
VLADIMER TSVERAVA, ELDAR TAVBERIDZE

PADRE NICOLA

The work of Catholic missionaries in Georgia became especially active in the 17th century. Georgian kings tried to derive service from the missionaries for the purpose of obtaining European education and acquiring deeper knowledge in medicine. Padre Nicola Rutiliani arrived in Georgia in 1792.

Padre Nicola was well received by the royal court of George XII. He suggested the King to avoid coming under the Russian imperial rule: a stranger appointed to protect the country will become its enemy and persecutor...

Padre Nicola, unlike other members of the Order, disobeyed his superiors. The Order decided to recall him from Georgia. However, after his arrival in Kutaisi the King Solomon II left Padre at his royal court after applying with the request to the leadership of the Order. Soon Padre Nicola became widely known as an excellent doctor in Imereti and Samegrelo; besides, Grigol Dadiani, the ruler of Samegrelo Province involved Padre in handling complicated relations with Imereti.

In 1804 Padre Nicola was arrested being accused of poisoning Grigol Dadiani. Soon the truth was revealed and Padre was set free. He returned to Imereti where he devotedly served King Solomon II. Padre died of plague in 1811.