

Jaroslav Pelikan

*Sterling Professor Emeritus
of History, Yale University,
and Senior Distinguished
Visiting Scholar, Kluge Center,
Library of Congress*

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The Russian Christ

The Silence of Jesus from Hesychasm to the Legend of the Grand Inquisitor

In Fyodor Dostoevsky's "Legend of the Grand Inquisitor," the most eloquent and shattering statement is the Silence of Jesus. Indeed, almost from the first moment after Christ arrived in Russia his silence has been speaking volumes. Jaroslav Pelikan, a preeminent historian of Christianity—the author of *The Christian Tradition*, *Jesus Through the Centuries*, *Mary Through the Centuries* and other works—explores the Holy Silence of the Russian Christ as both theory and practice, in words, images, and music, from its roots on the holy mountain of Mount Athos to its supreme expression in Dostoevsky's portrait of the Prisoner.