

MEDICAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF MIRACULOUS ICONS

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Abstract

The article reveals the medical and psychological aspects of the icons. Many researchers emphasize that the human mind tries to meet its own basic needs, such as the need for transcendence, spirituality, mystical, divine. It is necessary to take into account the unique features of the psyche for healing, development, improvement, acquisition of integrity and harmony. Human education in the spirit of Orthodox Christianity is the basis of most deep background of the health of the Slavic peoples mental and physical health. Icons are a necessary attributes in Orthodoxy. The people ask for help in cases when life is difficult, and in diseases. The paper emphasizes that for many centuries the icons were considered as a kind of theological method of transmitting the text through the image with the help of art. The article discusses the possibility of treatment of psychosomatic and somatopsychic disorders basing on the principles of Orthodoxy, gives the definition of «collective unconscious» and «collective consciousness,» the concepts of archetypes and the Prototype from the point of view of psychology and Orthodoxy. Article gives examples of the impact of miracle-working icons and prayer on the psycho-emotional state and health of the person, considering correction mechanisms of cognitive states and a comprehensive approach to the treatment of psychosomatic and somatopsychic disorders.

Key words: miraculous icon, health, illness, psychology, medicine, Orthodox Christianity.

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