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ON THE CORRECT INTERPRETATION OF A STANCE IN *THE MAN IN THE PANTHER'S SKIN*

Those interested in the history of the text of *The Man in the Panther's Skin* would notice the variety of interpretation of the final line of the fifth stance of a poem: 'An anvil of lead can break even the hardest stone' (English translation by V. Urushadze). A. Sarajishvili, G. Kipshidze, considers the stance as interpolation. I. Abuladze thought it as an error or contamination made by scribes. T. Bagrationi and V. Nozadze interpreted the content as *hardest stone* (diamond) can be cut with the softest *lead anvil* meaning "the beauty of Queen Tamar can break the strong heart of the poet." I think that in their studies literary critics failed to notice a line from the versified of *Amirandarejaniani* written by Sulkhan and Begtabeg Taniashvili in 60-70s of 17th century that helps elucidate the obscure phrase of *the Man in the Panther's Skin*.

"If I were diamond strong enough to resist beat and breakage
I would be broken with lead it would overcome my hardness."

Thus, in the fifth stance of the poem everything is in its right place if only we knew what the talk is about. Brothers Taniashvili were the first who threw light upon the metaphoric meaning of Rustaveli's lines. But because their poetry was not regarded high their poem failed to attract attention.