

Once there was a kingdom... the kingdom of Aghajan Dayi (Uncle Aghajan) and his tenants.... In the Khenchebek quarter of Tigranakert's *Gavur Mahalle*, the kingdom of house number 4 on Direshibashe Street.

Of all the kings, queens, brides, and bridegrooms of that kingdom, now no one lives in that house.... Now others, other people live in our yards and in our rooms. Our pomegranate and black mulberry trees have dried up....

[They] are all now only tombs of soil in the Shishli [Istanbul] Armenian cemetery....

We the living remnants are yearning for our house, our pomegranate and mulberry trees and the shadow they used to cast.¹³

With such ambiguous references, one needs to read between the lines of literature scattered in Istanbul Armenian papers and more recent publications in separate volumes¹⁴ to

¹³ Margosyan, *Mer ayd koghmere* (In those places of ours) (2005), p. 138. The author's stories about the Armenian quarter in Tigranakert /Diyarbakir (he refers to the two interchangeably, although they are not the same) collected in this volume were originally published in *Marmara* and first published in book form in 1984. Subsequent editions appeared in 1994, 1995, and 2000. The majority of the stories were rewritten in Turkish by the author and published under the title *Gâvur Mahallesi* in 1992. The book was also published in Kurdish in 1999.

Margosyan has also published stories of the same genre in Turkish: "Söyle Margos Nerelisin" (Tell us Margos, where are you from, 1995), "Biletimiz Istanbula Kesildi" (Our ticket was to Istanbul, 1998), "Çengelliğne" (Safety pin, 1999).

¹⁴ Aras Yayıncılık (Aras Publishing) of Istanbul is doing a tremendous service in this regard, collecting and publishing stories previously published in Turkish-Armenian papers and even translating them into Turkish and making them available to Turkish readers. Also important to mention is Belge Uluslararası Yayıncılık (Belge International Publishing) in Istanbul, founded in 1977 by