



Հ.Մ.Ը.Մ.-ի ԳԼԵՆԴԵԼԻ ԱՐԱՐԱՏ ՄԱՍՆԱՃԻՂԻ  
ՄՇԱԿՈՒԹԱՅԻՆ ԲԱԺԱՆՄՈՒՄՔ

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*Get to Know...*

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## SIAMANTO

**AUGUST 15, 1878 — APRIL 15, 1915**

Siamanto was the pen name for Atom Yarjanian. He was an influential Armenian writer, poet and national figure from the late 19th century and early 20th century.

He was born in 1878, in Agna on the shores of the river Euphrates. He lived in his native town until the age of 14. He studied at the Nersesian institute as a youngling, where he developed an interest in poetry. The school's director encouraged him to continue developing his poetic talents. The director gave him his nickname Siamanto, and Atom would use this name for the rest of his life.

Siamanto came from a middle-upper class family. They moved to Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1891 where he continued his studies at the Berberian institute. He graduated in 1896, during the same year of the bloody Hamidian massacres. Like many other Armenian intellectuals, he fled the country for fear of persecution. He ended up in Egypt .

In 1897, he moved to Paris and enrolled in literature at the prestigious Sorbonne University. He was captivated by philosophy and Middle Eastern literature. He had to work various jobs while pursuing his studies because of his hard financial situation. He developed many ties with well-known Armenian personalities in and outside Paris. He enjoyed reading in French and in Armenian, and read many of the best works of his time.

From Paris he moved to Geneva in Switzerland, and worked for the newspaper *Flag* (Troshag). His first poetic works were published in this newspaper under the headlines of *Heroically* and *The Knight's Song* . The paper was established outside the Ottoman Empire so that it could freely condemn the Turkish authorities and try to get international attention for the plight of the Armenians. *Flag* was highly critical of the Ottoman government and demanded equal rights for Armenians and more autonomy. Siamanto joined the cause and truly believed in an Armenia free of Turkish oppression. Henceforth, many of his works and poems were highly nationalistic.

For the next 4 years, he lived in various European cities such as Paris, Zurich, and Geneva. In 1908, along with many other Armenians, he returned to Constantinople. In 1910, he moved to the United States and immediately found employment at the *Homeland* newspaper (Hayrenik Armenian).

In 1914 he returned to Constantinople , where with hundreds of other fellow Armenian intellectuals was murdered by Turkish authorities during the Armenian Genocide.

