

OPINION

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on Dissertation work for acquiring the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences " in
Scientific field of High Education: 2. Humanities, Professional field: 2.4
Religion and Theology

on the topic: " Doctrinal confrontation between Christianity and Islam disputed
heresy 101 on St. John of Damascus " by Prof. Klara Asenova Toneva,
Theological Faculty, Department of Systematic Theology, Sofia University St.
Kliment Ohridski

The opinion was prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Law
for the development of the Academic Staff of the Republic of Bulgaria, the
Regulations for its Implementation and the New Regulations for the Conditions
and Procedure for the Acquisition of Scientific Degrees and the Occupation of
Academic Positions at the University of Sofia "St. Kliment Ohridski", amended
and supplemented by the AC on 26.05.2021.

The reviewing of the materials is according to the order of the Rector of Sofia
University "St. Kliment Kliment". No. RD 38-603/03.11.2022). Klara Toneva has
provided all the necessary documents concerning the procedure for the defense of
the dissertation.

1.Data about the dissertant and the procedure

Prof. Klara Toneva has studied and graduated from the Theological Faculty,
Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" in 1996, after which she defending a
doctoral degree at a University. She has extensive teaching experience - assistant,
principal assistant, associate professor and professor at the Theological Faculty of
Sofia University. A famous scientist, teacher and public figure, I would say one

of the iconic faces of the Faculty of Theology of Sofia University. I have the honor of knowing her since I was a student and I have witnessed her diligent scientific work, her academic growth and the teaching prestige she currently holds.

The dissertation, which has been submitted to me for opinion, has been discussed at a meeting of the Department of Historical Theology of the Theological Faculty, Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski. At the same meeting it was decided to admit it to public defence. At the first meeting of the scientific jury, a chairman was elected and the authors were appointed to draw up reviews and opinions. The procedure was followed and I consider that no violations were committed.

2. Dissertation data

The dissertation has a total length of 453 standard pages. It contains a preface, an introduction, 7 chapters, a conclusion, and a bibliography, which consists of sources and literature in Latin and Cyrillic and comprises a total of 778 bibliographical items.

The text of the dissertation research is readable and well structured in seven balanced chapters.

The dissertation contains subject, object, goals, tasks and methodology, relevance and state of scientific research. The dissertation student has proposed a working thesis, which she successfully defends and argues in the course of the presentation. The topic has an indisputable relevance, which is correctly brought out by the author.

Due to the limited number of pages to compose a statement, I will limit myself to what has been said so far, focusing on the scholarly contributions and critical comments and recommendations to the dissertation.

3. Evaluation of the scientific contributions

Pursuant to Art. 75, Par. 1 of the Regulations of the Sofia University on the conditions and procedure for the acquisition of scientific degrees and academic positions "The dissertation work for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" must contain theoretical summaries and solutions to major scientific or

scientific applied problems , which correspond to modern achievements and represent a significant and original contribution to science". The text proposed for defense by Prof. Toneva meets this basic condition. For the first time in the academic theological community in Bulgaria, there is a scientific work that succeeds in researching and analyzing the doctrinal differences between Christianity and Islam. The author of the work successfully chose the 101 heresies of St. John Damascene, who systematized the faith of the East in the 8th century, as the basis of the comparison. This gives reason to examine and analyze the most important parts of Christian dogmatics and ethics in the dissertation work and to compare them with the teaching of the Koran. Thus, the content of the dissertation work has become a kind of and unique "compendium" on doctrinal topics in the areas of the two monotheistic religions Islam-Christianity, which are examined and compared in the work.

4. Conclusion

I believe that the dissertation work that has been offered to me for an opinion meets the necessary scientific criteria for such kind of scientific research. Therefore, I declare that I will vote positively on Prof. Toneva's procedure for awarding the scientific degree "Doctor of Sciences" in professional direction 2.4. Religion and Theology.

25.11.2022.

Assoc. Prof. Rev. Stoyan Chilikov

Sofia