
IULIU-MARIUS MORARIU, *SPIRITUALITATE ȘI ISIHASM ROMÂNESC – ARTICOLE ȘI ESEURI TEOLOGICE (ROMANIAN SPIRITUALITY AND HESYCHASM – THEOLOGICAL ARTICLES AND ESSAYS)*, (CLUJ-NAPOCA: EDITURA PRESA UNIVERSITARĂ CLUJEANĂ, 2022).

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Iuliu-Marius Morariu is a researcher already known both in the space of the theological, historical or sociological research. Recently he has published at the notorious publishing house Peter Lang from Berlin a monograph dedicated to Virgil Gheorghiu (Morariu, 2022a), several books (Morariu, 2022b, 2022c), studies, articles and book reviews (Morariu, 2021a, 2021b, 2022d, 2022e, 2022f, 2022g, 2022h). Although he looks more familiar with topics like the spiritual autobiography, (Morariu, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c, 2019a, 2020c, 2020a, 2020b) where his competence is proved by the rich number of quotations that he received during the time, or in the one of the social teaching of the Church and Ecumenism, (Morariu, 2021c, 2021d, 2020d, 2019c) thorough this book he manages to show his competences also in areas like the one of the hesychasm.

Foreworded by His Grace Ioan Casian, bishop of the Romanian Orthodox Diocese of Canada, the book brings together the conferences provided in the Catechetical program of the aforementioned diocese in the first part of this year. Here, the author speaks about the way how the hesychast current appeared in the history of the Christianity, underlines its relevance for the Eastern Orthodox space, presents the way how it arrived in the Romanian space and its particularities in this geographical area (Morariu, 2022i) or emphasizes the image and the example of important personalities that can be encountered there (Morariu. 2022j, 2022k). After the general presentation of the landmarks of the current in the Romanian spirituality, the author also brings into attention case-studies like the ones of the priests who were imprisoned by the Communist regime, or the Archbishop Justinian Chira of Maramureș. Therefore, as he underlines in the presentation of the book:

„The fifth part of the book is dedicated to the particularities of the hesychast tradition from the Romanian space of the twentieth century. There the role played by important names that survived to the carceral experience from the Communist period, like Fr. Nicolae Steinhardt or Fr. Gheorghe Calciu Dumitreasa, is presented there together with the one of other categories of mystical vocations like the Archbishop Justinian Chira of Maramureș.” (p. 166).

The entire demarche had a pragmatic purpose. The one of offering a complex approach on the hesychast phenomenon from the Romanian space that to be used later by the ones interested to deepened the topic. This explains the structure of the book and its aspect of a handbook, with a didactical accent well posted. Thus, as the author shows:



„The aim of the demarche is to speak about the dynamics of the hesychast phenomenon in the Romanian space and to show how it developed there during the ages and which were its main exponents and what was the role played by them there.” (p. 167).

Dedicated to a topic that can be surely used to create bridges among spirituality and different areas of research from the Socio-humanistic space, Iuliu-Marius Morariu’s book *Romanian spirituality and hesychasm* is for sure an useful tool in the understanding of the phenomenon and a work that could be read by any one who is interested in have a better understanding of the meaning of Christianity and its roots in the Romanian space.

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