

---

---

## SELECTED NARTÆ TALES



### THE LEGEND ABOUT NART URUZMAG AND BATRADZ THE SON OF HAMITS

Once old nart Uruzmag was dozing on a stone at nart's Nihas<sup>1</sup>. Nart children played ball around nihas and one of them hit the ball, and it in God's will had landed in Uruzmag knee, and he threw the ball. Children were crying, and he had compassion on them. He brought them the ball back, comforted them, and began to play with them. Meanwhile, none of the adults did appear at nihas. Then Uruzmag asked children:

Do you know where our heroes are?

And some of the children said:

A week ago I went to graze our cattle, and saw them at the top of Uaskup, holding the Simd<sup>2</sup>.

And have you heard anything from their conversations – asked him Uruzmag.

Nothing but truly they decided to avoid the old man.

So the boy told. As soon as Uruzmag heard these words, the blood boiled up in him like milk. Hastily he rushed home and sat on his big horse Arphan<sup>3</sup>. "Let's see how narts' heroes will not allow me to be among them" he said. And he appeared before the narts' youth at the top of Uaskup. He said to them: "Hello, our heroes!" But nobody even looked at him, and everyone danced: the beauty of the two seas looked in the mirror of the heaven, and they danced furiously hoping that she liked someone of them. When they even hardly looked at him, Uruzmag turned the face of Arphan and started to gallop to the girl. Meantime he vowed: "Oh, if only with the help of God, that girl came into my hands, then, although I am old, I would bring her to them, and surely then they would allow me into their midst".

So he rode faster and approached the dwelling of the girl. The girl was sitting on the porch and when she saw an old man riding on a horse, she said to him: "Where do you run, a nice old man?"

Where do I run? , – said Uruzmag, the troops of Avars (the people) are approaching, burning and destroying everything around. My sister is at the top of Uaskup, and I am in a hurry hoping to save her.

Oh, a nice old man, I beg you to take me with you. I'm afraid that those enemies will offend me when they come here, – the girl answered.

I would have gladly taken you, but they are close, and if we ride on one horse they will overtake us and sent back to our eternal life, – said Uruzmag with a kind of sorry.

Then the girl hitched two good shavlokhs<sup>4</sup> in the chariot and jumped in there with the driver. They departed. Uruzmag was ahead as a counselor on his Arphan, the woman rushed behind, so they drove.

God knows how long they passed, but Uruzmag said to Arphan in a whisper:

Did the dogs eat you? Pretend that you're lame and cannot carry me anymore; maybe she will take me with her.

So strongly Uruzmag wanted to sit next to the girl.

Arphan pretended to be lame and stopped. And then the girl said to Uruzmag:

A nice old man, the savior of my soul, your horse is no longer in force, so sit with me in the chariot.

Uruzmag tied his horse next to other horses and sat down next to the girl. They were going off road, and when the chariot listed on its side, Uruzmag leaned against the girl. And with each touch a black hair appeared in the white beard of Uruzmag. Thus, while they reached the top of Uaskup, the white beard of Uruzmag became dark black.

Finally they stopped at the top of Uaskup. When the girl did not see a woman among the Narts, she realized that Uruzmag had deceived her. She tried to turn back, but that wild breed of people forced her to stay. Thus, she had no choice, and she stayed there. Then Soslan danced to her and said: Please, dance with me!

The girl didn't even look at him and said:

– I can't dance with you, because you're too stubborn man.

Then Hamits danced to her: Then dance with me!

I can't dance with you too, because you're too old and besides you do not wear the shoes made from pig skin.

Then Subali danced to her, but she also said to him:

I can't dance with you too: you have a woman's tongue<sup>5</sup>.

After all Batradz danced to her:

Shame of you! Why are you disgusted? Come, now, and dance with me!

The giant Kandzargas took your grandfather Alag to the Black Sea coast for a shepherd, and if you returned him, then I would have gladly danced with you.

Batradz urged his comrades to witness, and then went in search of his grandfather Alag to the Black Sea. God knows, how long he was looking for, but finally he reached the domain of Kandzargas and found Alag to be goatherd in one place.

Let your cattle multiply, the old man!

Long life to you!

Who are you? Who made you a shepherd of goats?

I'm a nart man. Kandzargas took me during the battle and now I am tormented here. What about you? What a sun and what a storm that brought you here?

Hey, Grandpa, Grandpa! Batradz said, I'm a nart kind man too and came to look for you!

What nart kind are you? Why are you deceiving me? Not a living soul survived of narts. Come here and if you are nart kind I'll find out. And Batradz approached him closely. Alag held his hand on him and of cast of his body became convinced that Batradz was nart kind man. Then Alag said: "I am glad that our kin still exists. But I beg you, go away from here. You won't be able to fight Kandzargas and he will kill you".

Do not tell me such words any more, Grandpa! I will not leave this place until I kill your enemy and take you home; – Batradz angrily said and went to the house of Kandzargas. He burst into the house and found Kandzargas lying. He sat down on him and grabbed his two ears. And Batradz said: "Say farewell to this world! I'll kill you because you offended my grandfather so long.

Oh, for the sake of your mother and your father, do not take my sin on your soul, I'll give you all my wealth.

Batradz did not listen to him. He drew his sword and cut off the giant's head. Then he opened the seven pantries of a giant and took all his wealth and his cattle. Then he bathed Alag in the milk lake and Alag became like a bridegroom.

Thus, two nart's men appeared on the top of Uaskup before the nart's heroes. How could they not be happy!

God knows how much they rejoiced. Then the beauty of two seas stepped forward, and Batradz danced with her. They liked each other and they reached out their hands among nart people.

As of today, we'll be the husband and the wife, – they said.

Then Batradz divided into three parts the cattle, which he had driven with Alag and said to Uruzmag:

Uruzmag, you're a senior man, but I dare to address you and thank you warmly. That's the cattle, which I divided into three parts; two parts of it let them be yours: one part especially for you, the other -my part, on account of dowry. Alag will have his own part of it.

Uruzmag said nothing and took the two parts of the cattle of Kandzargas. Thus, narts thanked each other on the top of Uaskup and went home.

---

<sup>1</sup> Nihās – the place where men usually gathered and talked

<sup>2</sup> Simd – the famous narts' mass dance

<sup>3</sup> Arphan – the name of the famous horse of Uruzmag

<sup>4</sup> Shavlokh – the horse of the famous Kabardinian breed

<sup>5</sup> Literally "the woman's mouth"