



**"Memories" by Hamida Khanum Javanshir and  
Shusha seen from his window**

Hamida Javanshir, who remained as one of the first enlightened women in the history of Azerbaijan, was a philanthropist, translator, intellectual lady who took the hand of not only the village of Kahrizli, where she was born, but also the Karabagh people who sheltered her in general. He was born in 1873 in the village of Kahrizli, Shusha district, in the family of Ahmad Bey Javanshir, a prominent European-educated intellectual of his time, historian, author of the work "On the political situation of Karabakh Khanate", numerous poems and translations. Hamida, who knows the Russian language perfectly, is intelligent and has a broad outlook, studied at a family school. Since her first husband, lieutenant colonel Ibrahim Bey Davatdarov, whom she married at the age of 16, died at the front, Hamida Khanum Javanshir, who was left alone with two children at the age of 29 and lost her father soon after, managed her ancestral property in the dogma home.

She met Jalil Mammadguluzade in Tbilisi in 1905, they got married two years later. Although this marriage is not suitable for her noble generation by many, Hamida Khanum is able to listen to foreign opinions. He was not only Mirza Jalil's faithful lifelong companion, but also the closest comrade in arms in his educational activities, and the benevolent patron of "Molla Nasreddin" magazine. In 1912, Mrs. Hamida opened the first school where boys and girls studied together in Kahrizli at her own expense and taught there; although it is not reflected in the documents, as can be seen from his memories, he financially supports the education of dozens of students; With Mirza Jalil's advice, she organized a women's charity society and gathered educated women around her (1905-1917), etc. It can be seen from "Memories" that Mrs. Hamida Javanshir was an authority not only in her family, among her relatives, but in the whole of Kahrizli - with her intervention, disputes are ended, students' problems are solved, she spares no effort to lend a helping hand to the sick, homeless, and helpless. In short, he is not afraid to spend his life like a candle for the sake of a more educated and healthier society. After the death of Jalil Mammadguluzadeh, Hamida Khanum, who took an active position in the literary and social life of the country, not only translated the works of her friend, but also masterfully wrote down her memories about him.

Although Hamida Khanum started writing "My Memories" earlier (these memories were mainly related to her father Ahmad Bey Javanshir), in the mid-30s, she expanded and accelerated the work by the order of Mir Jafar Bagirov. The purpose of M. Bagirov in such an order was to write about the events that happened in Karabakh, revolutionary movements and important Bolsheviks of those years. Since Ms. Hamida gladly accepted the order, they prepared her documents in one day and ensured her membership in the Union of Writers. During the 2-3 years given for the writing of the work, Hamida Khanum was provided with a high salary, special service car, food share ("kremlyovski payok") and other privileges due to scarcity.