

close association produces hallucinatory encounters in Diana's life:

you spot Varoujan dancing in Harvard Square
 you bump into Siamanto at Wordsworth's bookstore
 you receive a phone call; Tourian is lost in Watertown.⁵⁸

But Shirinian himself is not immune to that strange feeling. He too is one of those Armenian poets who live in the present but dream of the past they have not experienced. In a long and complex abstract poem titled "Delirian,"⁵⁹ consisting of five parts—"Gynecology," "Etymology," "Geneology," "Delirian Bumps into Gigo," and "Delirian the Scribe"—Shirinian records the birth of his alter ego, Delirian, and his interest as a young boy in reading the bloody history of his parent's homeland, the massacres, and the two million of 1915, and looking at the pictures, "astray among the remnants/of his family." *Delirium* is the root of the lyric hero's chosen name and that is his predicament. Hallucinations of Geyve and Marsifon—birthplaces of the poet's parents—make his head spin and his pen incoherent. But he is the Scribe and so he must record: "1990/*In this bitter year/we are again betrayed/To the east they burn our people alive...*" (53).⁶⁰

⁵⁸ Lorne Shirinian, "Armenian Poets, for DDH" in *Earthquake: Poems* (Lewistown, NY: Edwin Mellen Press, 1991), pp. 18–19. Daniel Varoujan (Varouzhan) is another poet that Der Hovanessian admires. He too was murdered in 1915. Bedros Tourian (Petros Dourian) was a Constantinople-born Armenian poet who in his short life (1851–1872) left a rich legacy of romantic poetry and drama.

⁵⁹ Ibid., "Delirian," pp. 42–54.

⁶⁰ Shirinian uses italics to indicate the writings of Delirian the Scribe as witness within the text. The year 1990 marks the beginning of the Azerbaijani attacks on the Armenians of Artsakh (Karabagh). When