

## OPINIONS

*Eka Avaliani*

### **The Modelled Regional World through the Vani Mystical “Silver Belt”**

The present research is related to the issue of the Vani cemetery from the comparative perspective. The social context reveals significant evidence for direct and constant cultural interactions, cultural synthesis, transculturation and acculturation between the population of Vani, a so-called sanctuary-city, and Western Anatolian, the Eastern Mediterranean and the ancient Near Eastern population groups. Generally, this is a broad project and requires further investigation in this direction.

*Merab Ghaghanidze*

### **European Values, Christianity, Georgian Culture**

Across centuries, the fundamental European values have been the unchanging importance of a human person, a person's responsibility towards the society and regular self-criticism. These three values are also attuned to the fundamental values of Christianity. The paper analyzes poems by Shota Rustaveli (“The Knight in the Panther's Skin”) and Vazha-Pshavela (“Aluda Ketelauri”, “Host and Guest”, “The Snake-Eater”) to show how these values correspond to the long tradition of Georgian culture. The main aspiration of the characters of the mentioned poems is to respect others, to undertake an engagement toward the other even if this requires self-sacrifice, and to be able to question their own decisions and actions.