

UDC: 316.3

DOI: 10.52971/18294316-2023.26.2-156

## INTERPRETER OF THE UNIVERSAL SOLIDARITY WITHIN THE ETHNO-CULTURAL CONTEXT

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### Abstract

Narekatsi's perspective centers on God's mysterious nature, with the body as a vessel for soul development. Narekatsi explores the interchangeability of body and essence. A balanced state entails living by conscience, guided by divine essence and love, opposing evil with goodness. The power of divine teachings and the significance of resonance in the universe are of a great importance. In the article it is emphasized the transformative impact of ordered thoughts and divine word on human consciousness. Based on this Narek book's ability to heal and calm individuals is discussed, contingent on their readiness and belief in its teachings. The essence of Narekatsi's teachings lies in the journey of self-purification and the embrace of conscious faith. Each person carries the divine essence within and can strive to become a better individual by acknowledging hidden sins and seeking redemption. Faith should be rational and balanced, leading to a harmonious and constructive life. *Methodology:* The historical comparative methodology allowed brought comprehensive understanding of Narekatsi's work from a broader perspective. *Conclusion:* Embracing the principles of ordered thoughts, balanced emotions, and positive actions can lead to personal growth and a closer connection to the divine.

**Key words:** *Grigor Narekatsi, book of prayers, Monastery, ethno-culture, universal solidarity, balance, self-destruction, instability, resonance, divine word.*

**Citation:** Sahakyan K. A., Hovhannisyan R. P., Mikayelyan S. E. *Interpreter of the Universal Solidarity Within the Ethno-Cultural Context* // "Scientific works" of SCAS NAS RA. Gyumri, 2023. V. 2 (26). pp. 156-162. DOI: 10.52971/18294316-2023.26.2-156

## ВЫРАЗИТЕЛЬ ВСЕОБЩЕЙ СОЛИДАРНОСТИ В ЭТНОКУЛЬТУРНОМ КОНТЕКСТЕ

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### **Аннотация**

Точка зрения Нарекаци сосредоточена на таинственной природе Божией, с телом, как сосудом для развития души. Нарекаци исследует взаимозаменяемость тела и сущности. Уравновешенное состояние подразумевает жизнь по совести, руководствуясь божественной сущностью и любовью, противопоставляя добро злу. Сила божественных учений и значение резонанса во вселенной имеют огромное значение. В статье подчеркивается преобразующее воздействие упорядоченных мыслей и божественного слова на человеческое сознание. На основе этой книги Нарека обсуждается способность исцелять и успокаивать людей в зависимости от их готовности и веры в ее учения. Суть учения Нарекаци заключается в пути самоочищения и осознанной веры. Каждый человек несет в себе божественную сущность и может стремиться стать лучше, признавая скрытые грехи и стремясь к искуплению. Вера должна быть рациональной и уравновешенной, ведущей к гармоничной и созидательной жизни. *Методология:* историческая сравнительная методология позволила всесторонне понять творчество Нарекаци с более широкой точки зрения. *Вывод:* Принятие принципов упорядоченных мыслей, уравновешенных чувств и положительных действий может привести к личностному росту и более тесной связи с божественным.

**Ключевые слова:** *Григор Нарекаци, молитвенник, Монастырь, этнокультура, всеобщая солидарность, равновесие, саморазрушение, нестабильность, резонанс, божественное слово.*

**Как цитировать:** Саакян К. А., Оганнисян Р. П., Микаелян Ш.Э. *Выразитель всеобщей солидарности в этнокультурном контексте* // "Научные труды" ШЦАИ НАН РА. Гюмри, 2023. Т. 2 (26). сс. 156- 162. DOI: 10.52971/18294316-2023.26.2-156

**INTRODUCTION:** During the traditional General Audience held on April 26 at St. Peter's Square in the Vatican, Pope Francis made a special mention of Gregory of Narek (Grigor Narekatsi), highlighting his role as an advocate for universal solidarity. The Pope emphasized that the love for all individuals serves as an inspiration for the lives of nuns and monks, and is manifested through their intercessory prayers. To illustrate this, he presented the example of Saint Gregory of Narek, a renowned Armenian monk from around the 10th century. Saint Gregory composed a book of prayers that encapsulated the faith of the Armenian people, who were the first to embrace Christianity and have endured significant suffering throughout history. Spending most of his life at the Narek Monastery, Gregory delved deep into the human soul, combining poetry and prayer to reach the pinnacle of Armenian literature and spirituality.

The Pope underscored the remarkable aspect of Gregory's legacy, which is his embodiment of universal solidarity. Monks and nuns, as exemplified by Saint Gregory, possess a profound sense of unity and empathy. They hold in their hearts the happenings of the world and

offer prayers and intercession. Their hearts, like antennas, are attuned to the world, and through prayer, they live in communion with the Lord and all of humanity. The Pope shared a sentiment expressed by one of them, stating, "I have voluntarily taken upon myself all faults, from those of the first father down to the last of his descendants, and I have held myself responsible for them." In essence, they shoulder the burdens of the world, its difficulties, and illnesses, interceding through prayer. These monks and nuns are the great evangelizers, serving as bridges of intercession for all people and their sins.

The Pope acknowledged the significance of monasteries and recognized that while they may seem isolated, they fulfill their evangelistic mission through intercession, daily work, and the power of their words [8].

Narekatsi suggests that God is an enigmatic force. Narekatsi posits that the body serves as a vessel for the development and improvement of the soul alone. Mortal matter can be intertwined with an immortal essence, wherein the divine nature assumes a physical form while retaining its divinity. Narekatsi asserts that the body and the essence can interchangeably transform into each other, with the exemplification of Christ as the God-man, perfectly combining body and soul in harmonious unity. The state of balance also encompasses living in accordance with one's conscience, perceiving the presence of a guiding force within oneself. In this state, one does not suffer from actions committed or yet to be undertaken, guided by the dictates of the divine essence, love, and the Holy Spirit. Narekatsi questions why it is inappropriate to respond to evil with further evil, emphasizing the futility of such an approach [6, pp. 224-225].

No aspect is beyond your reach; even that which appears impossible to our minds. Rather than offering the thorns of hell, you bestow sweet fruits. This revolutionary and remarkable rule of life instills the practice of doing good to those we despise and praying for our persecutors. We are taught to seek salvation for those who stab and forgive those who kill. You, the originator of this marvelous fruit, nurture its sweetness. You are a beacon of light, never swayed by curses or tempted by evil. You do not yearn for harm, loss, or death. You remain calm, composed, devoid of anger and hatred. Your love is ceaseless, and your kindness unwavering. You never turn your back or avert your gaze, for you are an embodiment of light, bestowing salvation upon all. The evolution of world processes typically unfolds through two contrasting beginnings: good and evil. The development of the world, at all levels, represents a constant struggle between entropy and negative entropy, disorder and order. The former tends towards self-destruction and instability, fostering chaos, while the latter strives to create ordered, valuable, and beneficial systems, dismantling the perpetual reign of evil and ushering in the dawn of good. Those who identify as atheists reject the concept of immortality and firmly believe that the only self that exists is the physical self. Consequently, they live their lives with a self-centered approach, seeking to extract as much as possible from this earthly existence, both for themselves and at the expense of others [1, p.242]. They selfishly justify their actions by asserting that there is no afterlife, showing indifference to moral distinctions and treating all means as equal. Narekatsi wrote about these individuals, saying, "My life is but a single day, I am like a fleeting shadow, and I have experienced death and resurrection due to my losses" [2, p. 9].

Narekatsi highlights that even harboring malevolent thoughts in one's mind is considered a sin, as cursing or wishing harm remains recorded in the cosmic memory and will inevitably be returned. This is due to the principle of resonance that operates throughout the universe, where each information has its unique channel and each wave possesses its distinct form, phase, and amplitude. When we listen to divine teachings, our brain, which is the carrier of information about the individual self, resonates with the divine word. As humans are created by divine nature, the

divine word, with its teachings, resonates deeply within them and brings immense pleasure. The resonance of divine teachings initially impacts the human self, serving to cleanse it from a state of chaos and infusing it with ordered information pertaining to its Divine origin. Just as chaos in the universe is brought to order through the power of information, the presence of mixed and disordered thoughts in the human brain can agitate and disturb an individual. Taking this into account, it's important to acknowledge that Narekatsi's profound love for life encapsulates the essence of human existence. It harmoniously unites the celestial and terrestrial realms, blending their wealth of knowledge and wisdom with a deeply humanitarian perspective [5, p.158].

On the other hand, ordered thoughts bring balance and open new horizons of thought and knowledge. This is why the impact of this book is not limited to merely healing incurable patients but also brings tranquility to foreigners who may not understand the Armenian language. The efficacy of this healing or calming effect depends on the readiness and belief of the person involved. Only in such cases can an individual unlock the door to the consciousness of their soul and witness miracles unfold. It's not coincidental that Narekatsi's prayer formulas often feature the word "Meghai" (Forgive me, God), as it carries profound connotations of inner self-purification. This practice has its roots in ancient archaic thinking, exerting a psychological impact across generations [7, p. 33].

The task at hand for each person is self-purification, for which God, as a perfect example of humanity, sent His son. The desire to become a perfect human being resides within every individual since each person carries the divine essence within them. However, some individuals have allowed evil and envy to permeate their hearts to such a degree that it creates chaos and confusion, seemingly leaving no space for the divine spirit. Yet, this is not the case. Salvation and goodness always prevail, as they align with God's will. Narekatsi emphasizes that just as our souls cannot find salvation without Christ, there can be no redemption without acknowledging and confessing our hidden sins and faults. This signifies that the path of self-purification and personal growth is vertical, requiring faith that leads to repentance, confession, atonement, and ultimately, forgiveness. This path can be taken through reading Narekatsi. Chroniclers, particularly Matetos Jughaetsi, acknowledged that a single chapter of Narekatsi surpasses the entirety of David's Psalms and holds greater power than any church hymnal [3, p. 9].

However, faith should not be blind; it should be conscious and reasoned. Conscious faith encompasses rationality and aligns with the orderly and constructive phenomena observed in the universe. This includes maintaining a balanced and sober mindset, nurturing healthy and reasoned thoughts, and experiencing emotions that are well-grounded. On the other hand, disorganized and anarchic phenomena, such as irrational and ecstatic emotions, even if they are directed towards God, can be dangerous. Likewise, individuals with extreme religious views, sectarian tendencies, or those who harm innocent people under the guise of radical beliefs are akin to a person with a bomb in their hand—a perilous comparison to a psychotic individual.

In summary, salvation and victory are always attainable, but they require conscious faith, repentance, and the confession of hidden sins. Constructive and reasoned phenomena align with the path of self-purification, while disorganized and extreme behaviors can be detrimental, even if they claim religious motives. Since the beginning, speech, logic, and information have played fundamental roles. They transcend both matter and energy, serving as carriers of information. Information never truly disappears; it transitions from one bearer to another, much like nothing in the world truly vanishes. This information has always revolved around the highest moral principles. The evolution of the animal kingdom, including the subconscious activities of the human mind,

necessitated a regulated source of information. Other fields that emerge in the process of evolution are also crucial for human development.

Every scientific discovery acts as a catalyst for negative entropy, influencing the organization and structure of human thoughts and knowledge. It is important to recognize that moral norms are not fabricated by humans but rather unveiled and discovered. They exist as inherent principles that govern human behavior and guide societal interactions. Moral norms are not fundamentally different across various nations; rather, there are varying degrees of their discovery and awareness. However, in the present era, humanity finds itself at an impasse. Chaos reigns in fields such as science, education, art, and politics, all of which are influenced by an anti-Creationist moral compass. The arts may exhibit manifestations of madness, new technologies can be employed to deceive people, and politics may be characterized by hatred towards humanity, sectarianism, instability, and corruption in public life. The world has seemingly forgotten about divine morality and the significance of repentance and sin, disregarding the wisdom found in Narekatsi's "Matian Voghbergutyun" and the teachings of the New Testament. Yet, those with receptive minds and an inner voice attuned to truth readily comprehend and believe in the transformative power of these timeless works. Some individuals adhere strictly to what they can perceive through their senses or comprehend through formulas and equations. The path to true peace lies in the unity of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—an uncomplicated truth. Each of us possesses the freedom to choose whether to embrace this unity or not. It is a remarkable concept, and many people, myself included, wholeheartedly believe in it. However, there are pragmatic individuals who approach life solely through formulas and equations, remaining skeptical until clear definitions and scientific justifications are presented. They seek scientific substantiation for the ideas that Narekatsi presented. Remarkably, in the 10th century, Narekatsi already possessed an understanding of the tangible and intangible wholeness of the universe, recognizing the unity of the material and the spiritual realms. Narekatsi was aware of the potential consequences if this balance were to be disrupted. He comprehended that everything in the world draws inspiration from the essence of God, and that nothing can exist without the illumination of God's light. God embodies the epitome of generosity, philanthropy, and supreme morality. He possesses profound knowledge of humankind as a vital force within the universe, subject to the same laws that govern the cosmos. God comprehends the intricate connection between the tiniest particles, the intricate workings of cells, and the magnitude of His own being. He understands the vastness and yet the proximity that exists between Himself and humanity [2, p. 86-89].

At the heart of Narekatsi's methodology lies spiritual training and the pursuit of enlightenment. He encourages embracing a daily readiness to soar and seize each fleeting moment, transforming it into a meaningful contemplation. Engaging in spiritual exercises every day becomes the key to inner growth and connection with the divine [4, p.274].

Throughout history, human beings have possessed an innate curiosity. When faced with the incomprehensible, they often turned to mysticism for answers. In the ancient world, humans developed mystical ideas and explanations, leading them to conceive the idea of God. But did they create this concept, or were they intuitively convinced of its presence? It seems that they were genuinely convinced. They created images, albeit in a primitive form, but they wholeheartedly believed in the existence of a divine power.

Knowledge about God has evolved throughout human history, much like other forms of knowledge. The one who imparted knowledge about God was His Son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, the knowledge He brought is unquestionably true and the only authentic one. Christianity stands

above other religions because it is not merely a teaching about God from prophets, but rather the teaching of God the Father Himself, who sent His Son into the world to reveal the truth.

Science, in its essence, does not create anything new; instead, it unveils and uncovers what was previously concealed. Therefore, it is remarkable that even a millennium after Narekatsi's time, scientific advancements have provided evidence to support the truths he proclaimed about God, conscience, the human mind, atonement, forgiveness, the human self, and the concepts of evil and good. This convergence between Narekatsi's insights from the 10th century and the scientific discoveries of today further reinforces the profound nature of his understanding and underscores the timeless wisdom contained within his teachings.

**CONCLUSION:** Narekatsi's teachings emphasize the path of self-purification, conscious faith, and embracing divine morality. Monks and nuns exemplify unity and empathy, interceding for humanity through prayer. The interconnectedness of matter and immaterial states, the existence of God within individuals, and the power of divine teachings resonate deeply within us. Narekatsi's wisdom aligns with scientific discoveries and underscores the profound nature of his insights. By understanding the unity of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we can embrace the transformative power of these timeless teachings and find true peace and harmony within ourselves and the world.

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Շնորհակալ եմ / Принята / Received on: 27.10.2023

Գրախոսակալ եմ / Рецензирована / Reviewed on: 20.11.2023

Հանձնակալ եմ սույն / Сдана в пч. / Accepted for Pub: 27. 11. 2023

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