

had been more outgoing with affection and had not kept all their good thoughts about us to themselves," she writes. One time, their father told them, "I love you kids very much!" They were "struck dumb and very surprised" (147). Otherwise, there was no emotional support or expression of pride in their achievements. Seeking to understand the reason for this behavior, Ellen attributes it to superstition, i.e. a belief in the evil eye. That may be true. But there was also the trauma of orphanhood and homelessness, and the difficult battle to survive that had forced her father to put up a tough front with no unnecessary emotions. How could she or her siblings have understood and accepted that when they were children who needed parental affection and were unaware of the imposition of the past?

Sarkis was known as a rough tough guy during his youth in Mosul, which is probably where he got the name *Deli* (crazy). But that was only a façade behind which the injured man was hiding. He was scarred both psychologically and physically. He bore two ugly scars where a bayonet had entered his head and his leg as constant reminders of the horrors of the past. He was indeed the embodiment of the Turkish epithet, "leftovers of the sword," which referred to Armenians who "undeservedly" survived. Hemmed in by the responsibilities of providing for his wife and four children, burdened with his tragic losses and horrifying memories, he found solace in alcohol. It seemed to lighten his soul and ease the burden of life he found difficult to bear. Within the family, he tried to keep his temper, not always successfully. Sometimes when something reminded of the Turkish atrocities, he