

NATO GULUA

CHRISTIAN FAITH OF LEVAN GOTUA (ACCORDING TO HIS PROSE)

The 20th century Georgian public figures could not manage to directly confront anti-national ideology and anti-religious politics of the government due to the conditions of Communist regime. Under the influence of a new reality the works of the Georgian writers of this period clearly feature spiritual instability and skepticism, sometimes cynicism towards already demolished church and the clergy who fell victim to merciless persecution. Fortunately, there were writers who never betrayed their civil principles and sincerely reflected past and present. One of these writers, Levan Gotua fearlessly expressed his attitudes towards the Christian faith in his works; he demonstrated immeasurable significance and a tremendous role of the Christian church in the history of our country. It is sufficient to recall his Novel "Gmirta Varami" and short stories "Khandzta Bell", "Garejula" whose characters such as Zosime Berdidi, Priest Gaioz, Grigol Mtsire Khandzteli, monk Shoshita and monk Ephrem represent spiritually strong clergy who were devoted to their religious faith and who unselfishly sacrificed their lives to their country. By writing about them the writer revived not so famous religious figures of Georgian history who were devoted to their country and the Christian faith, and who sacrificed themselves in order to defend and save the nation's material and spiritual treasures for further generations.