

It was in this atmosphere that Kemal Yalçın set out to search for the traces of two Greek sisters whose uprooted family had entrusted their dowry to his grandfather.²⁷ He heard disjointed stories from old Greek refugees about Armenian women who converted to Islam or married a Turk to stay alive in the Amasya, Taşova, and Erbaa regions.²⁸ But Yalçın's motivation to learn about the Armenian tragedy was his love and admiration for the beautiful and delicate Meliné, an instructor of Armenian origin in the teachers' retraining program offered especially to Turkish teachers in Germany.

Meliné's fragmented statements referring to the events of 1915 had puzzled him: "[It's] an exclusive old Armenian carpet, most likely from Erzerum, Kars, or Van," she had once commented about a carpet she had bought in Cologne. "There are no Armenians left in those regions to weave carpets.... One can see the deep sense of fear that has penetrated the colors and the images" (p. 28). Slowly reciprocating the genuine friendship he offered her and developing a trust in his abilities

²⁷ Kemal Yalçın remembers his grandfather recounting that there were a thousand Greeks living peacefully with a thousand Turks in the town of Honaz, and then one day in September 1920 all the Greek men were gone (exiled? slaughtered?). The remaining women and children were deported afterwards. The Yalçın's Greek neighbors, the Minoğlus, entrusted them with the dowry of their two daughters in the hope of returning one day. The Yalçın family kept the dowry for 70 years. Only in the 1990s, when Kemal was a free citizen living abroad, did his parents ask him to go to Greece, find the Minoğlus, and return the dowry to them. Surprisingly, he was able to find the descendants of the Minoğlu family and return the entrusted dowry. *Emanet Çeyiz* is the narration of the author's amazing quest.

²⁸ Yalçın, *Hogis kezmov ke khayta* (2003), p. 27.