Light of Light

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Abstract
This is a film review of Light of Light (2023), directed by Neritan Zinxhiria.

Keywords
Simonopetra Monastery, Mount Athos

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Light of Light (2023), dir. Neritan Zinxhiria

Before his death in 1932, a monk from the Simonopetra Monastery created his own camera, using it to take pictures of his fellow monks. The Simonopetra Monastery, an Eastern Orthodox monastery located on the side of Mount Athos overlooking the Aegean Sea, preserved close to 3000 photographic plates from the camera. Almost 90 years later, the plates were discovered and filmmaker Neritan Zinxhiria used them to reconstruct a memory of the monastery, using his Super 8 video camera to blend the photographs into that memory.

The monastery was isolated and the land around it quite desolate. The monastery itself, however, was seven stories high and very elaborate and complex. In contrast, the monks lived a
simple life. They took care of the animals, worshipped, and prayed. They also seem to have developed a strong sense of brotherhood.

At one point in the film, the director tells the audience that 90 years later, nothing has changed. And that is as it should be.