

## TRANSLATION

**Ana Kalandadze**

*Untitled*

Translated from Georgian to English by **Eter Churadze**

“Ye trample on me,  
Ye all trample over my heart,  
O, I beseech thee,  
I, King David<sup>1</sup>, to ye impart  
What my wish will be ...  
Under thy feet abrade the grape,  
Curved on my tombstone ...”

“What was the sin that could not escape  
Thy splendid, royal throne?  
With grace and honor, thou served thy land,  
What is thy trouble?  
Thou reigned ‘from Nikopsia to Derbend<sup>2</sup>,’  
Thou wert not humble.  
And if meekness is the noble’s trait  
From the very start,  
What is the sinners’ path and their fate  
When a sinner thou art,  
And if they don’t achieve peace of mind  
Before they depart?”

“Over my heart, ye all trample,  
Ye all on my heart ...”

1959

1. David IV the Builder is the greatest Georgian King, ruling from 1089 to 1125, during a period known as Georgia’s Golden Age. Before his death, David the Builder wrote a poetic work called “Hymns of Repentance,” consisting of eight psalms with delicate stanzas. In these hymns, the King confesses his sins. Ana Kalandadze’s poem was inspired by the “Hymns.”

2. The Georgian territories extended “from Nikopsia to Derbend” (or from Nicopsis to Daruband) in the 12th-13th centuries.

– ფეხი დამადგით,  
გულზე დამადგით ფეხი ყოველმან,  
წყალობა ჰყავით...  
საქართველოს ყოვლის მპყრობელმან  
ვისურვე, დავით...

ფეხქვეშ გაცვითეთ საფლავის ლოდი  
ყურძნის მტენებით...  
– ასეთი ცოდვა რა გაქვს, მეფეო,  
მიუტევები?

ღირსმსახურობდი ქართულ მიწა-წყალს,  
რაი გადარდებს?  
გასწიე იგი „ნიკოფსიითგან  
დარუბანდამდე“...

თუ, ეს მაღალთა თავმდაბლობაა  
ოდით და ოდით?  
თუ ცოდვილი ხარ, მაშინ, მეფეო,  
რალა ქნან ცოდვილთ  
სული სიმშვიდის, სული სიმშვიდის  
ვერსით მპოველთა?  
– გულზე დამადგით, ფეხი დამადგით  
გულზე ყოველთა...

1959

### Author's Note



**Eter Churadze** received her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English Philology, and a Ph.D. in Philology from Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. She also has a Master's degree in American Studies from Ruprecht-Karls University of Heidelberg (Germany) and was a visiting postgraduate researcher at the University of Leeds, Centre for Translation Studies (UK). She is an Invited Lecturer of Translation Theory and Practice at Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University. This lovely photo, which reminds us that summer will come again, was taken in Tsqaltubo, in the Imereti region of Georgia, in the foothills of the Southern Caucasus Mountains.