

G a g a S h u r g a i a

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IOANE SABANISDZE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PHILOSOPHY AND
THEOLOGY OF LATE ANTIQUITY

Abstract

Old Georgian original literature of Early Feudalism is specifically poor in philosophical and theological works and, therefore, the research and analysis of such passages included in ecclesiastical literary works of various genders become important for the study of the history of Georgian theological thought. From this point of view the *Martyrdom of s. Abo of Tbilisi* by Ioane Sabanisdze (8th century) is one of the most important monuments that occupies a particular place in the history of Georgian literature not only for its historical or artistic values but also by virtue of the author's specific method of using rich literary material. By means of the study of theological aspects of the investigated text and its comparative stylistic-structural analysis with some other Old Christian literary monuments we show Ioane Sabanisdze's original contribution to the philosophy and theology of late antiquity in field of christology, eschatology and theology of sanctification of men. Ioane Sabanisdze used philosophical concepts and images, proper to late antiquity, which were later adopted by Christian theology, in order to create a literary image of divined saint in the light of Chalcedonian theology.