

Mystical Witnessing and Ascetical Life in Oriental Theology

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Abstract

In short, our article is focussed on the witnessing work of the Oriental monasticism in its ascetic and mystical dimension. In the vicinity of the apologetic experience of the first centuries, the ascetic experience of the Christian Church is revealed in the monastic practice and attitude. The historical roots of this way of life and witnessing has to be found in the early centuries of Christianity. After presenting some models of saints from this period such as Saint Justin the Martyr and the Philosopher and Saint Clement from Alexandria, we analyze the significance of the apelative „Avva” which means „father”. By virtue of its spiritual qualities, „avva”, in the context of monastic philosophy, it becomes „word and life”.