

= Darejan Dadiani =

Darejan Dadiani ( Georgian : ????????? ) , also known as Daria ( ????? ; Russian : ????? ????????? , Darya Georgyevna ) ( 20 July 1738 ? 8 November 1807 ) , was Queen Consort of Kakheti , and later Kartli @-@ Kakheti in Eastern Georgia , as the third wife of King Erekle II ( also known as Heraclius II ) . She was a daughter of Katsia @-@ Giorgi Dadiani , a member of the princely house of Mingrelia . Darajan married Heraclius in 1750 and their marriage lasted 48 years until his death in 1798 ; the union produced 23 children . In the final years of her husband 's reign , Darejan exerted significant influence on politics and court affairs . She was skeptical of the pro @-@ Russian policies of Heraclius II and his successor , her step @-@ son , George XII , whose progeny she tried to prevent from succeeding to the throne of Georgia . After the Russian annexation of Georgia , Queen Dowager Darejan was deported to Russia proper in 1803 . She died in St. Petersburg at the age of 69 and was buried at the Alexander Nevsky Lavra .

= = Early life and marriage = =

Darejan was a daughter of Katsia @-@ Giorgi Dadiani , a younger son of Bezhan Dadiani , Prince of Mingrelia in western Georgia . She was only 12 years old in 1750 , when Heraclius , then reigning in Kakheti , chose her as his third wife , a year after his second wife , Ana Abashidze , died . The marriage was negotiated on Heraclius 's behalf by his relative , Princess Khoreshan , daughter of the late King of Kartli Jesse and wife of Prince Jesse Amilakhvari . The bride was brought by Khoreshan and Saba , Bishop of Ninotsminda , to Surami , where Heraclius met her . The wedding was then lavishly celebrated at the court of Heraclius 's father , Teimuraz II , King of Kartli , in Tbilisi . In 1762 , Heraclius of Kakheti succeeded on his father 's death as king of Kartli , thus uniting both eastern Georgian kingdoms into a single state .

= = Issue of succession = =

The couple 's first better documented child , Princess Elene , was born in 1753 , followed by 22 more between 1755 and 1782 . As her sons grew up , Darejan 's desire to secure the right of succession for her offspring against Heraclius 's eldest surviving son of his second marriage to Anna Abashidze , the Crown Prince George , became the cornerstone of Darejan 's involvement in the politics of Georgia . In the last years of Heraclius II 's life , she became more involved and influential . In 1791 , Darejan persuaded her husband to overturn the principle of primogeniture in favor of fraternal inheritance , mandating in his will that after his death , his eldest son George would become king , but that after George 's death , the throne would pass to the next surviving son of Heraclius , rather than to George 's offspring . The surviving sons of Heraclius and Darejan ? Iulon , Vakhtang , Mirian , Alexander , and Parnaoz ? thus , emerged in the line of succession . After Heraclius 's death in 1798 , the now King George XII , reneged on the will of the late king , declaring it invalid on account of it being forced upon his father . This occasioned a further breakdown in already strained relations between George XII and Darejan and his half @-@ brothers .

= = Relations with Russia = =

Another conflicting issue between Darejan and her reigning step @-@ son was Georgia 's relations with the Russian Empire . Darejan had been skeptical of Georgia 's rapprochement with its northern neighbour already in Heraclius 's lifetime , especially after the Russians , bound by the 1783 treaty of Georgievsk to protect Heraclius 's kingdom from external threat , had left the Georgians to their own devices in the face of a disastrous invasion from Iran in 1795 . The queen had repeatedly maintained that the relationship with Russia had brought no benefit to Georgia .

Darejan and her party were resolutely opposed to George XII 's renewed quest for the Russian protection . In 1800 , one of Darejan 's sons , Alexander , openly broke with his half @-@ brother and attempted a coup with the help of his Avar and Iranian allies . The relations in the royal family

hit the nadir in July 1800 , when George XII forced Queen Dowager Darejan into confinement at her palace in Avlabari , prompting Darejan 's sons to mobilize their loyal forces around Tbilisi .

= = Downfall and exile = =

After the death of George XII in December 1800 , the Russian general Ivan Lazarev issued the Tsar Paul I 's order to all the members of the royal family , beginning with Darejan , forbidding the nomination of any heir to the throne . After Paul 's death in March 1801 , Darejan applied to the new tsar , Alexander I , to confirm her eldest son , Iulon , as the new king and protect her and her kin from harassment from George XII 's heir Prince David and his supporters . However , the Russian government proceeded with the outright annexation of the Georgian kingdom , bringing the millennium of the Bagratid rule in Georgia to an end .

The Queen Dowager and her sons withdrew into opposition to the new regime ; Iulon , Alexander , and Parnaoz were now in open rebellion . Darejan 's every trip outside Tbilisi was closely watched by the Russian military . Eventually , Tsar Alexander ordered the commander in Georgia , General Karl Knorring , to deport all members of the royal family from Georgia for resettlement in Russia proper on 20 August 1802 . The State Council confirmed the decision and instructed Knorring to " strengthen all measures for the transport of Queen Darejan and other members of the royal family to Russia , because their presence in Georgia will always be a cause and reason [ for the development of ] parties hostile " to the Russian hegemony . Darejan 's relations with Knorring were particularly tense . Once , the general angered her by wearing his hat and coat at her house and interrupting an interview at noon , declaring it was time for his vodka .

The task of deportation was to be fulfilled by Knorring 's successor , General Pavel Tsitsianov , himself of Georgian origin . In vain Darejan cited her illness to avoid exile . Tsitsianov responded that no reason would postpone her departure . She was further accused of " treasonous " correspondence with Russia 's enemies and removing the venerated icon of Ancha from a church in Tbilisi . The Russian military had Darejan escorted on 25 October 1803 out of the estate of her grandson in Mukhrani to her exile in Russia .

Darejan , known to the Russians as the tsaritsa Darya Georgyevna , was allowed to settle down in St. Petersburg , where she lived in a rented house in the parish of the Church of St. Simon and Anna . Later , the ailing queen was permitted to have a house church , which was consecrated on 22 July 1804 and closed following the death of Darejan on 8 November 1807 . Darejan , Queen Dowager of Georgia and Lady of the Russian Order of St. Catherine , Grand Cross , was buried at the Alexander Nevsky Lavra .

= = Children = =

Darejan had 23 children with Heraclius . Of these , only 13 reached adulthood .

Prince Solomon ( died 1765 )

Princess Elene ( 1753 ? 1786 )

Princess Mariam ( 1755 ? 1828 )

Princess Sophia ( born c . 1756 , died in childhood )

Prince Levan ( 1756 ? 1781 )

Prince Ioane ( born c . 1759 , died in childhood )

Prince Iulon ( 1760 ? 1816 )

Prince Vakhtang ( Almaskhan ) ( 1761 ? 1814 )

Princess Salome ( born 1761 , died in childhood )

Prince Beri ( born 1761 or 1762 , died in childhood )

Prince Teimuraz ( 1762 ? 1827 )

Princess Anastasia ( 1763 ? 1838 )

Princess Ketevan ( 1764 ? 1840 )

Prince Soslan @-@ David ( c . 1764 ? 1767 )

Prince Mirian ( 1767 ? 1834 )

Princess Khoreshan ( born 1768 , died in childhood )  
Prince Alexander ( 1770 ? 1844 )  
Prince Luarsab ( born 1772 , died in childhood )  
Princess Ekaterine ( 1774 ? 1818 )  
Princess Tekle ( 1776 ? 1846 )  
Prince Parnaoz ( 1777 ? 1852 )  
Prince Archil ( born 1780 , died in childhood )  
Aslamaz @-@ Khan ( born 1782 , died in childhood )

= = Ancestry = =