

(1970) and culminating in his most recent novel, *A Summer Without Dawn*. The latter, as was discussed earlier, tells the life story of Vartan Balian, a fictional character who represents the educated, well-off, law-abiding Armenian citizens of the Ottoman Empire in the service of their country. In the wake of the massacres and deportations, Vartan is arrested and imprisoned. A ludicrous trial is staged, but the only accusation raised against him is his being Armenian. Hacıkyan encapsulates the Turkish objective behind the persecutions and massacres of 1915 in an inscription scratched on the wall of Vartan's prison cell: "The just are condemned because of their race, their language and their faith, and here they await their death."⁴

With this novel, Hacıkyan, the second-generation carrier of historical memory and the Armenian identity, strives in his

⁴ Hacıkyan, *A Summer Without Dawn* (2000), p. 142. The novel evolves around a series of psychological reactions, from disbelief in the government's actions against an entire ethnic group, to shock and disillusionment, which in turn generate a strong determination to survive. "We are really worrying about nothing. This deportation order is just a way to intimidate us. They want to scare us so they can levy another tax on Christians" (p. 54). Such is Vartan's initial reaction to the news of the deportations. As the plot develops, Hacıkyan capitalizes on all the themes that make up the texture of the first generation's conceptualization of the Armenian Genocide: Turkish barbarism contrasted with their goodwill, with examples of altruism to the extent of endangering their own lives to save an Armenian friend; a soliloquy with God, the realization of His abandonment of the nation, then doubting His existence; analysis of the Turkish political situation and the irreparable damage the government policy of extermination has brought about; the alternative of resistance against the harsh measures; and the deplorable outcome.