

## **OPINION**

by Assoc.Prof. Dr. Sc. Stoyan Iliev Chilikov; Department of Theology, Faculty of Philosophy and History, Paisii Hilendarski Plovdiv University

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

on the topic: The ideas of seeking and struggling against God in the worldview of Nikolay Raynov (1889-1954)"

by Vasil Boyanov Vasilev , 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 38-626/ 05.11.2024). Vasil Boyanov Vasilev has provided all the necessary documents concerning the procedure for the defense of the dissertation.

### **1.Data about the dissertant and the procedure**

Vasil Boyanov Vasilev has studied and graduated from the Faculty of Theology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" . He completed his Individual Plan and was discharged with the right to defend. The dissertation, which has been submitted to me for opinion, has been discussed at a meeting of the Department of Practical 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 is in the volume of 212 printed pages. It consists of an introduction, three chapters, a conclusion, a list of references (241 titles).

With the preface, the doctoral student introduces the topic by presenting a summary of the motives of his research work.

The introduction justifies the choice of the topic and its relevance; the subject, object, aims and objectives of the research are clearly formulated.

The dissertation consists of three chapters.

## **3. Evaluation of the scientific contributions**

The subject of the scholarly research is dissertable, current, and its study fills one of the gaps in native academic theology. The author has reviewed a huge amount of literature and has been able to analyze it by correctly formulating the conclusions of his research. The author has excellently mastered academic writing and demonstrates a depth of analysis in the substantive part of the dissertation.

The dissertation candidate identifies the following scientific contributions of his dissertation work:

1. For the first time in Bulgarian theology, an attempt is being made to conduct a comprehensive study of the theological ideas in the worldview and work of Nikolai Rainov.

2. Identification and analyse of the preconditions and reasons that led to a change in Nikolai Rainov's religious views and his adoption of occult-magical notions.

3. A theological analysis of the main themes in the novel *Between the Desert and Life*.

4. Practical orientation: This dissertation serves as a starting point for further research and the preparation of a specialized course aimed at training students in theology.

**4. Abstract details. Publications and participation in scientific forums. Personal impressions of the dissertation.**

The abstract is written as required and correctly reflects the content of the dissertation.

The dissertant has submitted 4 publications that are in the field of his dissertation.

**6. Conclusion**

I declare that I will vote positively on the procedure of Vasil Boyanov Vasilev Petkov for the award of the PhD in the professional field 2.4 Religion and Theology.

30.11.2024.

Assoc. Prof. Rev. Stoyan Chilikov, Dr. Sc.

Sofia