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Archimandrite Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Neamt County, Romania

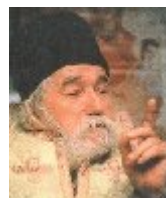
Fr. Cleopa has found his place in history as the most representative elder and spiritual father of contemporary Romanian Orthodox spirituality. The last twenty years of his life the Elder spent in increased and concentrated prayer: fourteen to fifteen hours a day. He had mystical moments when he did not want to speak to anyone, not even his cell attendant. From four until eight the Elder prayed his morning rule; afterward he confessed monks and lay people until about four in the afternoon, when he began his evening prayer rule, consisting of the canon of repentance, canons to the Theotokos, the Supplicatory Canon, Small Compline and other services.

Fr. Cleopa remembering his nostalgic beginnings: "In the years that I was shepherd of the skete's sheep together with my brothers, I had great spiritual joy. The sheepfold, the sheep - I live in quiet and solitude on the mountain, in the midst of nature; it was my monastic and theological school". In the last months of his life the Elder could be heard saying often: "Now I am going to my brothers!" and "Leave me to depart to my brothers!" and "I am going to Christ! Pray for me, the sinner."

On the eve of the Elder's departure for the next life he began to read his morning rule, when his disciple said to him: "Geronda, its evening now. These prayers should be read tomorrow morning." The Elder answered him saying, "I am reading them now because tomorrow morning I am going to my brothers." On the morning of December 2nd, 1998, at about 2:20 a.m. Elder Cleopa departed for eternity and His Christ.

More on Father Cleopa here:

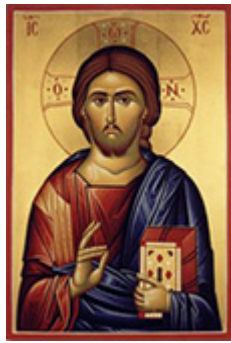
[Father Cleopa: The Elder of Romanian Orthodoxy](#)



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Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



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Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa at his cell's entrance (2)



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa's grave (8)



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa's memorial cell (18)



Fr. Cleopa with a young monk, at his cell's entrance (4)



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa with a group of orthodox students (5)



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa - painting from his memorial cell (15)



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa's in his coffin (24)



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



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Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...

Fr. Cleopa with some monks and pilgrims (30)



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...

Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...

Fr. Cleopa meeting his old co-struggler in desert, now-Archi ...

Fr. Cleopa with his cell-disciple, Fr. Iachint (34)

Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...

Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...

Fr. Cleopa reading a prayer in his cell (38)

Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...

Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria Monastery, Romania ...



Fr. Cleopa after being tonsured

Fr. Cleopa in his coffin (1998) (42)

Fr. Cleopa in his coffin (1998) (43)

Fr. Cleopa Ilie (1912 - 1998) - Sihastria

monk (1937)
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Monastery,
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