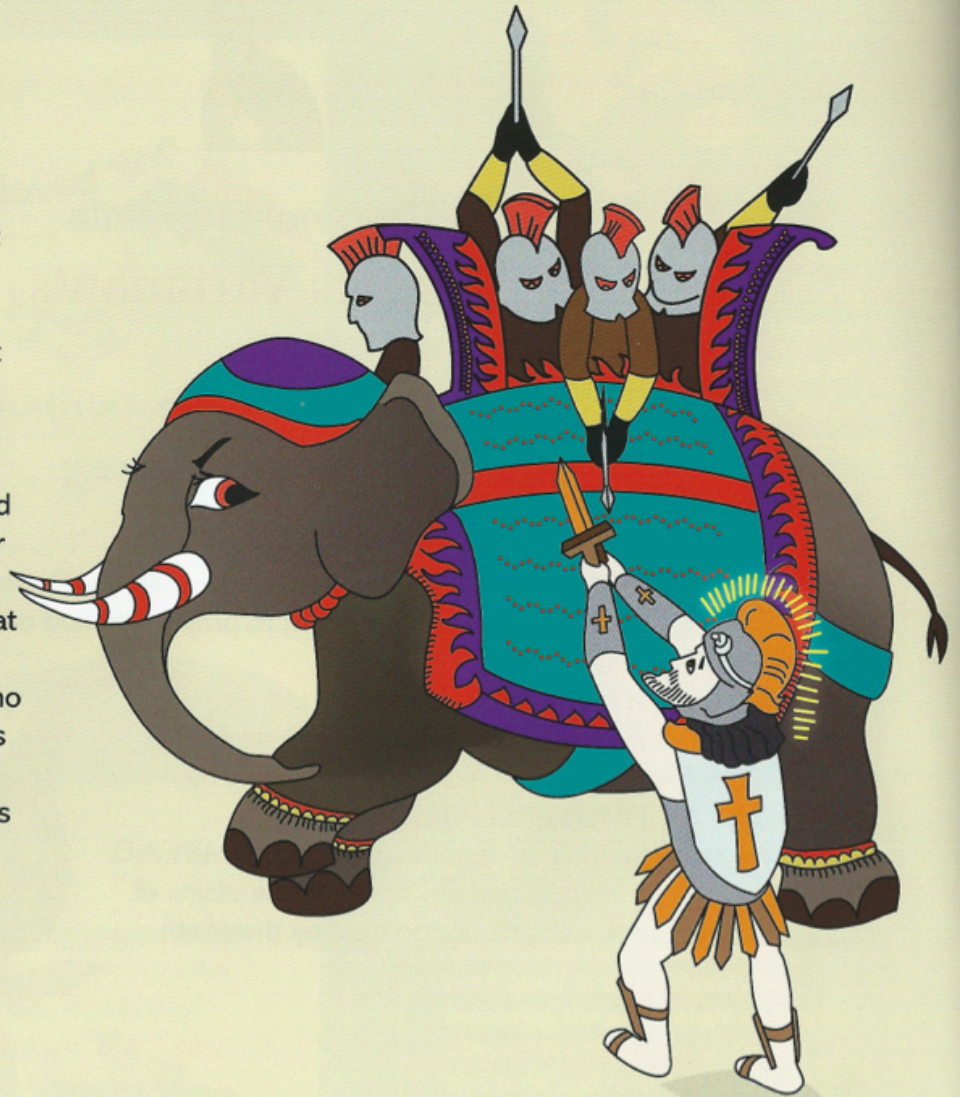


This army was met in battle by the brave Armenian general **Vartan Mamigonian** and his courageous soldiers. The Armenians were terribly outnumbered but they fought hard until finally having suffered unbearable losses, they were overrun by the vast Persian army.

But even though Vartan Mamigonian and his soldiers lost the battle, Armenians held on with determination to their Christian faith throughout the ages, right to this day, and that made them the final victors!

Vartan and his soldiers who died at Avarayr, have stood as shining examples of heroism, patriotism, and Christian values for generations of Armenians. In fact, many children call themselves "*kach Vartanin tore*" (the grandchild of brave Vartan). The anniversary of this battle is an Armenian national holiday, and Vartan Mamigonian and his soldiers are considered saints.



Some of the names celebrated on this day are **Vartan, Vahan, Karekin, Arsen, Vahe** and **Shoushan**; and all those Armenian male names who do not have a special name day.

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