

Delirian “wants to write a poem for his father’s love/a poem to take his mother back to her miraculous orchard/Dips again his pen/invents his life/A R M E N I A.” But he wakes up in his own home in Saint-Luc near Saint-Jean, across the Richelieu River from Iberville, covered in snow on an ice-cold morning. Still,

Inside
 Delirian searches for his parents’ home
 tangible, urgent and absent

 Delirian dreams Armenia, l’Arménie, on the Richelieu
 writing
 in this bitter year (54)

In this extended poetic exploration—a kind of “therapy session” (*travail analytique*), as Janine Altounian might put it—the poet is perhaps subconsciously seeking a therapeutic effect.

Yeghern (the Catastrophe) produced enormous suffering and it visits the poet Vehanoush Tekian in her poetry and in her nightmares:

The face of Suffering grimaced and demanded its birth and death from me. It fused its death in me.... Sometimes, it descended like a whip upon the space of my memories. It has no right to live there; it knows that it does not, because I did not give birth to it, did not disparage or ruin it. I wasn’t there listening to the dreadful current of the Euphrates.... That is the way it is. I cannot explain anything without *Yeghern*. There is no desire to accept anything when *Yeghern*,

there were massacres of Armenians living in Azerbaijani towns who dared to aspire to freedom from the tyrannical yoke of Azeri rule, Russia secretly and sometimes openly helped Azeris in their bloody campaign.