The Social Concept of Father Stăniloae (II) – the Structure and the Social Organization –

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Abstract

Father Stăniloae did not exhibit only a positive type of research on the social reality, meaning a description of the social facts and phenomena, but sought to propose permanently a transforming insight on social things, to identify paths to follow and states to compose in the social life.

Moreover, the very description of what happened was somehow deficient, because it refused, as I said, the recognition of a growing phenomenon in the social of his time: it's about the social individualism specific to urbanization and industrialization which, although fragile, were intensifying in the interwar Romanian social. Therefore, he retained from the social only what corresponded to his vision of theological nuance, which he had on the social.

Moving on Father Stăniloae's descriptions, it appears that for him the essential social realities were not the instances of individual, persons. On the contrary, probably as a reaction to the expanding social symptoms of modernity, but also to the social and economic doctrines of liberal type, Father Stăniloae identified the structure, the essence of the social with the collective structures of people in various ways: the council of the village, village or urban communities, professional guilds and, the largest form, the kinsfolk. These were the reference instances of the society.