PROMOTING THE DEFEAT LAP

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Category: Opinions

By Jirair Tutunjian, Toronto, 18 March 2025

This is the transcript of a recent telephone conversation between two leading Turkish journalists.

EKSOY SHAH: *Sabah khayir*, *arkadash*.

IMAD TARAF: Do you know it's 5 a.m.? Why did you wake me up? This better be important.

ESH: I was going to ask you whether you've been invited to Ermenistan by their president …*Sakhalluh* Pashinoglu? I heard a dozen or so Turkish journalists have been invited.

IT: No, I haven't.

ESH: You know when racing drivers win, they make a victory lap to brandish their victory, to boast, to show-off. But I haven't seen a defeated president or prime minister do a defeat lap. *Sarsam* Pashinyan Is doing a defeat lap by professing his defeat at the hands of our little brother Baby Aliyev. *Sakhat* Pashinyan seems to want to show us the X-rays of his rout. Criminals and other wrong-doers often have the urge to confess. Our Baby Aliyev certainly eviscerated, emaciated, and disemboweled Nicky.

IT: Hey, it looks like you've been reading the *Turkish Roget's thesaurus*.

ESH: Never mind. Listen to this: it's an all-expense-paid trip. It's what travel writers call junket. In other words, *Sarsakh* Pashinyan, the head of an impoverished country, will spend many thousands of dollars to promote himself. I think he has invited twelve Turkish journalists and one from the Ermeni *Agos* of Istanbul.

IT: Had I been invited, I wouldn't have accepted.

ESH: Come on…you have never refused a junket. I am sure they would serve dishes they have stolen from us…*lehmechoun, harissa,* and *shish kebab* which they call *khorovadz*. But they have decent brandies. They might give you a bottle or two to celebrate eternal Turkish-Armenian friendship…or as we say in the business to "lubricate the wheels." Have you Googled Armenia's tourist attractions?

IT: Why would I do that?

ESH: Armenia's main attractions are Garni Temple, Tatev Monastery, Geghard Monastery, Haghpad and Sanahin Monasteries, Noravank, Cathedral of Echmiadzin… all *gavoor* churches. Now a brain-dead Armenia oligarch is erecting a statue of the main gavoor idol *Yasoug Massih* which will be taller than the one in Rio de Janeiro.

IT: You are being unnecessarily nasty. You have not mentioned Armenia has the world's longest cable car at Tatev Monastery.

ESH: It doesn't count: it was built by the Austrians or was it the Swiss?

IT: Let's not kid ourselves: almost all of Turkey's famous tourist sites are natural formations. Turkey's man-made famous tourist sites were all built by Greeks. You also didn't mention the Lake Sevan resort.

ESH: But a number of churches overlook Lake Sevan. Armenian tourist promoters—I am using the descriptive generously--idiotically boast that Ermenistan has 4,000 churches. Who would tour Armenia so as to see its million churches? There's also Karahunge…but that's a pagan church.

IT: How about visiting the caves where the oldest shoe was found…or the oldest winery?

ESH: I see you are persuading yourself to go on the junket. By the way, what have they done since their independence thirty-five years ago? They built that monument of the alleged genocide. It's a tourist attraction now. We should build a genocide museum ten times the size of the *Ermenlerin* farce museum. We should call it *The Martyr Trio Museum: Enver, Cemal, and Talaat.*

IT: The so-called Armenian genocide museum was built long before their so-called independence.

ESH: You know something…I too might accept the invitation. For nearly a thousand years, we have tried to eliminate this accursed race. We have tried everything: we drove them to the four corners of the globe, we destroyed their towns and stole their wives and the young…and yet they survive. Now their standard of living is higher than ours and they are better educated.

It: Despite Pashinoglu.

ESH: You know what? I'll go if they invite me. My article will be titled *From Armenia With Love.* A touch of our famed diplomacy there.

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Comments

Jirair T – 2025-03-20 22:58:42
Thank you, Setrag. Keghart readers might remember the plot of "The Bridge Over River Kwai" movie which focused on the building of a bridge by British prisoners of war to connect Rangoon to Bangkok to facilitate Japanese penetration of Southeast Asia.. Although the prisoners are against the idea of aiding the enemy, their superior officer (Col. Nicholson played by Sir Alec Guinness) orders them to build the bridge. At the end of the movie,,when it's too late, Col. Nicholson realizes his folly. His expression of realization contains multiple emotions and is one of the dramatic highlights of the movie. We now have our own Col. Nicholson in Pashinyan. Will he realize his multiple follies? Will it be too late? People are saying it already is.

Setrag M. – 2025-03-20 21:53:26
Mr. Tutunjian did it again, providing literary enjoyment and a political message. Thank you.

David Davidian – 2025-03-20 07:50:33
And the night before Imad Taraf was to travel to Armenia, he had a dream. In that dream, a military person appeared to speak English and broken Turkish to him. Taraf woke up in a torrent of sweat and tried to remember the words. He went online and typed in what he remembered and had no luck finding the quote. He then tried an AI tool, and to his utter shock, it was a quote from US General George Patton, "For over a thousand years, Roman conquerors returning from the wars enjoyed the honor of triumph, a tumultuous parade. In the procession came trumpeters, musicians, strange animals from conquered territories, carts laden with treasure, and captured armaments. The conquerors rode in a triumphal chariot, the dazed prisoners walking in chains before him. Sometimes, his children robed in white, stood with him in the chariot, or rode the trace horses. A slave stood behind the conqueror holding a golden crown and whispering in his ear a warning: that all glory is fleeting." Taraf ran to the window and shouted, "Allah yardım etsin." -Yerevan, Armenia