

GIORGI KAVTARADZE

FOR THE LOCATION OF *SOLOLAKI*

Sololaki Street was the name of the present Leonidze street (Kirov street during the Soviet times). According to the popular thought the place was the valley of the Sololaki river and after filling up the place the name was transferred to the street that was built in this place.

The word "Sololaki" is considered to be originated from the Arabic word "Sulu-lahad" meaning irrigating canal. However, more convincing seems its origination from the Turkish word "Su-Lula", *su* meaning water and *lula*- a hole where the stream flows through. We should not also exclude that the word *salalaki*, apart from the Arabic *سال sāla* "to flow", may have another element as a part of the composed word *لقى laqiya* "to meet" and denote the water reservoir arranged in the citadel at the ridge of the mountain.

According to Vakhusti Bagrationi, a 18th century Scholar and a geographer, Narikala castle is built on the crest of the Sololaki hill and that the river *Sololaki* divides *Kala (narikala)* and *Abanosubani*, located to the south direction from *the Kala* i.e. Tbilisi city, proper.

The modern name of the river Sololaki is *Tsavkisis Tskali*, it had also the name *Leghyta Khevi*; and in the 19th century it was known as Dabagh-khanis khevi.

As Sololaki river valley joins the Mtkvari at the opposite bank of Metekhi, lower of the Abanosubani i.e. Seidabadi, the 19th c street could not be arranged at the place of the *Sololaki* river; this place was known as *Avanaant Khevi*, which was mainly a dry channel for rain flood, and naturally, it could not bear the name *Salalakis Tskhali*.

In addition to Vakhusti's notes about the location of *Salalaki* valley there is an Award Certificate of 1776, which says that the plot of land at the foot of Tabori castle was irrigated by *Sololaki* waters. It should be noted also that in the beginning of 19th c. H. I. Klaprot, visiting Tbilisi, gives us the information according to which the road leading from Ganjiskari to Ganja, crossing the southern part of Tbilisi, went through the *Solalani* field.

If the place-name Salalaki/Solalaki was originally denoting the field, located to the south part of the *Tsavkisis Tskali's* estuary, to denote the name of the river and valley, later, because of its application as the irrigating source of the orchards of the western part, it came to use for the name of irrigating system, and in the beginning of the 19th c. for the newly emerged settlement and only after was the *Avanaant Khevi* (valley) roofed to arrange a new street by the name of "Nagornaia" and *Nagornaia* was changed into *Sololaki*, the place name spread far to the west direction of the former city walls and to the vast locality, south to Mtatsminda.