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ABOUT *ATSKURI* ETYMOLOGY

Atskuri is one of the ancient cities. It has been an important political and *eclessiastic center for centuries*. *Saint Andria Pirveltsodebuli* was the first who preached Christianity here in the I c. and converted the whole Samrskhe into Christianity. In Georgia crism was sanctified with the effort of Atskuri bishop, Ephrem Matskvereli.

Prefix –a [ა] was seperated in the word Atskuri by N. Mari. According to hagio-gr-a-phical and historical sources the word Atskuri is met with the following forms: Atskuri, [აწყური], Atskueri [აწყუერი], Atskveri. [აწყვერი], Atskuei [აწყუჭრი] where the Georgian root- tsk [წყ] is seperated. The same root is met in the following words:Tskali [წყალი], Tskaro [წყარო] Tsku [წყუ], Tskor [წყორ] etc.

To my mind the word Atskuri means a place for water or a watery place. Atskuri is built on both sides of the river Mtkvari.