



Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ի ԳԼԵՆԴԵԼԻ ԱՐԱՐԱՏ ՄԱՍՆԱԶԻՒՂԻ
ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹԱՅԻՆ ԲԱԺԱՆՄՈՒՆՔ

Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter
Cultural Division

Get to Know...

Volume 2, Issue 4

April 2009



Daniel Varoujan

JANUARY 6, 1844 — APRIL 15, 1915

Daniel Varoujan was one of the greatest Armenian poets of the 20th century. At the age of 31, when he was blossoming to become a poet of international stature, he was brutally murdered (see below) by the government of "The Young Turks", like Siamanto, Zohrab and many others, as part of the officially planned and executed Genocide of the whole Armenian nation. Varoujan was born in the Prknig village of Sivas, Turkey. After attending the local school, he was sent in 1896, the year of the Hamidian massacres, to Istanbul, where he attended the Mkhitarian school. He then continued his education at Mourad-Rafaelian school of Venice, and in 1905 entered the university of Ghent in Belgium, where he followed courses in literature, sociology and economics.

In 1909 he returned to his village where he taught for three years. After his marriage in 1912, he became the principal of St. Gregory The Illuminator School in Istanbul. In 1914, Daniel Varoujan established the "Mehian" literary group and magazine with Gosdan Zarian, Hagop Oshagan, Aharon and Kegham Parseghian. The purpose of this movement was to start an Armenian Renaissance, to wake the nation up from centuries of slavery and darkness, to reconnect it to its great Pre-Christian past ("Mehian" means temple), and to encourage it to stand up on its own feet and not tolerate any tyranny, whether from its own corrupt leadership or the Turkish government.

Varoujan has produced four great volumes of poetry: Shivers (1906), The Heart Of The Race (1909), Pagan Songs (1912), and The Song Of The Bread (1921). The last book is an unfinished manuscript which was saved by bribing Turkish officials.

An eyewitness has narrated the torture and martyrdom of Daniel Varoujan, Rouben Sevag (another great Armenian writer), and three others. After being arrested and jailed, they were told that they were being taken to a village. On the way, a Turkish official and his assistant, accompanied by five "policemen" who were armed to the teeth, stopped the convoy.

After robbing the five prisoners, the first two who were in charge left and ordered the other five to take them away. After taking them to the woods, they attacked the prisoners, took off their clothes until all of them were completely naked. Then they tied them one by one to the trees and started cutting them slowly with their knives. Their screams could be heard from a long distance where this eyewitness was hiding.

