ANOTHER DROP THAT BECAME AN OCEAN

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Category: Opinions

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I read both Benon Sevan's and Ara Manoogian's articles with interest, and I must say both sides have points I agree with. However, I thought Sevan's article was somewhat boring. Not that I want to sound disrespectful but rather am a bit skeptical about his intentions. Why is it always the same? Whenever people complain, there is always someone who seems to be satisfied and comes out in public to say that he is happy and that we should not protest. Why do some people like being the odd man out? We all know how much Armenia has developed, not that we are blind. Neither are we ungrateful.

Sevan claims he understands Armenia has achieved a great deal in a short time, but we don't. Well, we all do. If necessity is the mother of invention, dissatisfaction is the mother of complaints (or agitations, if you like). Nobody is groaning about what we have achieved. But we do need to and are justified to object about the things we didn't achieve when we could have done so. Two wrongs don't make a right.

Is Mr. Sevan suggesting that we ignore the corruption we see around, the financial problems of the people, the Armenian government's utter disregard of the various problems faced by citizens, the number of migrants who leave as if to earn a livelihood but land in more poverty and sometimes even in jail? Has anyone noted the rise in prostitution in Armenia? Why are young mothers taking to the age-old trade as means of feeding their children and educating them? Why are so many Armenians joining other faiths? By faiths I don't mean recognized religions but Jehovah's Witnesses or whatever they are called? Why are there so many disgraceful cases in the army? Why is there a sudden hike in the number of suicides? Why is the Armenian Church neglecting our old churches and is busy building a new seat for his "holiness" in Yerevan? Or why are our soldiers, who fought in

the Karabagh war of which all of us seem to be proud of left neglected? Why? Is it because we achieved so much?

Have you watched elections in Armenia? Have you seen the oligarchs demanding and bribing the population to vote for them? I know what my mother goes through at every election. I know how many of her friends were kicked out of work for not voting for the owner of the company where she works. Is this what we have achieved? Or do we ignore these because we seem to have achieved a lot in mere 20-year independence? How many questions do I have to ask to realize that we have achieved so little?

I agree that we shouldn't only complain. But we shouldn't blindly praise either, or act like the only satisfied person. Anyone can blindly praise the government, but we do not live in the Stalin era. Is it the duty of the government to address all the issues? If you claim it can't, then I'll affirm it's not capable of running the affairs of the county and should resign.

We all are to blame. We elect the government and then we complain. Levon Ter-Petrossian runs again for elections. He has no chance, but even if the people--the same people who seem to have forgotten his tenure and who kicked him out--elect him president, within a week protests will start to flow. We love complaining. We need more democracy and less of mafia rule and less of oligarchy. And let the Church remember God sometimes. That's what we want.

As to how much Armenia or rather Yerevan has developed, we all can see...Yerevan is developing. Are the Armenians of Armenia?