

# LUIZA KHACHAPURIDZE

## LITURGICAL IMAGES IN ZVIAD GAMSAKHURDIA'S POEMS

In the treasury of the Georgian lyrics, since David Guramishvili, one can hardly find such impressive variations of Christain-Bible themes as in Zviad Gamsakhurdia's poems.

The author's literary works are completely imbued with Orthodox Christian spirit. He creates poetic phrases which are rather musicalization of liturgics than a mere poetry. When his contemporary poets turned down even to mention 'religion', he composed poetic prayers: "To Saint George", "To Saint Nino", "Supplications for the Nation", ..Also other poems as: **Proskomidia**, "The Resurrection," "Melkisedek – King of Salem", "Bethany", "The Lost Son"(this is a Z.Gamsakhurdia's poetic version of the Gospel plot)...

Zviad Gamsakhurdia's works are dedications of poetic prayers not only to the saints, but also he gives poetic forms to Divine Liturgy. "The poem "Baptism" which follows the *Typicon* confirms my observations.

When picking up the works of the overseas authors for translation Z.Gamsakhurdia gave preference to those writers who were close to the themes of Christianity, also he translated works of saints, their life-stories and creations.

With his poetic works, actions and words Zviad Gamsakhurdia was a prayer before the altar of the God. In the epoch of the atheism where the Divine Liturgy was waning in the churches, Zviad Gamsakhurdia managed to bring it to the Georgian public in the form of poetry.