

## **NINO GAMBASHIDZE**

### **WHY DEPARTED SOUL IN THE EAST GEORGIA'S HIGHLAND IS CALLED *SULITSMIDA*?**

According to the folk tradition *departed soul* in the East Georgia highland is called *Sulitsmida* (the Holy Ghost). The reasons of the occurring the mentioned term may be:

1. The belief that corpse is unclean and the soul is pure.
2. Theological statement, that the faithful souls in the Other World are sealed over with the gifts of the Holy Spirit.
3. Whit sun and its previous day, Saturday, which is one of the most important memorial feasts of the Orthodox Church calendar. In the East Georgia highland Whit Saturday-the memorial feast - became dominant and thus Whit Sunday itself vanished and lost its place in the calendar of annual folk festivals.