

**SOUL AND SPEECH
ELDER JOSEPH HESYCHAST AND MELANIE KLEIN**

Elder Joseph Hesychast was a monk. Melanie Klein was a psychoanalyst. They both lived and wrote in the first half of the 20th century. Although very different in their lifestyles and diachronic background, it is possible to establish a dialogue between them. Talking about human soul, primarily the phenomena beyond the signifier, they developed a specific manner of speaking. Even though they used different rhetorics, the use of language that evokes images is what brings them together. Both authors used iconic language to visualize an internal world which lies beyond successiveness of symbolic order. In their texts, this world is revealed as tridimensional and spacious, filled with the forces of good and evil. Both Elder Joseph Hesychast and Melanie Klein pursued transformation of the inner man. Elder Joseph Hesychast, in keeping with the Christian tradition, insisted on the necessity of facing and fighting our demons, the evil spirits of passion, to make man eligible to win God's love and achieve his Christlike potential. Melanie Klein, using psychoanalytic rhetorics, found it necessary for a person to face Thanatos. She thought that an increasing ability of the subject to face self-destruction makes envy, greed and jealousy – the direct derivatives of Death drive gradually yield to love and possible reparation.