

6149 North 9th Street
Fresno, CA 93710-5817

December 24, 1996

His Beatitude Archbishop Torkom Manoogian
Armenian Patriarch of Jerusalem
Armenian Patriarchate
P.O.Box 14001
Jerusalem, ISRAEL 91140

Your Beatitude:

Your article in the July-September, 1996, issue of Sion, "Shnorhali Kertogh," pleased me intensely. In it you wrote about and analyzed metrical elements of Shnorhali's poetry in considerable detail, in a way that spoke intimately to my own feelings in the matter.

In spare, reflective moments I often think about the metric patterns -- iambic and anapestic phrases, and their interaction.

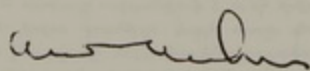
Frequently, when I am alone on a long walk, I match my step with my mental singing of, say, "Norasteghdzeal."

While reading about "Norahrash" in your article, there came to mind a somewhat related matter that I had learned long ago. It is that in the ten verses (which, as an acrostic, spells "Nersesi Erg," -- should it not be "Nersisi?") the eight names from Vardan to Garegin have a numerical value (force) of 666, the force of the classical Armenian alphabet. The enclosed chart shows that. But note the spellings of Khoren and Arsen.

Even more, the opening phrase of the 9th verse, "Ramkakan ... vetsits" also has a force of 666. The chart shows this as well.

It all seems wonderful to me. That is, Shnorhali was wonderfully inspired.

Yours faithfully,



Arra S. Avakian

Enclosure

G E M A T R I A

Վարդան	90
Խորեն	96
Արտակ	80
Հմայեակ	79
Տաճատ	83
Վահան	72
Արսեն	89
Գարեգին	77
Total	666

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + n = \frac{n(n + 1)}{2}$$

$$1 + 2 + 3 + \dots + 36 = 666$$

$$\begin{array}{cccccccc} \text{Րամկական խուժք հազարաց եւ երեսնից թիւ ընդ վեցից} & = & 666 \\ 107 & 93 & 90 & 39 & 137 & 54 & 34 & 112 \end{array}$$