

obstruction of justice. Demands for justice take different faces and various expressions in the literary responses of the second-generation survivor-writers. Alicia Ghiragossian turns to God for an answer and addresses all her complaints and grievances to Him. In a poem titled "Injustice," she seeks explanations from God for human actions and for His silence while massacres are committed and an "entire race/[is] scattered in the deserts/or the concentration camps."³³ She is physically there in Deir el-Zor, making a pilgrimage to that macabre corner of the Syrian desert where hundreds of thousands Armenians met their death, where

... you can feel
 the anger
 of the unburied bones
 and you can hear
 the pounding
 of dried blood
 jolting the earth. (115)

"There is no rest/without justice" (118). She pleads with God to help her confront the world's indifference, "to cure our orphaned roots" (116), and to "[l]et the truth of my people/echo through the waves of the universe." It is ultimately God's will, she says, that justice prevail on earth and that people "live in freedom" (119).

It was rage and frustration caused by Turkish denial of the Armenian Genocide that drove Mae Derdarian to take up a project she had overlooked for years and never imagined it

³³ Ghiragossian, "Injustice," in *Stormy Seas We Brave*, comp. Moussa, pp. 114–19. Quotation from p. 114.