

A religious doctrine which originated in the Russian religious and philosophical circles in the early decades of the 20th century. Even though the tradition of the special reverence for the divine name can be traced back to the Old Testament, the modern history of *Imyaslavie* started in 1907 with the publication of the book *On the Caucasus Mountains* by a revered monk Illarion, who argued that God's essence is identical with His name, and that the name of God alone (more specifically, the name of Jesus Christ) has miraculous powers if constantly repeated. The doctrine that the name of God is God Himself became widespread among the Russian monks on Mount Athos in Greece, but would be eventually condemned both by Ecumenical Patriarch Ioakim III and the Synod of the Russian Orthodox Church as heretical.

The exclusive emphasis on the constant repetition of Jesus' Prayer ("Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me!") as means of salvation puts *imyaslavie* in the same category with such Buddhist sects as Jodo Buddhism (Pure Land) and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism (True Pure Land), who argue that the repetition of *Nembutsu* phrase alone ("Namu Amida Budda" – "Praise to the Amida Buddha") is sufficient for securing a favorable rebirth in the Western Paradise.

The philosophical justification of *imyaslavie* is associated, among others, with such prominent figures as Alexei Losev, Vladimir Losskiy, Pavel Florenskiy and Sergei Bulgakov. (Andrei Zavaliiy)

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