

pursue his freedom, his American dream. But curiously, what his strictly Armenian home and his very Armenian father had failed accomplish in him, his participation in the San Francisco Armenian Youth Federation, his sojourn in Beirut, the influence of Simon Vratsian and his aura, classes in the Armenian language at the Jemaran, and endless hours of reading in the Armenian classics at the library of the American University of Beirut did. "Richard's Armenian identity had been activated" (78).

The circumstances of Richard Hovannisian's life gave him the equilibrium he needed to comfortably navigate his way through a stormy adolescence to a successful life and career. For some children of survivors, the emotional impediments of resentment, alienation, and distancing lasted much longer, affecting their character, their behavior, and even their future career. Realization of the true meaning of their difficulties with their survivor parents, and the opportunity and the readiness for self-analysis, for direct confrontation with the problem, came to different children at different times.

A time for self-realization

Research on the children of Holocaust survivors indicates that "the trauma of the parents does not usually result in psychopathology in the children. However, some of the children, especially those whose parents do not talk about their own suffering, are affected in their interpersonal relationships."⁵²

⁵² Staub, "Healing and Reconciliation," in *Looking Backward, Moving Forward*, ed. Hovannisian, p. 265.