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CYCLICAL SIMBOLISM AND BURIAL AND MOURNING RITES IN WESTERN GEORGIAN TRADITION

The article intend to show attitudes and beliefs regarding death and after life; and the ways in which these attitudes and practices are interrelated with other aspects of culture and offer some analyses of the various phenomena.

For that purpose it offers the analyses of the Megrelian word defining death – ghura – which in fact describes what becomes of man at the moment of death; cyclical symbolism in Lamentation customs and horserace; the cyclical connotation of the term “imieri”, defining the nether world; the nether world deity Galenish: Orta with its powers to infeunce the Lives of the Living either favorably or unfavorably; the topograpy of the nether world according to the local beliefs, etc.

At Last the article aims to show how the old Colchian aftitudes regarding death and implicit belief in an afterlife continue their Life in western Georgian tradition.