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Muslim Armenians, A Paradox?

Among Armenian families who converted to Islam, some embraced the new religion wholeheartedly; others feigned adherence to Islam but practiced their Christian faith in secret and held on to their traditions. Regardless of these choices, they were all subjected to discrimination and prejudice.

It should be noted at this juncture that wholesale conversion to Islam has its precedents in the history of Armenians in the Ottoman Empire. Forced to accept the religion of Islam out of fear during a catastrophic event, or simply to overcome constant persecution, Armenians have seen Islam gradually take root in subsequent generations. Time and environment have forged true believers of Islam out of some of them. The Islamized Hamshen Armenians are an example. They are firm in their Muslim religion but are also