

Editor-in-chief

A journey to the land of Qaf

Since a long time ago, the Caucasus region in the Ararat mountain range has formed an important part of the culture and civilization of the East due to its beautiful geography, mythological culture, people with Georgian, Armenian, and Azeri ethnicity, and the religion of Christianity and Islam. The marvelous presence of Ararat Mount is considered to be the sign and symbol of sacredness in the Caucasus the same as Alborz in Iranian culture. It is because the mount today plays a leading role in the establishment of architecture, urbanity, decorative motifs, and many manifestations of the people's life. The archeological history of the territory has brought special architecture and art with the aid of naturalistic religion, sun and moon worship, as well as the monotheism of Zoroastrianism, which is derived from the civilization of urartu, Armenians, Georgians, and Azeris. The oldest relic belongs Armen, i.e. the story of Armenian in Shahnameh; before the exodus of Armenians from the birthplace and ancestral land, upper side of Khorasan near the border of Turan, to the current location. According to Georges Dumezil Armenians are not Persian, yet there are many Persian words in their language, which date backs to the period of Parthian domination in Armenia. Georgian language also belongs to many Caucasian and qartuli language family. Hence Georgians are also called qartuli, which is adopted from the half methodological god, Quartulus, the ancestor of the people of Georgia. Georgia is globally famous for its traditional music, dance, theatre, and cinema.

Armenians did a lot of services to the Byzantine Empire, while their territory was divided between The Iranian and Byzantine Empires over and over. However, since they settled down in the current Armenia and parts of Iran, Armenians grew up with an Armenian-Iranian culture and art, and they live peacefully with Muslims. Our explorative scientific expedition to the Caucasus has opened a new horizon to us from the garden of the culture and art of the East, so that we are endowed with invaluable and sometimes noble and genuine experiences concerning architecture, art, culture, society, religion and beliefs, and nature and geography. Armenia and Georgia countries that were until recently situated at Iranian territory can still thrive on their own over years, even after the separation, with reliance on their ethnicity and religion; however, with the domination of communism, they experienced chaos and many damages. The capitals of Armenia and Georgia, until recently and after the independency of Yerevan and Tbilisi, are growing and developing with the impression of western models. Meanwhile, other cities and Caucasus's villages could retain their authenticity, but some cities are lagging behind other cities and live a poverty-stricken life.

The chorus of Nazar Research Center researchers who travelled to the Caucasus for 25 days discussed different artistic and cultural issues of the region, and provided a report from their scientific visits, and developed their studies before the trip, writing articles about architecture, culture, popular customs, urbanity, and urban renovation. The upshot of their efforts in the explorative journey was to readout landscape of Caucasus in the form of the articles in this journal.

Entries were prepared and procurements for publishing was arranged just when our dearest colleague and friend, "Dr. Noroozitalab" passed away! So suddenly and unexpectedly! The loss of this artist and compassionate scholar is an irreparable misfortune. His noble efforts in establishing Bagh-e Nazar journal and his sincere and serious presence in NAZAR research center put us all in a shocking grief which is unbelievable so far. Dr. Noroozitalab was among few pioneering artists in theoretical foundations of art and a professor of hermeneutics science in the Visual Arts. May his memory and name be honored and remembered.