. I thank you for being so brave, pure at heart. -- B.P., Ontario, Canada, June 2003, Review Letter to PublisherI wholeheartedly recommend "Confessions." It provides lessons for all and is of utmost importance to those reclaiming their personal "power." -- Mary Voaden, Ph.D., England, may 2003, Review Letter to PublisherIf after this book you hold to Eckankar, you deserve it. But as truth-seeker, let this book set you free. -- D.J., Washington DC, Review Letter to PublisherOne of the best books ever written about crossing the brain/mind portal and applying higher energy to manifest your goal[s]. -- Mindquest Book Review, by Lightword PublishingThis book is a must read for everyone. Learning about Eckankar deception hurt, but I'm happier after finding truth out. -- .com, May 2003[M]y own research supports [Johnson's] conclusions [on Eckankar.] You will find a multitude of issues you may never have considered. -- James Davis, author:

Confessions of a God Seeker: A Journey to Higher Consciousness ("ONE" Publishing, Inc) written

by Ford Johnson, former member and major international speaker for Eckankar for more than thirty years, exposes an insidious pattern of spiritual betrayal, fraud, fabrication and plagiarism that is endemic in the teaching. A worldwide religion, based in Chanhassen, Minnesota, Eckankar was founded by Paul Twitchell in 1965. In its almost forty years, Eckankar has impacted hundreds of thousands of seekers through its books, discourses, classes and seminars. Explaining why he wrote the book, Johnson said: "Over a period of thirty years, I spoke before thousands of newcomers and Eckists both in the U. S. and abroad. I felt responsible for unwittingly leading many seekers to this path, which, unknown to me at the time, was based on a lie, even though it contained many truths. Once discovered, I felt compelled to inform others of the extent of the prevarication and cover-up. What they do with the information is up to them, but at least they will know." Johnson, a Graduate of Harvard Law School and President of a Maryland based Corporation specializing in educational and residential services for youth, uncovered this information during a period of intense study and research. Explaining how he came to make these discoveries, Johnson said: "More than a year ago, I was asked to deliver a journal of inner spiritual experiences, written by an Eckist from England, to the spiritual leader of Eckankar, Sri Harold Klemp. This journal described inner experiences that were comparable to those described in the Bible and other holy books. Many sublime truths were communicated to this seeker, including warnings about deception, a fraudulent history, and other insidious doctrines that had infected Eckankar. Klemp was also challenged in the Journal to remove the lies and make drastic changes in the teaching. Rejecting these inner experiences with himself and other Eck Masters, Klemp simply declared them a reflection of the negative and imposed sanctions on the Journal's author and others who helped transmit the Journal to him. This response raised serious questions in my mind about the veracity of Eckankar as a teaching." Johnson initiated a search for the truth behind Eckankar, which resulted in his discovery that Paul Twitchell "was one of the most accomplished plagiarists of the twentieth century with literally hundreds of paragraphs lifted wholesale from the works of other writers." Beyond this, Twitchell was so prolific at prevarication and exaggeration that he was a textbook example of Mythomania, i.e., pathological lying. He even induced the noted writer Brad Steiger, who authored his biography, *In My Soul I Am Free*, to include numerous distortions about him and his family's history. So outrageous were the lies that it prompted a close Twitchell family member to declare "His book is full of lies. Most everyone who knew him [Paul] considered him a crook"; I am sorry to hear of anyone being hooked on his teachings." The evidence of Twitchell's Mythomania was so extensive that an entire chapter is devoted to this subject alone. Confessions documents, in more than 300 footnotes, the countless examples of

plagiarism, lying, fabrication and distortion that constitute the spiritual betrayal that Johnson uncovered. Included in these discoveries was the astonishing admission by Twitchell's wife and co-founder that Eckankar was a fraud and that Paul Twitchell had simply "made up the whole Eckankar thing." Indeed, Confessions reveals the scope of that fabrication. The spiritual betrayal is most apparent in the reliance that Twitchell's adherents place in his admitted 1965 invention of a super spiritual being he called the Mahanta, the Living Eck Master. Though newly minted, he proclaimed that he and his successors to this position were "born of virgin birth", were "God made flesh" and "the Son of God." Indeed, Twitchell's Mythomania crossed over into Megalomania when he declared: "All the power of God must reach these worlds through the perfect instrument of the Mahanta, the Living Eck Master [i.e. through him and his successors.] There is no other way for he is the distributor of the power." Confessions also shows how Twitchell meticulously created the history and legend of a newly minted line of Eck Masters. He claimed them to be the most ancient on earth. They, along with Eckankar, according to Twitchell, were the source of all known world religions. Such was the magnitude of Twitchell's mendacity. Confessions goes beyond simply showing patterns of spiritual betrayal and deception in Eckankar. It also explores similar patterns found in other religions that may have been the blueprint Twitchell followed to create Eckankar. As such, it sounds a warning to all sincere seekers of what to avoid and how to spot deception in any spiritual path. But the book's greatest contribution to spiritual discourse is not its revelation of patterns and strategies of religious deception but the eternal message of spiritual empowerment which derives from a recognition that every person is a God-seeker, a spark of God. Through successive life experiences every soul is expanding in its awareness to encompass the single truth behind their existence, which Johnson succinctly summarizes in seven words: I AM, GOD IS, WE ARE ONE. The author elaborates on this simple truth in Part IV of Confessions, which describes: [T]he nexus between recent scientific discoveries and ageless spiritual truths that transcend all religions, myths, dogmas, and rituals. It describes the spiritual search of humankind through countless religions, which comprise the spiritual classrooms of life. Confessions then explains the universal spiritual laws of life, the why of our spiritual journey and how these laws, when properly understood and applied, can bring happiness, abundance and spiritual unfoldment.

Ford Johnson has done an effective job in pointing out, in the Eckankar literature, many factual errors, plagiarisms, and what may be apparently made up from fancy or imagination. He goes on to draw conclusions that if some parts of Eckankar are made up or improperly borrowed or mis-attributed, then all of it may be suspect. How can we judge such things? I try to classify my

knowledge into 3 categories: 1) those things in which I have direct experience; 2) those things which are intuitively right for me, and 3) those things I don't know for sure, even if from an authoritative source. It was helpful to understand there are many things about Eckankar which fall into category 3. For instance,* I have not observed the passing of a Rod of power. I don't' know if it happens as described or if it happens at all* There are many Eck masters with whom I have not had personal experience. I don't' know if they exist. I have no idea if there has been an unbroken line of 973 masters* Has Eckankar been the basis of all religions as is claimed?* and so on for dozens of other examples. The book challenged me in exactly the way Ford wanted to make me think: if parts are made up or untrue, then is the entire religion made up to enhance Paul Twitchells ego? I've been in Eckankar for nearly 30 years. I have gained immensely from this path. Has it all been false? Have I been duped? I wondered for a while. Then I went back to my direct experiences with Eckankar:*

When I first read Eckankar: Key to Secret Worlds I was overjoyed. I had spent until 34 years old looking for truth in religion after religion. In this one book, I found more truth than I had encountered in total in my life. I knew I was home* I have had literally hundreds of spiritual experiences with Eck masters, from the sublime to the mundane. These are as real to me as this outward world--more real, in many ways* Eckankar works as advertised in my experience. You need to train yourself to connect with spirit. That's what all religions are about, whatever you call the technique* Before I even knew what it was, I had the darshan, the inner meeting with the Mahanta, Living Eck Master, just prior to attending my first Eckankar seminar. Since then, the Mahanta has been with my consciousness, advising me directly, just as we all have spirit guides! I have had many experiences with Ford Johnson. As he describes in his book, he was constantly on stage, speaking about Eckankar. My impressions then were interesting; I was greatly impressed with his talks, they were so eloquent and full of wisdom. Yet when I tried afterwards to remember anything he said, I simply could not remember. Nothing registered with me, in spite of having such a positive impression. In his book, Ford chides the Living Eck Master, Harold Klemp, for giving such simple stories. I agree that there are many times when I wish he would give a more intellectually satisfying talk. Yet I seem to retain all his stories, and remember them when I am in certain situations. The other impression I had of Ford is one of having a vast ego. This is not a criticism, but an observation. (As a newcomer to Eckankar, I had no way to judge what the culture and expected behaviors should be.) Ford was almost the antithesis of Harold Klemp, who was so humble as to be almost hidden. I felt that Ford must be very impatient with Harold, as Ford was outwardly educated, lived in an expensive and lovely home, had his own business, and was very successful. I wondered, even in the 80's, if Ford was going to be the next Eck Master. The entire situation with Graham and his experiences with the

light and sound were uniquely for Graham, and ultimately for Ford, I believe. For Ford I think this was a test. When he found evidence to support the idea that someone was greater in the spiritual hierarchy than Harold Klemp, how would he react? Was this the very thing he was looking for, to find that Graham, as his proxy, was blessed to be a higher consciousness than the current Living Eck Master? This is my own takeaway from Ford's book. When he was asked to step down from his position, and realign with the Eck, his ego couldn't stand being disciplined by one who was not as advanced a soul as he considered himself to be. Thus began his undertaking to destroy Eckankar as a religion, and put himself as a leader of another religion. I have had my own tests by the Eck Masters where I have been told directly certain things were true. In these tests I have rejected what I was told because in the core of me this was not true. As a Master-in-Training, I think we will be tested in this way, and see if we can, of ourselves, be our own truth. You may ask, "Isn't this exactly what Ford has done? Found his own truth?" I would say, based on my understanding of the book, that Ford's ego rejected all the evidence that he had found as Soul to support Eckankar as his chosen path. His own direct experiences demonstrated the reality of the religion to him. Indeed he was a well-developed soul, we could all tell that. But I think he let his ego convince him that all he knew to be Truth as he discovered in Eckankar, was an inconvenient truth. I share this book review with the current and future readership of Confessions of a God Seeker, as it may be helpful to balance some of the other reviews, which seem not to understand Paul Twitchell's great achievement. Would it have been helpful for me, when first reading The Key to Secret Worlds for Paul to have written it as a scholarly, footnoted volume? It simply would not have had the impact it did. There's truth and facts, and they may not be exactly the same in these physical worlds. I know what I know, and it's based on countless incarnations, lifetimes of learning. Followers of Islam often tell me how much Muhammad was able to accomplish during his years on earth. Paul had only 6 years as the Mahanta, Living Eck Master. However he put the religion of Eckankar together, whatever shortcuts he took, I am very grateful.

2017 update: Ford is now happily ensconced in The Ascended Masters, the 'I Am Foundation'. He sounded extremely fulfilled and happy. good 4 him! Mr. Ford Johnson was one of the best speakers at Eckankar seminars for many years. I heard him many times and wondered at how he spoke from the heart, rarely even looking at notes. But he was hurt, deeply, when who he thought was a Master was not recognized by Eckankar. I sympathize. I read with an open mind. There are some really good points in the text, and great mental gymnastics from a great lawyer used to argument to get a point across--but he is promoting another Master and starting his own 'movement'. Keep that in

mind.** I re-read this book again in 2013 just to see how it sat. Well, I got a LOT more out of it. The 2nd half of the book is all about RELIGION, where many rituals and history came from, spirituality...NOT about Eckankar at all. (It's a THICK book) ALL masters are 'Elder Brothers" who help us until we can grow into standing on our own two feet. He keeps saying Paul 'made up' the Eck Masters but I met many BEFORE Eckankar and know many others in many different paths who have as well--so I believe they EXIST and are universal--not 'owned' by ANY path. In not ONE instance in my own experiences have these Masters gone by the names Paul gave them. It didn't bother me. They EXIST and help ANYONE. Paul Twitchell needed to set up his own path so he gave them all new NAMES. He stole Prajapati from Shiva's incarnation as the master of animals, Gopal Das is St. Germaine, Yabyl Sacabi is Djawl Khul, Rebazar Tarz is 'the tibetan' used for Djawl Khul of summit lighthouse...the others are Paul the Venetian and other masters from MANY different paths--ALL RE-NAMED FOR PAUL TO PLACE AS THE ECKANKAR HIERARCHY with HIMSELF as the top of course! I have had many inner teachers and I looked up the names THEY gave me and found many--the names have NEVER jived with Eckankar names and it didn't bother me as they are universal...but Paul blatantly stole, corrupted and them placed himself as KING over all--Godman. Harold now says HE is the inner Master --personally taking credit for our inner plane experiences. He stated in 1981 he would NEVER do that, for us to NEVER become stuck on the outer master because "EVEN HE could fall on his face tomorrow." That humility endeared him immediately--however, it is gone today. Too bad. POWER over love corrupts. There are stories of black magic in Eckankar now, of African Eckists MIXING tribal things and using it for POWER...in other words, corruption is blatant now, power over love blatant among supposed HIGH initiates...it is all very SAD. Those attacked this way are AFRAID to speak up, AFRAID to write Harold of their doubts! WHY? That alone speaks VOLUMES! THIS BOOK? It helps! So we learn to progress in whatever path suites us best and when we can stand on our own two spiritual feet--the test is NOT to start yet another 'path'. Find your heart and follow it. I think Ford's research and the gigantic number of footnotes are awesome here. I think the others who keep saying read Doug Marman's book...as it refutes all of this are Eckists filled with FEAR. Doug has NO BIBLIOGRAPHY to back up his research--nothing but his opinion. So--I gave that book little credit too. Does any of it matter? We all need to let go and let others BE. My eyes are open now and will stay open. NEVER become enamored with the personality of a Master. ALWAYS go on your own inner and follow your heart. THAT is truth. I LEARNED A LOT FROM THE 2ND HALF AND THE RESEARCH HE DID IS BEYOND ANY OTHER BOOK I'VE READ YET!*Doug Marmans rebuttal book has NO research, NO bibliography and is all innuendo and opinion. Gail Twitchell sold all Paul's books for half a

million and took off--never to be heard from again. Today they are all re-written and edited over and over...his Indian master Kirpal Singh's name changed to a made up one...Sudar Singh... So--don't get TRAPPED in hype. Be SOUL. Be FREE.WAKE UP.Aloha

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