

NORA NIKOLADZE

AKAKI TSERETELI'S POEM SULIKO: STAR, NIGHTINGALE AN ROSE

In the specialist literature we find different ideas about the symbolic image of Akaki Tsereteli's *Suliko*. Most of the Georgian literary critics consider it as generalized image of Georgia - the motherland; some see the lost love, others think it is a symbol of righteousness; still others regard it as the symbol of God.

I think that *Suliko* is a symbolic image of the Kartvelian soul, revealed in the image of "the Star", i.e. faith (Orthodox Christianity), also in the image of "the nightingale" i.e. in the love of the mother tongue, and in the image of "the rose" as a symbol of the Fatherland.

Akaki Tsereteli expressed his philosophy of the necessity of protecting language, faith, and fatherland in many lyrical poems and social and political essays. Akaki Tsereteli's works are devoted to the worry and pains for the above-said three Spiritual treasures.