



## Vartanants Saints Serpots Vartanants

CELEBRATED ON THE THURSDAY NEAREST TO FEBRUARY 15

☞ celebration of bravery

A long time ago when Armenia was under Persian rule, the Persian King Hazgerd ordered Armenians to stop believing in Christianity and to pray to his god of fire, threatening terrible punishment if they did not obey his orders.

Armenians, men and women, young and old, rich and poor, sent a brave message back to King Hazgerd expressing their loyalty to him, but refusing to give up Christianity, even if it meant facing punishment.

This angered the King so much that in the year 451 A.D. he sent his army of soldiers and elephants to the plains of Avarayr to fight the Armenians and to destroy their faith.



*(An excerpt from Armenian Holiday Traditions, by Annie Seropian)*