

# Master M – Light of a Pure Soul

Interview from *LightFocus* Magazine with Mario Mantese on Dec. 13, 2004 in Munich, Germany

After participating in an intensive *darshan* and all-day seminar with Mario Mantese, we had the opportunity to interview him. One recognizes instantly the matter that concerns this man. His work addresses those that are seriously investigating the question, “Who am I?”, people whose hearts are burning with desire for that which ultimately cannot be described in words.

Present for this discussion were Herbert Reinig and Dagmar Paschke from *Lichtfocus* in Berlin, and Reinhard Lier from Linderhof Oberreute.

*L.F. Are you a light-worker?*

M. I didn't know that light worked! For me personally there is nothing to do. I am that which I am. I am no light-worker. I am the light that ends all work.

I don't channel any beings from other worlds, not any, and I am not in contact with anyone outside of you folks here, who are asking me this question. Sometimes I hear about the different channeled teachings. In such a case, someone is called upon, and a being from a spiritual plane answers. Various forms of information are transmitted, perhaps even precise instructions are provided. But see, these systems are dualistic. Someone appears, seemingly from another invisible world, and someone here in this visible world hears the message. But I ask myself if the channels and the people listening to them understand that when they call to these systems, they are getting hooked to them on an energetic level.

I am not against channels. Everything has its value and its place. I also do not say that this is good or bad. But does one find liberation from duality here? Is there awakening from time and space? The channels have a name, but does anyone know exactly what kind of entity is actually being channeled? Sorry, but I am very unromantic about these things. When a person touches the infinite, then there are no more channels, for the awakened one is the eternal, divine universe itself.

*L.F. Is there personal free-will, or are freedom and personality mutually exclusive?*

M. Will is only another name for ego. The will drives the ego. It is the motor. When people overcome the forces of the ego, they are not simply without will. They are the universe itself, universal energy. And one can't strive to get rid of the will, for this effort is the cause of our inner conflict.

*L.F. And that is where you help?*

M. I don't help. I am that.

*L.F. Exactly. Because you are that, we get help!*

M. I don't help, because I don't see another who should be helped. Everything I see, I am. The sun doesn't worry about the shadows on the ground. But when it shines, shadows disappear without leaving a trace. And that is exactly what happens at the gatherings and *darshans*. Hundreds of people come to drink from the pure light, and hear the song of liberation in their hearts.

*LF. Is there free-choice then?*

M. For what?

*LF. For me to decide for this or that?*

M. You can do that. But for those who awaken, that which wants to decide has been extinguished. Within order, everything is in order! When our lives are united with the entire movement of the universe, what is left to decide? That which I see is that which I am. And that which I am, is that which I see. There are no more borders, no more separation, no more inside and no more outside! What I see is what happens, and what happens is what I am. Those who come to me are cured of always thinking, 'I must decide'.

*LF. Can you see whether a man and a woman are compatible, whether they have potential for a relationship together?*

M. When two people find each other, I look at what they have found. I look for a vibration that has a potential for spiritual development. Without that quality, a relationship is nothing but a subtle survival strategy. People don't come together to attach themselves. They join in order to liberate each other. It can work beautifully. 'From two, one arises, in God'. These are more than mere pretty words!

*LF. Are the ego, the personality, and the 'I' all on one plane?*

M. Yes, they are all the same thing, expressed with different words. But what plane do you mean? Has the ego a plane at all? How would that look like? One assumes that the personality is on its own subjective level and exists there. We call this life. But when one looks deeper, one discovers that this level of the personality is nothing but an image, a reflection in the mind. The mental life is a game that is playing itself, and this game initiates the idea of a personal subjective life. This game of having a personal dynamic is constantly making efforts to have itself be continued. And it must, because the rules and the objectives of the game are designed to project the images and conceptions of an individual life, and to keep them going strong.

*LF. The game wants to continue then.*

M. It seems so. Humans are fascinated with the ego-game. They are hypnotized by it, and then let themselves get interwoven in the web of time. The game is called, 'Birth, Death, and Re-birth'. But for those who come to me, this game board closes (laughing).

*LF. An image arises in my mind, from Christian mythology. I think of Lucifer, the game, the separation, life and death. Could there be a connection?*

M. I don't know any Lucifer. I have never heard of him, and I also don't know any fallen angels.

*LF. Are there angels?*

M. How many have you seen already?

*LF. I haven't seen any myself.*

M. But you have heard they are around?

*LF. Perhaps I have felt them.*

M. But why does that which you feel have to be an angel? Isn't God everything in everything, and everywhere? Why do you look at beings instead of looking at God, which is nearer than the nearest thing? If there are angels, then they were not born in heaven. They were born here on earth!

I am not saying that these things don't exist, but perhaps they are something completely different than what we imagine. Certainly there are splendid and elevated beings in the universe. But that doesn't at all mean that the beings that speak through a medium are actually that which they claim to be. Instead of calling to some other being we can discover the angelic power in our own souls, because that is where we enter the ever-present, divine source.

*LF. So I am projecting a picture, an image?*

M. The mythological gods and goddesses are projections, reflections of the collective mind, which correspond and resonate with the people who call to them and pray to them. They exist, because people want them to be there.

*LF. I read about a man who said he moves his body one step to the side and at that moment becomes one with God. He said that he has conquered all fears.*

M. So, he takes a step to the side and then becomes one with God, he goes into Him. If God is located somewhere, where we have to get there with a step to the side, that would mean that he wasn't there at the moment before the step. It would mean that He didn't even exist prior to the step. Again sorry, but I find these proclamations problematic! God is ever-present. God is omnipresence and omnipotence. Seen this way, a step to the side would be a turning away from the one divine reality.

*LF. About the personality: We identify ourselves with our names, our bodies, with our stories. Is that the actual cause of suffering?*

M. That's where it begins. But suffering has innumerable faces and places of origin. Suffering is something inconceivably wide-spread in this world, expanding into all forms of life. One important example is how we cage up animals, kill and eat them, and shut out any awareness of the tremendous suffering we inflict on them.

The suffering of animals cannot be seen apart from the suffering of humans! People inflict countless forms of suffering on other people. They are inconsiderate and cold-hearted, without the slightest trace of compassion and love. Suffering injures the soul and closes down the heart. It gnaws on fresh wounds, and picks on old scars that don't want to heal.

Those who suffer don't live. They only survive. Rather than analyze suffering, one should end it. One does that by not causing further suffering to any living being, in thoughts, words, or deeds. I mean stopping it completely! And this is not difficult. It is normal and human, and it helps end suffering for all forms of life.

Those who suffer have fear. Those who have fear are afraid of their fear, and distance themselves from the inner realm of light that they are. They lose themselves in the unreal world of shadows, which they themselves are not.

*LF. But a person who is in Oneness, in the Totality, can no longer suffer.*

M. It is not the point to be *in* Totality, but to be Totality. One who is the Totality, creates no more suffering, because the creator itself has vanished. One who is the Totality is one who wipes away shadows. They are not suffering with others, but rather, by their very presence, are ending suffering. One could say I myself have suffered a great deal, but I know that I was something else, something that suffering can never touch. Suffering comes and goes. I don't.

*LF. Is perception the foundation of the process, which you are talking about?*

M. Fundamentally, it is not about perception, but about true being. Clarity is the inner space where we are at home, and this home has no walls, no limits. We need not worry about clarity. Better to look at what is not clear in our lives. People don't need to create order in their lives. They need to stop creating disorder. That's all. Why don't you start right now? Here, where you are encountering these words, where the universal force is touching your heart. Right now!

If you think that it's too difficult, you die, you remain stuck in the world of shadows, the death-zone, which you yourself create and maintain. When you imagine it is difficult, then what you create is the exact disorder that weakens you. Love is order, order is clarity. Love, order, and clarity; that describes the universal force which transforms the world, and this force is what I am.

Words are divine instruments. They transport energies of great importance. They declare love, and they declare war. They inform us of today and tomorrow, of heaven and hell. Unfortunately, humans have the tendency to interpret words to their own liking and benefit, and many listen blindly to the words of others and believe them.

*LF. So when I believe something, I create something?*

M. Belief means to believe in something. Thus, what I believe in must be something other than what I am. Belief presupposes a believer, meaning an 'I', and an object. I believe in something, something that will come about, something that should be. I believe in the future, in a higher power, and so on. And in this way I separate myself from what I am, from that which really is. At the speed of light I distance myself from that which is true, and that is the tragedy of belief! I believe in everything, except me, myself. Belief may have its importance. But one should look deeper into it, because the essence which we really are has nothing to do with belief. The believer creates belief, and as already mentioned, the object can never be the subject. God is not the word, 'God'!

*LF. In the Totality, does speech end?*

M. Yes. That is why I give *darshans*. Not one word is spoken, not one thought arises. This is my true home. An enormous divine energy flows out and through all those who are present. They are really drenched in it. Souls are awakened. Hearts are flooded with universal love. You were there, and have seen and experienced it.

For some people the energy streaming through them is almost unbearable. Some have fainted. Some laugh, some cry, and a few find their body trembling from exposure to such an abundance of love. This is what happens when they return to their true home.

The people that come to me also want to hear words spoken. My talks are fiery revelations of love for the soul. The words accomplish exactly what they are sent out to do. They are liberating, life-changing, divine emanations of light!

*LF. I experienced this very strongly already, when I received the book, 'The Land of Silence'. I could sense the energy coming from the book, as if you were there in the room. I get this feeling in the evenings sometimes. I will speak to you, or I feel something is being communicated, and something in me shifts.*

M. That's it. Very good! It is like you say. My books are pure energy, works of light! A few months ago a 78 year-old man from northern Germany wrote to thank me, and shared that he had read the book, 'Land of Silence' seven times in a row. It was a pure source of light for him. I was very happy to hear that!

*LF. Yes, I read it over and over again also. Something happens, it seems new aspects arise, and something profound works inside me.*

*We have heard that in the presence of several students of yours, you stopped a powerful storm in an open field, with the wave of a hand. It was pouring buckets of rain to your left and right, but along the narrow path you were all following, not one drop of water fell. How is that possible?*

M. Nothing is impossible. One who awakens has no limits. 'Ever-present' is not only a word. For those who are empty and not caught in the world, this is a fact! The awakened one is empty, and yet, billions upon billions of creations are vibrating within him. These creations appear only as reflections in our mind, for there is no real solid existence.

But that occasion was not about changing the weather. It was a profound lesson for all present. When such things happen, the hardened structures in the brain are broken down. Boundaries dissolve. The impossible becomes possible. I am not a theoretician or a theory. I am fulfillment and completion.

*LF. Is the striving for God, for experiencing the Totality, also a hindrance?*

M. Striving is an addiction. When the hearts of people are touched by this genuine energy, when hearts are awakened and the call is really heard, then those people can do nothing else but open to the eternal light. But that is not a personal decision, as one might think. The divine universe itself decides. The call is a pure blessing, which ends all seeking and all striving.

*LF. In your seminar you spoke of 'extinguishing'. What does that mean, when something is extinguished? How can one comprehend this process?*

M. To extinguish means, in the truest sense of the word, to dis – illusion. It means to become normal again! Through the extinguishing of all love-less thoughts, all false imaginings and misunderstandings, one finds again the simplicity of being human. Here you enter the deepest of the depths!

*LF. Is there a button for all this somewhere?*

M. Oh, yes. The one who pushes the button and the one who extinguishes, that's me. But see, the extinguishing itself, that is pure grace. People become afraid and wonder, 'What am I when everything is extinguished? What is left of me?' The fact is, the personality consists of thoughts, of one's feelings and emotions, and countless images. The will is the motor that runs this illusory structure, holds it in place, and feeds it with an energy declaring the existence of a separate self.

This self-proclaiming energy is the ego. That means, the personality is only an image in our mind, and not real. When the image is extinguished, then one is no longer a personality. You are the divine, all-pervasive universe yourself.

*LF. So then, what to do?*

M. It is not important what you do, but how you do it! Is the action filled with selfless love, or is it stained with our rock-hard egocentrism, the epidemic disease overrunning our world?

*LF. I should do what I do with love?*

M. Seen precisely, one cannot do something with love.

*LF. From love, then?*

M. Also not from love. Either one is universal love, or one is an egocentric personality that thinks it is important. One who is love, does nothing. Light does nothing. Where there is light, the shadows retreat by themselves. They dissolve. Light knows nothing of shadows. Love knows nothing of cold-heartedness. The universal person sees the world with the eyes of love, because what that person sees is what that person is!

*LF. I should just do what I have to do.*

M. You don't do what you have. Do what you are! People who really enter my heart awaken, and this is simply wonderful. The beauty of awakening is that it never started and will never end. In the Bible it is written, "From moment to moment, from wonder to wonder". I think this a splendid expression. One imagines oneself on the relative level of time and space. We are born here and we die here. But the awakened person is never coming and never going. This I-mage in our minds is a misunderstanding, an illusion. Those who enter my heart, they will be dis-illusioned! Just because the world is a dream, doesn't mean it always has to be a nightmare!

*LF. For many, it is only a nightmare.*

M. Yes, unfortunately. But the possibility that one can awaken is here, right now. Nightmares are shadowy compositions of the personality passing through our minds. But look precisely and you will see that the personality itself is the nightmare! When the inner sun rises, then all dreams are burned away, including all nightmares.

*LF. Therefore the saying you have, 'Not learning, but de-learning'.*

M. Yes, not learning, but a lot happening. Learning means, always taking in more, always acquiring more knowledge. But you can't learn about or know about God. To 'de-learn' doesn't mean to become a fool. It means not to see things that aren't there. I cannot know myself. I can only know what I am actually not, and never was.

*LF. I see what I am not. A phrase recently came to me, "I never was!" When this thought arose, I feel a kind of purification taking place inside me.*

M. And then?

*LF. Then came a feeling.*

M. From being nothing?

*LF. Yes. I was never there. I never existed.*

M. You had a feeling of non-being.

*LF. Yes, it was strange. My thoughts came to an end.*

M. The question is, where does this feeling come from? Does this feeling have some distinct relation to the eternal non-being, or is it something else, a personal feeling or state you think is non-being?

*LF. Yes, that is always still the 'I'.*

M. Yes, the cause, the 'I', has shown an effect. It is important for you to recognize that silence is not a thought, and not a feeling. Non-being is something unfathomably deep. And still, non-being is not being nothing!

The silence that one can experience is only the ego in a state of calm. The silence that one finds in meditation is not the final silence, but only the ego in a state of meditative stillness! I also can't understand how someone can meditate without an ego, for meditation is the effort of the ego not to be the ego. That's not going to help us awaken.

*LF. Is awakening ultimately grace?*

M. Grace is awakening. Grace is universal energy.

*LF. When it unfolds...*

M. No. It doesn't unfold. The ego unfolds. Grace is liberation and not an unfolding. That which unfolds does not know grace!

*LF. Can we ask for grace?*

M. You can! When pure love blooms in the heart, then true devotion can awaken. True devotion dis-covers grace, and through this a person is completely transformed.

*LF. Then devotion is an important precondition for what you are talking about.*

M. When the heart is touched by universal love, it wakes up. And with this awakening, devotion also awakens. I see again and again how so-called spiritual masters regard devotion as weakness and subjugation. They know everything about spirituality. But the one thing they don't know is pure love. They come near me, not knowing that I know their hearts through and through before they have opened their mouths. In my work, devotion is one of the most important aspects, including devotion to the master. Devotion is the gateway into eternal light.

In India, where I only receive Indian men and women, devotion and respect come naturally. There are no doubts, only deep faith in the master. They call me *mahatma* there, and follow their way of showing their love by touch my feet. The blessings they receive are big.

*LF. An image comes to me, from chemistry. You are perhaps a catalyst; you set the reactor in people in motion. You are the lever.*

M. I am much more than a lever. Those who open themselves to me encounter true love, and need never fear again. I am not here to answer questions or to spread something new. I don't know anything new, nothing exciting. A hundred-thousand so-called spiritual questions have already been asked and answered, and people are still confused, their hearts are cold. Perhaps many have become loving, but they don't know divine love!

LF. Are there also others that are here to liberate?

M. I only know universal love, and that is what I am. Those who awaken are the true liberating radiance, and those who don't awaken continue sleeping! When a lamp is lit in a dark room, within a very short time all the insects come to the light. But the light did not call them. They just come. My heart is like a thousand suns. I don't call the souls to me. They simply come. And what they find is exactly what they themselves are!

There is not one moment of life that was not good, for that moment itself is goodness. Only goodness is real, that which isn't good is not real. Those who experience something as negative, or think they have had a bad experience, should stop thinking, speaking and acting in ways that are negative. Then, that which is not good will be extinguished. That is where I come in. That which extinguishes, is me. Give me your worries and everything else that holds you back. I accept it gladly. The inner sun illuminates all places, all corners. Its light is unlimited. It shines through everyone and everything.

*LF. From the Totality, from inside, channeling out. Does this express your work, or go against it?*

M. I don't go against anything, and who can tell me how to go against the Totality (laughing)? Nothing comes from inside, nothing comes from the Totality, because the Totality itself is everything. How would you go about channeling the Totality, and when would you do it? The one who is the Totality doesn't do anything, because the one who could do something, or wants to do something, is gone.

I get it. Maybe you would like to channel enlightenment, eh?

*LF. But that which goes out is...*

M. Where does something go out into? There is no outside.

*LF. But when you talk in your gatherings, you speak out, the words flow outwards.*

M. No, I am here, neither inside nor outside, and nothing comes or goes, although it might appear otherwise in your perception. I am not an object that can be seen and understood with the senses. I am there, where you are, and I am exactly that, which you are. I am every cell of your body, and in every cell of your body. There is no cell which I am not.

The 'I' sees others. It fights with others and against others. The 'I' believes that one comes from somewhere and goes somewhere. But these are all a conception, an optical illusion, like a mirage in the desert. One sees water where there is none. The perception of water is no more than a reflection in our minds. And the same is true of the world. The world is nothing but a conception.



God is everything, and everything is God. Words are actions, therefore one has to be very conscious of their effect. Each person is responsible for each word they have spoken. This responsibility is important, but it is not a burden. It is beauty and power beyond measure.

If it is going well, then you are not going, because there is no destination you could go to. I am the end of all paths. All paths end in me!

*LF. It seems absolutely impossible to describe with words the work you do, or you yourself.*

M. That's right! My partner, with whom I have lived for 17 years, knows me, but she really doesn't know who I am. I am not knowable. A few days ago, a woman wrote me a letter, in which was written, "I try to comprehend the connection with you, but I find no feelings or words to describe it! It is like when I was studying astronomy in school, and I tried to imagine what the universe was. My intellect was pushed beyond its limits, and I had to surrender." I found this wonderful!

What I demonstrate with my life is this: A person can live here with a family and children, with work and responsibility in society, and still be totally unlimited and free in the world. In the world, but not of the world. With both feet on the ground, and our heads in the universe. The awakened one is impossible to comprehend, and yet you can know him. And that is not two separate things. It is one and the same, just as light appears as waves or particles.

What is the time?

*LF. I think our time is up. Thanks a lot Mario!*

M. I enjoyed it. Perhaps we'll see each other again.

(Translation by Mark Doyu Albin)