

DAREJAN DVALI-DEMETRADZE

DEATH AND RELATED CEREMONIES IN GEORGIA AND GERMANY

The ceremonies of burial and mourning in Georgia and in Germany are essentially different; however, certain parallels may be identified.

German Philologist Helga Kotthoff describes the death-related rituals that are widespread in Georgia: mourning over a newly deceased person continues throughout the day involving wailing and lamenting in dialogues. During laments the best qualities and characteristics of the deceased are mentioned. The larger the number of visitors approaching the mourner to express their feelings of sorrow the deeper the expression of respect towards the family of the deceased.

In Germany the family members of the deceased do not express their sorrow by weeping. It is not common there. In Germany burial can take place on any of the weekdays except for Easter, Christmas and Holy Trinity Day.