

herded them together with the few Greeks they found into the Armenian church and set them on fire. Vahram remembers that if it hadn't been for Ahmet Efendi, the government physician, they would all have burned alive. Ahmet Efendi arrived on the scene and, seeing the brutality, ordered the bandits to stop, open the doors, and let the victims out. Vahram and his family were saved, but had no home to return to. He had also received a deep wound in his arm which accompanied him for life.

Yalçın met Vahram Garabent and Ohan Özant in the latter's home in Istanbul. Both had reluctantly left their hometowns and migrated to Istanbul many years earlier. Ohan Özant was born in Amasya in 1915. He never saw his father who was drafted into the army and murdered together with other Armenian draftees. The rest of his family was deported. Ohan was almost ten when, after going through tremendous hardship, returned to Amasya with his mother to find that their home and belongings had been confiscated. They were lucky to get temporary shelter in the home of their Turkish neighbor until they could find the means to live on. Other Armenian families, or the remnants of families, also managed to return. But altogether Armenians were not welcomed and were constantly harassed by government officials. With great fear and bewilderment they stood witness to the destruction of Amasya's Armenian church and school building. Armenians began to leave Amasya to escape the repression, and, as the town was gradually emptied of its meager Armenian population, Ohan and his mother moved to Istanbul. Ohan never renounced his religion. He was conscious of his Armenian identity, and although he was