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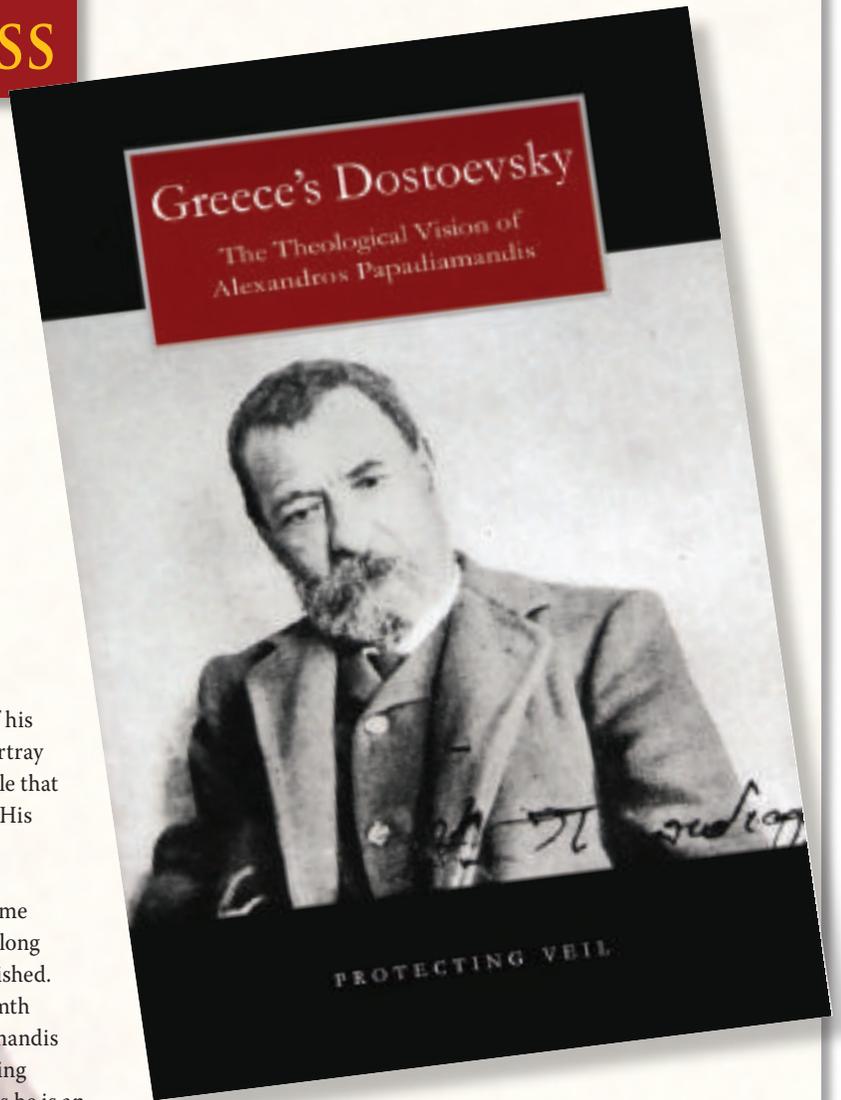
# Greece's Dostoevsky

The Theological Vision of  
Alexandros Papadiamandis

by **Anestis Keselopoulos**

**ALEXANDROS PAPADIAMANDIS** was the most important literary figure of nineteenth-century Greece and arguably of modern Greek literature. Through his lively, tender, and profound short stories of the simple lives of the Orthodox faithful of his native island of Skiathos, Papadiamandis reveals a world of organically lived Orthodoxy, a world largely lost in the disintegrating order following Greece's War of Independence with a growing adoption of western values. As with Dostoevsky, Papadiamandis enjoyed close friendships with holy men of his age, notably St. Nicholas Planas. Also like Dostoevsky, he does not portray a romantic, ideal world but rather a profoundly human world of struggle that always has the possibility of transfiguration through life in Christ and His Church.

Overlooked and largely rejected by academics for many decades, Papadiamandis's work is finally coming into its own. It is an exciting time for Westerners interested in Papadiamandis and Greek literature for, along with this volume, new translations of most of his works are being published. Professor Keselopoulos, in *Greece's Dostoevsky*, reveals with great warmth and sympathy, the spiritual depths and Orthodox richness of Papadiamandis through his depiction of the traditional life of his native Skiathos, a living liturgy. Keselopoulos also shows how Papadiamandis's creative work, as he is an authentic bearer of the Church's tradition, becomes tradition. As with Dostoevsky, Papadiamandis's faith transforms his work, providing it with an authentically Orthodox spiritual dimension absent in most modern art. Professor Keselopoulos's book, widely read in Greece, is an entrancing marriage of profound theology and the beautiful world Papadiamandis describes.



**Anestis Keselopoulos** is Professor of Christian Ethics and Pastoral Theology at the Theological School of Aristotle University of Thessalonica. His theological works in English include *Man and the Environment: A Study of Saint Symeon the New Theologian* and *Passions and Virtues According to Saint Gregory Palamas*.

## Alexandros Papadiamandis

4 March 1851 - 3 January 1911

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