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**Towards the character of the divinities protecting family
(Sakhtangelozebi)**

Summary

In ancient historical documents **Sakhtangelozi** is mentioned as an evil spirit. During some time it was gradually blended with Christian cults; in some cases the cults of **Sakhtangelozi** and the Virgin were intermixed.

According to the believers' opinions, every family has got its patron – **Sakhtangelozi**, the function of which is to protect the family from the evil, failure and danger to provide material welfare of the family, heavy crop, the fertility of soil, cattle and dairy produce.

The festival was celebrated in Spring on Shrovetide hence it is included in the Spring cycle, which embraces a period of annual awakening of nature and is intended for the fertility in general.

The revival of the cult of family divinities is determined by the religious faith and practice caused by vital requirements.