

MONASPA IN THE XII CENTURY GEORGIA

ABSTRACT

There are different opinions about Monaspa in Georgian Historiography. In general, personally the slave is not free, but some part of them was growing up as a “serf” and exactly on the basis of “Upbringing”, they performed their tasks of non-noble vassal-servants among the serfs.

Monaspas are not to be identified with the “Tadzreuli” (servants of the royal or feudal court) warriors. Tadzreuli is the staff emerging from the royal house domain in the palace, which was subject to differentiation.

The Monaspa basically may have been stuffed from representatives of different nationalities, based on ethnicity, who had been both released from captivity and slavery, as well as bought or captured persons. It is not excluded in their rows were entered as a voluntarily.

It is not beyond the realm of possibility that part of them were volunteers. The “Slaves” were the chosen ones, trained in martial arts, experienced and trusted warriors. They achieved such state of being due to their “Upbringing”. Based on the state military and political tasks, the formation of the Monaspa as an extensive, serious force should have generally begun from the 1110s.

During King David’s reign, their main function included being constantly prepared, implementation of operations of various type and extent. Later, the institution of Monaspa gradually diminished, reduced in number and modified its functions. The Monaspas of David’s and his heirs’ periods differ from each other. Further, their functions are basically limited to safeguarding of the king and the palace.

Keywords: History of Georgia, King David Agmasheneli, Monaspi Institute.