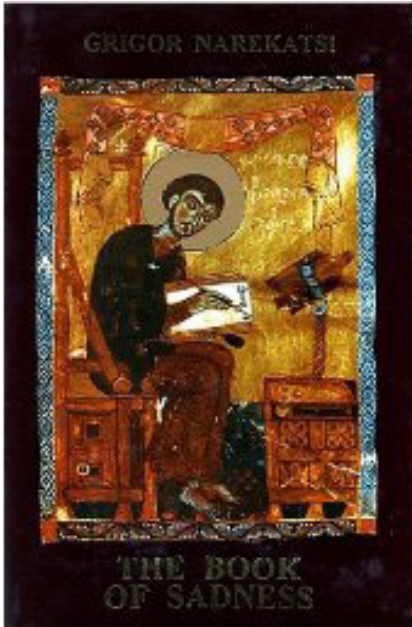


ON DIGESTS TO NAREKATSI

HACHATOOR



Grigor Narekatsi. The Book of Sadness. Transl. by V. Khachaturyan, Yerevan, "Nairi", 2001.

The scenic performance presented herewith is an attempt to invite attention of the Christian members of the general public to the phenomenon of St. Grigor of Narek (Narekatsi), the greatest Armenian poet and thinker, the theological writer and the author of several masterpieces of the 10th-century Armenian literature. The text of the recital is one among the multitude of possible digests, which can be extracted from *The Book of Lamentations* by St. Narekatsi with a view to some spritual subjects. This audio show may stimulate a listener to further acquaintance with the subject matter.

One of the most significant texts in Armenian Literature is "Matian Voghbergutian" ("The Book of Sadness" or "The Book of Lamentations") by Grigor Narekatsi (950 – 1003). It is still waiting to be translated into many languages. Its verbal, grammatical and semantic perfection lines this masterpiece of Armenian Medieval Christian writing up to the rank of unparalleled treasures of culture worldwide. Translation of this masterpiece into another language is a very complicated operation calling forth the deepest resources of the target language. *This short example shows that the contemporary English language can honorably stand up to the assignment of conveying the great poetry inspired by God.*

Տէր Աստուած ամենայնի զարաւոր յամենայնի	Lord-God of all, mighty in all,
Անպարագիր, անվայրափակ տեղի ամենեցուն,	Space, infinite for all existence and limitless,
Բոլոր իսկութեամբ հուպ յամենեսին, Անուրեք վայրից, եւ չիք սահման առանց քո,	In all your substance proximal to all, You are in all quarters, with no limit,
Ոչ երեւեալ երբէք եւ ոչ տեսականութիւն առանց քո ծագման լուսաւոր:	You are never seen, But there is no vision without your base of light.
Փառք սհաւորութեան, անուն	Glory immeasurable, name

անհասութեան, կոչումն մեծութեան,	unfathomable, Summons of greatness,
Ձայն անբաւութեան, իսկութիւն անքննութեան,	Voice of infinity, entity inscrutable.
Անմատչելի հեռաւոր եւ անընդմիջելի մերձաւոր,	Remote inaccessibly, inseparably close,
Տեսող հեծութեան, նկատիչ թշուառութեան,	You only hear wails and see misfortunes,
Մատակաց թախծութեան, ամենաբոյժ հնար անճարութեան,	You counter despair, o, skillful healer of the ruined,
Հայր գթութեանց, ծագող ողորմութեան, Աստուած մխիթարութեան:	The Father of mercy, the Begetter of almsgiving, God of consolation!