

ARAM I. KATOLIKOS CILICIJE
ARMENSKA CRKVA
Uvod u armensko kršćanstvo

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ARAM I.

ARMENSKA CRKVA

Uvod u armensko kršćanstvo



INSTITUT DRUŠTVENIH ZNANOSTI
IVO PILAR

Split, 2026.

*U spomen na milijun i pol žrtava
Armenskog genocida (1915.)
koji su kanonizirani
23. travnja 2015. godine*

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INTRODUCTION

The importance of the book *The Armenian Church – an introduction to Armenian Christianity*

“I would like to see any world power destroy this race, this little tribe of insignificant people, whose history is over, whose wars have all been fought and lost, whose structures have fallen apart, whose literature is unread, whose music is not listened to, whose prayers are no longer said. Go ahead, destroy this race. Go ahead, destroy Armenia. See if you can do it. Send them into the desert without bread or water. Burn their homes and churches. Then see if they laugh and sing and pray again. For when the two of them meet anywhere in the world, see if they don’t create a New Armenia.” — William Saroyan (1908-1981)

(The most famous quote by Armenian-American writer William Saroyan [taken from the end of a short story he wrote in 1935. It was first published in a collection of short stories titled “Inhale and Exhale.”])

The new book of His Holiness Aram I., the forty-fifth Catholicos of the Catholicate of the Great House of Cilicia (Կաթողիկոսութիւն Հայոց Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ): *The Armenian Church – An Introduction to Armenian Christianity*, a distinguished spiritual head of the church and supporter of ecumenism from Lebanon, is a kind of introduction to Armenian Christianity, as it

UVOD

Važnost knjige *Armenska Crkva – uvod u armensko kršćanstvo*

“Volio bih vidjeti bilo koju svjetsku silu kako uništava ovu rasu, ovo malo pleme nevažnih ljudi, čija je povijest završena, čiji su ratovi svi vođeni i izgubljeni, čije su se strukture raspale, čija je književnost nepročitana, čija se glazba ne sluša, čije se molitve više ne izgovaraju. Samo naprijed, uništi ovu rasu. Samo naprijed, uništi Armeniju. Vidi možeš li to učiniti. Pošaljite ih u pustinju bez kruha i vode. Spalite njihove domove i crkve. Zatim pogledajte hoće li se opet smijati, pjevati i moliti. Jer kad se njih dvojica sretnu bilo gdje u svijetu, vidi neće li stvoriti Novu Armeniju.” — William Saroyan (1908.- 1981.)

(Najpoznatiji citat armensko-američkog književnika Williama Saroyana (uzet je s kraja kratke priče koju je napisao 1935. Prvi put je objavljen u zbirci kratkih priča pod naslovom “Udahni i izdahni”).)

Nova knjiga Njegove Svetosti Arama I., četrdeset i petog katolikosa Katolikata Velike Kuće Cilicije (Կաթողիկոսութիւն Հայոց Մեծի Տանն Կիլիկիոյ): *The Armenian Church – An Introduction to Armenian Christianity*, uglednog duhovnog crkvenog poglavara i pobornika ekumenizma iz Libanona, svojevrsni je uvod u armensko

says in its subtitle. He himself is the author of almost thirty theological titles from the history of the Armenian Apostolic Church, from the first: Nerses the Gracious: Theologian and Ecumenist (Beirut, 1974), to the painful topics of modern Armenian history: Der Zor: A National Sanctuary, (Antelias, 2005), also understanding the needs of ecumenical dialogue: Pour un Monde Transformé (Antelias, 2006), and work with young people: Dialogue with the Youth, (Montreal, 2009). The latest book by His Holiness Catholicos Aram I, an active factor in ecumenical dialogue, is a 241-page pocket-sized book, published by the Armenian Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia in Antelias, Lebanon, in 2016. The book cover features a photograph of the Church of St. Mary in the Armenian Monastery located in the village of Bikfaya above Beirut, where the monument to the victims of the Armenian Genocide of 1915 is located. It is a massive bronze sculpture of an abstract woman standing with her arms open to the sky, erected on April 24, 1969. The Armenian community of Lebanon visits this monument every year on April 24, as well as, since 2015, the Genocide Museum in Byblos. Pilgrimages alternated with the memorial chapel at the Armenian Catholicosate in Antelias. The Seminary in Bikfaya is the heart of the Catholicosate of the Great House of Cilicia and therefore its depiction is a logical symbolic choice for the cover image.

The history of Armenia over the past 2000 plus years since the apostolic times has been marked by martyrdom for the Christian faith, and for devotion and fidelity to Christ. Ever since King

kršćanstvo, kako i stoji u njezinu podnaslovu. Sam autor je gotovo tridesetak teoloških naslova iz povijesti Armenske Apostolske Crkve, sve od prvoog: *Nerses the Gracious: Theologian and Ecumenist* (Bejrut, 1974.), preko bolnih tema moderne armenske povijesti: *Der Zor: A National Sanctuary*, (Antelias, 2005.), razumijevajući i potrebe ekumenskog dijaloga: *Pour un Monde Transformé* (Antelias, 2006.), i rada s mladim: *Dialogue with the Youth*, (Montreal, 2009.). Najnovija knjiga Njegove Svetosti katolikosa Arama I., aktivnog čimbenika ekumenskog dijaloga opsegom je džepnog formata od 241 stranice, tiskana je u nakladi Armenskog katolikata Velike Kuće Cilicije u Anteliasu, u Libanonu, 2016. godine. Na ovitku knjige je fotografija crkve sv. Marije u armenskom samostanu smještenom u selu Bikfayi iznad Bejruta, gdje se nalazi spomenik žrtava armenskog genocida 1915. godine. To je masivna brončana skulptura apstraktne žene koja stoji ruku otvorenih prema nebu, postavljenoj 24. travnja 1969. godine. Armenska zajednica Libanona posjećuje ovaj spomenik svake godine 24. travnja, kao i od 2015. godine Muzej genocida u Biblosu. Hodočašća su izmjenjivala sa spomen-kapelom u armenskom katolikosatu u Anteliasu. Sjemenište u Bikfayi srce je Katolikata Velike Kuće Cilicije i stoga je njegov prikaz logičan simbolički odabir za sliku ovitka.

Armenska povijest posljednjih 1700 godina obilježena je mučeničkim svjedočenjem kršćanske vjere, te odanosti i vjernosti Kristu. Sve

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