

**Crossroads of Mythological and Real Time and Spaces  
(According to the novel by Grigol Robakidze "Guards of Grail")**

**Abstract:** Space and time as an important phenomenon, have special poetic function in the novels by Grigol Robakidze. In this respect, it is interesting to reveal different, imaginary or real, the relationship between art spaces in the novel "Guards of Grail", in which the idea of saving the nation is presented by the way of express across or parallel space's art models. There is the some kind of space intersections, that creates metaphysical reality in the novel. The characters of novel have a kind of ecstasy in this mystical places. This feeling leads to spiritual transformation and helps the character to communion with eternity.

**Key words:** Grigol Robakidze, Mythological, Holy Grail

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Space and time as an important phenomenon, have special poetic function in the novels by Grigol Robakidze. In this respect, it is interesting to reveal different, imaginary or real, the relationship between art spaces in the novel "Guards of Grail", in which the idea of saving the nation is presented by the way of express across or parallel space's art models. There is the some kind of space intersections, that creates metaphysical reality in the novel. The characters of novel have a kind of ecstasy in this mystical places. This feeling leads to spiritual transformation and helps the character to communion with eternity. Past, present, future, mythological and real unity is important for writer in order to revive the faith, which implies the existence of an independent and free Georgian state in a material space. Novel's characters are traveling in the myth, fairy tales, legends and poetry imaginary spaces to gain the lost spiritual forces, in order to use this energy to wake up people's dignity and self-consciousness.

Soviet Georgia was some kind a violation of time and space for Georgian writer Grigol Robakidze, which was fugitive from the homeland. In his artistic activity the writer saved his homeland in the manner that he presented a mythical and poetic models of independent Georgia. He spiritually saved Georgian culture by his works. In his novel "Guards of Grail" he symbolically restored the Georgia and created his mythical and poetic model. Thus, he retained a national identity and expressed faith in freedom and survival of Georgia by the way of using symbolic and mythical paradigms.

Described in the novel "mythic reality" symbolically presents, on the one hand, the Bolshevik government's violence against the people of Georgia, violation of sanctuaries, insult of traditions, decay of individual, establishment of pseudo - culture, and, on the other hand , Georgian guards courage to save grace and the national identity. Holy Grail, transformed image of the classic religious symbol, is the main mystical character of the novel.

According to the catholic encyclopedia "The early history of the Grail is intimately connected with the story of Joseph of Arimathea. When he is cast into prison by the Jews, Christ appears to him and gives him the vessel, through which he is miraculously sustained for forty-two years, until liberated by Vespasian. The Grail is then brought to the West, to Britain, either by Joseph and Josephes, his son (Grand St. Graal), or by Alain one of his kin (Robert de Boron). Galaad (or Perceval) achieves the quest; after the death of its keeper the Grail vanishes. According to the

version of the "Perlesvaus" Perceval is removed, no one knows whither, by a ship with white sails on which is displayed a red cross. In the Guiot-Wolfram version we meet with a conception of the Grail wholly different from that of the French romances. Wolfram conceives of it as a precious stone, *lapis ex illis* (i.e. *lapis* or *lapsi ex caelis*?) of special purity, possessing miraculous powers conferred upon it and sustained by a consecrated Host which, on every Good Friday, a dove brings down from heaven and lays down upon it. The angels who remained neutral during the rebellion of Lucifer were its first guardians; then it was brought to earth and entrusted to Titurel, the first Grail king. It is guarded in the splendid castle of Munsalvaesche (*mons salvationis* or *silvaticus*?) by itself and nourished by its miraculous food-giving power" (Catholic encyklopedia).

According to the novel *Holy Grail* figuratively is live heart of Georgia, and guards of Holy Grail are, on the one hand, the ancestors, and, on the other hand, contemporaries: George (the symbol of the old, glorious, independent country), who stored the holy cup conveyed from ancestors and gave to the future generations. Levan Orbeli (which can mystical - magical in the soul of nation) and creators (writers, poets, musicians, artists, theater directors). Avala, Odiliani, Marjani are the encrypted, encoded faces, which are the famous Georgian writers and public figures in xxth century: Tician Tabidze, Paolo Iashvili, Kote Mardjanishvili, Ushangi Chkheidze.

By Robakidzes opinion, Georgian culture kept the spiritual of Georgian nation, that's why he creates restored mythic-poetic time - space in this novel, in which past, present and future are inseparable. In this art space the earth for Georgian is as a "Alma Mater" and they have mystical connection with the cosmos. In this time - space guards of Holy Grail are immortal, because they could to devote themselves for the aim to survive the nation's ideals and values.

"To catch the infinity of space in one of seconds", (Robakidze 2012a: 229) \_ Says Levan Orbeli, main protagonist of novel and thus he reaches metaphysical unity time and space. He is the poet and often experiencing ecstasy, when he has the great, divine love with the whole world and everyone. Such a strange minutes he feels wonderful connection with every living or dead creatures. This is the secret meeting with eternity, and the opening of mind's eye. The writer's opinion, Levan Orbeli is like Prometheus being, full of inner fire, that is why he is a unifying mystical symbol of the time and space. and he keeps and develops the essence of the Georgians.

Mikhail Bakhtin created the term *chronotope*, that literally means "time space" and is defined by Bakhtin as the intrinsic connectedness of temporal and spatial relationships that are artistically expressed in literature. The *Chronotop* of Robakidzes novel reveals the correlations between horizontal and vertical ways, which represent the character's spiritual and physical life. These characters are developing their ways to reach self spiritual perfection, for the great mission, to become brave and faithful Guard of Grail. Novel's main characters are walking on these various ways and thus are developing and achieves their spiritual perfection and ultimately become the decent Guards of Holy Grail.

Holy Grail is the some hypostasis of the mythical founder father of Georgians, therefore, to save it means the salvation of nation of Georgian .Despite the fact that guard of Holy Grail, George and Levan Orbeli physically died, but they will be mystical joined to the Holy Grail. The main motive of the novel is the struggle for survival nation soul.

It is noteworthy that after the Orbeli become a guard of Grail, he changed not only internally, but also physically. The writer pointed out that he was not only a man, but the fire burning with love. He has a marvelous brightness on his face, because he must fulfill a special mission to defeat the evil force that embodies The character of Velski in the novel. It should be noted that he must defeat not only earthly, but cosmic forces of evil. Levan Orbeli believes salvation of Holy Grail and therefore he easier convinces people. He transforms the past of Georgian to myth. In his

opinion, when people obey the aggressors, his spiritual unity is lethally damaged, and if even one of georgian will not not surrender, then the nation's vital energy will survive. He was not afraid of death, therefore remained committed to the idea of freedom. Giorgi and Levan Orbeli are symbolically similar to St. George fighting the dragon. It should be noted, that both of these characters are as well as the Grigol Robaqidze's Alter-ego. Both expresses writer's opinion about, the one hand, of the Georgians future, and the other hand, about the universal truths. These two characters are the main forces that sacrificed for survival to idea of united, independent nation.

Robaqidze considered that it was his three novel were trilogy: "Snake's Shirt", "Killed Spirit" and "Guards of Grail". In the novel "Snake's Shirt," which the writer wrote when he lived in Georgia, is drawn free space, but in the novel "Killed Spirit" is described how Bolshevism has destroyed and crushed free space. And in the novel "Guards of Grail" the writer described the struggle against the dark forces to saving free time and space for nation's cultural existence. Grigol Robaqidze in his book of essays "Demon and Myth" wrote: "In order to overcome the fear that man has from his birth, for this he must reach the myth" (Robakidze 2012b: 38).

In the novel the love is the main force that asserts spiritual energy of heroes. Norina is the symbol of eternal femininity. She is a important character in the novel. She has not only physical, but also, above all, spiritual beauty. She is Levan Orbeli's inspiring and giving him strength to fight and save Grail's Holy cup.

The writer believed that literature a great the power to influence the reader's heart, soul and mind. In the last episode of the novel the beautiful woman, Norina, looks into the window strange violet evening and suddenly saw Levan Orbeli's face, which was full of divine bright. This bright fills the reader's heart with faith and love. Such crossroads of time and space create some kind of symbolic models, which connects the real, physical world to mythological. This gives the Georgian reader a sense of fantasmagorical, that he never had experience anything like this. Thus, the writer gives to reader faith of salvation and to reach Independence of Georgian nation.

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