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## SYMBOLIC IMAGES IN GDOCHANASHVILI'S PROSE ("THE BEST ROBE")

"The Best Robe" is a literary interpretation of the biblical parable of the prodigal son from the New Testament. In my view, the main character of the book, Domeniko, is the prodigal son, as every human being. Through purification (suffering) he comes close to his father. The prodigal son (human being) receives from his father (God) his portion of goods: life, health, abilities, then he forgets God, but in the end, by divine agency he repents, and is saved.

In the book, descending implies the fall of a human being, and ascending symbolizes the difficult way leading to the spiritual perfection. At the top is father's house, Maghali Sopeli (the high village), and below is the three-colour Kamora, which is the abode of the evil forces. The image of Moloche, living there, is also noteworthy, he symbolizes the Satan. According to "The Explanatory Bible", the word Moloch denotes "king". In ancient times human sacrifice was offered to King Moloch.

The saviour of the human being (Domeniko) from the evil is his faith, law, the symbol of which in the book is the best robe. In my view, the robe granted for the first and the second times is the literary interpretation of the First and the Second Law of Moses, and the word given for the third time is the Christian faith.

Along with this, three things are necessary for the cognition of God: faith, hope and love. For Domeniko, Ana-Maria as love, was one of the means of cognition of God. All this is the beginning of the return of the human being to the upper sphere, where he once belonged.