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ETYMOLOGICAL STUDIES (AJA)

The verbal form *aja*, defined by the Georgian vocabularies as "hvećna, mudara" (*begging, pleading*), has manifested itself in the Georgian language since 12th century.

aja seems to be derived from the Arabic word حَج[hjj], which means *hadji*, pilgrim who travels to undertake pilgrimage to Mecca to fulfill religious regulations.

The foregoing reveals exactly how it correlates with pleading the God, just as it is explained in the Georgian vocabularies.

In the 12th century [hâjj] had already been well-established in Persian. That is when it could presumably transfer from Persian into Georgian as much of the Persian lexical items were then borrowed by the Georgian language.