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## ON THE TRANSFORMATIONS OF RITES AND CUSTOMS RELATED TO BATONEBI (ON THE BASIS OF THE MATERIALS OF KSUDI)

The treatment of **batonebi** (general infectious diseases) was administered through incantation and carol singing accompanied with corresponding rituals. Actual medical treatment was not practiced in such occasions and is not normally used till the present day. In fact, there is no absolute means to avoid such infections except, of mumps, which has completely been cured by the medical science.

In case of **Batonebi**, as different from the traditional "treatment"- when the evil spirit, the inflictor of the disease, was by threat ordered to leave the body of the sick person, quite contrary the inflictor was referred to with special respect and honour being a subject of worship, in spite of the fact that Georgian orthodox church bans the fatishistic attitude towards this kind of diseases.

The form, style and rhyme and rhythm of lyrics practiced during **batonebi** resemble to the lullaby rhymes, though some of the researchers think that Batonebi songs cannot be included in nursery verses for the reason of its special function and magic character of the performance.

Materials related to **batonebi** collected at our Institute are interesting in respect of its contamination - transformation through epochs as well as it presents valuable materials for the study of musical folklore.