

## Mukhran Machavariani – "The Sun is Red Like a Poppy" (1832)

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**Abstract.**

1832... The government system - Russian, Georgian culture and economy - destroyed, national spirit - dead...

In Mukhran Machavariani's rich and inexhaustible catalogue of works, the collection of poems "1832" attracts great attention, which is actually a poem-play - arranged and thought out fancifully. It can be called "The sun is red like a poppy" - a phrase from one poem, which is a part of this collection. The sun of Georgia in 1832 captured by Mukhrani's eyes is a symbol of the poppy-colored blood of the heroic ancestors - that's why it ("the poppy-colored sun") is used as a leitmotif to tell the main story - the tragedy of 1832.

Mukhran Machavariani reveals the pain of the 20th century in the thoughts of characters or the conspirators of 1832. They express their thoughts in monologues looking for both the way to save the homeland and the reasons for the failure of the nation, while the time, place, situation, decorative background and - in general - entourage are thought out in a very original way, in particular, in the form of poetic remarks in the titles and parenthetical phrases.

The text of the play includes six "words", three "thoughts" and one "confession", which is combined into a whole decorative image by "the red sun similar to a poppy" and as a kind of ending, the exclamation "I am holding on Tato's horse" from the heart of the poet who is "disheartened by people" is presented.

The monologues of the characters are entitled as follows: "The speech by Filadelfos Kiknadze, to his brothers, in Shuamta". This character also has the second episode in the play: "The speech by Filadelfos Kiknadze again, to his brothers again, in Shuamta again", followed by "The speech when drinking tea, in Mamuka Jambakur-Orbeliani's family, by Solomon Razmadze"; or "The speech by Bidzina Amilakhori on the bank of Mashavari - in Chermichala"; "The speech by Vakhtang Orbeliani in Ortachala, on the raft"; "The speech by Alexander (Batonishvili), told when the white night was replaced by the black day."

As for the monologues of the play, understood as "thoughts", they are presented to the reader as follows: "The thought of Elizbar Eristavi, on the way back home from Shindisi, in a carriage"; "The thought of Yase, - on the balcony of the Amilakhvaris, - when looking at the bright moon"; "The thought of Kosa Mustafa at the wedding of Ibreim Kara Mahmad Ogli's brother" (accompanied by the delightful sense of humor implied in the title); Finally, "The confession by S. Dodashvili in Zion of Tbilisi, on the eve of Easter".

A few more poems written on the same topic are added to the mentioned collection ("1832"), which complete the story of 1832 - seen through the eyes of Mukhran Machavariani and realized as poetry.