

## **KETEVAN SIKHARULIDZE**

### **CHARACTERS OF THE CAUCASIAN FOLKLORE AND THEIR DYNAMICS**

In traditional stories of people of Georgia and the North Caucasia there are women protagonists who in modern epic works and narratives figure as folklore personages.

These personages are of various importance and have more or less distinctive features and form complete set of imagery in the Caucasian folklore. Considerable resemblance to the Georgian characters is traced with Adighean -Khabardo, Abkhazian, Chechen-Ingushian counter—parts.

Here one can see the reflection of the cult of the Great Mother, which should have developed on the basis of common Caucasian worldview and religious beliefs in the period of early and developed epoch of land tillage.

The comparative research of folklore characters of Caucasians gives opportunity to view the dynamics of these images.

The Great Mother lost its chief cult function in the later periods and dissolved into minor goddesses guarding less important spheres of life.