

## RUSUDAN SAGHINADZE

### GEORGIAN MANUSCRIPTS OF PALESTINE AND A PROPER NAME MENTIONED IN THEM

Among the earliest epigraphic monuments of the Georgian language the capital letter inscriptions discovered by an Italian archaeologist Virgilio Corbo's expedition (1950-1952) in the ruins of the Georgian monastery of Palestine, in Judas Desert in the vicinity of Bethlehem are of great importance. They are distinguished with the multitude of proper names on the basis of which (Maruan - Murvanosi, Burzen – Buzmiri, Bakuri) it became possible to date the inscriptions and to associate the Georgian monastery with Peter the Iberian. Most of these names are explained in the specialist literature; however, the opinions developed about some names are not completely clear. To these names belongs e.g. **Gri Ormizd**, mentioned in III inscription: "... da ZuZ/eulni m/aTni ba/kur da // gri orm/izd da n/aSobni / maTni // S(eiwyal)en amen...i.

Considering the opinions adopted in the specialist literature I think a few other options can be admissible. Namely:

1. two names: Bakuri and Grigoli (or Giorgi);
2. two names: Bakuri and Ormizdi
3. three names: Bakuri, Grigoli and Ormizdi;
4. two names: Bakuri and Giorgi – referred to "Lords of kindness."

Of these four variants the following two seems convincing. On the one hand it is **Bakuri** and **Gri-Ormizdi** (to regard Gri- as particle), on the other it is **Bakuri** and **Grigoli** (Ormizdi), referred to "Lords of kindness", i.e. **Ormizd** - lord of kindness - is an epithet or a distinctive appellation. This name could have appeared in the Palestine inscription through the Greek language. The assumption is based on the many-centuries old Georgian-Greek relation history and Christian traditions, as well as other Greek names mentioned in the same inscriptions, as for instance **Antoni Abai** (leader).