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## **CONCEPT OF FATE IN MEGRELIAN FOLKLORE**

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### **ABSTRACT**

The concept of fate has an important role in Georgian Folklore. According to folk beliefs, much depends on an enigmatic and invisible power which is called fate. Fate can be good or bad. The folk reality knows arbiters of fate.

Just as every nation in the world, people in Georgia believed and still believe that human fate is predestined and that everyone inherits luck as soon as they are born and no one is capable of changing it. In different regions of Georgia, people had different perceptions about fate and its impact on individual lives and those perceptions were represented differently in their ways of life.

The relationship between fate and God is rather important. Often, people identify fate with God. The truth of God is beyond human understanding. Human consciousness is not able either to grasp the mystery of fate. Everybody complains about fate, when they encounter problems and mental anguish, wondering why they inherited such bad luck. Similarly, people appeal to God for help mostly as they pass through an ordeal, complaining why they suffer a stroke of bad luck. Consequently, truth and profundity of fate and God are beyond human comprehension.

Folk materials and ethnographic way of life prove that people place their faith in fate. According to their ideology, fate is inescapable, e.i. what was made legitimate by fate is inevitable. Megrelian population believed that fate controlled the life of a man from the moment of his birth till his last seconds on the earth. The entire life of an individual is written on his forehead as soon as he is born, and no one and nothing can change it.

**Keywords:** Georgian (Megrelian) folklore, folk beliefs, destiny.