



## Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-Ի ԳԼԵՆԴԵԼԻ ԱՐԱՐԱՏ ՄԱՍՆԱԶԻԻՂԻ ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹԱՅԻՆ ԲԱԺԱՆՍՈՒՆՔ

Homenetmen Glendale Ararat Chapter  
Cultural Division

*Get to Know...*

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### **HOVHANNES TUMANIAN**

**February 7, 1869 – March 23, 1923**

Hovannes Toumanian was born on the 19th February, 1869, in the village of Dsegh, Lori District, in the family of Ter-Tadevos, an Armenian priest. Lori, or as ancient Armenians called it, the country of Gugars, was described by the poet Avetik Isahakian as a country of tales and legends, every corner of it a testament, each stone a witness to the heroic past. The poet spent his childhood in Lori.

Toumanian attended the primary school in his native village. He was then a pupil at the Nersesian School in Tiflis, which he left early, leaving

his future education and development to his own efforts according to his tastes and preferences. That is why the famous Russian poet Valeri Bryussov could describe Toumanian as “largely self-educated, and an extremely well—read man.

The rest of Toumanian's life, until his death in 1923, was passed in Tiflis. He did not travel far. His trips were rare and only made when unavoidable. He once made a journey to St. Petersburg and Moscow, but that was a trip in a prison carriage in 1908, taking the poet to trial in court, accused of anti—tsarist activities. Towards the end of his life, in 1921, he travelled again: this time to Constantinople in connection with the work of the Armenian Relief Committee and returned with his health undermined. Lastly, towards the end of 1922, Toumanian, already seriously ill, was taken to Moscow for medical treatment, and it was his remains that were brought back to Tiflis.

Toumanian engaged in numerous public activities. In the autumn of 1912 he sponsored the Caucasian Society of Armenian Writers in Tiflis and was chairman of this society up to 1921. The society organised weekly literary readings and public lectures devoted to Armenian, Georgian and other literatures.

Toumanian saw the supreme goal of art to be the bringing together of men, peoples and nations.

He considered Shakespeare to have succeeded best in this and wrote of him: “He brings all peoples closer together, both to the English nation and to one another. And herein, indeed, lies the magic power of poetry and art in general.”

We can proudly claim that Toumanian's entire work always has and always will serve that noble aim.

Hovhannes Toumanian died on March 23, 1923 at the age of 54 In Moscow.

