

Eventually Evelyn's health broke down and she suffered a heart attack and died in 1983 (159-60). Sarkis lived on in the family home for a few years, and then in assisted living and finally a nursing home until his death in 1995. He died alone, but Ellen believes that he died having found redemption in the love of his daughters.

A long time ago, we had forgiven him for the difficulties of growing up with such a wounded, but at the same time such a vibrant and charismatic human being. We knew that he would be forever in our hearts, and his story, along with that of our beloved relatives and the villagers of Keramet, would be with us also. (166)

At roughly the same time, another family lived a comparable life in Tulare, California, which was more peaceful than nearby Fresno,⁵⁰ with less internal skirmishing among followers of opposing Armenian political parties, and more importantly, with less discrimination and prejudice and more tolerance on the part of the local Americans toward the Armenian newcomers. This was the family of Kaspar Gavroian, son of Hovhanness, registered as Kaspar Hovannisian upon entering the USA at Ellis Island in 1920. At 20 years of age, after five turbulent years on his own as the sole surviving member of his family, he had come to join the small community of Armenians in Tulare, mostly refugees from the Kharpert region like himself. For these wretched

⁵⁰ Indeed, Armenians in Fresno suffered a great deal of discrimination and restrictions on landholding, employment, and membership in social clubs. They were even called "Fresno Indians." Many Armenians changed their last name to sound more American or left the city to escape the humiliation.