

VASIL BARNOV'S "TEARING OFF ARMAZ" IN THE CONTEXT OF
THE GEORGIAN PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE FOR THE RELIGIOUS AND
STATE INDEPENDENCE

Vasil Barnov's "Tearing off Armaz"(1925) reveals the author's religious creed with an utmost radicalism. Above all V.Barnov's vision of the nation in the novel is the basis of his religious belief. The author describes with the most realistic pictures the aggressive policy carried out in the guise of religion by both Iran and Byzantium in the 4th c. Georgia.

In the novel "Tearing off Armaz" V.Barnov makes completely original assessments of the well-known events in the history of Georgia. e.g. the establishment of Christianity in Georgia as a state religion. The author provides non-traditional evaluations of this important historical fact.

According to the author Georgia's future of statehood was determined by the non-compromised fight of the heathen Iran and Georgia against Christian Byzantium. Together with other important factors the alliance of Iran and Georgia was conditioned with the religious kinship of the two countries of that period. The faith that had had centuries old footing by that time was originally brought from Persia that 'had been visibly featured in Armaz, the principal deity.'

Without whatever ambiguity "Tearing off Armaz" reveals Vasil Barnov's deep respect to the Georgian heathenism, as, in the first place, these pagan idols originated from the national consciousness.