

# TARIEL PUTKARADZE

## THE GEORGIAN LANGUAGE – NATIONAL LIFE OF GEORGIANS

According to epistles, sermons and speeches of Catholicos-Patriarch of All Georgia, the Archbishop of Mtskheta-Tbilisi and Metropolitan Bishop of Abkhazia and Pitsunda, His Holiness and Beatitude Ilia II

The history of the humankind chronicles the birth and death of various peoples. On the background of the serious events of arising and vanishing of the societies the thirty-three thousand years of life and survival history of the Georgian people could be passed for a miracle, which, above all, has been performed by means of the Georgian language. It is also an unmistakable fact that during the last two-thousand years the Georgian national identity has been nurtured by the Christian faith. As Christianity here was not only the philosophy of life and the way of existence, when facing the invasions of enemies Georgian people held uncompromised attitudes to their faith that made them intrepid and unbroken; gradually, through the flow of centuries, Christian churches and monasteries turned into active Kartvelian (Georgian language) cultural centers and divine sources for strengthening and sharpening the sense of national unity. In case of certain successes of Georgia's enemies in the weakening or crumbling of the country in various periods of history the Georgian Church managed to maintain the common Church and the national and state space and drew up correct national guidelines for its people under the given circumstances. Nowadays when 20% of the present Georgian state territories, recognized by the world commonwealth, has been occupied and annexed to the enemy state the Georgian Church provides the same guidance.

In the present era of great imperial aggressions and of globalization the words of His Beatitude Ilia II, Catholicos-patriarch of all Georgia, clearly determine the ways for the Georgia's national survival.

The present book reflects His Beatitude Ilia II's visions about the language and culture history of Georgians and modern threats pending on the country. In particular, the book discusses the following issues:

- Righteous Lazarus – the symbol of the Georgian nation;
- Since when do we celebrate the Day of the Georgian Language?
- April 14<sup>th</sup> - the Day of the state language of Georgia;
- The literary Georgian language as the unshakable foundation of the Georgian nation, and more.