

FATHER ARCHIMANDRITE GRIGOL PERADZE (1899–1942)  
PROFESSOR UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW BEFORE WORLD WAR II  
KILLED IN THE NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP IN AUSCHWITZ  
SAINT OF THE GEORGIAN CHURCH

He was born on 13<sup>th</sup> September 1899 in Bakurtsikhe (Kakheti province) in Georgia. Grigol Peradze was a priest of the Georgian Church. He defended Georgian independence against Bolsheviks in 1921 as a soldier. Then he lived for the rest of his life in emigration. He conducted extensive theological research in Germany. He received a PhD degree in patrology at the University of Bonn. He researched and published texts regarding the history of the Church and lives of the saints. He was a polyglot.

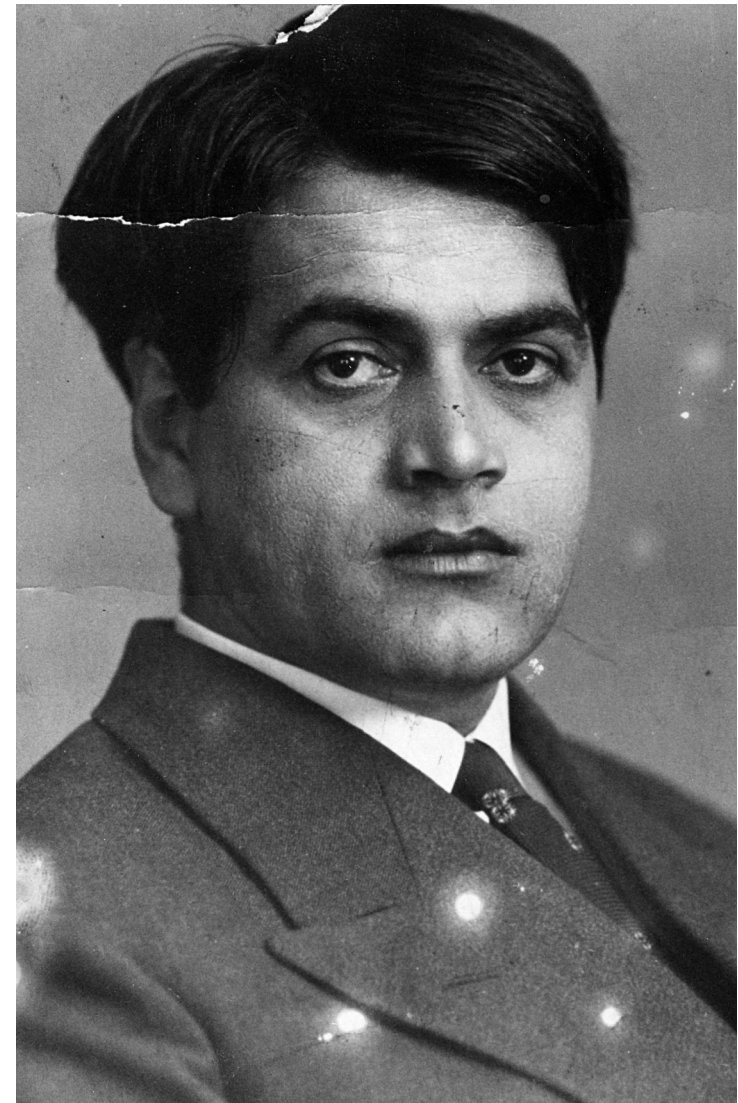
In 1931, he took the vows and holy orders as a monk in the Greek cathedral in Paris. He made contacts with the Georgian parish in Paris and was chosen its first parish priest. In the same year, he established and edited the scientific annual journal "Jvari Vazisa" ("Cross of Vine") there. In January 1934, Grigol Peradze received the rank of archimandrite in the Greek Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sofia in London. In 1935, he went on a religious and research journey to Romania, Bulgaria and Greece (Mount Athos and Thessalonica). He also undertook a journey to the Holy Land and Syria in 1936.

In 1933, the Orthodox Metropolitan Dionizy (Waledyński) invited him to Warsaw and offered him the position of professor of patrology and head of the patristic seminar at the Faculty of Orthodox Theology of Warsaw University. Father Grigol Peradze gave his opening lecture on 7<sup>th</sup> December 1933. Apart from his editorial and scientific work, he took an active part in the life of the numerous Georgian colony in Poland.

He was arrested by Gestapo in May 1942 in Warsaw as a consequence of a provocation and denunciation. At first he was sent to the Pawiak prison in Warsaw. In November 1942, he was transported to the Nazi concentration camp in Auschwitz-Birkenau. He made sacrifices for other camp prisoners and passed away on 6<sup>th</sup> December 1942.

Father Grigol Peradze was canonised as "martyr saint" during the Georgian Church council in September 1995 and is recognised as such also by the Orthodox Church in Poland.

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(1899–1942)