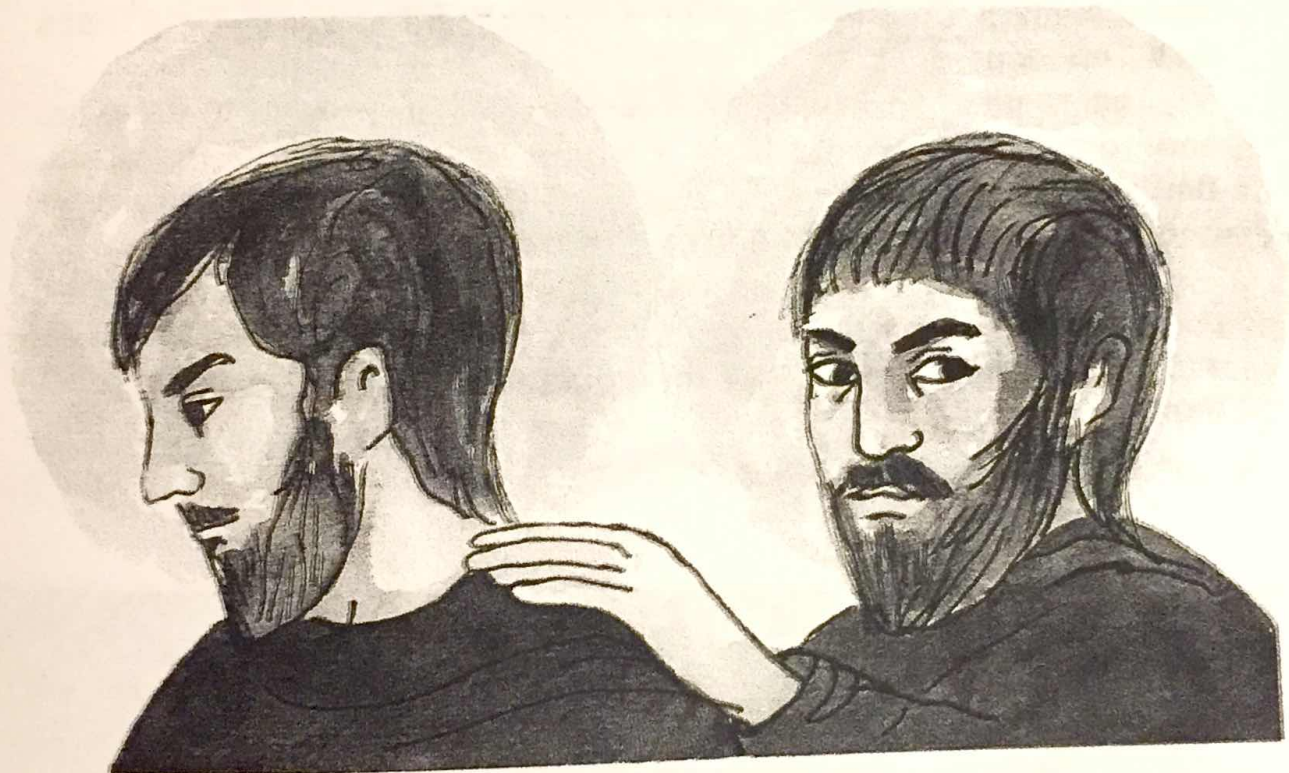


Thaddeus and Bartholomew



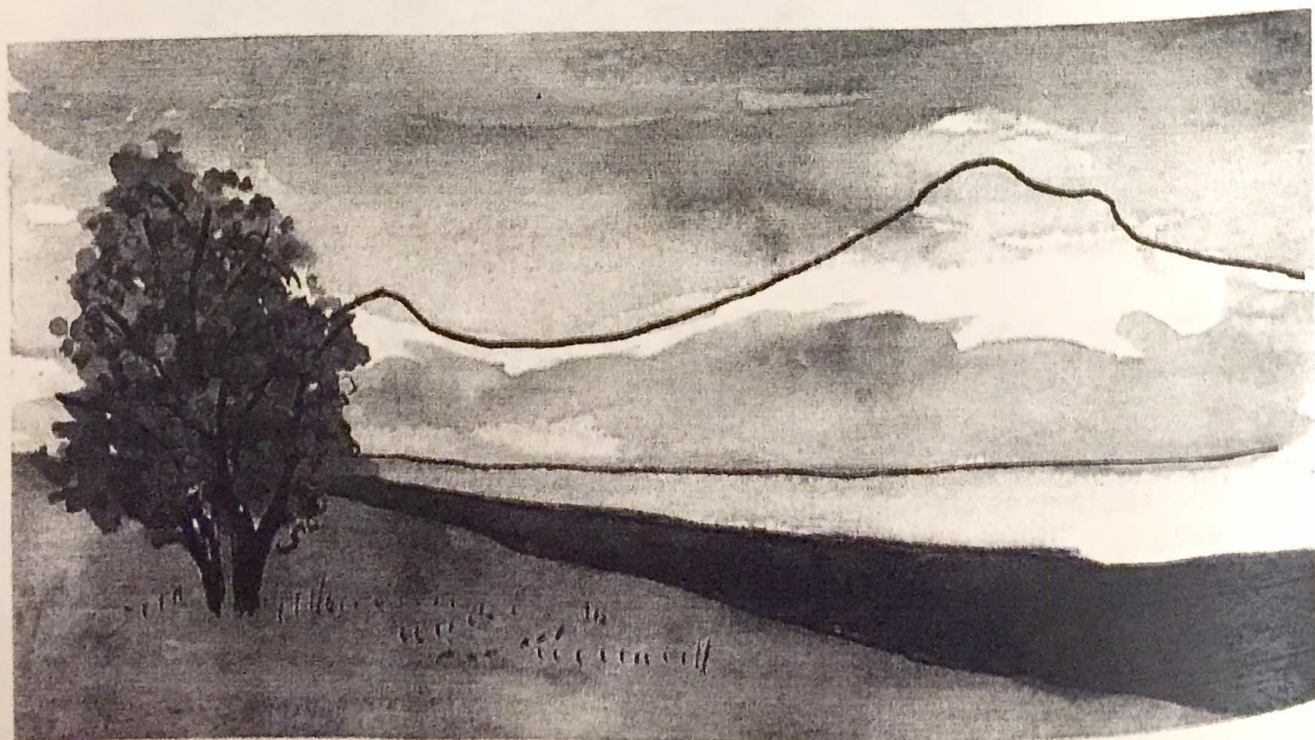
THE FIRST ENLIGHTENERS

St. Gregory is called “the Illuminator” because he brought the light of God’s word to Armenia and planted it in the hearts of the Armenian people. A long time before St. Gregory, there were other men and women who carried the light of God’s word to Armenia. Two of them were Thaddeus and Bartholomew. Because they came so long before Gregory, they are called the *first* enlighteners.

Thaddeus was a friend of Jesus. After Jesus returned to heaven, Thaddeus decided he would travel about and tell people of all the wonderful things he saw Jesus do and say. In his travels, he came to Armenia. He started telling everyone about the miracles of Jesus and about the stories Jesus told. He even told them who Jesus was: the Son of God. Now, some people listened to Thaddeus, and some didn't listen to him. Some believed him, and some people didn't. One of those who believed him was the king's daughter, and one of those who didn't believe him was the king himself. The king got angry at his daughter and angry at this man Thaddeus. He had Thaddeus killed. Thaddeus kept saying he loved Jesus and he believed in Jesus even though the king's soldiers were going to kill him. That's how Thaddeus died.

The same thing happened to Bartholomew. He went to Armenia, and someone probably told him what had happened to Thaddeus. Bartholomew was probably a little scared. But he kept telling everyone about Jesus until they killed him, too.

Sometimes, it's not easy to do what's right. People sometimes don't understand us for believing in Jesus or for going to church. At such times, we might remember the courage of Thaddeus and Bartholomew.





If St. Thaddeus were here today, he could be a _____.

If St. Bartholomew were here today, he could be a _____.

If St. Gregory were here today, he could be a _____.