



Kahramanmaraş  
Metropolitan Municipality

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# INDEPENDENCE

COMIC BOOK

The Story of Kahramanmaraş During the National Movement

Written by  
Bülent Ata

Illustrated by  
Çetele Kültür

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## THIS IS THE STORY OF ALL OF US

The past has meaning only if it finds the opportunity to meet the future, and when every noble action in the past reaches the future, it changes the future from where it reached. It should be known that noble actions, attitudes, and heroism cannot pass to the future alone. It is necessary that somebody, that is us, somehow pass those noble actions and courageous people after us. It is essential to perform passing them to the future permanently. Just as the National Anthem has kept the War of Independence, the movement of these lands against the imperialists in our minds in a way that will never go out of our minds, and ensured that the next generations will understand, learn and feel those days, every independence story and every struggle of these lands, regardless of whether they are big or small, should be guaranteed by different disciplines of art. Sometimes with a word, sometimes with a picture, sometimes with a voice, sometimes with architecture...

As Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality, we think that the independence of the past is the independence of the future. That is why we are in pursuit of passing our story into the future with different disciplines of art. For this, we continue to work in force, both to say about the past and to understand the present.

This combative attitude of Kahramanmaraş against evil is the best example of determination and goodness that will set an example not only within the borders of our country but also to the whole world. We think that goodness, compassion, and a combative attitude towards evil will save the world. We would like to spread this idea around a story in "the 101st Anniversary of Independence" in order to tell this combative goodness movement and add value to humanity. As a manifestation of this, our esteemed illustrators and valuable writer Bülent Ata produced this beautiful book that you are holding.

We would love to immortalise this beautiful memory of humanity with this book for the fight against evil and the victory of good. Don't forget, "This is the story of all of us."

*HAYRETTİN GÜNGÖR*  
*Mayor of Metropolitan Municipality*



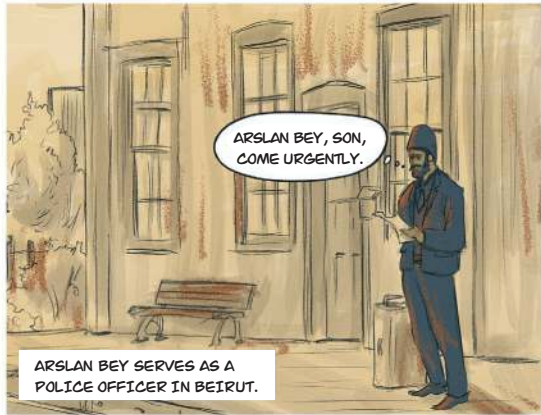
Dedicated to our beloved heroes...





BEIRUT 1919

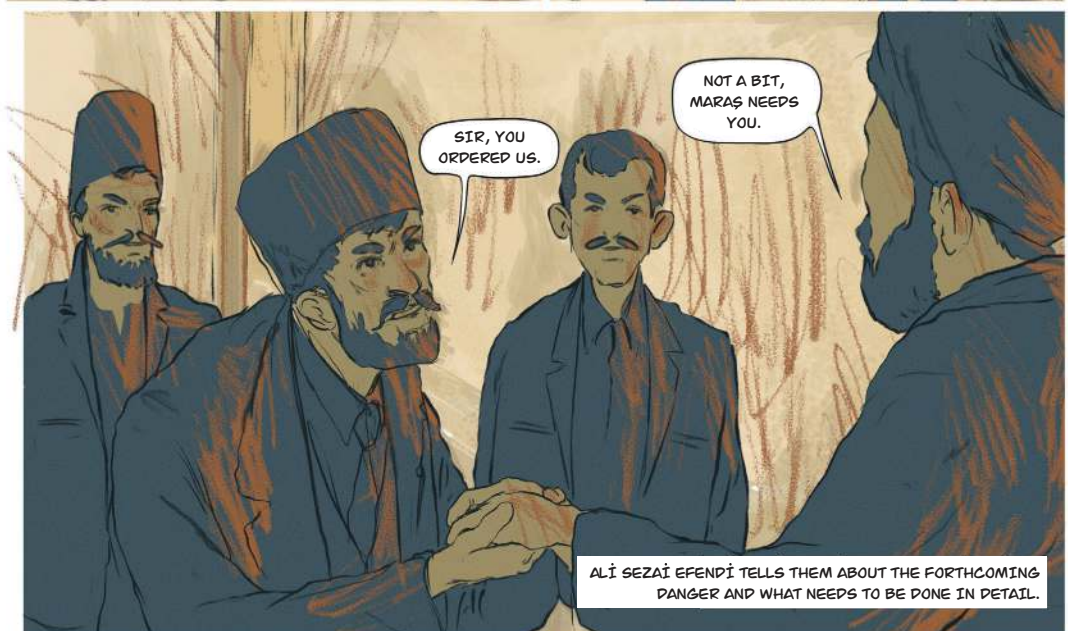
ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ, ONE OF THE SCHOLARS FROM MARAŞ, SENDS TELEGRAMS AND LETTERS TO BRAVE SONS OF MARAŞ SCATTERED ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND INVITES THEM TO MARAŞ.



ARSLAN BEY SERVES AS A POLICE OFFICER IN BEIRUT.



MÜLAZİM MUHARREM BEY IS IN ISTANBUL.



ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ TELLS THEM ABOUT THE FORTHCOMING DANGER AND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN DETAIL.



LEYLA GOT WATER FROM THE FOUNTAIN AND TURNS BACK HOME.

THE BOYS WAITING NEAR THE WAY ARE WATCHING LEYLA.



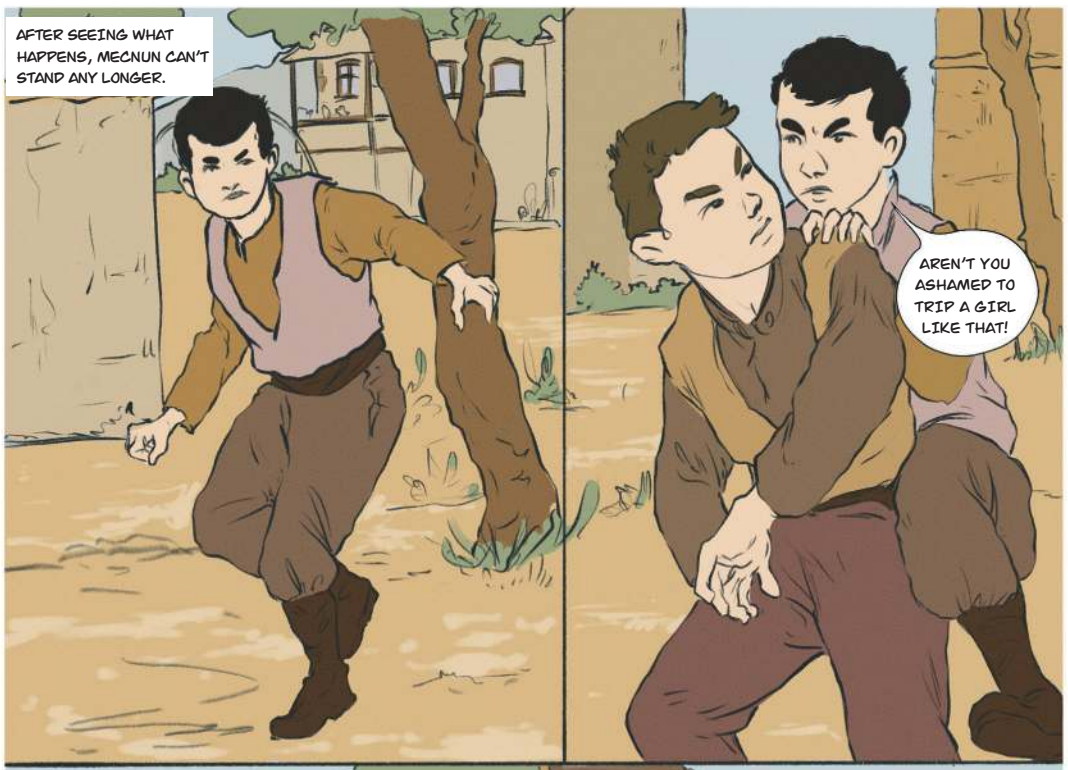
ONE OF THEM TRIPS LEYLA UP AND SHE FALLS.



EYES DOWN!  
HAHAHA!

OH! THE WATER JUG IS BROKEN!  
OH, MY ARM.





AFTER SEEING WHAT HAPPENS, MECNUN CAN'T STAND ANY LONGER.

AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO TRIP A GIRL LIKE THAT!



HERE YOU GO!

AND KIRKOR FALLS WOOZILY. HE TRIES TO COME TO HIS SENSES.

BEFORE KIRKOR UNDERSTANDS WHAT IS HAPPENING, MECNUN PUNCHES HIM.



SO,  
YOU PUNCH  
ME, HU!

KIRKOR IS AN OLDER BOY, HE COMES TO HIS SENSES AND STARTS TO MANHANDLE MECNUN.



STOP, OR I'LL  
TELL YOU TO  
DARON.

DARON?

KIRKOR GETS SCARED WHEN HE HEARS THE NAME DARON.



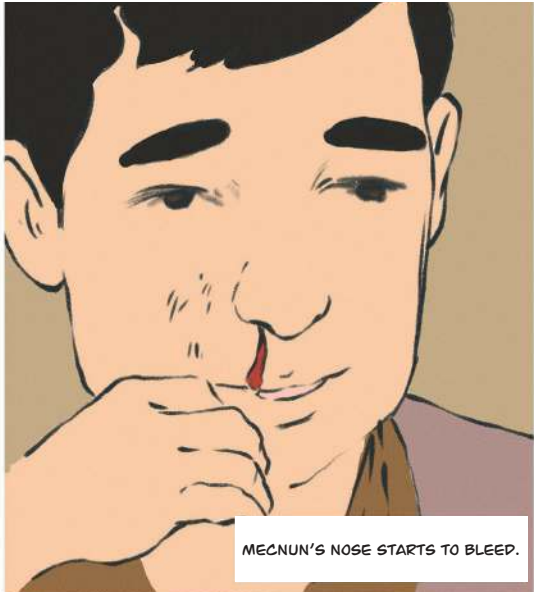
BE THANKFUL  
THAT YOU  
ARE DARON'S  
DAUGHTER,  
IF NOT...!

I AM NOT  
DONE WITH  
YOU, I'LL  
SEE YOU!

I TELL YOU TO  
COME  
WITH ME.

KIRKOR WASN'T ABLE TO GET HIS REVENGE.

LEYLA WANTS TO  
TAKE MECNUN AWAY.







ARMENIANS PUT OUT THE RED CARPET FOR OCCUPANT FORCES.



THE COMING OF THE UNINVITED GUESTS IS THE BEGINNING OF DARK DAYS NOT ONLY FOR LEYLA AND MECNUN BUT FOR THE WHOLE MARAS.





IMPERTINENT ARMENIANS START TO BULLY TURKS AND ACT SPOILEDLY WITH JOY...  
THEY TRY TO ANNOY AND PROVOKE TURKS.



THE  
BRITISH ARE  
WITH US!

YOU'RE  
DONE!

BACK OFF!  
GIVE WAY SO  
WE CAN PASS!

WHAT  
HAPPENED?  
YOU'RE SO  
QUIET!

TAK!

TAK!



WITH HIS SQUINTED EYES  
AND FISTED HANDS ARSLAN  
BEY WANTED TO DO  
SOMETHING...



JUST THEN THE CROWD WAS ACTING LIKE  
CRAZY AND SHOUTING ANNOYING SLOGANS.

LONG  
LIVE THE  
BRITISH!

DOWN  
WITH  
TURKS!

LONG  
LIVE THE  
BRITISH AND  
ARMENIANS!



ARSLAN BEY REACHES FOR HIS REVOLVER! SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE BUT ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ PUTS HIS HAND ON HIS SHOULDER AS IF TO SAY BE PATIENT.

NOT NOW...  
COME WITH ME...

JUST AT THAT MOMENT, MEÇNUN'S FATHER COMES THERE RUNNING.

ARSLAN BEY!

WHAT HAPPENED TO THE BRIDGE?

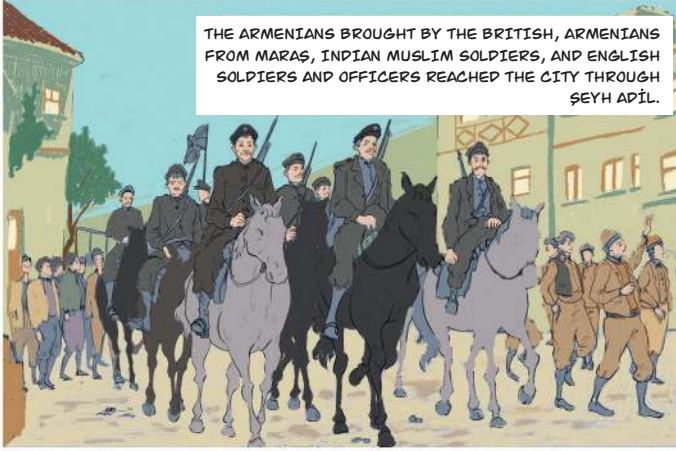
WE DESTROYED IT! BUT THEY MADE A LITTLE ONE QUICKLY AND PASSED.

SEND NEWS TO THE FRIENDS, THEY SHOULD COME.

CERTAINLY!

THE ATMOSPHERE OF PANIC WAS IN THE CITY. TURKISH WOMEN WERE TAKING THEIR KIDS AND GOING HOME.





THE ARMENIANS BROUGHT BY THE BRITISH, ARMENIANS FROM MARAŞ, INDIAN MUSLIM SOLDIERS, AND ENGLISH SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS REACHED THE CITY THROUGH ŞEYH ADİL.



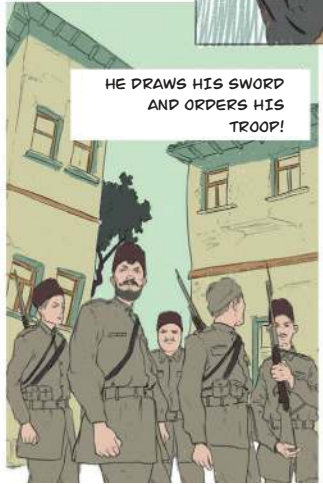
THEY CAME UNTIL THE BARRACKS MOVING FORWARDS FROM UZUNOLUK STREET.



CELEBRATING SPOILEDLY.



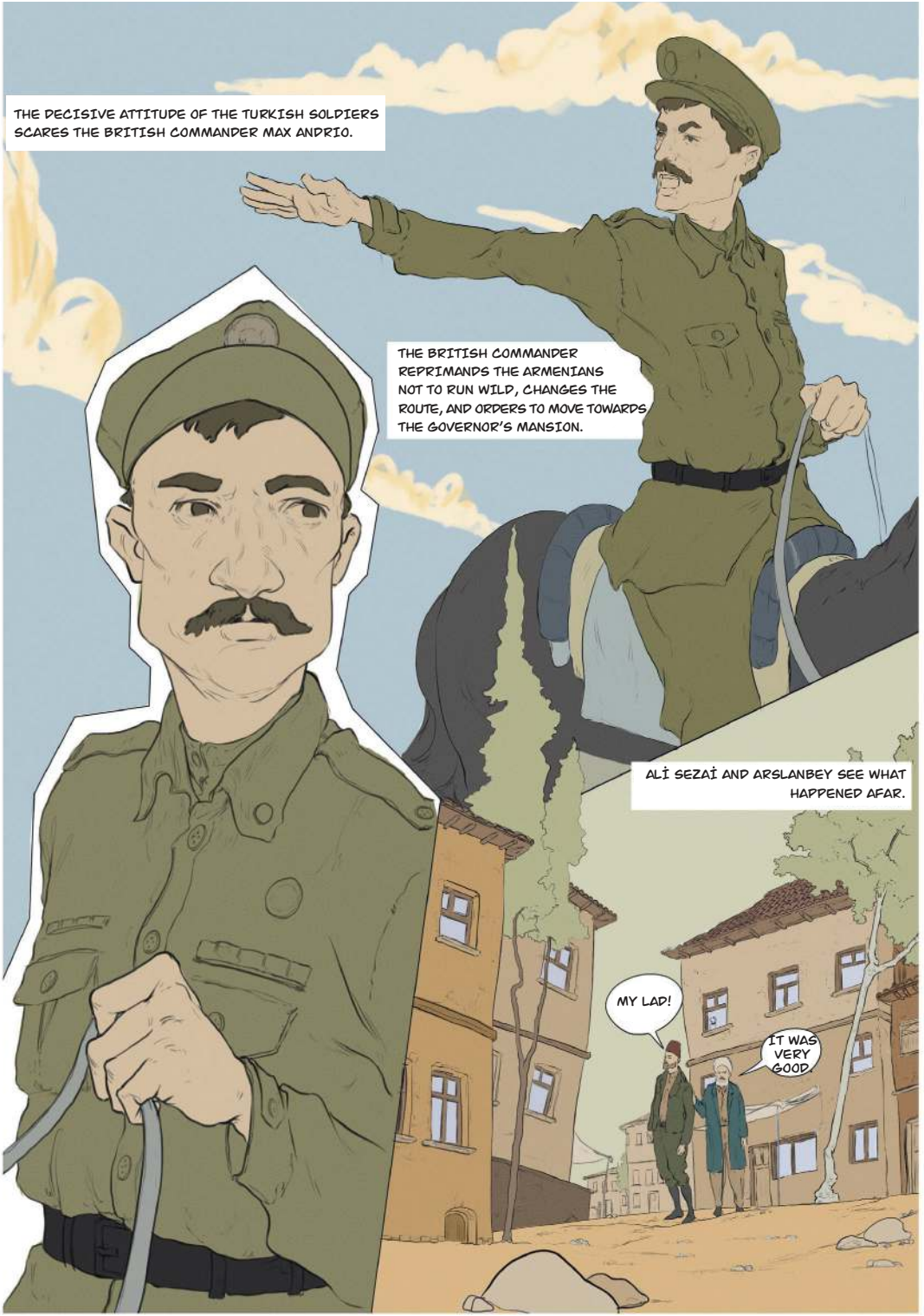
LIEUTENANT CEMAL ON GUARD DUTY LOSES HIS PATIENCE!



HE DRAWS HIS SWORD AND ORDERS HIS TROOP!



READY TO FIRE!



THE DECISIVE ATTITUDE OF THE TURKISH SOLDIERS SCARES THE BRITISH COMMANDER MAX ANPRIO.

THE BRITISH COMMANDER REPRIMANDS THE ARMENIANS NOT TO RUN WILD, CHANGES THE ROUTE, AND ORDERS TO MOVE TOWARDS THE GOVERNOR'S MANSION.

ALİ SEZAI AND ARSLANBEY SEE WHAT HAPPENED AFAR.

MY LAP!

IT WAS VERY GOOD.



ENGLISH SOLDIERS SET UP TENTS IN THE GARDEN OF THE GOVERNER'S MANSION AND START SETTLING.

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE BRITISH WASN'T MARAŞ, THEY HAD EYES ON PETROL IN MOSUL AND KIRKUK. THEY WERE CAREFUL TO APPLY SUITABLE POLITICS IN THE PROCESS TO REACH THEIR MAIN PURPOSE IN MARAŞ.



NEXT DAY A GROUP OF PROMINENTS OF MARAŞ GET TOGETHER TO ANALYSE THE SITUATION.



THE ARMENIANS GOT REALLY SPOILED.

THEY TRY TO THREATEN MARAŞ COMMUNITY WITH REVOLVERS.



THEY BULLY MUSLIMS IN THE BAZAAR.

ARMENIANS START TO COME FROM THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND SETTLE IN THE CENTRE.

ALİ SEZAI EFENDİ, ARSLAN BEY, EVLIYA EFENDİ; THEY ALL WERE THERE.



I AM AFRAID THEY ARE GETTING PREPARED FOR SOME EVIL.

ARMENIANS COMPLAIN TO THE BRITISH ABOUT EVERYTHING NEEDLESSLY, WITH FULL OF LIES.

AND THEY TAKE THESE VERY SERIOUSLY.



A WEEK LATER

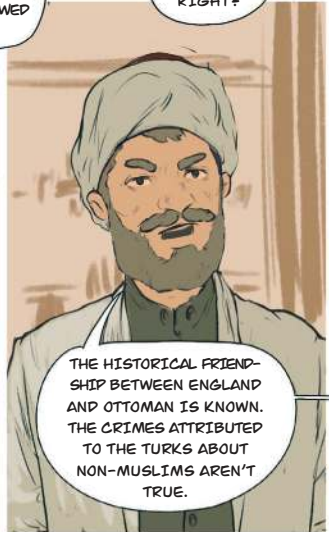
GOVERNOR, ATA BEY HAD A MEETING WITH THE PROMINENTS OF THE CITY IN THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE. EVERYONE WAS WORRIED.

THE BRITISH GENERAL GAVE ME YOUR NAMES. HE WANTS TO SEE YOU.

LET'S GO AND SEE WHAT HE WILL SAY.

YES, LET'S SEE.

THE BRITISH ESTABLISHED THEIR MILITARY QUARTERS IN THE GARDEN OF İLMİ İLAHİ SCHOOL OPPOSITE OF THE COLLEGE.





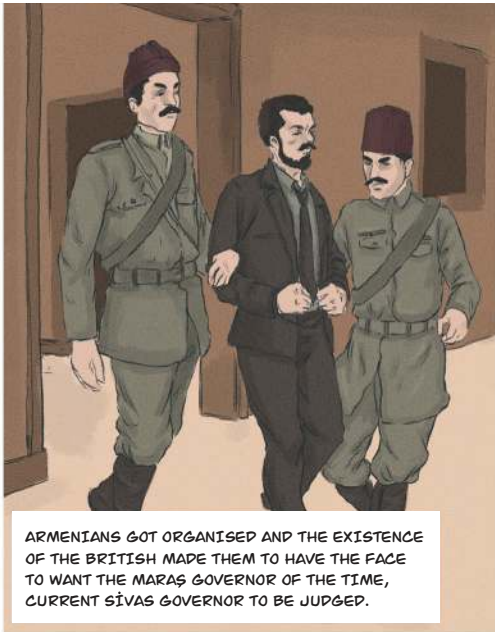
THESE PROPERTIES DIDN'T DROP OUT OF THE SKY. THEY LIVE IN THIS WAY WITH TOLERANCE OF THE STATE AND PEOPLE. MOREOVER, ALTHOUGH THEY GATHERED WITH ZEYTUN ARMENIANS AND REBELLED AGAINST THE STATE, SLAUGHTERED INNOCENT PEOPLE IN THE VILLAGES AND GOT PUNISHED, THEY WERE FORGIVEN.

WHILE THE DEPORTATION AND RESETTLEMENT OF MARAŞ ARMENIANS FROM THESE LANDS WERE IN QUESTION, MARAŞ MUSLIMS PROTECTED THEM, HELPED THEM STAY IN MARAŞ AND EARN THEIR LIVING. THE GOODS OF THOSE SENT WERE PURCHASED BY PAYING THEIR PRICE. SOME ARMENIANS CLAIM THAT THEY DIDN'T SELL THEM AND TAKE THEM BACK, BUT THE TURKS CAN'T GET THEIR MONEY BACK.

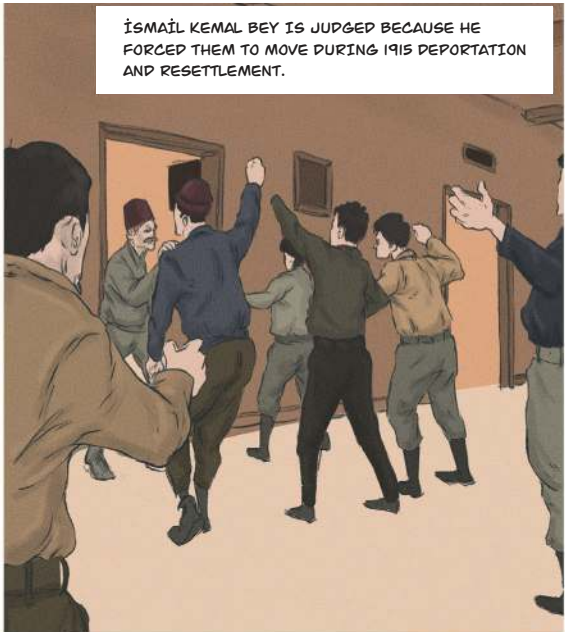
IT IS KNOWN THAT THE ARMENIANS GO AROUND YELLING 'LONG LIVE ARMENIA,' 'DOWN WITH TURKS' AND KEEP INSULTING OUR SACRED VALUES. YOU TELL US TO BE MATURE BY TELLING YOU WILL BE FAIR. CHRISTIAN CLERGYMEN ALSO TRIED TO COUNSEL THE ATTACKERS AND STOP THEM, BUT THEY DIDN'T SUCCEED. THE TURKS, EIGHTY PERCENT OF THIS CITY, DON'T INTEND TO ANNOY ANYONE. WE EXPECT THE RESULT OF PEACE BY HONOUR AND GLORY.







ARMENIANS GOT ORGANISED AND THE EXISTENCE OF THE BRITISH MADE THEM TO HAVE THE FACE TO WANT THE MARAŞ GOVERNOR OF THE TIME, CURRENT SİVAS GOVERNOR TO BE JUDGED.



İSMAİL KEMAL BEY IS JUDGED BECAUSE HE FORCED THEM TO MOVE DURING 1915 DEPORTATION AND RESETTLEMENT.



THE COURT FINDS THE CHARGES WRONG AND RELEASES THE GOVERNOR ON BAIL IN THE FIRST TRIAL, HOWEVER, ARMENIANS PRESSURE THE BRITISH AND MAKE THE GOVERNOR TRANSFERRED TO ALEPPO AND JAILED HIM THERE.

SOME ARNEMIANS STARTED TO PROVOKE THE BRITISH AGAINST TURKS FROM MARAŞ WITH TRICKS AND LIES. THEY REQUESTED 22 MARAŞ PROMINENTS TO BE JUDGED IN THE BRITISH COURTS IN İSTANBUL. ARMENIANS WERE GOING TO SEND THESE PEOPLE TO İSTANBUL NO MATTER WHAT AND FIND A WAY TO KILL THEM THERE.



ARMENIANS GOT PERMISSION FROM THE BRITISH LYING THEM THERE ARE ARMENIANS WHO ARE FORCED TO CONVERT ISLAM.



SO, THEY TAKE WOMEN WHO WERE MARRIED TO MUSLIMS FROM THEIR HOMES.



THEY BEAT THEM TO CHANGE THEIR RELIGION.



YOU REJECTED MY BROTHER AND MARRIED TO A MUSLIM, HU!



ARTIN! THE WOMAN IS DEAD.



THE KIDNAPPED WOMAN'S FATHER-IN-LAW DIED FROM GRIEF BECAUSE HE COULDN'T SAVE HER.



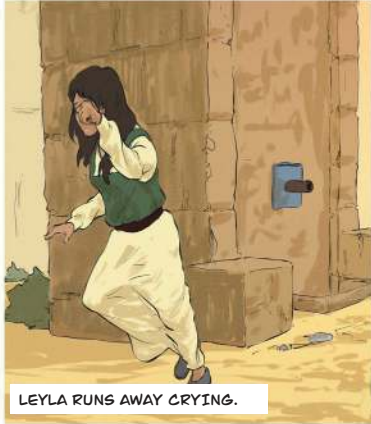
THE WOMAN I TOLD YOU ABOUT IS HERE!



LEYLA WATCHES WHAT HAPPENS NEAR THE FOUNTAIN.



SHE COMES EYE TO EYE WITH MECNUN.



LEYLA RUNS AWAY CRYING.



WHY ARE YOU CRYING, LEYLA?

UNCLE ARTIN TOOK AUNT KARIN FROM HER HOUSE BY FORCE.



THEY ARE DOING THE BEST.



IT IS WRONG TO SEPARATE PEOPLE WHO LOVE EACH OTHER AND MARRIED OF THEIR OWN FREE WILL.

IT IS TIME TO SHOW THE TURKS WHO ARMENIANS ARE. THERE IS NO SUCH THING TO MARRY ARMENIAN GIRLS.



WHO WILL BE THE ARMENIAN KING, AGOP?

YES, DON'T YOU LIKE IT?

WILL I BE AT DAGGERS DRAWN WITH MY NEIGHBOUR BECAUSE AGOP WILL BE THE KING? WHAT WILL YOU BE, GUILT MAKER OF THE KING?



THE MAN RAISES HIS HAND AT THAT MOMENT LEYLA APPEARS AT THE DOOR.

MUM...



AUNT KARIN IS DEAD...



THIS UPSETS PARON. HE TAKES HIS JACKET AND LEAVES. LEYLA IS SAD AND HUGS HIS MOTHER.

ARSLAN BEY AND EVLIYA EFENDI GET TOGETHER TO ANALYSE THE SITUATION. EVLIYA EFENDI TELLS THEM ABOUT THE ANNOUNCEMENT RELATED TO MUSLIM ARMENIAN WOMEN.



THEY TURNED IT INTO A CAMPAIGN PUTTING UP NOTICES EVERYWHERE.



ALI SEZAI EFENDI IS THOUGHTFUL...

ARSLAN BEY IS FURIOUS.



FOLLOWING THESE DEVELOPMENTS, ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ ACCEPTED HASAN RUFÂİ'S LESSON REQUEST AND STARTED TO GIVE HIM LESSONS...



AFTER THE LESSONS, THEY WERE TALKING ABOUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING IN MARAŞ IN DETAIL SITTING IN THE GARDEN OF A HOUSE. ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ WAS TELLING THE RIGHT VERSION OF THE EVENTS AND HASAN RUFÂİ WAS LISTENING WITH GREAT INTEREST IN SHOCK.





THE NEXT DAY, ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ WENT TO THE BRITISH MILITARY HEADQUARTER AND MAKING STATEMENTS ABOUT ACCUSED TURKS AND HASAN RUFÂİ WAS GIVING INFORMATION IN THE SAME DIRECTION.

IN THAT MOMENT COMMANDER MAX ANDRIO WAS FOCUSED ON ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ'S PRAYER BEADS.



SURE...

CAN I SEE WHAT YOU ARE HOLDING?



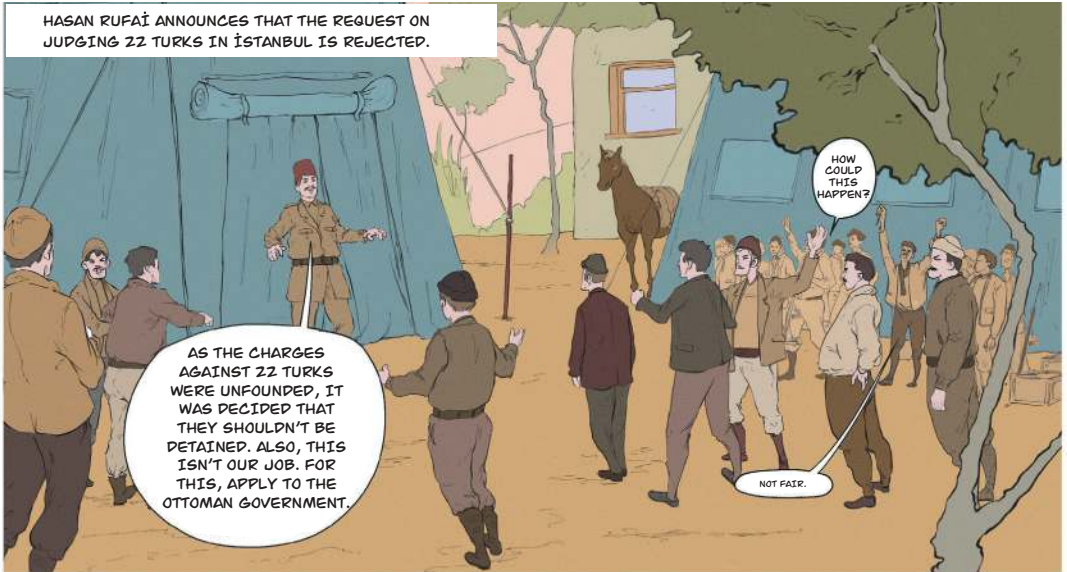
I THINK OF THE NAME OF ALLAH WHO CREATES OUT OF NOTHING.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THESE?

THE BRITISH COMMANDER GAVE BACK THE PRAYER BEADS WITH RESPECT.



HASAN RUFÂİ ANNOUNCES THAT THE REQUEST ON JUDGING 22 TURKS IN İSTANBUL IS REJECTED.



AS THE CHARGES AGAINST 22 TURKS WERE UNFOUNDED, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THEY SHOULDN'T BE DETAINED. ALSO, THIS ISN'T OUR JOB. FOR THIS, APPLY TO THE OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT.

HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN?

NOT FAIR.

HASAN RUFÂİ THANKS ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ AND GIVES IMPORTANT INFORMATION.



SIR, I WOULD LIKE TO PAY YOU FOR THE LESSONS, YOU'VE EARNED IT.

I CAN'T ACCEPT THAT. I JUST ASK YOU NOT TO BE A TOOL FOR CRUELTY AND INJUSTICE. BE FAIR.

SIR, IN ADDITION, I WOULD LIKE TO TELL YOU ABOUT SOMETHING. THE BRITISH WILL LEAVE MARAŞ SOON AND THE FRENCH WILL COME. THERE ARE ARMENIAN REVENGE TROOPS AMONG THESE FRENCH SOLDIERS. BLOODY EVENTS CAN HAPPEN WHEN THESE SOLDIERS CAME.

MAY ALLAH HELP US. THANK YOU FOR INFORMING ME...

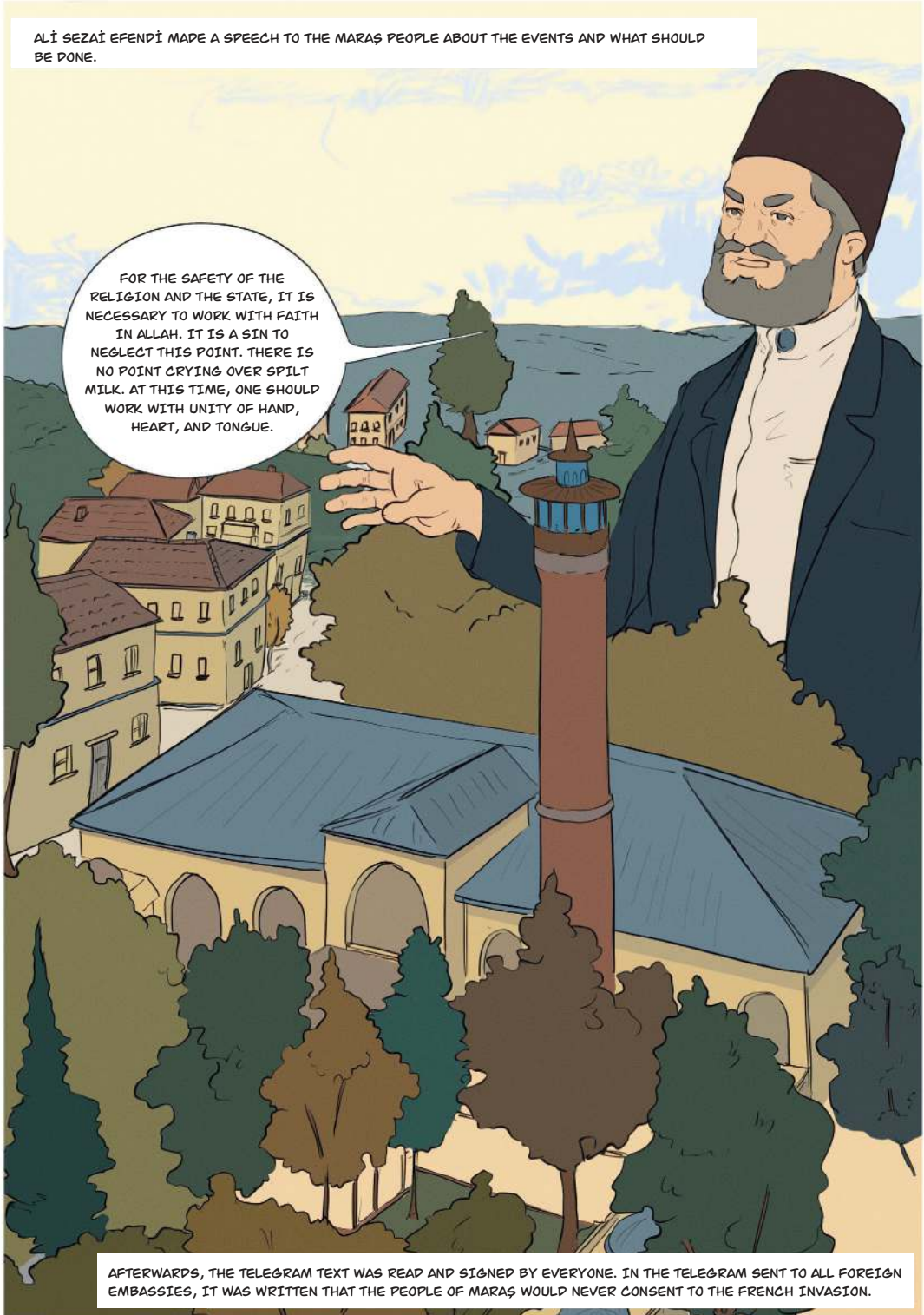






ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ MADE A SPEECH TO THE MARAŞ PEOPLE ABOUT THE EVENTS AND WHAT SHOULD BE DONE.

FOR THE SAFETY OF THE RELIGION AND THE STATE, IT IS NECESSARY TO WORK WITH FAITH IN ALLAH. IT IS A SIN TO NEGLECT THIS POINT. THERE IS NO POINT CRYING OVER SPILT MILK. AT THIS TIME, ONE SHOULD WORK WITH UNITY OF HAND, HEART, AND TONGUE.



AFTERWARDS, THE TELEGRAM TEXT WAS READ AND SIGNED BY EVERYONE. IN THE TELEGRAM SENT TO ALL FOREIGN EMBASSIES, IT WAS WRITTEN THAT THE PEOPLE OF MARAŞ WOULD NEVER CONSENT TO THE FRENCH INVASION.





JOSEF SHOT THE VILLAGER WHEN THEY WERE FAR FROM THE CITY.

HE TOOK THE HORSES AND TURNED BACK TO THE CITY.





EVLIYA EFENDI AND ARSLAN BEY TALK.





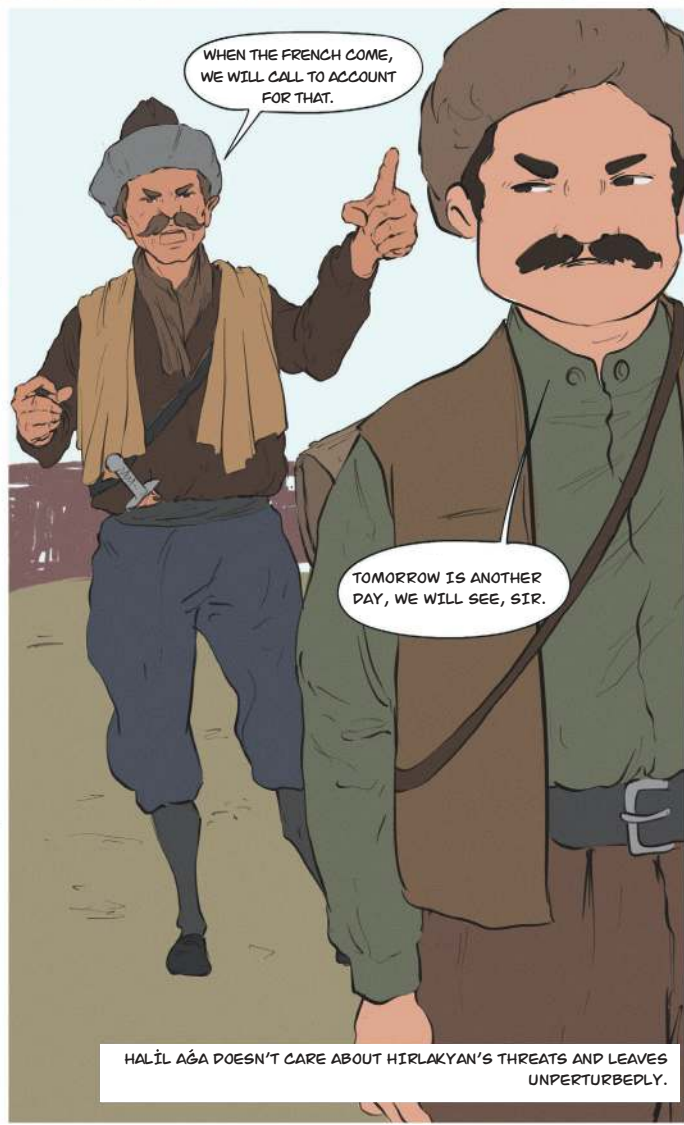
THE RINGLEADER OF MARAŞ ARMENIANS, HIRLAKYAN SUMMONS HALİL AĞA, THE AĞA OF THE DRUMMER ABDALS.



HE OFFERS A LOF OF MONEY BUT HALİL AĞA REJECTS.



THIS ISN'T ABOUT MONEY, IT'S ABOUT RELIGION. EVEN IF YOU FILL THIS DRUM WITH GOLD, I CANNOT BETRAY MY RELIGIOUS FELLOWS ON SUCH A DAY.



WHEN THE FRENCH COME, WE WILL CALL TO ACCOUNT FOR THAT.

TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY, WE WILL SEE, SIR.

HALİL AĞA DOESN'T CARE ABOUT HIRLAKYAN'S THREATS AND LEAVES UNPERTURBEDLY.





ON 31 OCTOBER, ARMENIANS IN THE FRENCH ARMY SERVED SO MUCH WINE TO FRENCH SOLDIERS THAT THEY INCLUDED THEM IN THE INCIDENTS.

CHEERS! TO ARMENIA

HERE SIR, DRINK SOME MORE...

THE DRUNK SOLDIERS PATROLLED AND STARTED TO BULLY AROUND. ARMENIANS WERE INTO CREATE PROVOCATIVE INCIDENTS. THEY BEAT THE POSTMAN PASSING BY, ATTACKED THE SHOPS, AND SCATTERED THE STALLS.



GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!

LONG LIVE FRANCE! ARMENIA!







SEEING WHAT HAPPENED SÜTÇÜ İMAM REACHED FOR HIS REVOLVER.



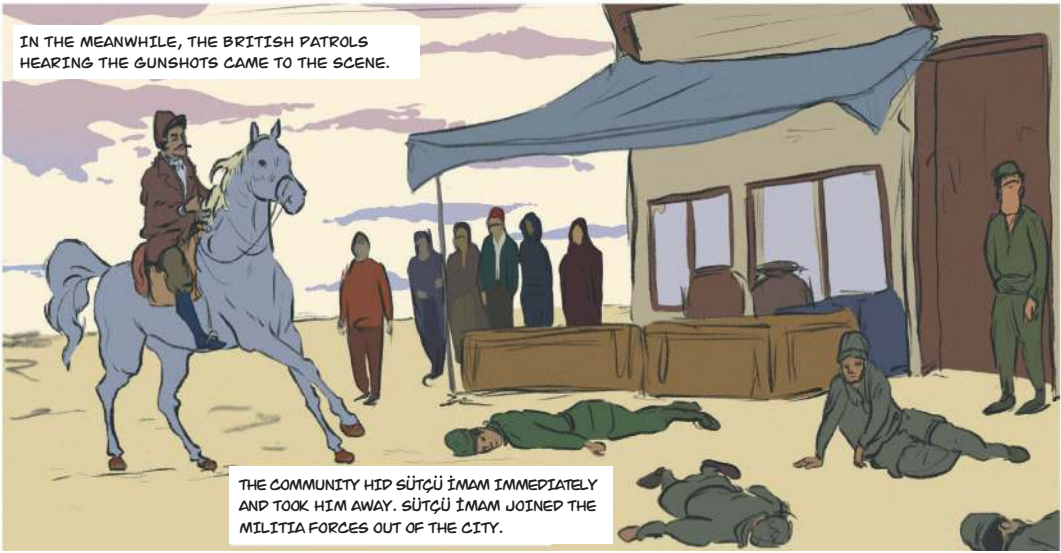
31 OCTOBER 1919

THE FIRST BULLET TO THE ENEMY WAS FIRED HERE...

THE OWNER OF THE HAND REACHED TO A TURKISH WOMAN'S NIĞAP WAS PUNISHED, ARTİN'S DEAD BODY FELL.



THE FRENCH AND ARMENIANS WERE SHOCKED AND SCARED SO THEY RAN AWAY.



IN THE MEANWHILE, THE BRITISH PATROLS HEARING THE GUNSHOTS CAME TO THE SCENE.

THE COMMUNITY HID SÜTÇÜ İMAM IMMEDIATELY AND TOOK HIM AWAY. SÜTÇÜ İMAM JOINED THE MILITIA FORCES OUT OF THE CITY.



WE SHOULDN'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS.

LET'S TAKE ARTIN'S REVENGE.

THE NEXT DAY, ARMENIANS WERE MAKING PLANS TO REVENGE.



DARON AND ÖKKEŞ ARE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS.

DARON, MY BROTHER, WHEN DAUGHTER LEYLA DRINKS THIS MIX, SHE GETS RECOVERED, GOD WILLING.

THANKS, ÖKKEŞ.



THE BRITISH TAKE MOSUL AND LEAVE MARAŞ TO THE FRENCH DUE TO THE SECRET AGREEMENT. THE FRENCH CAPTAIN IS THERE TO SEE OFF THE BRITISH.

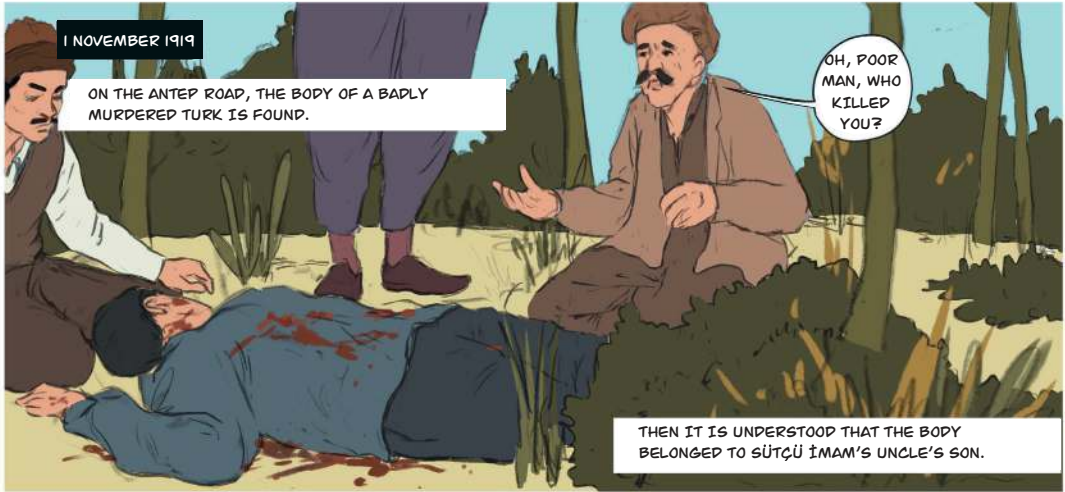
NOW, MARAŞ IS A FRENCH LAND.

CAPTAIN, YOU ARE PLAYING WITH FIRE...

THE BRITISH GENERAL IS AWARE OF THE ARROGANT AND UNPLANNED POLITICS OF THE FRENCH.



THE FRENCH CAPTAIN CANNOT ANSWER.





THIS IS THE POLICEMAN SUPHI!

GIVE IN!

LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!



DARON AND HIS MEN HAVE TO LEAVE THE GUNS AND ESCAPE.

DARON BROTHER!

HIS CHILDHOOD FRIEND ÖKKEŞ SUDDENLY OVERTAKES THEM AND RECOGNISES DARON!



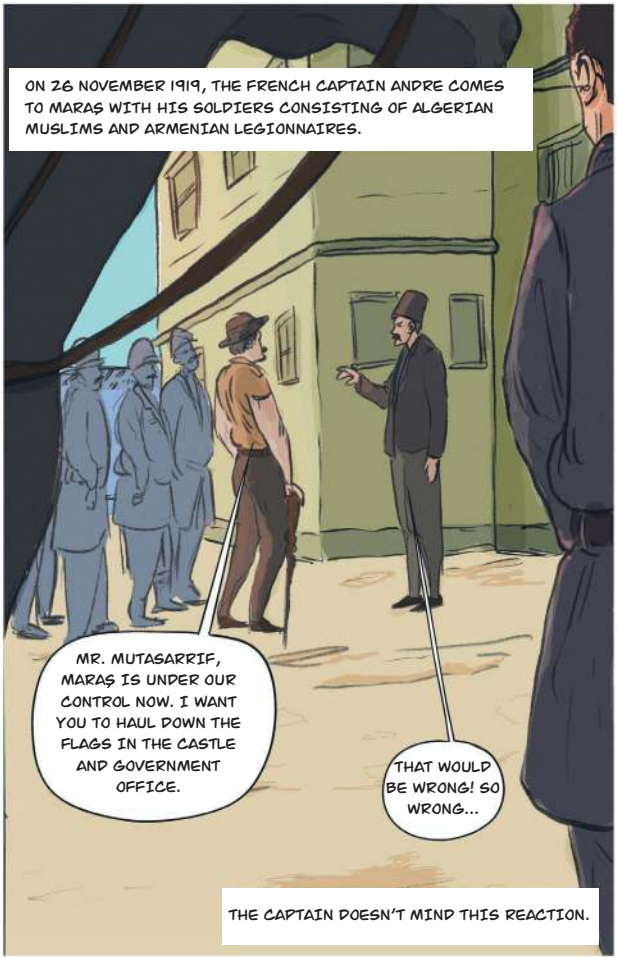
WHY DID YOU SHOOT HIM?

WHY DID YOU KILL HIM?

HE RECOGNISED YOU, HE WOULD RAT US OUT.

OUCH!!

THE BODY OF ÖKKEŞ FELL LIKE THE BROTHERHOOD DAYS OF MARAŞ...





THAT DAY AGOP HIRLAKYAN HELD A BALL IN HONOUR OF THE CAPITAN. AGOP WAS A VERY RICH PERSON. HE HAD SHOPS IN EUROPE. HE WAS IMAGINING TO BE THE KING OF A CILICIAN KINGDOM WAS FOUNDED WITH THE SUPPORT OF FRANCE. HE WAS THE LEADER OF THE ARMENIANS IN MARAS.

THE CAPITAN WANTED TO ASK AGOP'S DAUGHTER TO DANCE.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO DANCE WITH ME?

WHERE THE TURKISH FLAG FLIES, I FEEL HUMILIATED AND IN CAPTIVITY. THAT'S WHY I CANNOT DANCE WITH YOU.

THEN I GIVE THE ORDER TO HAUL DOWN THE FLAGS IMMEDIATELY.

THEN DANCE! DANCE! DANCE!

WHEN ANDRE GIVES THE ORDER TO HAUL DOWN THE FLAGS, HELENA AGREES TO DANCE WITH HIM.

THE NEXT DAY, MECNUN SEES THAT THE FLAGS WERE HAUL DOWN AND HE RUNS TO HIS FATHER TO LET HIM KNOW.



THE NEXT DAY EVERYONE RUSHED INTO THE GRAND MOSQUE FOR THE FRIDAY PRAYER. INSIDE WAS VERY CROWDED.



THERE ARE THREE OBLIGATIONS IN THE FRIDAY PRAYER. WE ARE NOT FREE UNTIL WE KEEP OUR FLAG FLYING AND WE CANNOT PERFORM THE FRIDAY PRAYER. LET'S GO AND RAISE OUR FLAG AND PRAY IF WE CAN SUCCEED!

YOU ARE RIGHT, HODJA.

LET'S GO, FELLOWS!



PEOPLE OF MARAŞ LEFT THE MOSQUE AND RUSHED TO THE CASTLE ALL TOGETHER.

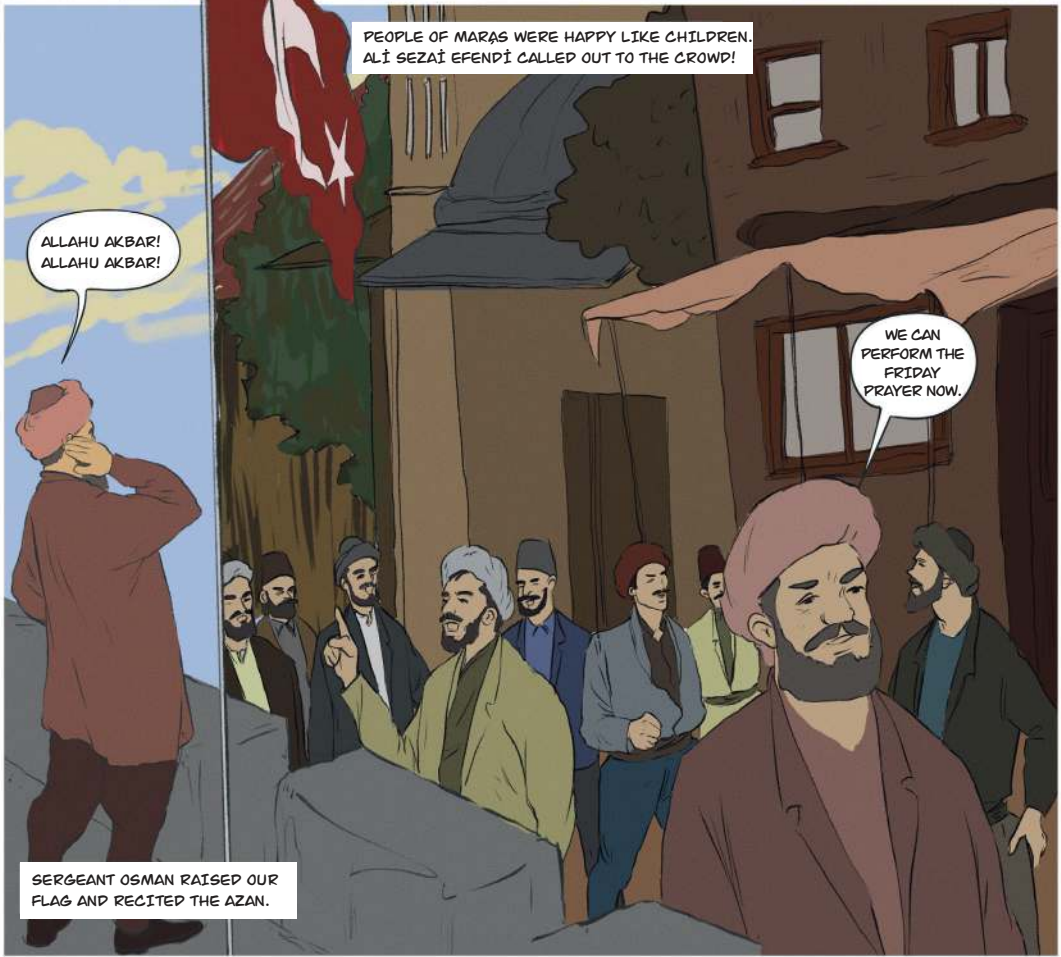
GIVE A FLAG!

RUN! ALLAHU AKBAR!

ALLAHU AKBAR!

COME ON, FATHER! THIS FIGHT IS FOR RELIGION!

THE FRENCH SOLDIERS IN THE CASTLE HAS NO OTHER OPTION BUT RUNNING AWAY.



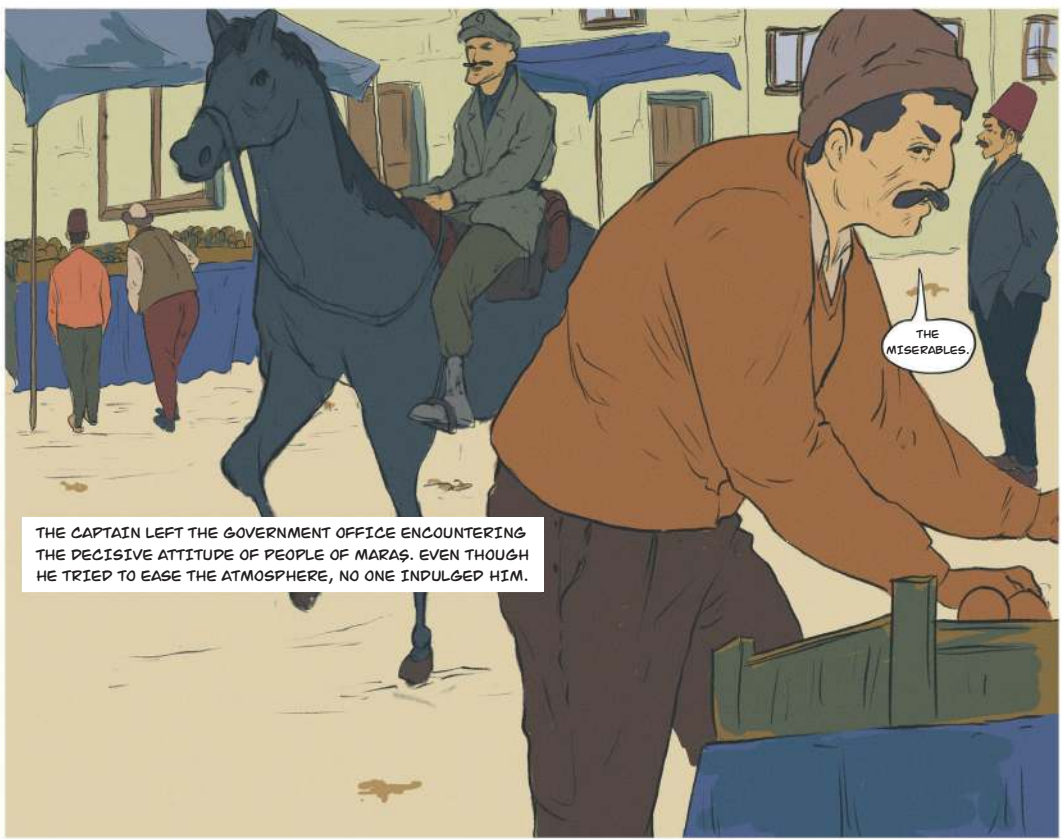
PEOPLE OF MARAŞ WERE HAPPY LIKE CHILDREN. ALİ SEZAI EFENDİ CALLED OUT TO THE CROWD!

ALLAHU AKBAR!  
ALLAHU AKBAR!

WE CAN PERFORM THE FRIDAY PRAYER NOW.

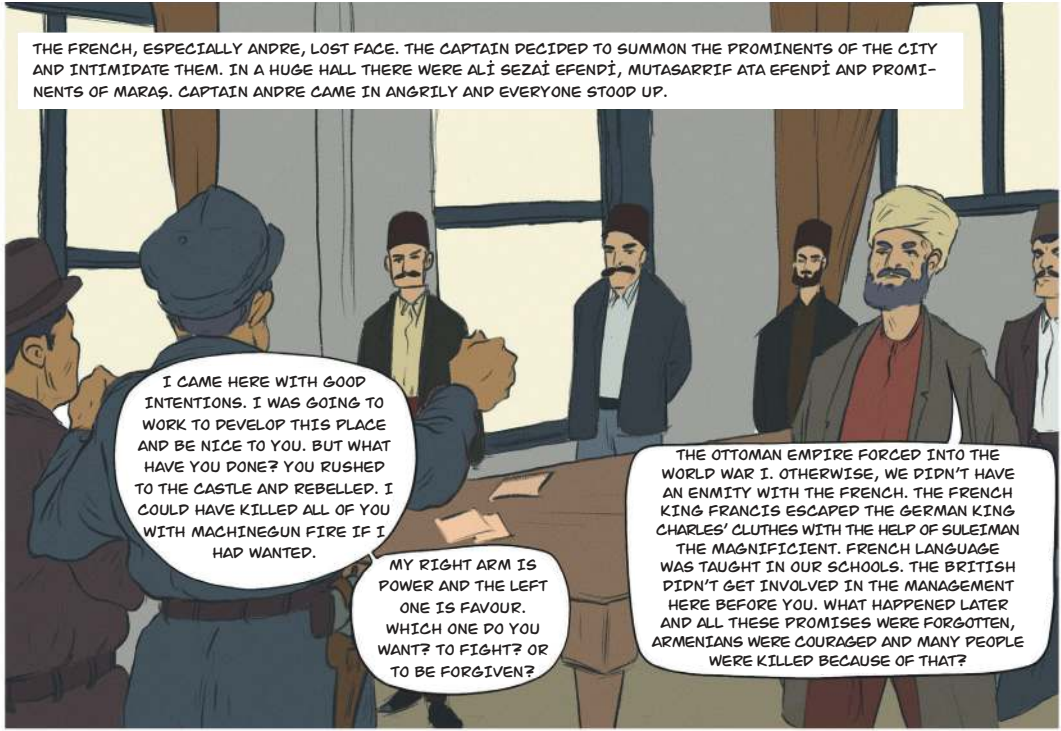
SERGEANT OSMAN RAISED OUR FLAG AND RECITED THE AZAN.







THE FRENCH, ESPECIALLY ANDRE, LOST FACE. THE CAPTAIN DECIDED TO SUMMON THE PROMINENTS OF THE CITY AND INTIMIDATE THEM. IN A HUGE HALL THERE WERE ALİ SEZAI EFENDİ, MUTASARRIF ATA EFENDİ AND PROMINENTS OF MARAŞ. CAPTAIN ANDRE CAME IN ANGRILY AND EVERYONE STOOD UP.



I CAME HERE WITH GOOD INTENTIONS. I WAS GOING TO WORK TO DEVELOP THIS PLACE AND BE NICE TO YOU. BUT WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? YOU RUSHED TO THE CASTLE AND REBELLED. I COULD HAVE KILLED ALL OF YOU WITH MACHINEGUN FIRE IF I HAD WANTED.

MY RIGHT ARM IS POWER AND THE LEFT ONE IS FAVOUR. WHICH ONE DO YOU WANT? TO FIGHT? OR TO BE FORGIVEN?

THE OTTOMAN EMPIRE FORCED INTO THE WORLD WAR I. OTHERWISE, WE DIDN'T HAVE AN ENMITY WITH THE FRENCH. THE FRENCH KING FRANCIS ESCAPED THE GERMAN KING CHARLES' CLUTHERS WITH THE HELP OF SULEIMAN THE MAGNIFICENT. FRENCH LANGUAGE WAS TAUGHT IN OUR SCHOOLS. THE BRITISH DIDN'T GET INVOLVED IN THE MANAGEMENT HERE BEFORE YOU. WHAT HAPPENED LATER AND ALL THESE PROMISES WERE FORGOTTEN, ARMENIANS WERE COURAGED AND MANY PEOPLE WERE KILLED BECAUSE OF THAT?

AFTER THESE WORDS CAPTAIN ANDRE GOT EASED AND FELL INTO A BROWN STUDY.



IT IS AGAINST THE FORMALITY TO HANG ANOTHER COUNTRY'S FLAG WHERE THE FRENCH FORCES ARE. WE TOLD THIS TO THE MUTASARRIF, HE DIDN'T TELL THE PUBLIC RIGHT.

YOU ARE THE REASON WHY PEOPLE BOILED OVER. IF YOU HADN'T TOUCHED THAT FLAG, NONE OF THESE WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.

THE MUTASARRIF IS RIGHT. MUSLIMS ARE DEDICATED TO THEIR GOVERNMENT. THEY HAVE EIPS TWICE A YEAR AND PERFORM FRIDAY PRAYER ONCE A WEEK. MUSLIMS HAVE TO BE FREE TO HAVE THESE PRAYERS. THE SIGN OF FREEDOM IS THE OTTOMAN FLAG OVER THE CASTLE. HAULING IT DOWN AND RAISING THE FRENCH FLAG IS VIOLATING THE RIGHTS OF THIS PEOPLE. THE PEOPLE COULDN'T HAVE REMAINED QUIET.

HEARING THESE WORDS CAPTAIN ANDRE BECOMES AS TIMID AS A MOUSE...



DON'T INSULT PEOPLE. WHAT IS YOUR MAIN PURPOSE?



ALİ SEZAI EFENDİ TALKS LIKE A LION.

PEOPLE OF MARAŞ ARE BRAVE AND RELIGIOUS. WHENEVER RELIGION, HONOUR, AND MOTHERLAND ARE ATTACKED, THEY MAKE THE SUPREME SACRIFICE GLADLY.



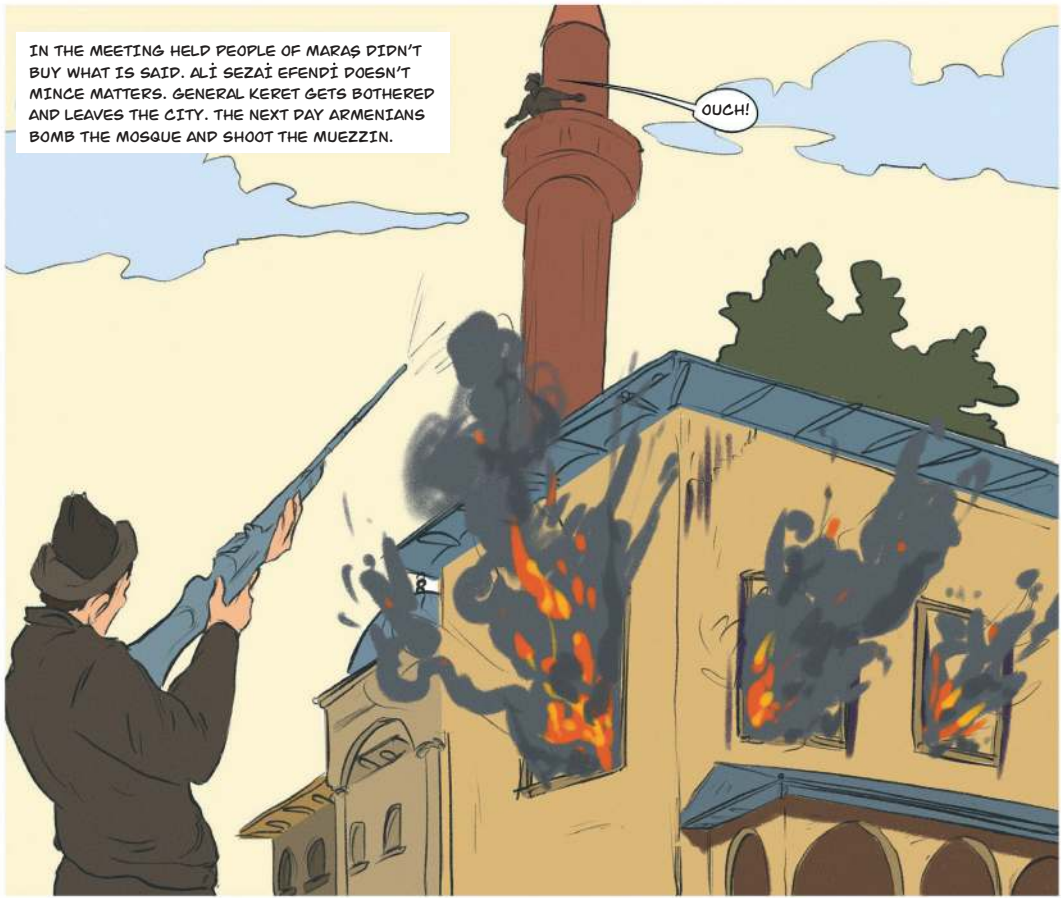
ALİ SEZAI EFENDİ TELLS HIM ABOUT THE CRUELTY AND PEOPLE KILLED BY THE ARMENIAN SOLDIERS AMONG THE FRENCH ONE BY ONE.

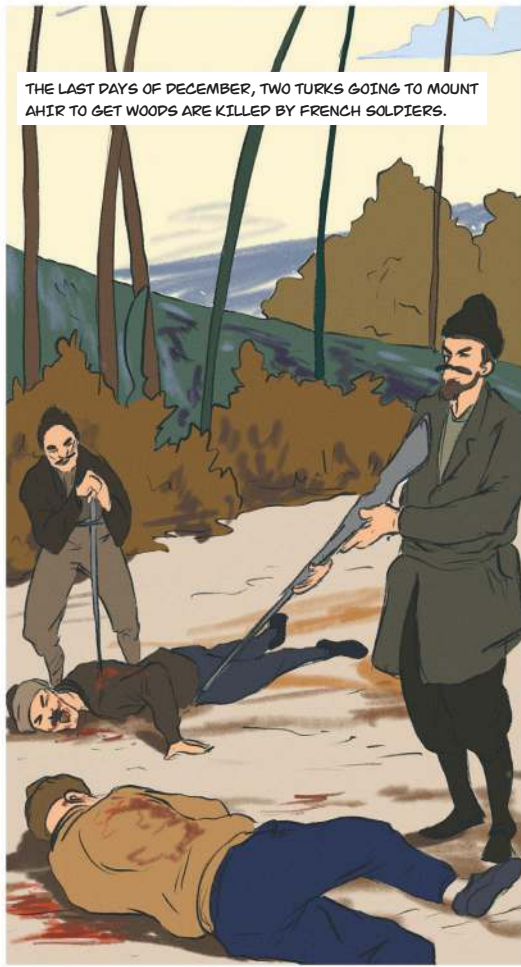
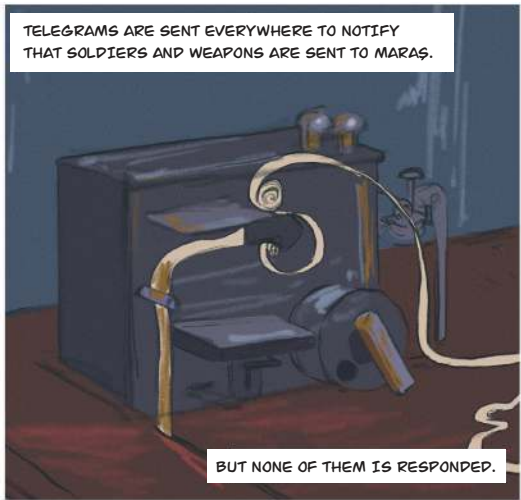
THE CAPTAIN HAS NOTHING TO SAY. HE CALLS ANTEP AND ASKS FOR HELP FOR THE REBELLION WHEN THE COMMITTEE LEAVES THE HALL.

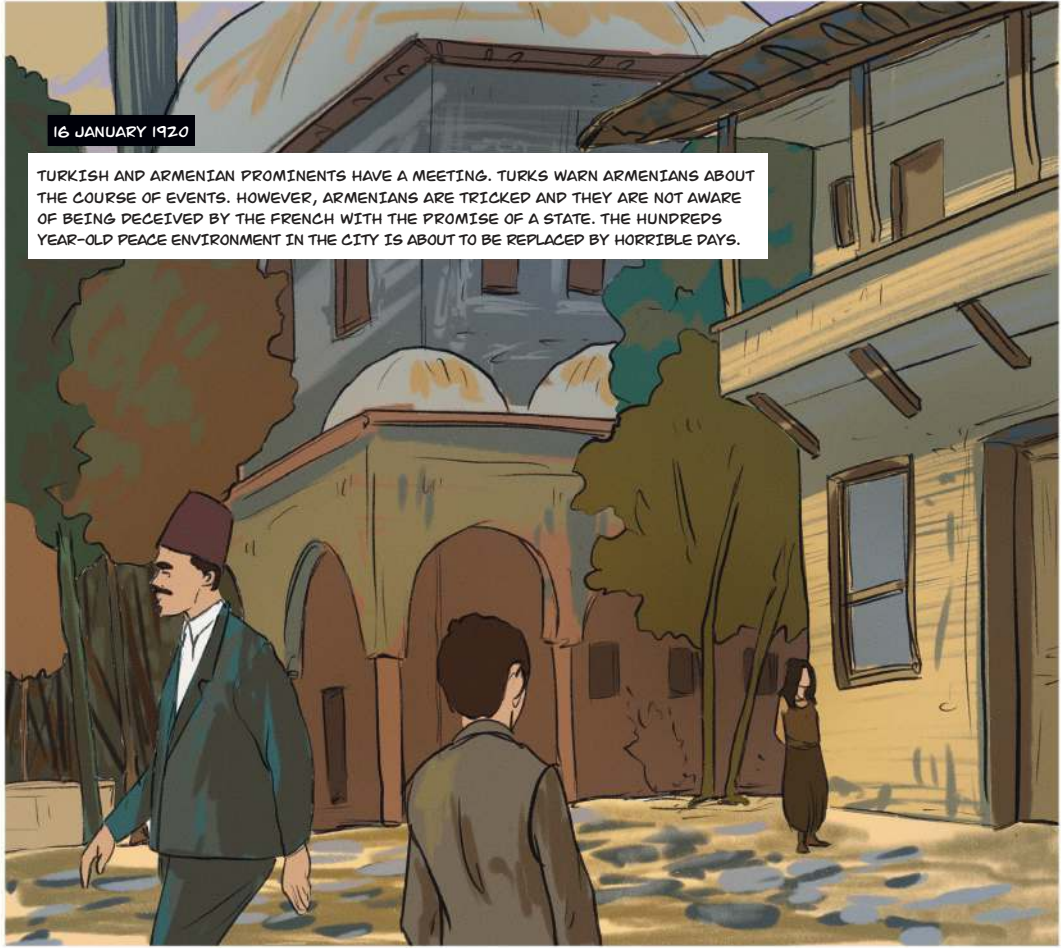


THE COMMANDER IN ANTEP REPRIMANDS THE CAPTAIN.

IT TURNS INTO THE LAST DAY OF CAPTAIN ANDRE IN MARAŞ.









THE HOPE FOR PEACE ALSO FINISHES WITH THE MEETING. ARMENIANS ARE ABOUT TO MAKE A BIG MISTAKE TO BURN THE WHOLE MARAŞ WITH PROVOCATIONS OF THE FRENCH.



THE FRENCH AND ARMENIANS WILL WIN. THAT'S WHAT WILL HAPPEN! HAAAAHA!

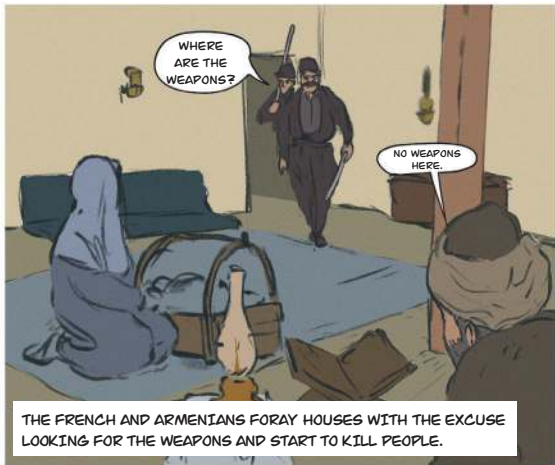
AND YOU WILL BE OUR KING, AGOP!

DAD, WHAT HAPPENED?





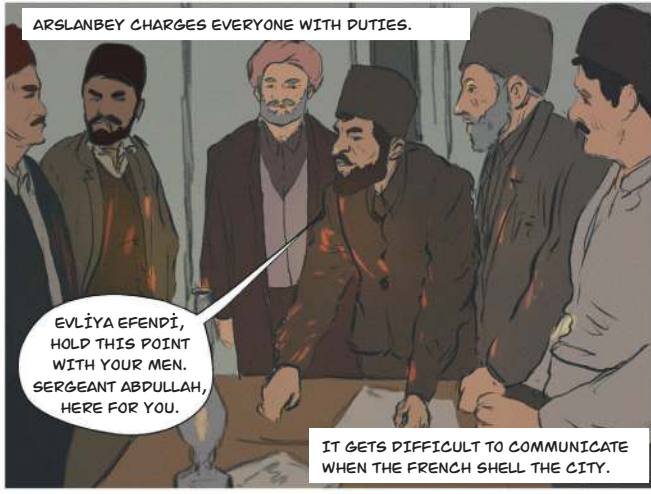




THE FRENCH AND ARMENIANS FORAY HOUSES WITH THE EXCUSE LOOKING FOR THE WEAPONS AND START TO KILL PEOPLE.



WHEN THEY OPEN FIRE IN THE BAZAAR THIS TIME, OUR PEOPLE STRIKE BACK AND REBUFF THE FRENCH.



ARSLANBEY CHARGES EVERYONE WITH DUTIES.

IT GETS DIFFICULT TO COMMUNICATE WHEN THE FRENCH SHELL THE CITY.



THE CHILDREN MANAGE A LOT.



ON INSTRUCTION, FIRST THEY FORAY THE PRISON AND THEN THE ARMOURY IN THE EVENING.



EVLİYA EFENDİ AND HIS MEN BATTLE IN ALL THE NEIGHBOURHOODS, ESPECIALLY ACEMLİ NEIGHBOURHOOD, TOWARDS SOUTH.

SERGEANT YUSUF, ZİYA, MANSUR, AND THEIR MEN BATTLE IN HATUNİYE NEIGHBOURHOOD.

SERGEANT ABPULLAH AND HIS MEN BATTLE IN ALEMLİ NEIGHBOURHOOD.

YAHYA HODJA AND HIS FELLOWS IN EKMEKÇİ NEIGHBOURHOOD...



ZÜLKADİR OĞLU SÜLEYMAN AND HIS FELLOWS BATTLE NEAR THE KEŞİFLİ MOSQUE.



SÜLEYMAN BEY CAPTURES THE GERMAN FARM.

THE PEOPLE OF MARAŞ WAS BATTLING ALL AROUND THE CITY BRAVELY.



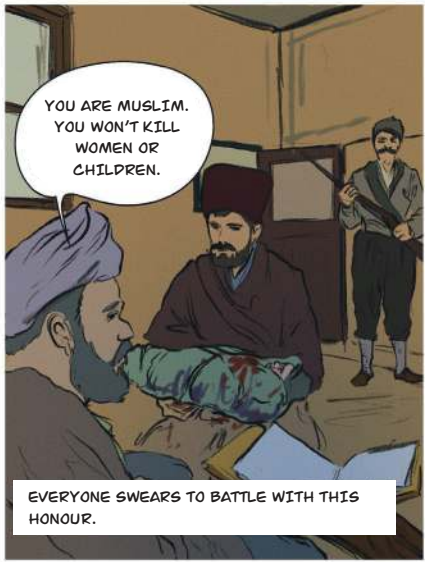
SERGEANT ABPULLAH SETS HIS OWN HOUSE ON FIRE TO STOP THE ATTACK OF THE ENEMIES. THE ENEMY'S HEADQUARTER NEXT TO IT ALSO BURSTS INTO FLAMES SO IT'S CAPTURED.



THE FRENCH AND ARMENIANS GET UPSET WITH THE TOUGH WAR ABILITIES. THEY START TO FORAY TURKISH HOUSES AND KILL EVERYONE; EVEN CHILDREN AND BABIES CRUELLY.



THEY TELL TO ALI SEZAI EFENDI THAT THE ENEMIES BAYONET BABIES IN TEARS. "WHAT SHALL WE DO?"



YOU ARE MUSLIM. YOU WON'T KILL WOMEN OR CHILDREN.

EVERYONE SWEARS TO BATTLE WITH THIS HONOUR.



O MUSLIM!

MUSLIM CLERGYMEN GO TO THE SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND INVITE PEOPLE TO BATTLE.



THE FRENCH AND ARMENIANS CHANGE TACTICS AND START TO SET TURKISH NEIGHBOURHOODS ON FIRE.

MARAS TURNS INTO A FIREPLACE.



WHEN THE WIND SHIFTS, ARMENIANS' HOUSES GET ON FIRE AS WELL



AROUND 40 LITTLE GIRLS ARE HIDDEN IN A HAYLOFT READING THE DHIKR, "YA VEDUP."

ALLAHUMMA YA VEDUP!



MILLIŞ NURİ AND HIS MEN ATTACK THE HOUSE WHICH IS USED AS A HEADQUARTER BY HIRLAKYAN, THE ARMENIAN LEADER.

IT TURNS INTO AN INTENSE BATTLE, THE MANSION BURSTS INTO FLAMES. HOWEVER, THAT NIGHT BOTH MILLIŞ NURİ AND SERGEANT ABDULLAH ARE MARTYRED.



ARSLAN BEY AND ALİ SEZAI EFENDİ GET THE NEWS IN THE HEADQUARTER.

İNNA İLLAHI WA İNNA İLAYHI RAJİ'UN

OH, THESE YOUNG MEN! OH, MY BROTHERS!



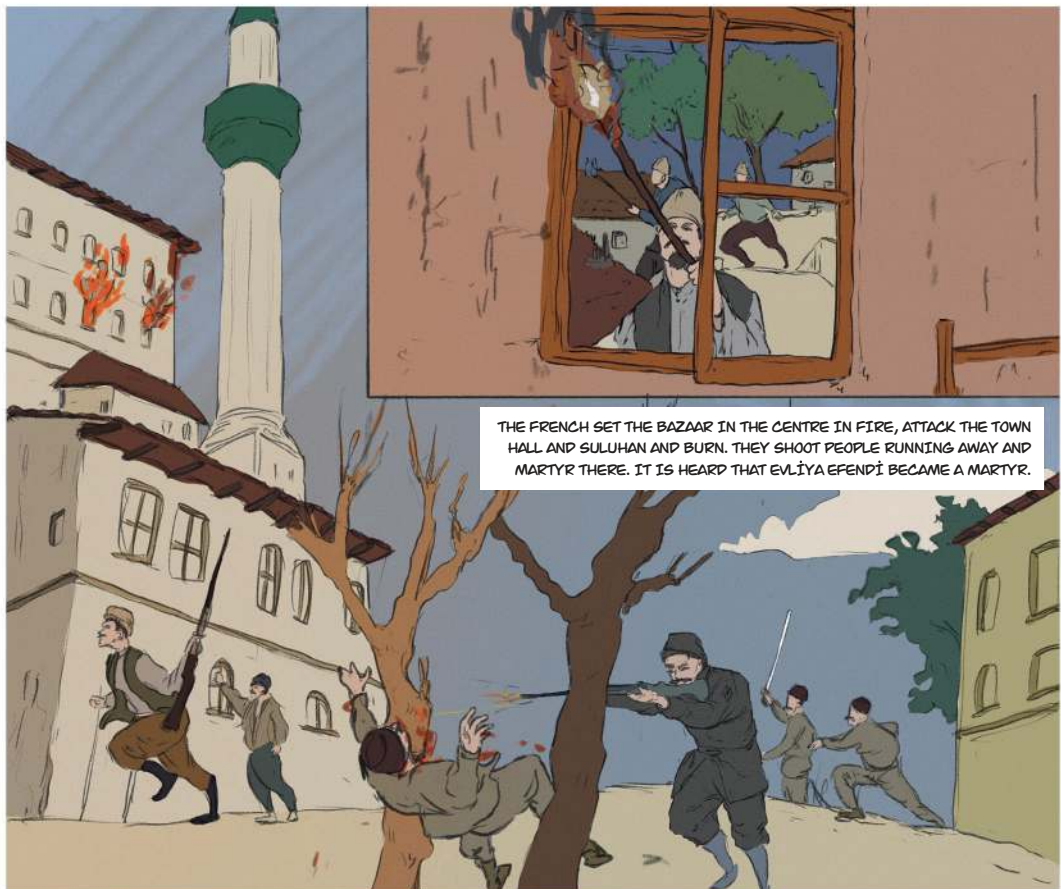
EVLIYA EFENDİ DOESN'T WASTE TIME. HE FORAYS ANOTHER HOUSE WHICH IS AN ENEMY HEADQUARTER.



THE NEXT DAY ARMENIANS FORAY THE MEVLEVI LODGE AND BEPESTEN MOSQUE AND SET THEM IN FIRE.



EVLIYA EFENDİ SCATTERS ARMENIANS WHO TURNED THE TEKKE CHURCH INTO A HEADQUARTERS.



THE FRENCH SET THE BAZAAR IN THE CENTRE IN FIRE, ATTACK THE TOWN HALL AND SULUHAN AND BURN. THEY SHOOT PEOPLE RUNNING AWAY AND MARTYR THERE. IT IS HEARD THAT EVLIYA EFENDI BECAME A MARTYR.

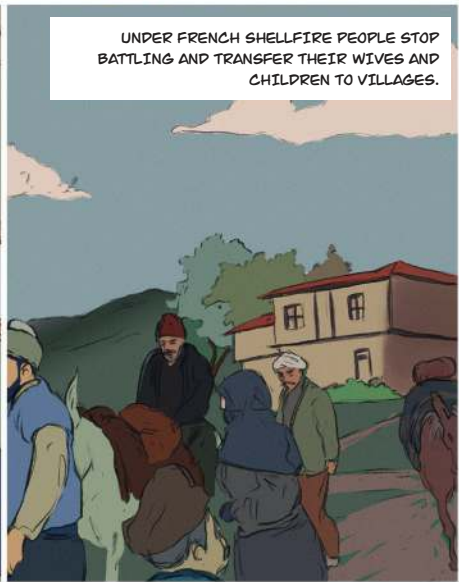


EVERYONE IS DEVASTATED. REINFORCEMENTS ARE ON THE WAY FOR THE FRENCH.

WE NEED TO GET WOMEN AND CHILDREN OUT OF THE CITY.

WATCH OUT FOR ENEMY FIRE.

THEY WANT TO SCARE THE PEOPLE OF MARAŞ FROM A POSSIBLE MASSACRE IF THEY LOSE.



UNDER FRENCH SHELLFIRE PEOPLE STOP BATTLING AND TRANSFER THEIR WIVES AND CHILDREN TO VILLAGES.



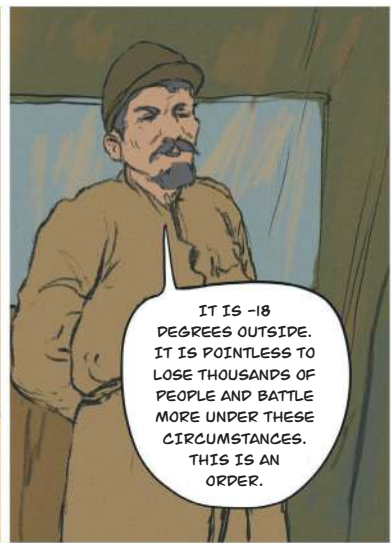




COLONEL, I HOPE YOU HAVE A GOOD REASON TO SUMMON ME HERE.

LEAVE MARAS, IMMEDIATELY.

BUT WE WERE DEFEATING?



IT IS -18 DEGREES OUTSIDE. IT IS POINTLESS TO LOSE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE AND BATTLE MORE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES. THIS IS AN ORDER.



A COUPLE OF TURKS DEFEATED US, HUH?

THE NEWS SPREAD AMONG ARMENIANS THE NEXT DAY.



THE FRENCH ARE LEAVING THE CITY, WE CAN'T STAY HERE.

YOU CAN GO, I AM NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

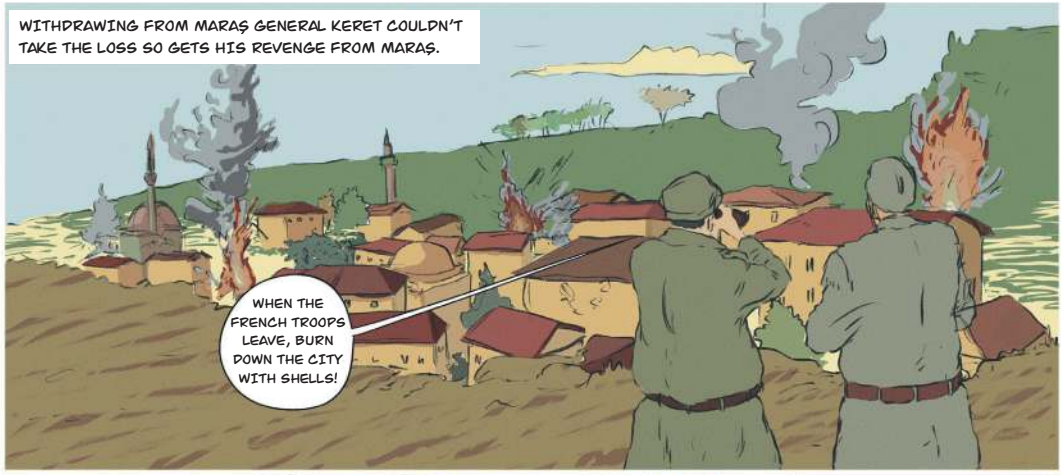


DID IT WORTH RUINING YOUR OWN HOMETOWN KILLING YOUR NEIGHBOURS BECAUSE OF THE FRENCH, TELL ME DARON.

DARON IS FURIOUS, DEFEATED, AND DECEIVED AND LEAVES.



WITHDRAWING FROM MARAŞ GENERAL KERET COULDN'T TAKE THE LOSS SO GETS HIS REVENGE FROM MARAŞ.



WHEN THE FRENCH TROOPS LEAVE, BURN DOWN THE CITY WITH SHELLS!

IN THE WEE SMALL HOURS OF THE MORNING, TURKS' SCREAMS OF JOY ARE HEARD IN MARAŞ STREETS.



WE WON!

HOORAY!

ALLAHU AKBAR!

ARSLAN BEY HOLDS ALİ SEZÂİ EFENDİ'S HANDS IN TEARS.



IF ALLAH SO WISHES, HE CAN EVEN PASS THE CAMEL THROUGH A NEEDLE HOLE.

HOPJA, DID WE REALLY WIN?

NOT YET, THERE ARE STILL URFA, ANTEP, ADANA; THE WHOLE MOTHERLAND WAITS FOR US TO BE SAVED.





# NOTES

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