



Holy Translators Serpots Tarkmanchats

OBSERVED ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF OCTOBER

A celebration of knowledge

What makes this holiday so special?

Why are the creators of the Armenian alphabet and the translators of the Bible so important to Armenians?

The leaders of neighbouring countries wanted to occupy Armenian lands and impose their culture and religion on Armenians. Armenia did not have strong armies to protect its territory. Armenian culture was also difficult to protect because while Armenians spoke their own unique language, they initially did not have an alphabet and used Greek or Syriac for writing.

Shortly after Armenia became a Christian nation in 301 A.D., Veramshaboo, the king of Armenia, along with the Catholicos Sahag and a very learned *vartabed* (monk) named Mesrob Mashdots, came together to think about how to best protect Armenian culture.

For many years Mesrob worked and prayed for an alphabet suited to the Armenian language. In the year 405 A.D., with God's inspiration, Mesrob created a unique alphabet of thirty-six letters. Later two more letters were added, bringing the total to thirty-eight. This alphabet is still used today.

Soon after this, many schools were opened; the Bible and other important books were translated into Armenian; and many new books were written in Armenian.