

LEVON ZEKIYAN - 75

Archbishop Boghos Levon Zekiyan is an Armenologist, philosopher, Professor of Armenian Language and Literature at Ca' Foscari University of Venice, Pontifical Oriental Institute of Rome and Istanbul University, a member of the Academy of Venice, Foreign member of the Armenian National Academy of Sciences (1994), Corresponding member of the Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti. He is the Armenian Catholic Archeparch of Istanbul. Zekiyan is the Founding President of the Associazione "Padus-Araxes", the director of Summer Intensive Course of the Armenian Language and Culture at the University of Venice (since 1986), and former editor of *Hye Endanik* (1974-82) and *Bazmavep* (1980-1985) periodicals.

Boghos Levon Zekiyan was born in 1943 (October 21) in Constantinople. He finished the Mekhitarist Seminary of San Lazzaro degli Armeni (1959) and Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Rome (Master in Philosophy (1962), and in Theology (1966)). He was ordained a priest in 1967.

He completed his Ph.D. dissertation ("The Principle of Interiority in St. Augustine's Theory of Knowledge and the self-knowledge of the knowing subject") at the State University of Istanbul in 1973. From 1982 to 1985 he was the Principal of Moorat-Raphael College, and also the Secretary of the Armenian Academy of the Mekhitarist Fathers at San Lazzaro in Venice (1974-81). He is also visiting Professor of American Armenian International College of the University of La Verne, CA (1988/89 - 1991/92). Levon Zekiyan was Chief Organizer of the "Giornate di Studio: Gli Armeni nella cultura italiana" (1982, 1983, 1984, 1986) and 5th International Symposium on Armenian Art (1988), also - scientific coordinator of the Exhibition "The Armenians in Italy" (1990), founder and director of the Summer Intensive Course of the Armenian Language and Culture organized by the Moorat-Raphael College (1984-1986) and Summer Intensive Course of the Armenian Language and Culture at the University of Venice (1986-).

Scholarly interests of Boghos Levon Zekiyan include Armenian studies, particularly literature and philology, history and identity, as well as philosophical and theological issues.

In 2014 Pope Francis appointed Archpriest Levon Zekiyan as apostolic administrator "sede plena" of the archieparchy of Istanbul of the Armenians in Turkey, elevating him to the dignity of Archbishop.

With direct efforts of Levon Bogos Zekiyan the saint of the Armenian Apostolic Church Grigor Narekatsi was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis in 2015 in Vatican.

He knows, besides Armenian (classical and modern), Italian, French, English, German, Turkish, Russian and Modern Greek (both elementary), Georgian (initial), Latin, Classical Greek, Biblical Hebrew (elementary).

Selected bibliography of Boghos Levon Zekiyan

- The first steps of Modern Armenian Theatre and the Movement of Armenian Rebirth in the 18th century, Venice, 1975 (in Armenian).
- An Ecumenical Dialogue in the 12th century. The negotiations between St. Nerses Shnorhali and the Imperial Legate Theorianos in view of the Union of Churches, Venice, 1978 (in Armenian).
- Augustinian interiorism. The ontopsychological structure of the Augustinian interiorism and "memoria sui", Genova, 1980 (in Italian).
- Humanism. Conceptual contents and historic roots, Istanbul, 1981 (in Turkish).
- The Armenian way to modernity. Armenian identity between tradition and innovation, specificity and universality, Venice, 1997 (in English).
- Dialectics between Value and contingency. From cultural phenomenology towards an axiological refunding, Naples, 1998 (in Italian).
- Armenia and the Armenians: Restless «polis» and Spiritual Homeland. The challenge of a Survival, Milano, 2000 (in Italian).

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