

He was born in 1889 in Khultig (now Aredağ),<sup>15</sup> a village fifteen kilometers southwest of Bitlis. He was a student in an American boarding school when the entire village and his extended family of 57 were murdered during the Hamidian massacres of 1894–96. The sight of the ransacked village, the dead bodies scattered around, the body of his priest father who had been tortured, and those of his relatives and friends, knocked him unconscious.<sup>16</sup> The shock caused a mental breakdown from which he recovered only because a Canadian missionary woman took charge of him and nursed him back to health. After graduating from the Kharbert American *Yeprat* (Euphrates) College, he went to Istanbul, and he was actually serving in the military, participating in the First World War, when orders came to send him away, that is, to kill him, as was done to all the Armenian conscripts in the Turkish army. His Turkish comrades helped him escape.

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Markaryan's obituaries published in various papers of the time and pieces written in memoriam by close friends and relatives.

<sup>15</sup> The law passed in 1949 gave the government the right to change village names that were not in Turkish.

<sup>16</sup> The village of Khultig was revived only to be completely destroyed and the Armenian population massacred in 1915, under the vengeful eyes of Cevdet, by his *kesab taburi* (butcher battalions). Cevdet did in Bitlis what he had not been able to do in Van. Der Markaryan speaks of Khultig's revival and of his short visit to the village in *Ardzagank yev Antsorde*, p. 122, in a story about a woman in the village called Shushan). He alludes to the massacres of 1915 at the end of the story as years after his visit a ferocious mob attacked Shushan, she threw herself from a cliff "to save the honor of her race and her gender; she volunteered martyrdom" (p. 125).