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TRADITIONS OF *GRAVESITE ARRANGEMENT* IN CHRISTIAN AND MUSLIM GEORGIANS (ACCORDING TO MODERN MATERIALS)

Since ancient times many nations have maintained customs and strived to memorialize the deceased by large monuments and conducting cultic rituals, and to ensure afterlife.

The article deals with the traditions of *gravesite arrangement* in Christian (Orthodox as well as Catholic) and Muslim Georgians. The graves of Orthodox and Catholic Christians are almost similar: the place is *delineated*, the gravestone is placed or erected above the chest section; a cross or a monument is arranged, a photo and inscription with the following information: name, surname, dates of birth and death. Nowadays the *epitaphs* on the tombstones are rare, though they are frequently displayed on the 20th century gravestones. Modern *epitaphs* have a different content. The Orthodox Christian tradition of building roofs over the graves has been maintained up to the present day by the in Megrelia and Svaneti. However, the very tendency clearly declined. As for the Muslim Georgians, their gravestones do not contain any inscriptions. The only text occurred on the gravestones contain names, surnames and dates of birth and death. *Epitaphs* are rare, except for the places where they reside closely to the settlements of the Christian Georgians. In nations of any religion the *Gravesite Arrangement* mainly depends on beliefs, creativity and financial means.