

On the basis of the contradictory opinions of Bulgarian critics, the objective of this study was to compare the short story cycle *Under the monastery vine* by Elin Pelin and *The We/I of Saint Clare* by Anatole France and to determine their relation. Detailed analysis of the books revealed the significant difference. Elin Pelin in the legendary stories presents his model of the ideal world (the world of the fantasy of the common faith of Bulgarian people). Bulgarian writer demonstrates the truth he is convinced of to the reader by basing the narrative on the plot. *The We/I of Saint Clare* is not a homogeneous book, it can be divided into two parts, where the first part deals with the impressive themes that are remarked by the parnasist beginnings of Anatole France (his pure aesthetical attitude towards writing is at variance with the attitude of Elin Pelin). The stories of the second part are full of philosophical meditations and monologues, in which a french writer takes the engaged position, characteristic for his supreme works. He is not only against the fanatic and dogmatic manifestations of the religion like Elin Pelin, but he is also against the faith as such. However Anatole France does not directly instruct the reader, he only demonstrates that any "truth" could be challenged and questioned and any belief in supernaturalness is irrational or even senseless. The stories of the french author doesn't oscillate between the relation man - God, but between the relation man - reason. The only coincident element of these two books consists of their external composition, based on the frame principle. The external contactological analysis revealed the fact that Elin Pelin might have got inspired by France's book, however if so then it was highly probable that he read only the russian translation of the book.