

MAIA KAPANADZE

BAGRAT KHANI

In 1616 during one of the invasions of Iran in Georgia Shah-Abas I. the ruler of Iran, appointed Bagrat Khan, Simon I's nephew, Daud Khan(David XI)'s elder son in Kartli who had been converted into Moslem faith. This is the period when King Luarsab II had already been a captive in Iran. It should be noted that there had already been such precedent in Kartli when Shah-Tamaz I appointed Bagrat Khan's father in Kartli in the 60s of the 16th c.

Bagrat Khan was an obedient servant of Iran and the power of his authority depended completely on Iran's royal court. Shah made all efforts to strengthen Bagrat Khan's governance in Kartli but he could not succeed even to spread Bagrat Khan's authority all over the Kartli Kingdom, as people of Kartli would not recognize Bagrat Khan as their king. Bagrat Khan stayed as king of Kartli for three years. He died in 1619.

His period of ruling is distinguished only with the fact that after a half century interval Iran managed to appoint Moslem King at the Kartli Kingdom throne in complete submission and obedience to the Shah of Iran.