

Armenians call the Bible *Asdvadzashoonch*, which means “God’s breath.”

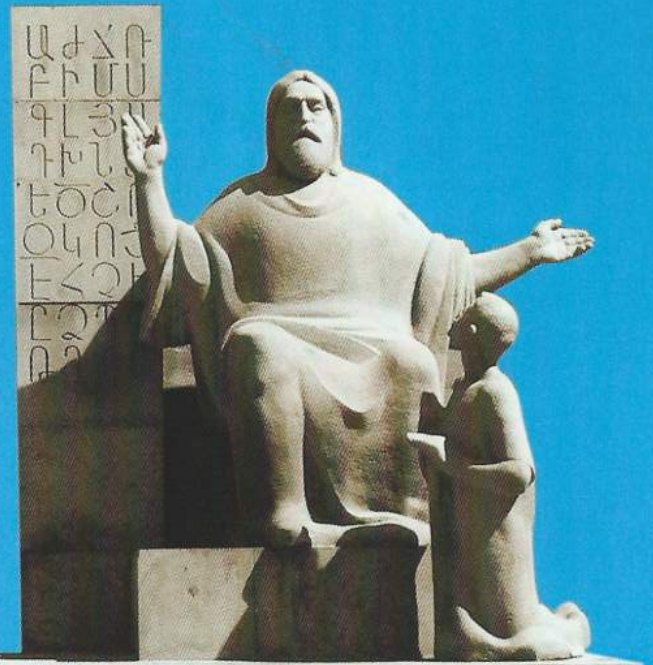
The first sentence translated from the Bible into Armenian was: “**Learn and understand the wisdom of intelligent words.**”

By choosing this sentence, the wise fathers of the Church demonstrated their willingness to learn from all cultures in order to create an Armenian culture that would be valued by non-Armenians as well.

Being able to read and write in their own language encouraged Armenians’ love of learning, and made it possible for them to resist pressure from foreign powers that wanted to replace Armenian culture with their own. Having their own alphabet served Armenians well even in times of war and deportation. Though they could not carry their mountains and rivers with them, they took along their culture.

**In essence, the thirty-eight letters of the Armenian alphabet became the thirty-eight protectors of Armenian culture and this is why Mesrob Mashdots is so famous in Armenian history and considered a saint.**

There are twenty-six letters in the alphabet used in English.



### Did you know?

The bible was translated to Armenian in the year 436. Translations into other languages followed almost 1,000 years later... English 1384, French 1530 and Spanish 1569.

Some of the names celebrated on this holiday are **Sahag, Mesrob, Movses, Tavit, and Nareg.**