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DISEASE-RELATED FOLK BELIEFS

(ACCORDING TO IMERETI ETHNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS)

Traditional medical culture applies both herbal medications and occult medicine. According to folk-beliefs, the diseases are often caused by “evil, envious eye”, curse and invoking icon to curse. Nowadays, magic methods of healing as well as the mystic causes of diseases are forgotten or declined; however, beliefs about “evil eye” still remain.

There are different ways to explain the “evil eye” phenomenon: first of all, by enviousness of a jinx. In other cases, it happens when a person “has a good heart, but an evil eye”. In order to protect themselves from evil eye, the population applies different kinds of amulets, talismans, knives with black handles, coal, black gagate (jet) beads, etc. Spells are the most widespread. Charmers whose spells are effective are still found in villages. The spells for those under the evil eye and exorcizing spells (uzhmuri exorcizing spells) are remarkably diverse.

Disease-related folk beliefs and methods of healing using magic still remain important.