

THE SERVANT WHO KNOWS HIS MASTER

Posted on August 6, 2009 by Keghart



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A Contemporary Variation of the Popular Folktale

“The Khoja and the Eggplant”

By Lucine Kasbarian, [Satiricon](#), August 2009

✘ *Analyticon.org, an Armenian political affairs magazine is published in Stepanakert. Their print version is in Armenian, while the online publication offers articles in Armenian as well as English and Russian translations. Keenly aware of the serious nature of political jockeying, the editors have decided to produce a political satire issue for the summer, called **Satiricon**, where many writers in Armenia and Artsakh have written candidly and humorously about current affairs. Lucine Kasbarian is one of the contributors. An illustrated Armenian folktale retold by her will be published next year. Analyticon relies heavily on the financial support of readers in Artsakh, Armenia as well as the Diaspora. Readers of Keghart are encouraged to support Satiricon and its parent Analyticon.org to continue the vital tradition of Hagop Baronian, Yervant Odian, Saroukhan and Khigar, to name a few.*
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The President of Armenia, Serzh Sargsyan, was often a guest at the court of the famed wise man and spiritual leader, Nasreddin Khoja.

One day following their meetings, President Sargsyan was commanded to stay for supper, where khash was served.

"This is my favorite dish!" proclaimed the Khoja, "I love nothing more than khash."

"Quite right, Effendi," said President Sargsyan to his host, "Khash is the greatest delicacy in all the world!"

Weeks later, the Armenian President was again commanded to stay for supper, and again, khash was served. The Khoja flew into a rage. He called out to his wife.

"Once was bad enough! Why did you again prepare this infernal dish when I am entertaining such an important guest? Don't you know how much I hate khash?"

The Khoja looked to President Sargsyan as if expecting a response.

"I could not agree more, Effendi," said the President "I, too, hate khash. It is the vilest dish in the world."

"But President," said the Khoja, "Weeks ago, you said khash was the greatest delicacy in all the world!"

"Quite right, Effendi, I did," said the President. "But I am the servant of your Eminence, not of the khash."



Other contributions to Keghart by Lucine Kasbarian

[Top Twenty Tall Turkish Tales](#)

[Pari \(Ch\)desank, Yovanovitch](#)

[Armenia: Yesterday, Today, and Maybe No Tomorrow](#)

Cartoonist: Alvard Grigoryan

Ծառան, ով ճանաչում է իր տիրոջը

Translator to Armenian: Anna Galstyan

Հայաստանի նախագահ Սերժ Սարգսյանին հաճախ հյուրընկալում էր հանրաճանաչ իմաստուն եւ հոգեւոր առաջնորդ Լասրեդին Խոջան:

Մի օր նրանց հանդիպումից հետո Սերժ Սարգսյանին առաջարկում են մտալ ընթրիքի, որի ժամանակ խաշ էր մատուցվելու:

-Դա իմ նախընտրած ճաշատեսակն է,- ասաց Խոջան,- խաշից առավել ես ոչինչ չեմ սիրում:

-Իհարկե, Էֆենդի,- պատասխանեց Սերժ Սարգսյանը,- խաշը լավագույն ճաշն է աշխարհիս երեսին:

Շաբաթներ անց Հայաստանի նախագահին կրկին հրավիրեցին ընթրիքի, եւ կրկին խաշ մատուցվեց: Խոջան բարկացավ: Կանչեց իր կնոջը.

-Մեկ անգամը լիովին բավական էր: Ինչու՞ ես այս դժոխային կերակուրը նորից պատրաստել այս կարեւորագույն հյուրի համար: Չգիտե՞ս, թե ես ինչքան եմ խաշն ատում:

Ապա Խոջան նայեց նախագահ Սարգսյանին, կարծես նրանից սպասելով ինչ-որ արձագանք:

-Ես համաձայն եմ Ձեզ հետ, Էֆենդի, ես նույնպես ուղղակի ատում եմ այդ կերակուրը: Այն աշխարհի վատագույն ճաշն է:

-Բայց, նախագահ,- նկատեց Խոջան,- մի քանի շաբաթ առաջ Դուք ասացիք, որ խաշը լավագույնն է աշխարհում:

-Միանգամայն ճիշտ է, Էֆենդի, ես ասել եմ դա,- պատասխանեց,- բայց ես Ձերո՞րդ Գերագանցութեան ծառան եմ, այլ ոչ թե Ձեր խաշի:

Donations may be made through www.MoneyGram.com to Analyticon c/o ArtsakhBank CJSC, Stepanakert, Armenia.

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