

## Artsakh be brave, be brave, we will return! | George Gevorg Kalaidzhyan

Artsakh: My History

Oh Artsakh, my beautiful land, my culture  
How can I be happy, when you are not with us?  
How can I live my life when others have suffered?  
I saw your sign, 12 meters away, I wanted to frolick to you,  
Like deers in the grass; walking in the grass, and taking it all in  
Artsakh, be strong, be brave, we will return.

The treacherous nightmares you have encountered  
The buildings in Stepanakert, being bombarded with rockets landing faster than the  
speed of light, men, women, children, elderly screaming at the top of their lungs  
Screaming like the victims of a shark attack!  
Churches, schools, villages are soon dismantled into the ground; faster than an  
earthquake, destructive like a tsunami,  
there is pretty much nothing left;  
there is nobody left;  
and it's a matter of time  
until EVERYTHING is gone.

Artsakh, be strong, be brave, we will return.

The treacherous nightmare continues 3 years later.  
 The border is closed. Food, medicine, support are unable to arrive  
 We are struggling to provide support; like a huge boulder has blocked us  
 The enemy is blocking us, there is no way out  
 Like somebody has placed you in a room, and locked the door; no exit  
 Electricity has been wiped out, buildings are now darker than the caves where the bats sleep

Our animals have escaped; home is not home anymore to them  
 There's no heat to warm the cold, nobody can sleep from the scream of children  
 Children leaving their toys, their schools, their homes and wonder why?  
 The homesickness is still evident, regardless of where they landed  
 It is still not the same; it won't be the same; until they're HOME.  
 Artsakh, be strong, be brave, we will return.

A 9 year old boy drives his family to Armenia for 9 hours  
 His family is starving, sister is begging for food, mother is in pain  
 Father is ill, no food to fuel him, no water, nothing! He has to drive to  
 survive!

Everyone is leaving, cars are lining up  
 The place where children would laugh, and play  
 Covered in snow

is now covered in ashes  
With no human life  
The streets are empty, garbage on the streets, animals abandoned, like a zombie  
apocalypse.  
No one is there. NOBODY!!!!  
Artsakh, be strong, be brave, we will return.

We are gone now. Well 99% of us, because you kept attacking  
Now, you started destroying our signs; Shushi; has turned to Susa  
Colonized our land; settled in your people,  
Even if you sank our buildings to the ground and diminished them like quicksand,  
We will prevail, we will fix the damages -  
And I don't care what Google or Wikipedia says, Shushi is Shushi, Artsakh, not  
Susa, Azerbaijan.  
Just because you put a dress on a mannequin; doesn't mean they're human.  
Artsakh, be strong, be brave, we will return.

New signs have been placed, new people have arrived  
But it is not their homes; not their history, not their culture.  
Mocking us like the circus clowns at a festival with its animal balloons.  
However, this is just cruel; it's only funny for those who colonized  
Artsakh, be strong, be brave, we will return  
The 3,000 years of history; of people living in these eastern villages,  
The dances, where we gather together with our hands, strangers becoming family  
Holding together as our souls rejoice, creating a flag with our tears and blood,

We make our dolma (grape leaves), make our coffee (very strong) we sing our songs

Our mountains, tall and strong, receive these songs, we declare our love, it goes in the air  
Our mountains are lonely now, strangers are there, nobody is singing, no sounds, Our mountains are calling us.  
We are trying to respond but we are sent to voicemail by the current provide  
Artsakh, be strong, be brave, we will return

We will rebuild our damaged buildings  
We will be the carpenters of Artsakh  
Like the phoenix rising from the ashes  
We will retain our strength and make the comeback Now, it's just a matter of time Until our return.  
Artsakh, be strong, be brave, we will return.