

DUMITRU STĂNILOAE. A MISSIONARY OF SACREDNESS

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Abstract. This is a presentation of Dumitru Stăniloae as an author and of his contribution to the philosophy of religion, in translation. The fragment translated from his work concerning Origenism, its interpretation and its erroneous evaluations. The relation between the Gnostic and the Christian perspectives and terminologies are also approached, with certain pantheistic interpretations. All eternity God has surrounded himself with a world of spiritual beings or their evenly matched spirits. Also, the vision of St. Maximus is presented in its personalistic and optimistic characteristics, but also in the unspeakable complexity and substantial density of his writing.

Keywords: Dumitru Stăniloae, Origenism, Gnosticism, Christianity, God.

He was born on November 1903 in Vladeni, Brasov. His parents were peasants and pious Orthodox Christians. He goes to the confessional primary school in his home village, then to „Andrei Saguna” high school in Brasov and then to the Faculty of Theology in Cernauti. He continued to study theology for one year in Athens and one year in Berlin. He obtains his PhD in theology in Cernauti with the paper „Patriarch Dosoftei of Jerusalem and his ties with the Romanian Principalities” and then becomes professor and president of the Theological Academy of Sibiu, where he is active for almost twenty years (1929-1947). At the same time he is editor-in-chief of the national ecclesiastic magazine „Telegraful român” („Romanian Telegraph”). Then he becomes professor of asceticism and mysticism at the Institute of Theology in Bucharest. In 1958 he is arrested and is held as a political prisoner – in Jilava and Aiud prisons – until 1963. In 1965 he becomes once again professor of dogmatic theology in Bucharest.

He publishes numerous and extensive theological dissertations and Christian metaphysics treatises, such as *Orthodox Dogmatic Theology* (3 vols), *Orthodoxy and Romanian Spirit*, translates and comments important patristic works like *Philokalia* (12 vols), *Maxim the Confessor* (2 vols) and others.

His works were translated and published in the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany, Greece, Switzerland and Belgium. Theological magazines dedicated whole issues to comments and studies of his works by well-known Western Christian metaphysicists and theologians.

He is a full member of the Romanian Academy, Doctor Honoris Causa of the Theological Universities of Salonika and Belgrade, of the Saint-Serge Theological

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