

# THE ROLE AND RIGHTS OF WOMEN FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF M. JAVAKHISHVILI

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**Abstract:** The woman is one of the most important aspects of multi-faceted creations of M. Javakhishvili and defining of her role in society it echoed to one of the major problem to its time – the idea of equality. Our literary criticism has recognized that at the early stage of his writings he shows the woman who are

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passive and offended in many ways, but it has to be mentioned, that Javakhishvili while creating such characters is awaking the feeling of protest in his readers. He believes that defending the dignity any and the woman, fighting for personal autonomy is major right of human being.

He shows of the feminine nature without shelter and making it one of the main materials of his writings, this was the aspect why his creations were deeply criticized from soviet officials and was declared as the main fault with many others as well.

**Keywords:** woman, rights, publicist, M. Javakhishvili

One of the aspects of the multifaceted creativity of M. Javakhishvili is a woman and her role in society, a question that resonates with the most important problem of that time - the idea of equality.

In literary criticism, it is considered that in the works of the early period of the writer's work the fate of offended, humiliated, passive women is presented, but at the same time, the fact remains that such characters Javakhishvili somehow-shaken the protest in the reader. From his point of view, the protection of honor and, in particular, of female honor, the struggle for personal autonomy is the most important human right. Back in 1905-1906, in the pages of Iveria magazine, Javakhishvili published letters - "Woman in the Northern States of America", "Women's Electoral Right in Australia", "and From the History of the Women's Movement".

It should be noted that the author shows a detailed knowledge of the question, he often provides important data from that period and at the same time, as a publicist, he shows his attitude towards them. In the letter "Woman in the Northern States of America" we read: "The war has ended. America won, gained freedom, began to build a new polity and a republic. It was a time when a woman had to take advantage of the general delight of the people and claim her rights, but she missed this case and put all the work on the man, who, as usual, forgot about the woman and left her without a common life" (Javakhishvili M., 2007, 177). These several sentences show the attitude and attitude of Mikhail Javakhishvili. The reader clearly sees his civic position, his

pain for the fact that women in distant America have lost the opportunity to enter the public path. Here we find his admiration for the wife of the president of America, John Adams. This admiration, of course, is not manifested by direct comments, but only by the fact that the writer describes in detail her activities, introduces the reader to a quote from the president's correspondence: "In 1874, Adams, the president of the new republic, received the following letter from his wife during the congress: we want you, men, to be more generous than your ancestors, do not give men unlimited rights, otherwise all men will turn into executioners" (177). Then he describes the results to which the civil position of the spouse of the president led. As for the reader of "Iveria" of that time, he clearly feels the author's subtext that he not only describes a fact that happens very far from the Russian Empire, in the states of North America, but also tries to arouse a sense of empathy in the readers and at the same time make them feel the meaning human solidarity and unity. Therefore, he also continues to analyze the situation in detail: "The wife's spouses of the president were taken by women known for their work - Otis Warren and the sister of the famous General Lee, who did a lot for the emancipation of women. But before the start of the campaign, it was necessary to shake up public opinion and define the women's issue ... Liberals and all progressives provided great support to the emancipators ... The press also began to speak and most magazines and newspapers took the side of women" (177). It is clear from this passage that M. Javakhishvili precisely felt the heartbeat of his time, although this heartbeat was unimaginably distant and did not say anything within the borders of the Russian Empire; the publicist Javakhishvili felt with his sentiment that this wave was already unstoppable, that it would sometime have reached Russia even before Georgia. Until then, public opinion had to be prepared.

In his letter "From the History of the Women's Movement", Mikhail Javakhishvili examines the women's issue in European countries, he describes in detail the history of the development of the issue, the reforms and their results. He especially emphasizes that "European woman" in this regard "has significantly lagged behind her (American) and even today it is difficult for her to catch up with her friend." He acquaints the reader with the state of individual countries and says the following: "Unfortunately, we cannot consider in detail

the civil rights of women, which are significantly different from each other in different countries ... The agitation about the political rights of women first began in England. In 1867, the Parliament considered John Stuart Mil's proposal on the political rights of women ... In this case, France and Germany fell far behind England and Norway. In Germany, the law deprives women of the right to attend political meetings and rallies ... On the issue of women's empowerment; all countries are ahead of Australia ..." (216). As we see from these quotes, no important reform is left out of Javakhishvili's attention regarding this issue.

With regard to the progress achieved by Australia, the writer devoted a separate letter to this issue - "Women's Electoral Right in Australia." Describing the processes taking place in the country, he makes, from our point of view, a very interesting commentary; we read in the letter: "Australian women did not fight for their rights, this issue was not seriously discussed at any of the meetings and at any of the meetings; There has not been a single society in the whole of Australia that has the goal of acquiring the right to participate in elections for women. Women did not appeal to any societies and did not protest; one fine morning this right, like an apple, rolled itself to their feet. Australian did not understand anything in politics; she was indifferent to the elections and did not take any part in party and political life. As an Australian was not familiar with the political life of Australia, so this life did not know it. This reform was an unfamiliar fruit for an unprepared female kingdom ... "(230). In this commentary, the author's attitude is well felt that "this apple, which had tangled the feet" in its eyes, diminished the significance of this phenomenon. Obviously, as a citizen, he believed that such a "gift" would bring little benefit to Australian women. This is what he means when he says: "As an Australian was not familiar with the political life of Australia, so this life did not know it."

The author ends this letter with one noteworthy fact that further reinforces our opinion given above: "In general, one can say that women's participation in political life was only of theoretical importance. A good connoisseur of the women's question - John Gole was asked in the letter, what impact did the reform in the affairs of Australia. Gol answered with one word - "no" (223).

As we see, the main message of the letter is that, from the point of view of a publicist, the rights acquired by women can bring about serious and practical changes in the development of the country. He considers a woman as a citizen very important and this is not surprising, for he perceives her as completely equal with respect to the opposite sex. That is why his sad tonality is felt when he describes the Australian events, because it is an accidentally acquired right and in the future will remain only theoretically significant in the life of this country, since the Australians failed to reveal their position and could not participate in the development of the country.

True, the letters we reviewed do not describe the events of Georgia, but Javakhishvili, as a journalist, emphasized such facts, the significance of which he considered interesting and important primarily for the development of his country. As a public figure and an active citizen, whom the public met as a publicist, he tried to approve and strengthen public opinion with his publications, although later, in 1917, he wrote a letter - "Female Labor in Georgia", which affects traditions, formed in connection with women's work. He notes the following: "Not so much time has passed since any region of our country was considered cultural as much as the woman of that corner was free from work, equal to a man." (Javakhishvili M., 2001. 558). It should be noted that the publicist connects the culture of the nation with the attitude towards women, which should not have been alien to the Georgian consciousness. Apparently, the phenomena that have evolved over the past century have caused some changes in the national consciousness.

In one of his letters, "Georgians in Geneva," Mikhail Javakhishvili particularly highlights the attitude of Georgians to the national issue. The author notes that there is a clear discrepancy in their considerations; As defenders of the Social Democratic Party, at official meetings and in conversations they with particular categoricalness deny any manifestation of nationality, although this does not prevent them from expressing an absolutely opposite opinion during personal communication. The letter read: "In this regard, Georgians combine surprising harmony with unprincipled cosmopolitanism and unlimited love for the Georgian people, vulgar and urgent denial of the existence of a nation and real nationalism, which in some cases is

difficult to distinguish from chauvinism. They did not even notice this contradiction, the confusion of principles, the intransigence of pure feeling and exhausted dogma and were naively convinced that they did not change the logical sequence. Their worldview is based on a certain scientific system and there is no contradiction between their faith and feeling (2007, 471).

By the beginning of the twentieth century, a new type of man and, in particular, a woman, who dissociates himself from nationality, nation, from historically established ideals, is taking shape.

Definitely we want to note that the attitude towards a woman and the woman's question in general is the subject of a comprehensive study of the writer in her artistic texts. Despite the fact that this question was developed by researchers more than once, the material should still be evaluated from different angles.

First of all, from our point of view, it should be noted that the general context, the reality in which and as a result of which the characters of Javakhishvili were formed. The one-sidedness and straightforwardness of the assessments can lead not so much to the correct and, in some cases, to controversial conclusions. Therefore, it seems to us that we should start the analysis from deeper layers and note that Mikhail Javakhishvili is not only well acquainted with thinkers of the level that Nietzsche, Weininger and Freud were, but often he even creates his own artistic portraits, based on their co-products.

M. Javakhishvili, without any beauty, exposes a female character, her sexuality and turns into material for an artistic description exactly what was recognized by the Soviet political officialdom and system as a particular drawback of his work.

One of the most memorable characters of the writer - Margarita Kaplanishvili, at first glance, the victim of social status, needs, violence, in fact, was the victim of his own physical instincts and secret desires. The statement of the content of the novel, of course, is not our goal, so we will stop our attention on important psychological points; the first conflict between Teimuraz Khevistavi and Margo arose precisely because she was rejected as a woman. M. Javakhishvili, as an excellent connoisseur of human psychology, managed to

find the very point from which the crisis of his heroine begins, and of course, with all his directness, he offered it to the reader.

From a psychological point of view, the alter ego of this character at the beginning of the plot, so to speak, is in control of the situation to the end. Margarita Kaplanishvili, even in the most dreadful dream, could not imagine her worst fate. She is the carrier of all the best qualities of that society, moreover, she has high intelligence and a system of values. She is actively involved in the social life of that period, takes part in charity events, has a high level of empathy. A certain compulsion in all this may seem to the reader, he may consider that the young woman has come under the influence of the fashion trends of that time, but we cannot consider this a particular shortcoming. There is no doubt that in the beginning there is no harbinger of a future tragedy. As for her charm by the personality of Teimuraz Khevistavi, here she is based on those values that are understandable and acceptable to the reader; it is affected by the status of Teimuraz Khevistavi, his intellectual abilities and this union is primarily held in the name of the highest human feeling - love. Problems arise relatively later, but much earlier than the moment when social distress will fall on the family. Margot's tragedy is that Teimuraz completely rejects her as a woman and this gives rise to cruel indifference in their relationship. It should also be noted that the realism with which Javakhishvili conveys all of this, he even step by step describes all the psychological stages that a person may have to go on this way. That is why, for the reader, nothing protest is convincing from the beginning - if there is nothing to do, the heroine reconciles with this situation. Moreover, Margot believed that this was the only possible logical development of events. The situation is further complicated further. The indifference, which seized Margo, causes in the reader a certain protest. Despite the fact that she seems to indicate to Teimuraz the future danger, that by continuing in this way they will definitely lose the estate, incomes and sooner or later Jaco Jivashvili will take possession of their property, this resistance is also lifeless and inspirational. In the end, once again and, apparently, at the last, against the proposal of Jaco in the woman, the self-preservation instinct will work and therefore she tries to dissuade her husband from his decision to

become a settler of Jaco, to escape to Nashindari, but without reaching a result, she with the words “as you like” already puts all the responsibility on him.

It is interesting why Javakhishvili decided to create a portrait of a Georgian who has repeatedly received negative reviews and assessments in Georgian society. This is logical, for the reader was not used to such characters, for him the Georgian represented, first of all, the symbol of her own family and then the whole country; Javakhishvili knew all this very well. Then what was the reason for his choice? From our point of view, creating a portrait of Margo Kaplanishvili, Javakhishvili first of all put forward the problem of integrating women in society to the forefront, as he felt with his peculiar sense that Georgian society lost its main support force by ignoring these issues. We think that this is why this heroine turned into a bitter lesson. What role did the author predetermine his heroine in the context of the country's future? Is he in this sense the heir of Baratashvili and Chavchavadze, who, in the process of preserving the country's identity, assigned a special role to mothers? - “If our mothers had your spirit!” Or “So did you bring up the spirit of your child, so that the enlightened one remains behind him?” Unfortunately, we have a decisive answer to these questions, the main character of the novel Javakhishvili “The landslide” unable to cope with the historical mission entrusted to her, she was unable to find the strength in herself and to repel the impending danger. A valuable artistic text has one very interesting ability - the reader always has the opportunity to imagine a different development from the one proposed by the writer. We can allow this version in the case of Margo Kaplanishvili, because the author almost every time gave her a chance to change her reality, so that she fought with the misfortune that fell on her, but, unfortunately, she could not find the strength to cope with personal By tragedy, on the contrary, she completely obeyed her and ended her life as one of the wives or former wives of Jaco. We think that this is precisely what the author indicates by such a most difficult ending of his novel; the doomed wait that engulfed Teimuraz - the ex-husband is waiting for his ex-wife, waiting for the step that Margo will take, though hopeless and unrewarding step - is waiting for one thing that a woman always has the strength, in case of desire, to change the existing reality.

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