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GRAND MOURAVI'S LITERARY CHARACTER IN OLD GEORGIAN POETRY

It would certainly be unimaginable to have the name of Giorgi Saakadze, the Grand Mouravi of Kartli preserved only in historical chronicles, without reflecting his character in the Georgian literature. Concerning the very issue, poets of the Renaissance period deserve special mention, namely, King Archil for his poem "The Dialogue between Teimuraz and Rustveli" and Iosif Tbileli (Saakadze) for his poem "Didmouraviani" (The Life of the Great Mourav).

Archil provides a remarkable evaluation of Giorgi Saakadze's patriotic self-sacrifice and urges to inform the future generations about Saakadze's exceptional heroism. The author also deals with the issue of the battle at Lake Bazaleti, however, avoids criticizing King Teimuraz.

From the very first lines of his poem Iosif Tbileli reproaches King Archil for not explaining conflict between Teimuraz and Saakadze; the author attempts to shed more light on this matter. The poet provides the details of Saakadze's heroism, noting that the latter did not deserve such enmity and envy of ungrateful nobles of Kartli.

It is undoubtful that Saakadze represented progressive forces of his time whose vision of the united Georgia integrated a powerful king. This great idea was fiercely confronted by Kartli's feudals who drove Saakadze into exile twice. Both King-poet Archil and Iosif Tbileli point out that the Grand Mouravi fell victim to envious Kartlian nobles and the intrigues.