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HEALING RITUALS RELATED TO EYE DISEASE
IN SVANETI AND RACHA
(ACCORDING TO EXPEDITION MATERIALS)

From time immemorial, obscure reasons that led to diseases have been associated with the supernatural world. There are magic and religious domestic rituals widespread in Svaneti and Racha applied as healing and preventive practices for eye diseases; such practices are applied almost in every village in February.

On this particular day (**lalča let** “protecting night” in Svaneti, and **pirurčqoba** in Racha) those who kept praying were fasting, saying prayers over the homemade bread (Svan. **leṭure/lemziri**, Rach. **Kadiani/ganaṭehi**) and eating it together with all family members at night.

Diverse traditions applied for healing of these diseases in Svaneti and Racha took their origin from various widespread eye diseases that had developed as a result of ecological and domestic conditions in these regions.