

KETEVAN DEKANOZISHVILI

MONK TEVDORE (THEODORE) – “THE LAMB, THE SACRIFICE TO GOD”

The focus of the article is to explore to what extent does the sacrifice of Priest Theodore – the folk legend’s character – aiming to save his motherland correspond to a mythical-ritual model and how this historical fact has been reflected in oral literary monuments, historical and scientific works, and literary texts.

In the course of the centuries monk Tevdore has been identified in the consciousness of the Georgian nation as a restorer of the national spirit whose suffering he personally endured. His mission would be the same in further historical periods.

Observation of extant original materials which are sufficiently extensive leads us to assume that the authors’ attitude towards an act of sacrifice for one’s own country is absolutely positive being considered to be the highest form of moral heroism. The texts manifest religious and patriotic motives. Only the one who had received divine inspiration would be capable of such act of heroism.