

MAKAKATSADZE

ROLE OF PREACHER IN MOUNTAINOUS REGIONS OF GEORGIA

The phenomenon of preacher was widely spread in Georgia. A preacher who is a missionary between the God and humans would declare the God's will to people.

The etymology of the word *kadagi* has been dealt with by several scholars. *N. Marr related kadagi with 'ald. The Khaldi worshiped the deity Khald. &ald is an equivalent of an icon which means a "deity, saint". An ethnic-religious term is attested in the form of kad-ag-i among the Georgians, the settlers of Mountainous Regions of Georgia.*

M. Khubua considers this word as the one originating from Persian and relates it to *katak* which means "people".

mkadre, meene, kandara occur in parallel with *kadagi*.

The phenomenon of preacher was characterized by different features in mountainous parts and lowlands of Georgia, and represented a pre-Christian feature which though slightly modified, still maintained the original structure even in the Christian era.