

ARMENIAN POPULAR SONGS

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Armenian Popular Songs by Ghewond M. Alishan

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GHEWOND M. ALISHAN

**ARMENIAN
POPULAR SONGS**

ARMENIAN
POPULAR SONGS
TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH
BY THE R. LEO M. ALISHAN DD.
OF THE MECHITARISTIC SOCIETY



VENICE

—
S. LAZARUS 1852

TO
EDWARD ZORRAB HOO
CONSUL GENERAL
OF
THE SUBLIME PORTE
ECC. ECC. ECC.

In presenting to the British Public this volume of a Collection of our Armenian Popular Songs, we have thought that we could not dedicate it to any person with greater propriety than to Yourself—the most conspicuous representative of our nation in the English metropolis; who in spite of the fatigue and cares of diplomacy can find leisure to cultivate the Muses.

The cordiality with which You receive the members of our Society—who from time to time visit England, has emboldened us to publish the friendship that subsists between us, the strongest tie which connects Connationals in a foreign country.

*And this friendship and respect for You, we doubt not
would be shared with us, by any studious Englishman who may
peruse and favourably receive our little work.*

London 22 August 1852.

LEO M. ALISHAN DD.

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POPULAR SONGS**

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TO THE BRITISH PUBLIC

To your enterprising spirit of inquiry, which more than any other nation has extended its researches into the regions of the East, this little collection of ARMENIAN POPULAR SONGS is presented. It is not be denied that from a nation like the Armenian, which boasts, and justly, of being one of the most ancient of the East, and which has possessed for so long a period the advantages of a cultivated and flourishing literature, something more copious and elegant might have been expected: but considering the frequent revolutions of that unhappy nation, and the incursions of so many barbarous tribes, which, during the oppressive slavery to which they reduced its inhabitants, not only destroyed its arts and literature, but even extinguished the last gleam of the poetic fire of the Sons of Ararat: it is hoped that even this humble collection offered as a specimen only, and

for the first time translated into an European language, may find favour with a People, so enlightened, and one that so greatly encourages every work calculated to illustrate any portion of the vast field of Ancient East.

ARMENIAN POPULAR SONGS

I.

*On Leo son of Haithon I. **

I say alas ! for Leo, who has fallen
 Into slavery into the power of Moslems.
 My light, my light, and holy Virgin!
 The holy Cross aid Leo and all!

The Sultan is come into the meydan *,
 He plays with his golden globe.
 My light, my light, and holy Virgin!
 The holy Cross aid Leo and all!

He played and gave it to Leo:
 " Take, play and give it to thy papa. „
 My light, my light, and holy Virgin!
 The holy Cross aid Leo and all!

" Leo, if thou wilt become Moslem,
 „ I and my fosterfather slaves to thee. „