

ELDAR TAVBERIDZE

NIKO BERDZENISHVILI ABOUT THE FIGHT BETWEEN THE FEUDAL FAMILIES IN THE 13TH C. GEORGIA

The 3rd volume of Niko Berdzenishvili's book "Questions of the Georgia's History" has the chapter with the title: "Episodes from the battle of the feudal families in the 13th c. Georgia".

Niko Berdzenishvili begins his narration with the rebellion of 1177 headed by Prince Demna against Giorgi III and the suffocation of the rebellion and decaying of the Orbeli family. Niko Berdzenishvili did not agree with Stephanoz Orbeliani's writing about the elimination of the entire Orbeliani family and referring to the other Georgian historical sources he remarks that "only the leaders of the rebellion were subjected to capital punishment".

After that Niko Berdzenishvili discusses in details the history of the representatives of the Orbeli family who were not in Georgia at the time of the rebellion. They were Eristavi (Prince) Liparit, son of Sumbati, and his two sons Eligumi and Ivane who were in Iran for the search of support. Among them Elgumi stayed in Iran, and Ivane came to Georgia during the reign of Queen Tamar and they gave him only Orbeti from his father's possessions. Some time later Liparit, the younger son of Elgumi, also returned to Georgia, which, in my opinion, was far reaching prudent step of the Georgian government for the purpose of constraining the Mkhargrdzelis family.

According to Niko Berdzenishvili the entire 13th century was the period of merciless animosity between the Orbelis and Mkhargrdzelis families for the leadership, which terminated with the consequence that after the death of Sadun Mankanberdeli, Orbelianis family rehabilitated their honor, respect and glory, and Tarsaich Orbeli, son of Sumbat Orbeli, became *atabag* (a family title of the ruler of Samtskhe).