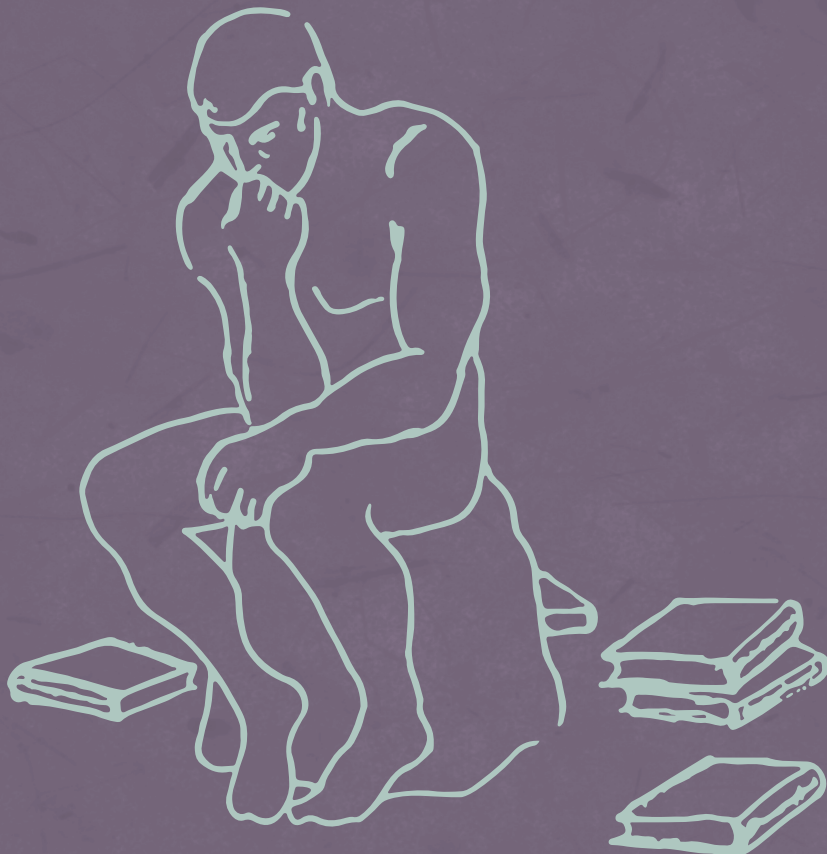


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YEREVAN – 2019

Grigor Magistros PAHLAVUNI (990–1058)



Manucheh and Grigor Magistros

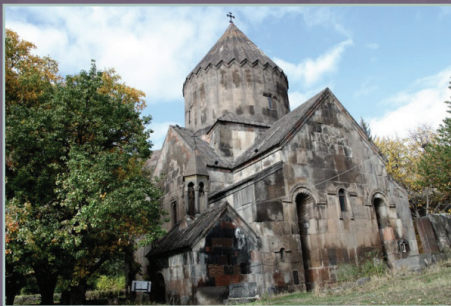
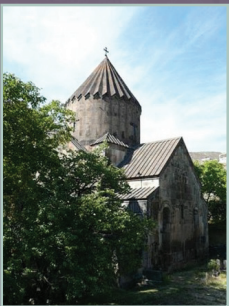
(miniature 1763-1764, copy, Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts "Matenadaran", Manuscript "d 6988")

Magistros Pahlavuni or Grigor Magistros Bijnetsi – an Armenian philosopher, educator, poet, and political, military and church figure – received his education at the schools of Ani and Constantinople. He founded a seminary where he taught rhetoric, philosophy, grammar, and mathematics. The Byzantine Emperor awarded him the title of Magister. In 1048, Grigor Magistros became governor of Southern Armenian Provinces and Mesopotamia.

According to Grigor Magistros, education should start from Bible reading, mythology studies, and memorising beautiful passages from Homeric and Platonic works: it will prepare the ground for further studies of grammar, rhetoric, logic, arithmetic, geometry, astronomy, and music. In 1031, he founded St. Astvatsatsin (Holy Mother of God) Church in Bjni, St. Gregory the Illuminator's Church in Kecharis, St. Savior in Javits Tar, etc. St. Astvatsatsin church of Bjni was also known as Magistros' Seminary since it was a centre of medieval Armenian writing. The monastery maintained its fame in the 12th century under the administration of Grigor Magistros's son – Armenian Catholicos Grigor Pahlavuni.

Grigor Magistros was inspired by the ideas of Plato and David the Invincible. He developed the Neo-Platonism of the latter. Grigor Magistros's legacy comprises volumes, among which, we should highlight "Commentary on Old Grammar" – the critical medieval research on Armenian grammar – and the "Letters" – on scientific and cultural and educational tendencies in biology, medicine, cosmology, and music. Grigor Magistros is also known as an author of poems and chants with particular reference to the Bible. His chants are involved in the religious collection of chants. He also translated works by Greek and Assyrian authors.

St. Astvatsatsin Monastery in Bjni (Armenia)



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