

The Icon: Symbol of Heavenly Hypostatic Reality and Graceful Presence in the Mystical Body of our Lord

MONAHIA MIRIAM LINK MIRELA LĂCRĂMIOARA,
University of Craiova,
editura@m-ol.ro

Abstract

The icon offers the possibility to know God. Of course, it is not about knowing the divine existence, unthinkable in the patristic theology, but about the complementar dimension of the iconography. Integrated in the Church's cult, the icon synthesizes the cultic and prayer experience, being the „bright eye” of communion with God. The spiritual view can be cleansed of all earthly thoughts through a godly life, full of spiritual and bodily labors. Only through such a work can man enter and explore the divine mysteries.

The Icons invite man to participate through contemplation and to exercise through ascetic life the communion with God. Our God reveals Himself in different types and symbols – specific to the Old Testament – to lift our minds and life above all symbols through His Incarnation. The symbols from the Old Law find their true purpose and identity in the act of God becoming Human. Lord Christ reveals to us the divine mysteries and Himself, calling us into His Church to discover the truth which is above the mind.

The knowledge of God has in the Orthodox theology the significance of a common-life, not just a rational experience. This means that the icons, through which our view is sanctified, are part of care of the Son of God incarnated and are indispensable for the spiritual understanding of the Kingdom of Heaven.