

Shusha

etchings

- Upper Govhar Agha Mosque ☐
- Chukhur Quarter ☐
- Torpaq Square ☐
- Mamayi Quarter ☐
- Haji Yusifli Quarter ☐
- Seyidli Quarter ☐
- The Khan's Daughter's Well ☐
- Natavan's house ☐
- Ganja Gate ☐
- The Mehmandarovs' house ☐
- The Zohrabbayovs' house ☐
- Meydan Well ☐
- Mirjanli Quarter ☐
- Saatli Quarter ☐
- Merchant Mashadi Taghi's house ☐
- Julfa Quarter ☐
- Chol Qala Quarter ☐
- Uzeyir Hajibayov's house ☐
- Suleyman Alasgarov's house ☐
- The khan's house ☐





HEYDAR ALIYEV FOUNDATION

Shusha was and remains a shining pearl of Azerbaijani culture. Today it is also a symbol of our occupied land. As long as Shusha remains in Armenian captivity, we are all people of Shusha.

President of the
Heydar Aliyev Foundation,
UNESCO and ISESCO Goodwill
Ambassador, People's Deputy

Mehriban ALIYEVA





SHUSHA





Elturan Avalov




SHUSHA

etorings

2008, BAKU

SHUSHA: the true history of a city



Shusha is one of the oldest inhabited areas in Azerbaijan. Its role as the centre of the Qarabagh Khanate was very important in Shusha's development. The Qarabagh Khanate was one of 20 khanates that emerged in Azerbaijan after the collapse of Nadir Shah's empire (1736-47). Outstanding statesman Panah Khan Javanshir (1748-63) established the khanate.

DOCTOR OF HISTORY
KARIM SHUKUROV



Shusha was not chosen by chance as capital of the khanate. Bayat and Shahbulaq castles were built before Shusha, but after an analysis of their potential it was decided that a new, more suitable capital was needed and the specifications were drawn up. Mirza Jamal Javanshir, vizier of the Qarabagh Khanate, comments on the event in his work 'The History of Qarabagh': 'The late Panah Khan, who never forgot matters of government for a moment, summoned by decree businesslike and capable men for consultations. They said: "We must build a permanent, indestructible fortress in such a secure and impassable place in the mountains that a strong enemy cannot lay siege to it. One side of the fortress in the mountains should always be open to the land and our communications and connections with the neighbourhoods should not be cut (for a moment)..." Several of the khan's knowledgeable, well-informed men inspected locations for the fortress... There was no running water apart from two or three springs and this number of springs would be insufficient for the people of the fortress. Therefore, wells were dug in prospective spots and they determined that it was feasible to dig wells in several places. The news was brought to the late Panah Khan. The khan was very pleased – he gathered several of his closest men, went to see the place for himself and resolved that the foundations would be laid for the fortress.' The spring cleared up another important matter: 'Until that time there had been no dwelling houses here (i.e. in the place chosen for the fortress, K.S.). Here, on the east side, were the cultivated fields and pastures of the village of Shusha six versts (over six kilometres) from the fortress.' It is clear from this that the location of Shusha was chosen on the basis of the Qarabagh khan's concrete military-political and humanitarian plans. Another expert on Qarabagh's history, Mirza Adigozal Bay, links the founding of the city with the presence of water and writes: 'There was no running water or spring in the place where the city was to be founded. Several wells were dug for a trial. When water flowed from these wells, in 1170 (1756 in the Christian calendar – K.S.) the foundations of the city of Shusha were laid. The residents of Shahbulaq moved here with the people of a few villages...' The city was initially called Panahabad in honour of the khan, but it soon became known by the name of the nearby village, Shusha. Panah Khan and his descendants were clearly progressive, as they did not object to the name Shusha replacing the ruler's name. The city was also popularly known as Qala (Fortress). The arrival of Shusha in the family of Azerbaijani cities (Tabriz, Baku, Ganja, Ardabil, Urmia and others) was a major event. The Qarabagh Khanate's political influence and economic potential quickly boosted the role of Shusha, while the city of Shusha considerably reinforced the military and strategic position of the Qarabagh Khanate. With the development of Shusha a new era began in the life of ancient Qarabagh. In Shusha's early years as capital of the Qarabagh Khanate, a struggle was under way for power in the shattered Afshar state. Fatali Khan of Urmia, Mahammadhasan Khan Qajar (1750-70) and Karim Khan Zand (1750-79) were the most active. Sorting out relations with the Qarabagh Khanate took a prominent place in this struggle. Shusha faced its first test in 1758. Mahammadhasan Khan advanced on Shusha. Panah Khan shored up his defences,

but in 1762 Fatali Khan of Urmia attacked Qarabagh. Panah Khan sent his son Ibrahim as security to Fatali Khan. At this time Karim Khan Zand had reinforced his position and began to fight Fatali Khan of Urmia. In this struggle Panah Khan was an ally of Karim Khan Zand and managed to escape from dependency on the Urmia Khanate. Karim Khan Zand tricked Panah Khan into going to Shiraz and power in the khanate passed to Ibrahim Khan (1763-1806).

During Ibrahim Khan's time Shusha became a strong centre of power. At that time there were five vassal states (meliklik) in Qarabagh (Varanda, Chilabord, Khachin, Dizaq and Gulustan). Ibrahim Khan subordinated Malik Shahnazar, feudal lord of Varanda, and Ulubabi, feudal lord, of Khachin. The Dizaq, Chilabord and Talish feudal lords continued their divisive action. Russia, which was trying to enter the region, began to help the feudal lords as part of its plan to create 'Christian states' here. In a skilful display of great statesmanship Ibrahim Khan assembled the separatist lords in Shusha and showed documentary evidence to prove that they had betrayed the Qarabagh Khanate. The anti-Qarabagh forces' plan for a 'crusade' with Russia at their head came to nought because of the Russian-Turkish war of 1787-91. Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar (1795-97), son of Mahammadhasan Khan, mentioned above, continued his father's policy. On the one hand he won the battle for central power, on the other he tried to take control of Shusha as the main strategic target in the battle for the South Caucasus. In 1795 Agha Mahammad Qajar laid siege to Shusha and began, as it were, to put diplomatic pressure on Ibrahim Khan. The following couplet was sent to the khan: 'Stones rain down from the catapult of fate and like a fool you seek refuge inside walls of glass.' (This was a play on the name Shusha, as it means "glass" in Azerbaijani.) Shusha was also written Shisha and Shushe. Ibrahim Khan charged the Khanate's vizier, the famous Azerbaijani poet Molla Panah Vaqif (1717-97), with replying to the poetic letter. He replied to Qajar with the couplet, 'If my protector is the one that I know, he will protect the glass in the bosom of the stone.' Mirza Adigozalbay writes: 'Agha Mahammad Shah glanced at the reply to the letter. He was beside himself with rage. He gave the order to fire fireballs and cannonballs.' Shusha was able to ward off the attack. Agha Mahammad Qajar lifted the siege of Shusha, set out for Tiflis (Tbilisi) and captured it. The fact that Shusha withstood the siege for 33 days and, unlike Tiflis, did not surrender shows the strong political will and unity of the Qarabagh Khanate and its centre, the city of Shusha. In the next attack in 1797 Agha Mahammad Qajar managed to capture Shusha. This was the first occupation in the history of Shusha. How was Shusha, which had resisted every attack so far, occupied? According to Mirza Jamal Javanshir, on the eve of Agha Mahammad Shah's attack, there were shortages in Shusha. The situation only worsened with the Qajar attack. 'Left with no other option (Ibrahim Khan) together with his wives and children, relatives, families of well-known nobles and faithful retainers left the fortress and headed for Jar and Tala in order to wait up there and, if Dagestan, Georgia and other provinces would come to their aid, to lay in supplies and prepare for war. Otherwise, they would go to Dagestan to the home of their relative, Avar ruler Umma Khan, that he might protect them from Agha Mahammad Khan.' In these circumstances Agha Mahammad Shah Qajar was able to enter Shusha. At that time the city of Shusha practically became the centre of the Qajar state. However, a short time later Qajar was assassinated. Suddenly, this totally unexpected event caused a political crisis. In a short time Ibrahim Khan managed to restore his authority in Shusha. Russia's policy of occupation in the South Caucasus in 1801 opened the way to annex Eastern Georgia and several Azerbaijani lands (Borchali, Qazakh and Shamsadil). Azerbaijan's Jar-Balakan Community (1803) and Ganja Khanate (1804) were occupied. Russia's commander-in-chief in the Caucasus, P.D. Sisianov (1802-06), began a fight for the Qarabagh Khanate. On 14 May 1805 the sides signed the Kurakchay Treaty. The treaty consisted of a preamble and 11 articles. The preamble of the treaty said that Ibrahim Khan of Shusha and Qarabagh was a subject of the Russian Empire and the following articles set out the terms. The responsibilities of Ibrahim Khan were set out in Articles 1, 4, 6, 8 and 9 of the Kurakchay Treaty and those of the Russian emperor in Articles 2, 3, 5 and 7. Russia clearly received the Qarabagh Khanate as an independent state and Ibrahim Khan and his descendants were confirmed as the sole masters of the khanate. One of the most important points is that Ibrahim Khan was named in all the articles as Ibrahim Khan of Shusha and Qarabagh. Another important point is that a guarantee was given by the emperor to keep the Qarabagh Khanate intact. The 10th clause in the treaty said that the treaty was concluded in perpetuity and as a result should not be changed. The Kurakchay Treaty did not say a word about the Qarabagh feudal lords or any Armenian claim to the khanate. In this way the Kurakchay

Treaty brought serious change to the status of the whole Qarabagh Khanate, including its centre, the city of Shusha. The situation became more complex when the terms of the Russian Empire's Kurakchay Treaty were not kept. Things reached such a pitch that in 1806 the chief of the Russian garrison stationed in Shusha, Major Lisanevich, executed Ibrahim Khan and members of his family. Russian historians were forced to condemn this. On 10 September 1806 Tsar Alexander I by decree appointed Mehdiqulu Khan, Ibrahim Khan's son, khan of Qarabagh (1806-22). In 1822, A.P. Yermolov, commander-in-chief of the Russian forces in the Caucasus (1816-27), completely abolished the Qarabagh Khanate in violation of the treaty. As in Shusha's military and political life, the city was enjoying a boom in construction, socio-economic life and culture. One of the main characteristics of Shusha is that once house-building began there, the city gradually expanded. Mirza Jamal Javanshir dwells especially on recollections of the years of building work carried out by Panah Khan and Ibrahim Khan. He says that the former walls of Shusha fortress were built in Panah Khan's time and the great public mosque (1768-69), the Shusha fortress outer wall (1783-84) and other constructions were built in Ibrahim Khan's time. Shusha took shape and developed with all the typical features of an Azerbaijani city. As soon as Shusha had been founded here, its population grew rapidly. At the end of the 18th century more than 3,000 families were registered in Shusha, totalling 15,000 people. If the events of 1795 and 1797 had an influence on the size of the city's population, the numbers were soon restored. Shusha became an important centre of crafts and trade in Azerbaijan. Shusha merchants traded with Tabriz, Tehran, Isfahan, Moscow and other cities. Silver panabad coins were minted in the city. One of Shusha's greatest historical roles as an Azerbaijani city was as a centre of culture. Mollah Panah Vagif is one of its best known examples. Famous literary critic Firudin Bay Kocharli wrote: 'Molla Panah is considered such a famous and skilful poet of the Azerbaijani Turks that he has the right to be called the founder of our literature.' In his own lifetime Molla Panah was so well-versed in several sciences and disciplines that he 'used the pseudonym Vagif' (the personal name and adjective 'vagif' mean 'well-informed'). Vagif's work, created under the influence of the environment of Qarabagh and Shusha, is seen as a new stage in the history of the Azerbaijani literary language. After the abolition of the Qarabagh Khanate, Russian rule was established there. A special place was given to Qarabagh and its centre, Shusha, in the tsarist government's policy of Armenianizing the land of Northern Azerbaijan. According to the census carried out by Russia in 1823 in connection with the abolition of the Qarabagh Khanate, almost 1,050 Azerbaijani families (up to 70%) lived in Shusha. According to the 1917 Caucasus Calendar, 43,869 people were recorded in the city of Shusha. Of them, 19,121 people (43.6%) were Azerbaijani and 23,396 (53.3%) Armenian. Changes in favour of the Armenians in the ethnic composition of the population of Shusha are there to see! Another reason for the increase in the number of Armenians in Shusha was the genocide waged by the Armenians against the Azerbaijanis. The genocide of Azerbaijanis by Armenians in 1905-06 was on an even larger scale in Shusha. Protected by tsarist government circles, Armenians killed hundreds of Azerbaijanis there. Although Azerbaijanis and Armenians were at the time (19th-early 20th centuries) both part of the Russian Empire, the Armenians tried to strengthen their positions in the region by genocide against the Azerbaijanis. After a state with the name Armenia was established on Azerbaijani land in May 1918, the Armenians began to accompany their genocide of Azerbaijanis with territorial claims. With the aim of combating this, on 15 January 1919 the government of the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic created a general governorate in Qarabagh with Shusha as its centre. After the establishment of Soviet government in Armenia (November 1920), it continued the policy of the Dashnak government. With the active assistance of Soviet Russia a struggle began to give autonomy to the mountainous part of Qarabagh. By decision of the Caucasus bureau of the Russian Communist Party (Bolsheviks) of 5 July 1921, autonomous status was granted to Mountainous Qarabagh. Interestingly, the decision envisaged Shusha being the administrative centre of the autonomy. On 7 July 1923, after granting autonomy to Mountainous Qarabagh, the Azerbaijan Central Executive Committee moved the centre to

The
peaks of the
mountains of Shu-
sha are clad in mist, in
a jacket of red and skirts
of green. Too many
hope to die of grief for
you, oh maiden. How
fair that brow,
that hair!

I'm
dying of grief,
know this, If you will
not talk, then at least smile!

Khankandi.

(In September 1923

it was called Stepanakert.

The historical name has now

been restored.) The city of Shusha

was later, on 16 July 1923, made a part of

the Mountainous Qarabagh Autonomous

Region. As the centre of Qarabagh, Shusha

continued to have an important place in the

socio-economic and cultural life of Azerbaijan

and to rebuff decisively Armenian chauvinism and

separatism, which served only to increase the hostile

activity of the Armenians. In the mid-1980s Armenian separatism

in the Mountainous Qarabagh Autonomous Region gathered strength and

became a wide-scale war of occupation against Azerbaijan. On 8 May 1992 the

Armenians occupied the city of Shusha. However much the Armenians try to talk

up their role in the occupation of Shusha, history has in fact been repeated. Just as in 1797,

the city this time too fell into the Armenians' hands for no good reason. The Armenian army of

occupation and the marauding band of civilians accompanying it inflicted ruthless reprisals on the

Azerbaijanis that remained in Shusha and on Azerbaijan's historic city. Armenian vandals destroyed

up to 70 rare architectural monuments of historic interest in Shusha. In order to Armenianize the city,

migration was encouraged and an invented propaganda campaign (the Shusha Charity Marathon, etc.)

conducted. The Azerbaijan Republic has never been reconciled to Armenian's occupation of Azerbaijani

land and has declared its firm intention to restore the republic's territorial integrity. The day is not far off

when all the occupied land, including Qarabagh's heart, the city of Shusha, will be liberated! Only then will there

be an end to the plight of Azerbaijan's Shusha. The lyrics of the song 'Mountains of Shusha' of Khan Shushinski,

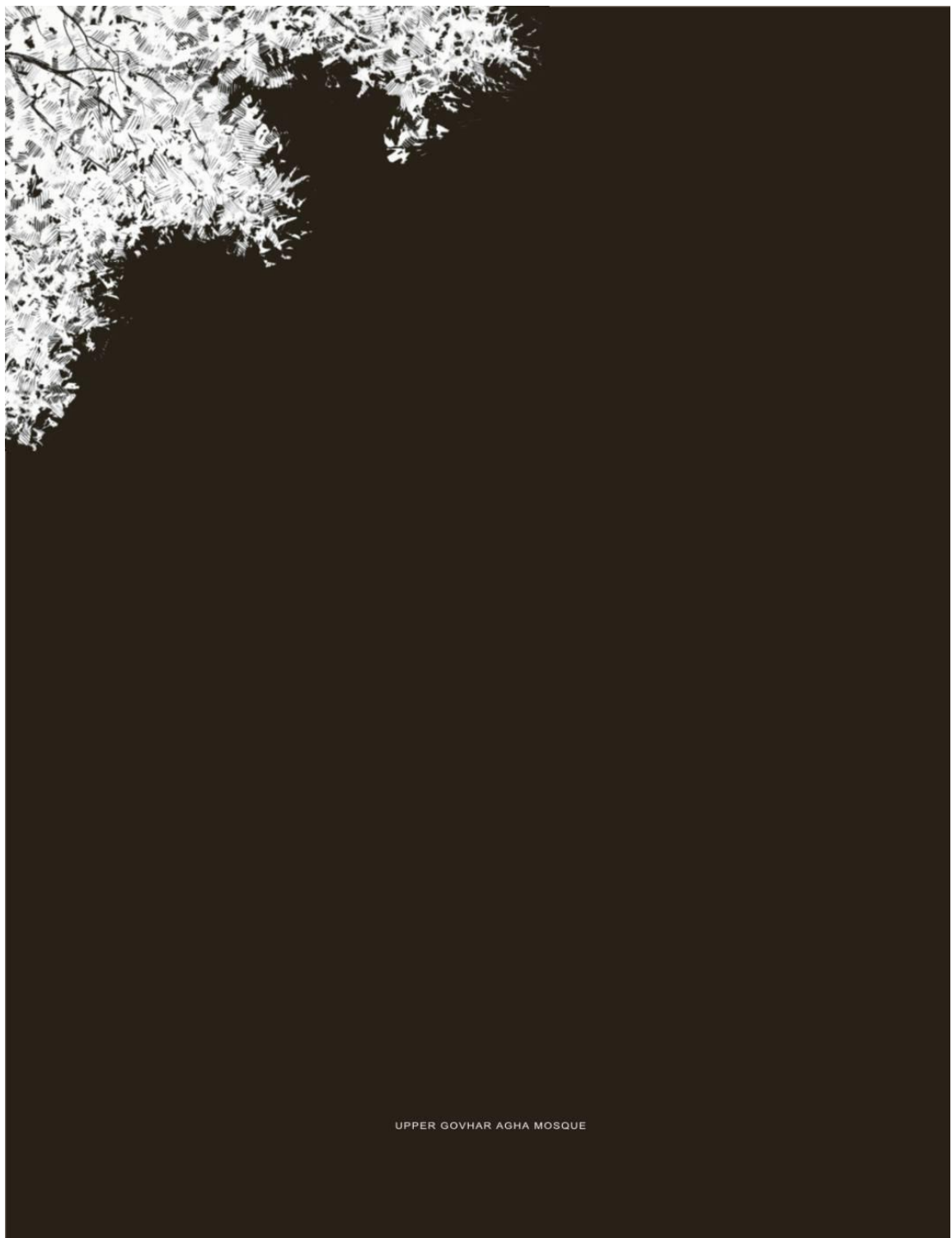
an unforgettable singer from Qarabagh and a true man of Shusha, will be sung with renewed passion:

Elturan Avalov
etchings

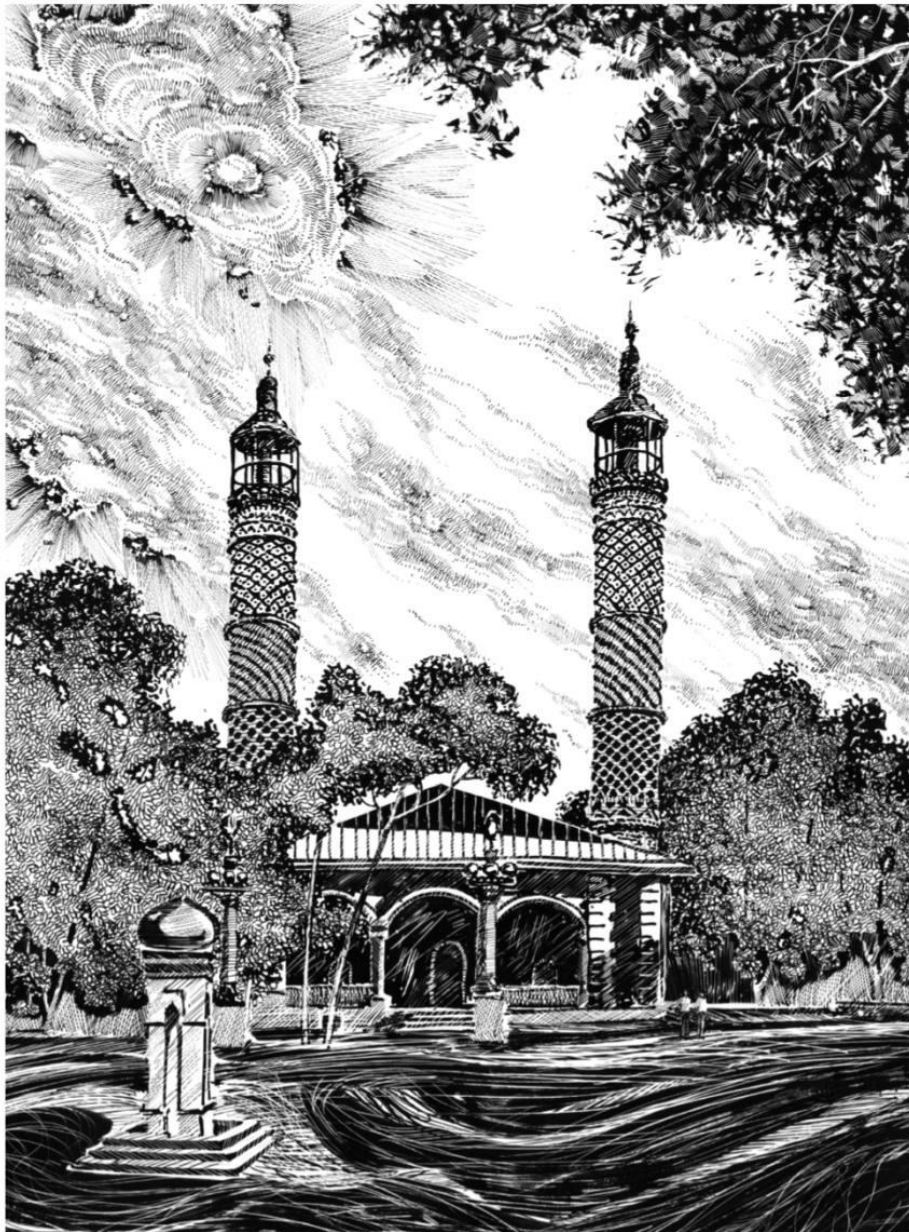


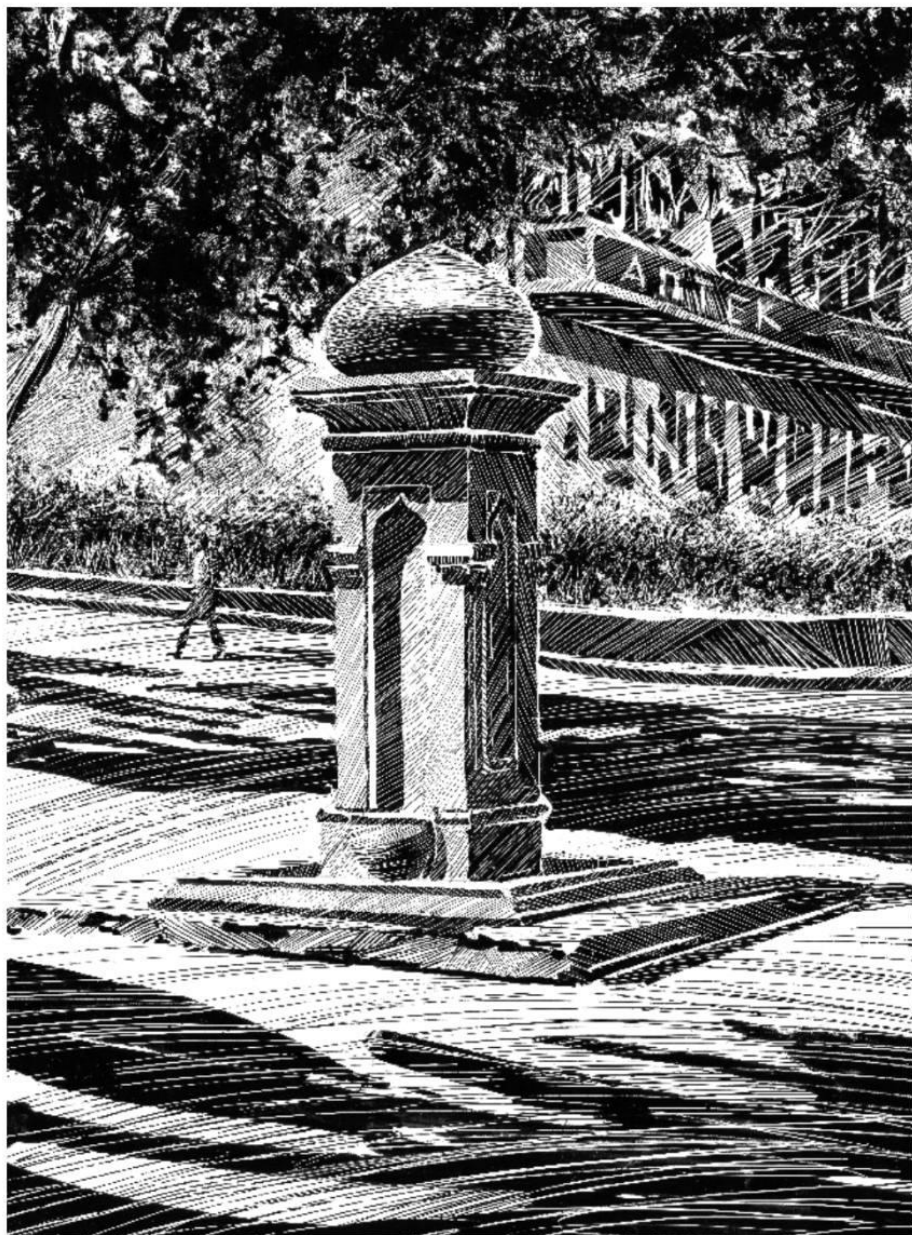


SHUSHA



UPPER GOVHAR AGHA MOSQUE

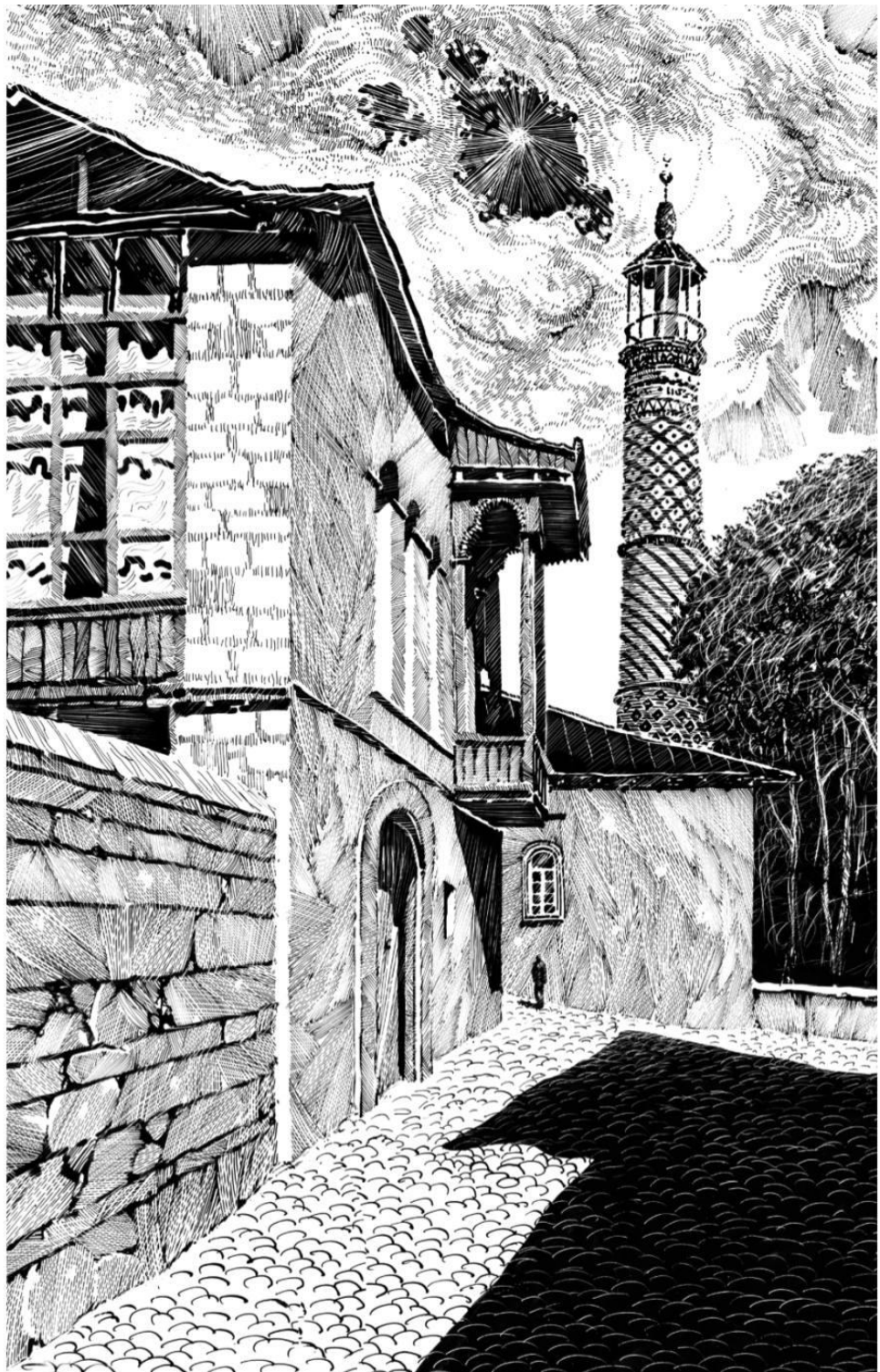




MEYDAN WELL

THE BACK OF THE UPPER GOVHAR AGHA MOSQUE



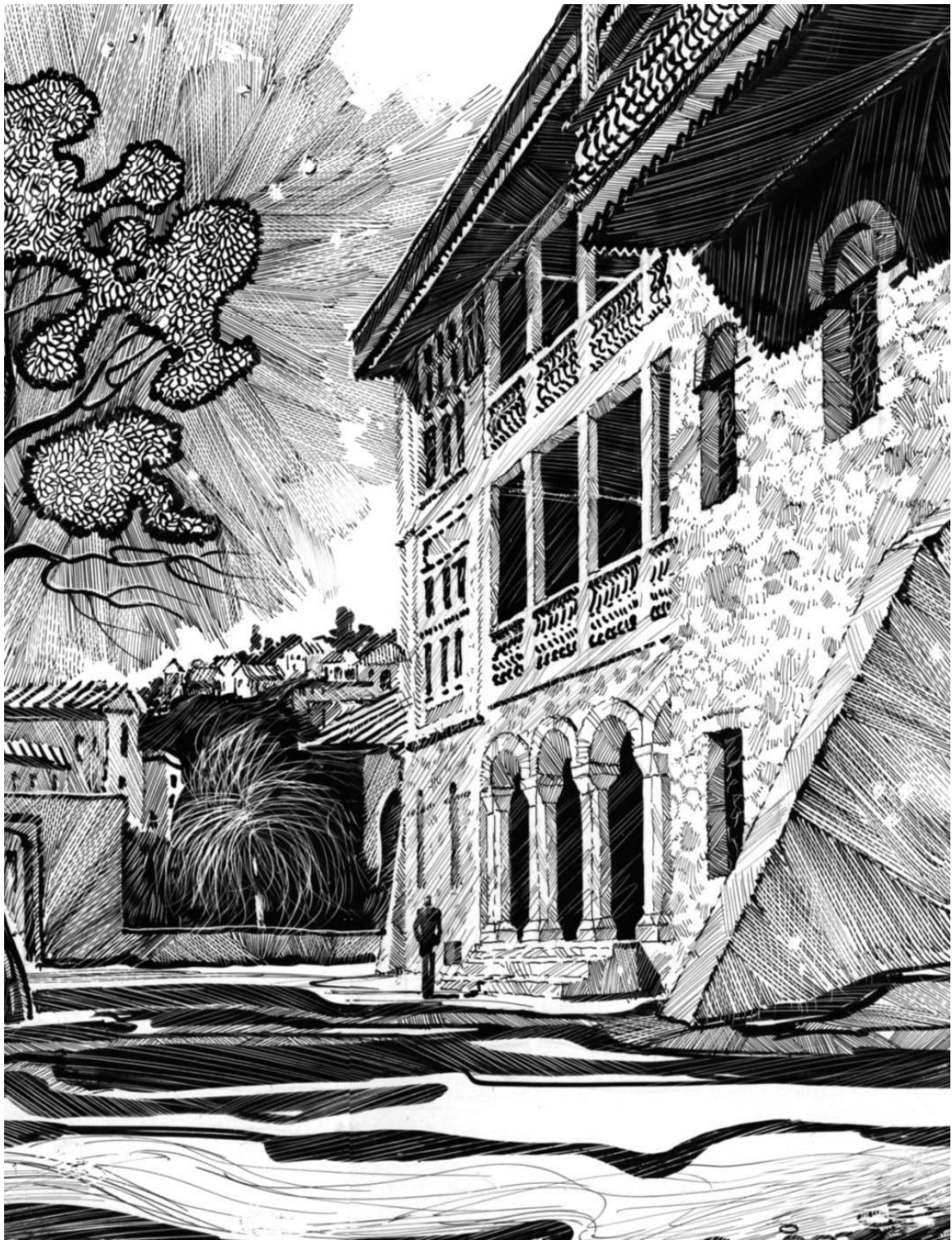


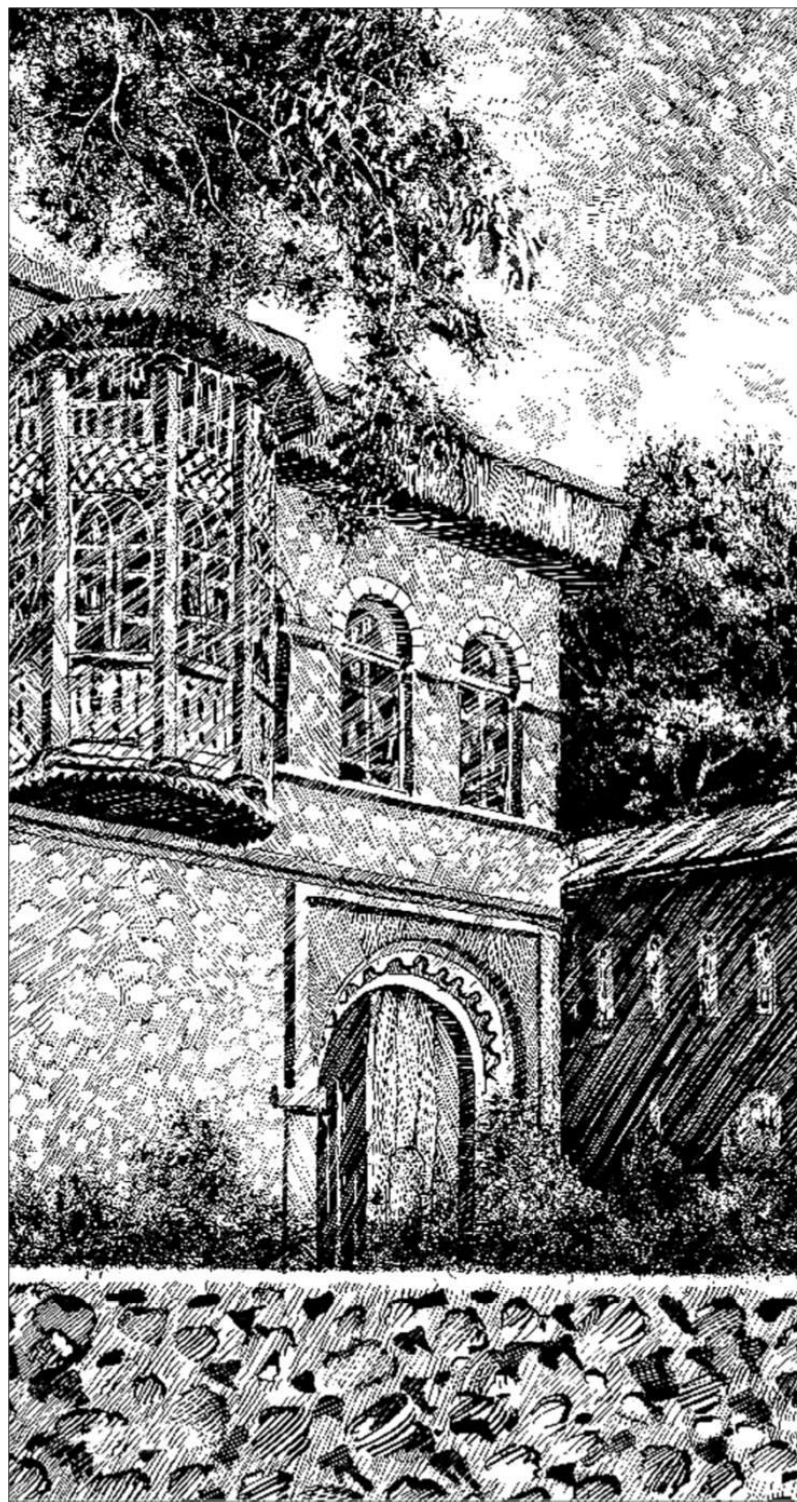
ELTURAN **SHUSHA** ETCHINGS

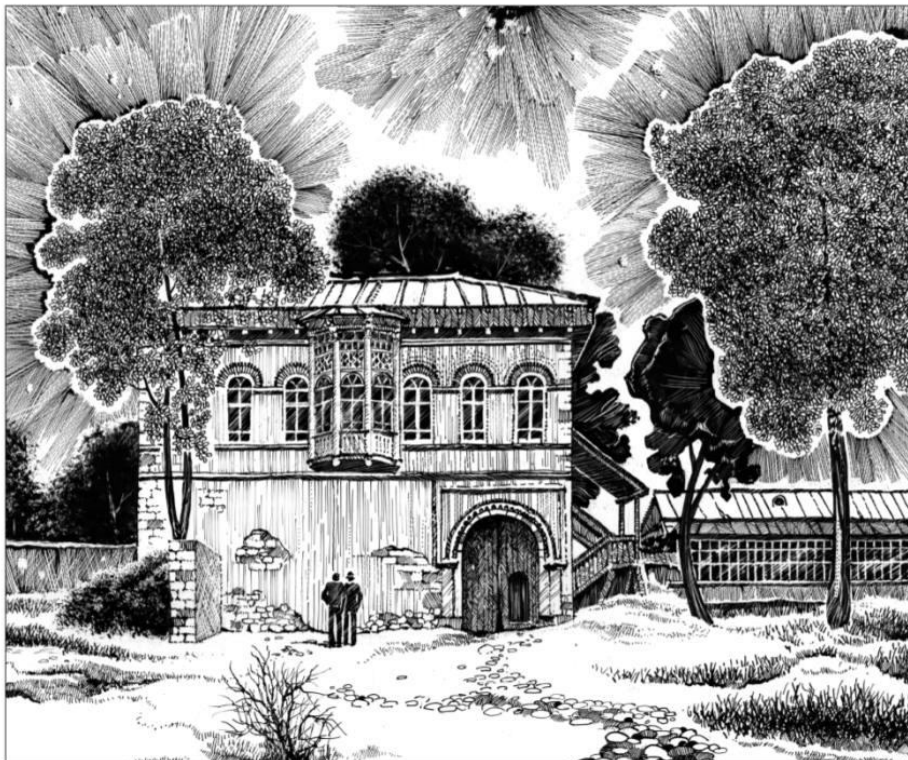
THE ZOHRABBAYOV'S HOUSE

22





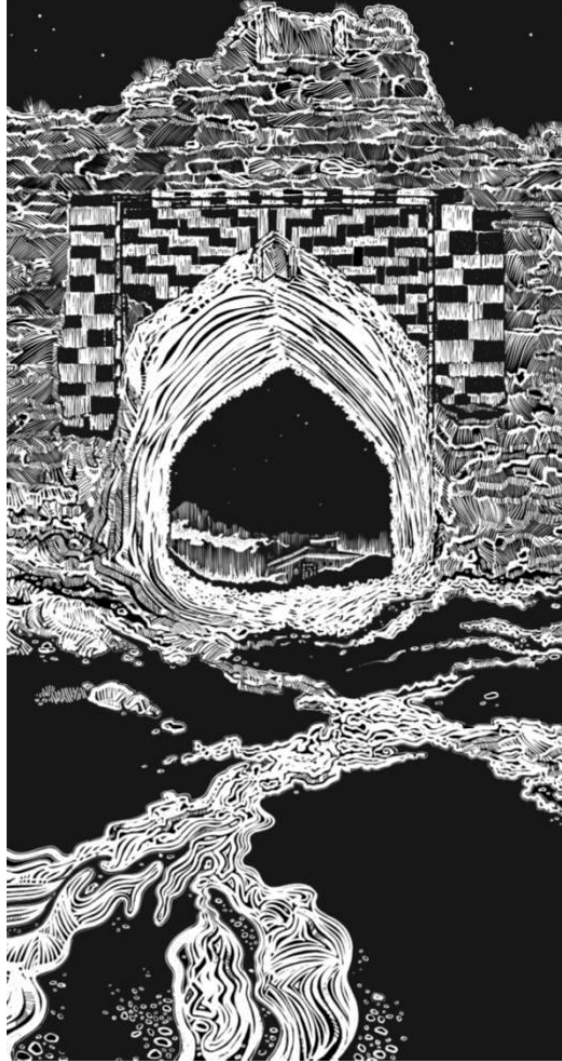




THE MEHMANDAROV'S HOUSE



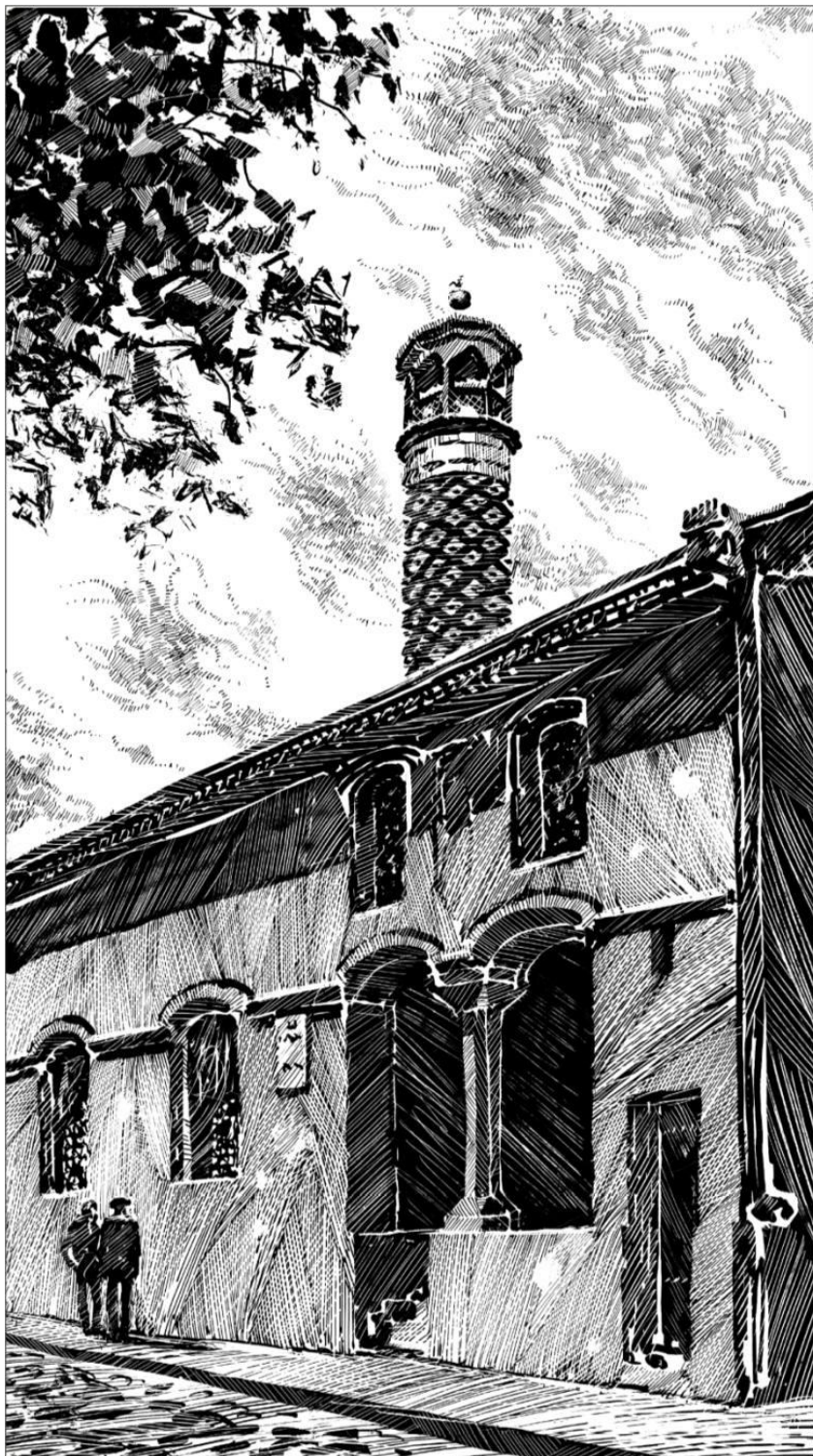
GANJA GATE



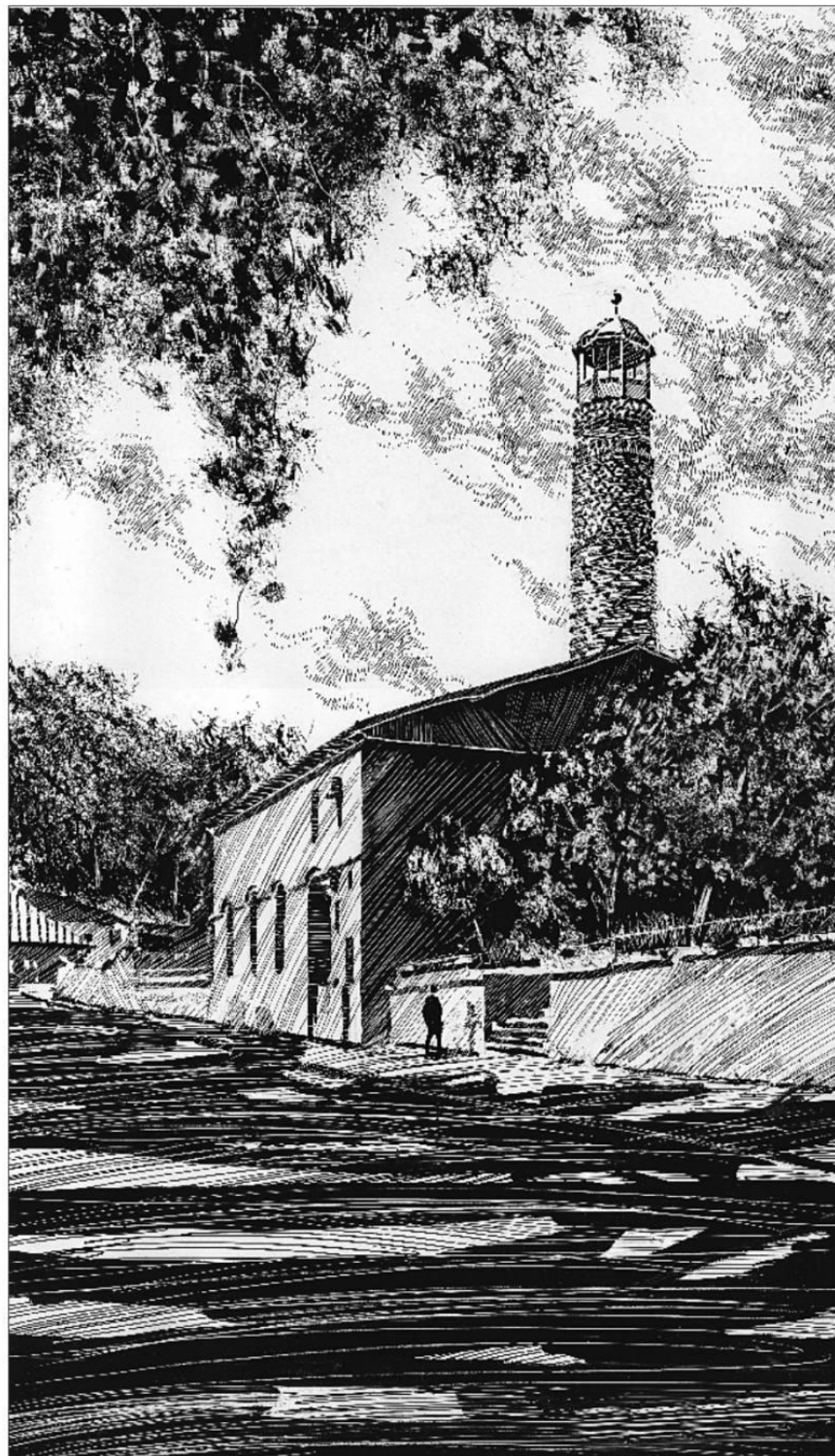


MIRJANLI QUARTER

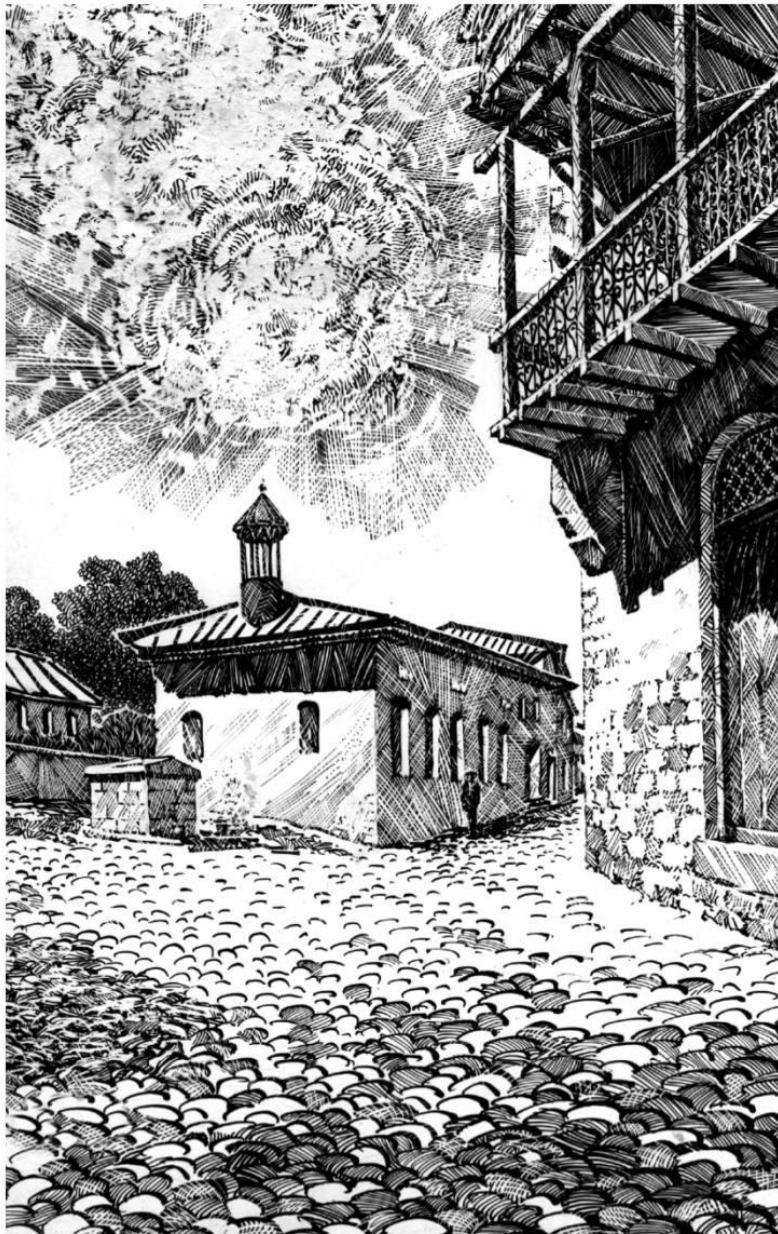




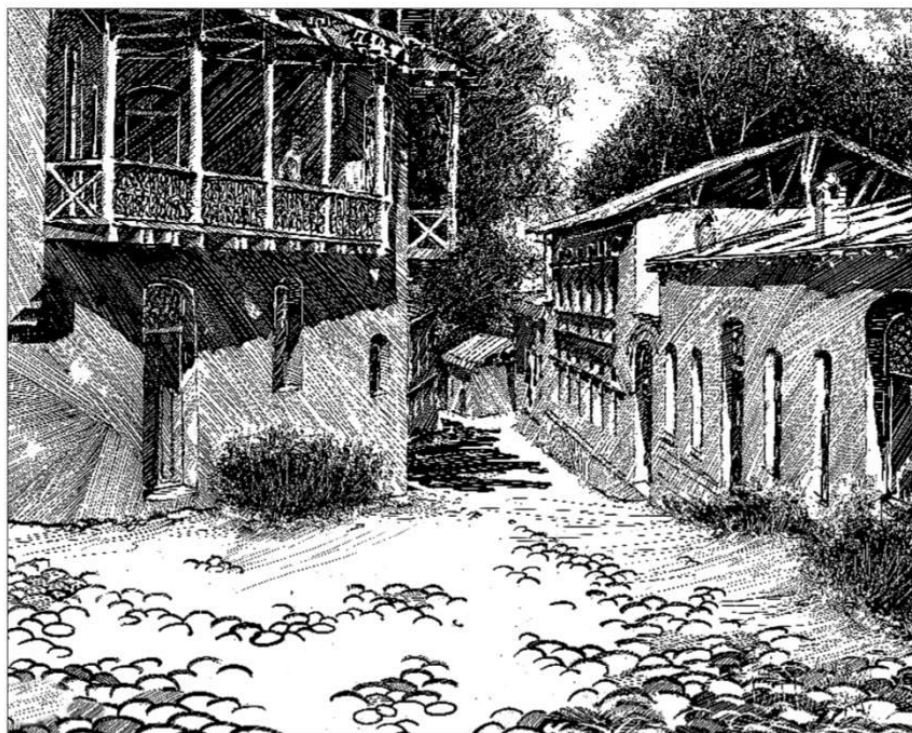
MOLLA PANAH VAQIF'S
MADRASA (SCHOOL)



SAATLI QUARTER'S
MOSQUE

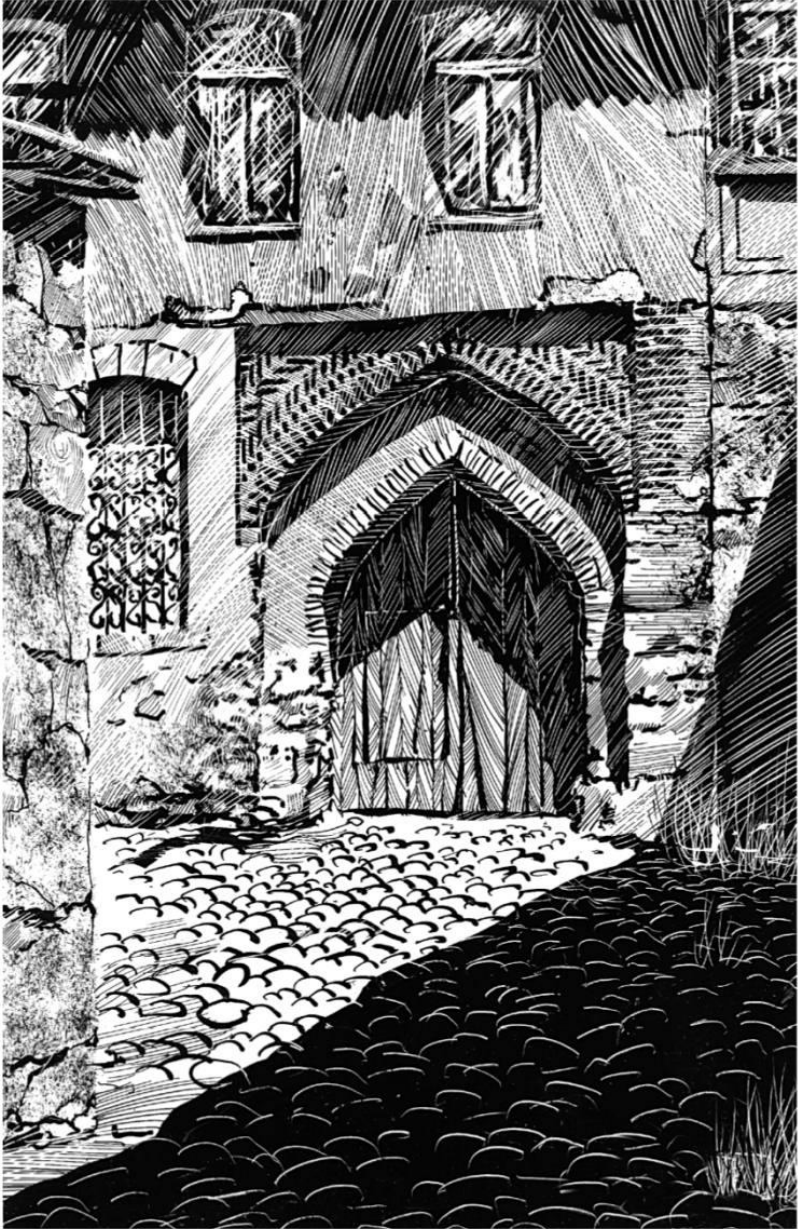


HAJI YUSIFLI QUARTER



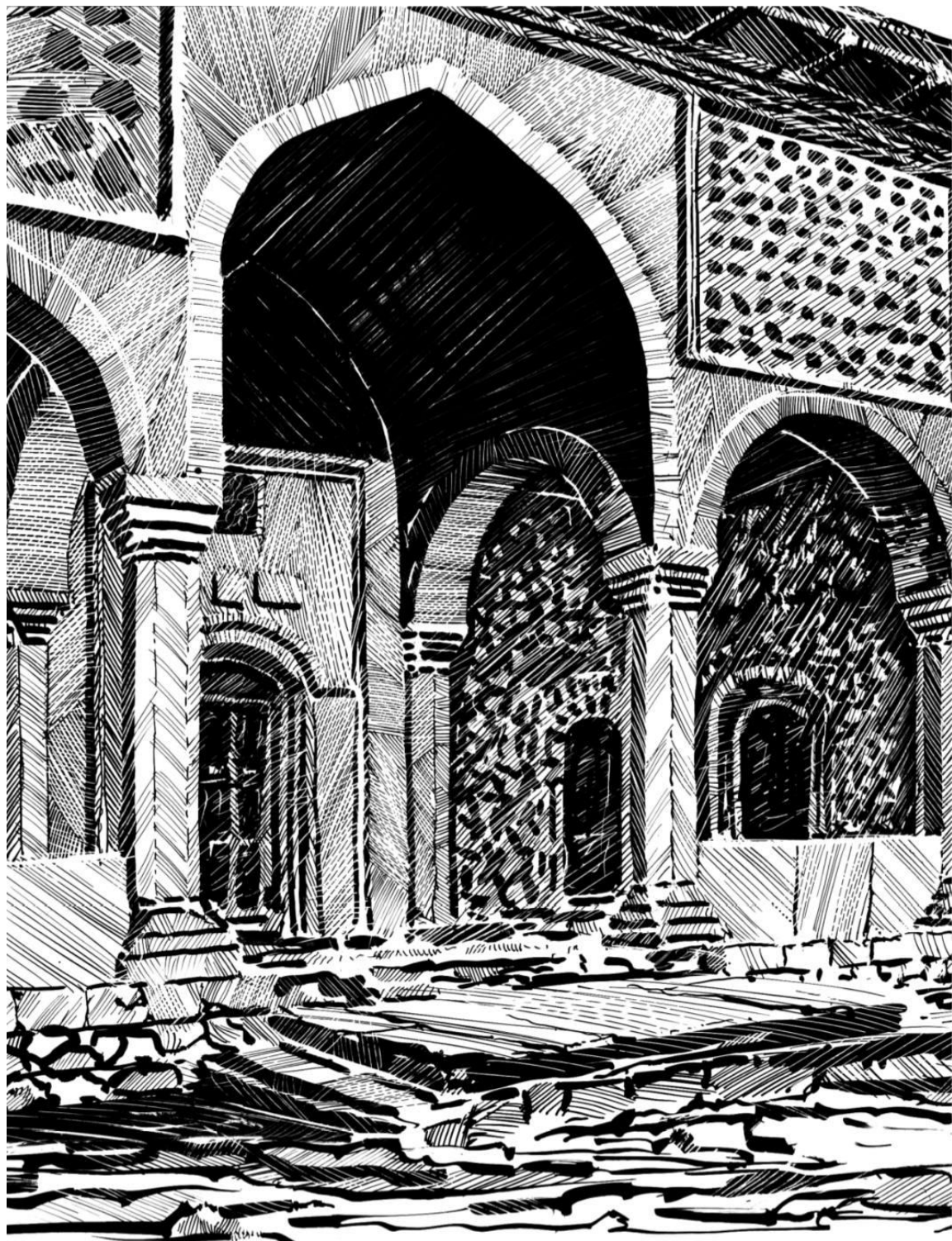


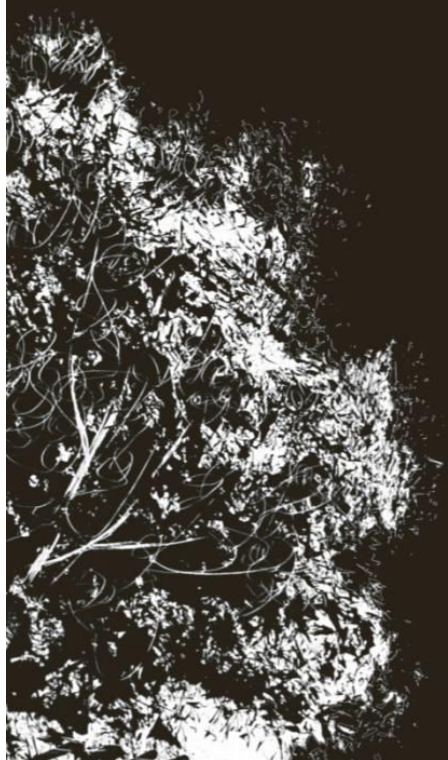
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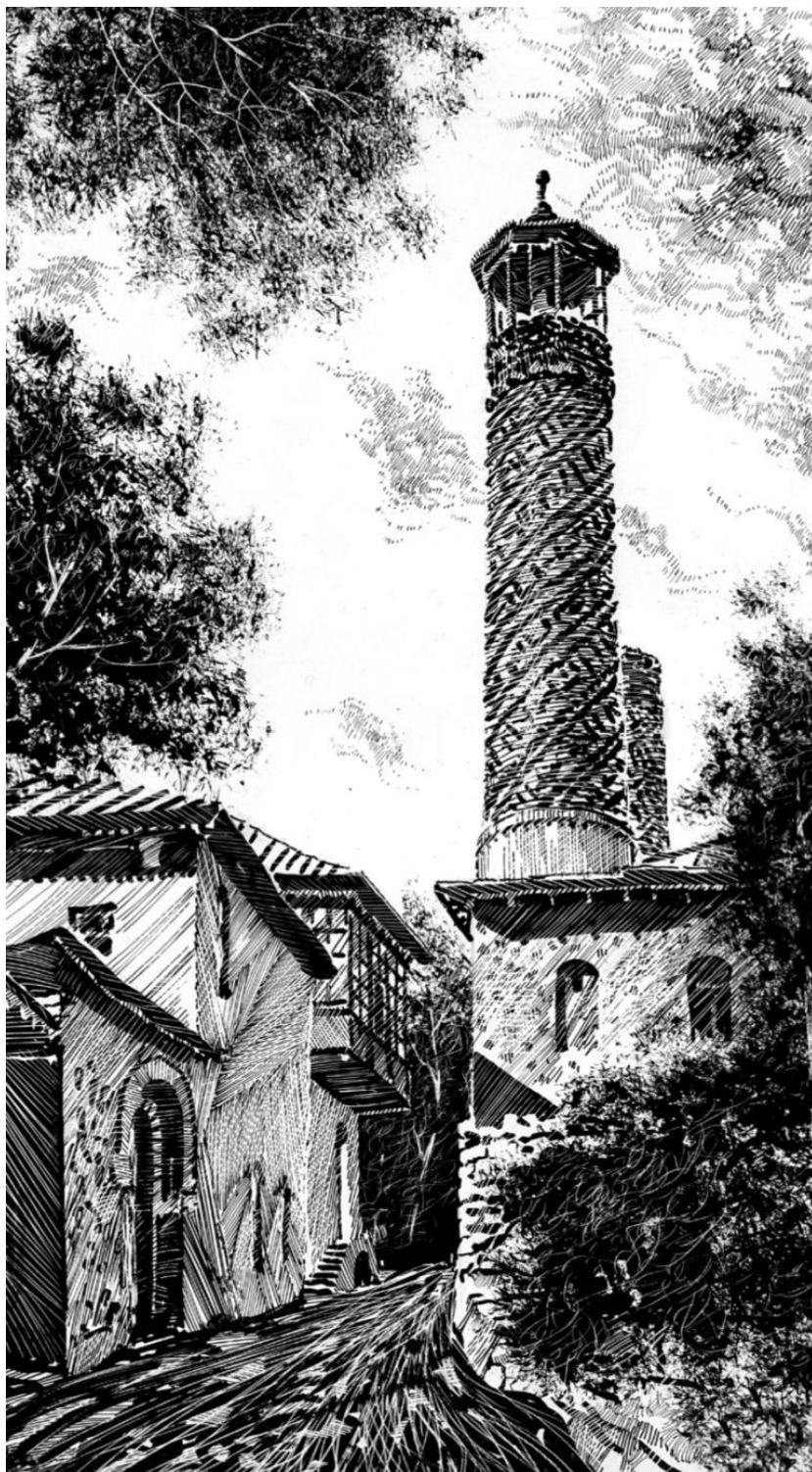


LOWER GOVHAR AGHA MOSQUE

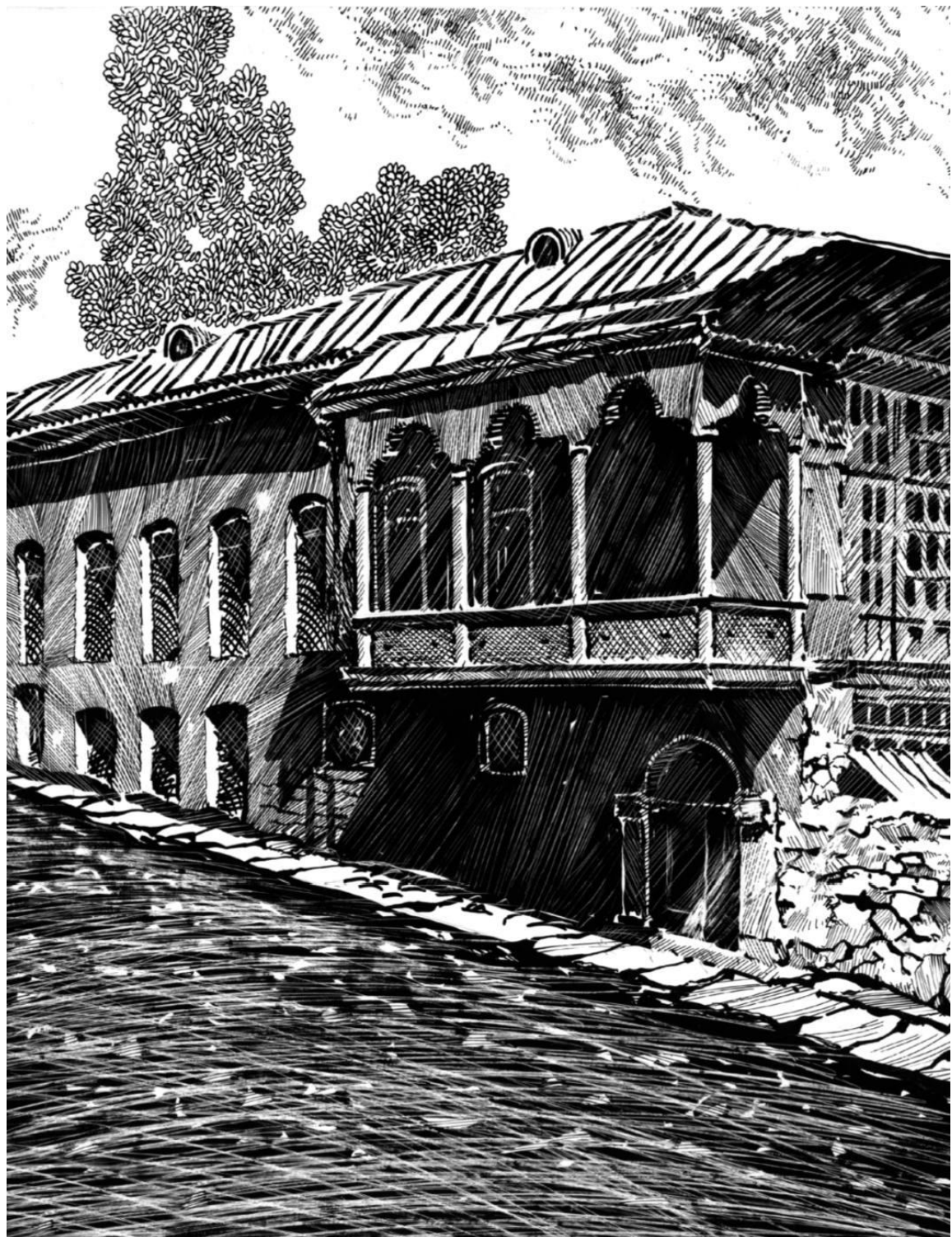




LOWER MOSQUE

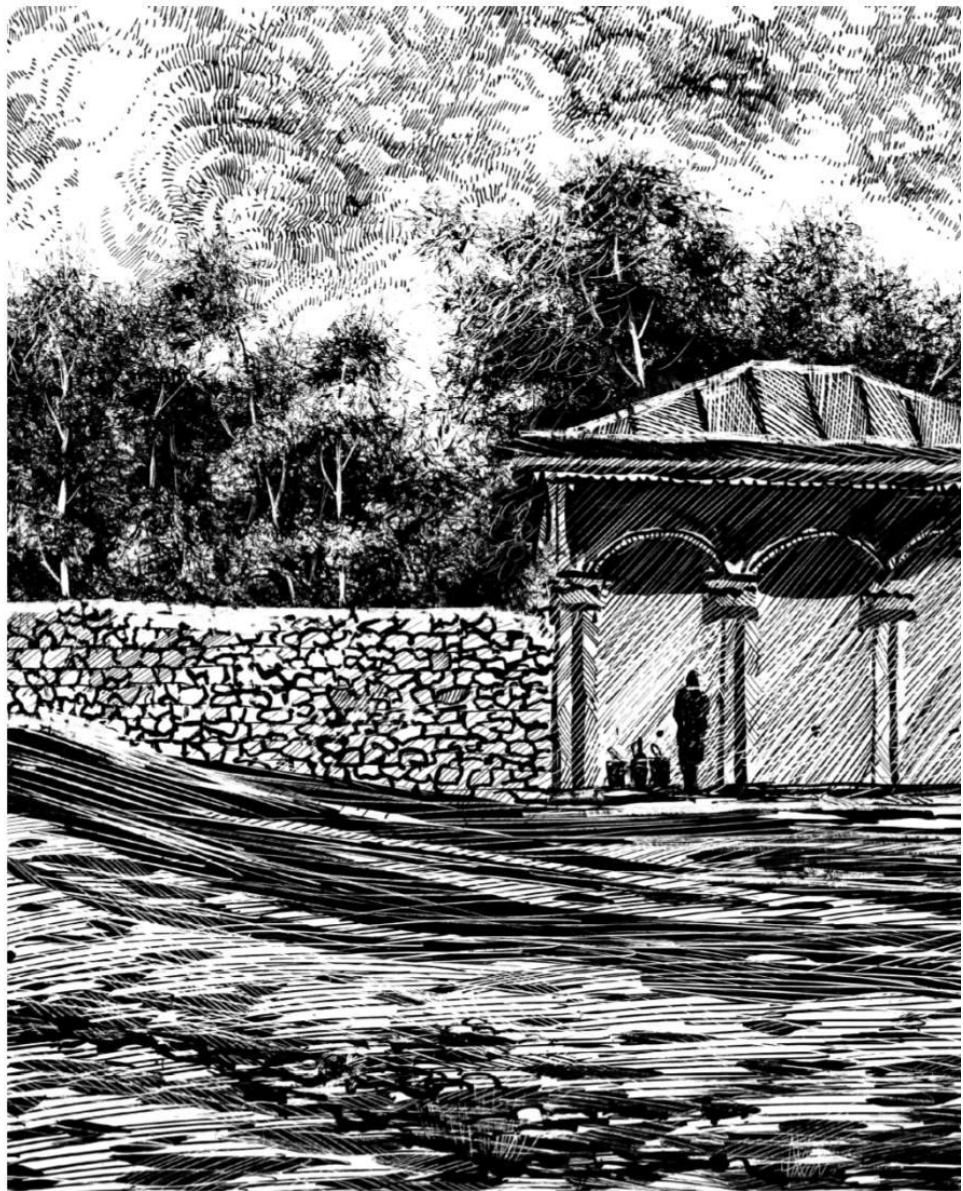


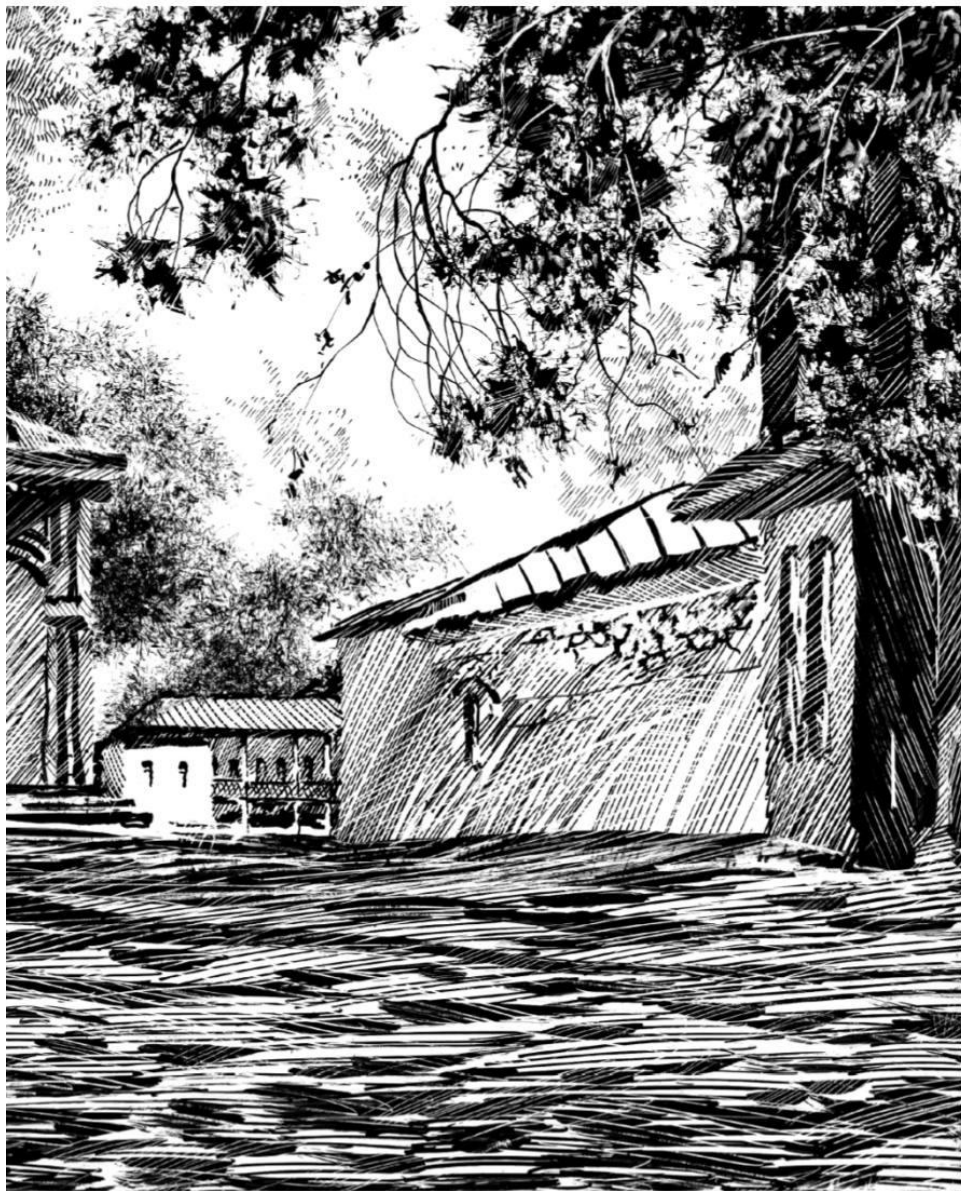
ELTURAN SHUSHA ETCHINGS





MERCHANT MASHADI TAGHI'S HOUSE

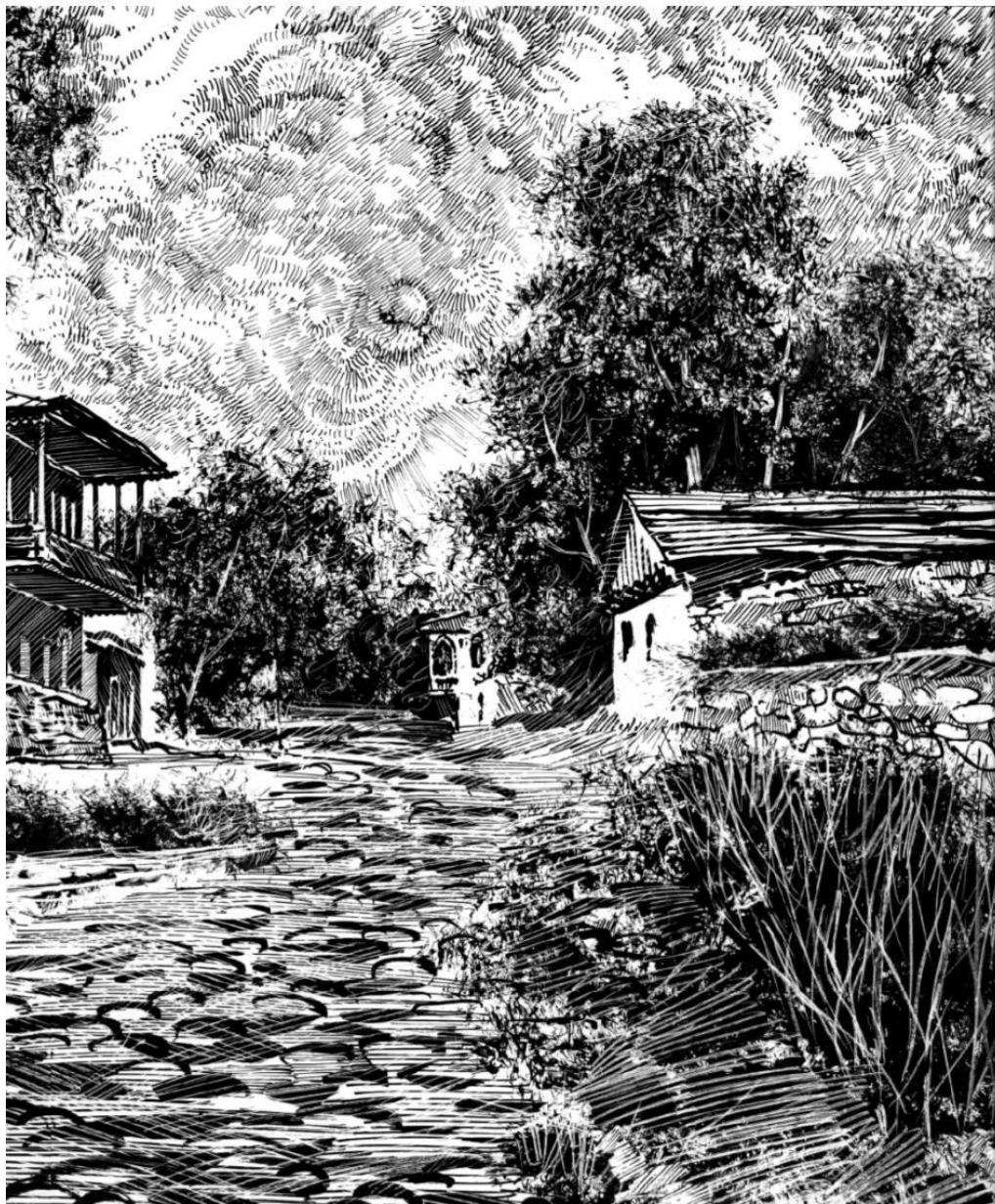




CHUKHUR QUARTER SQUARE



CHUKHUR QUARTER

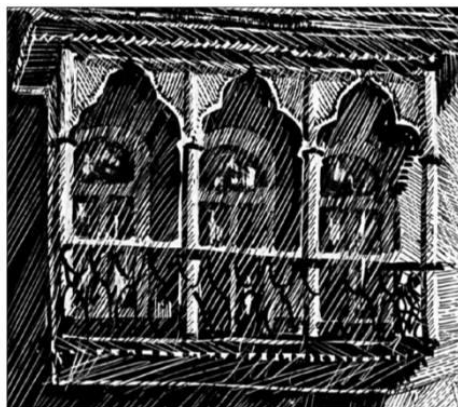




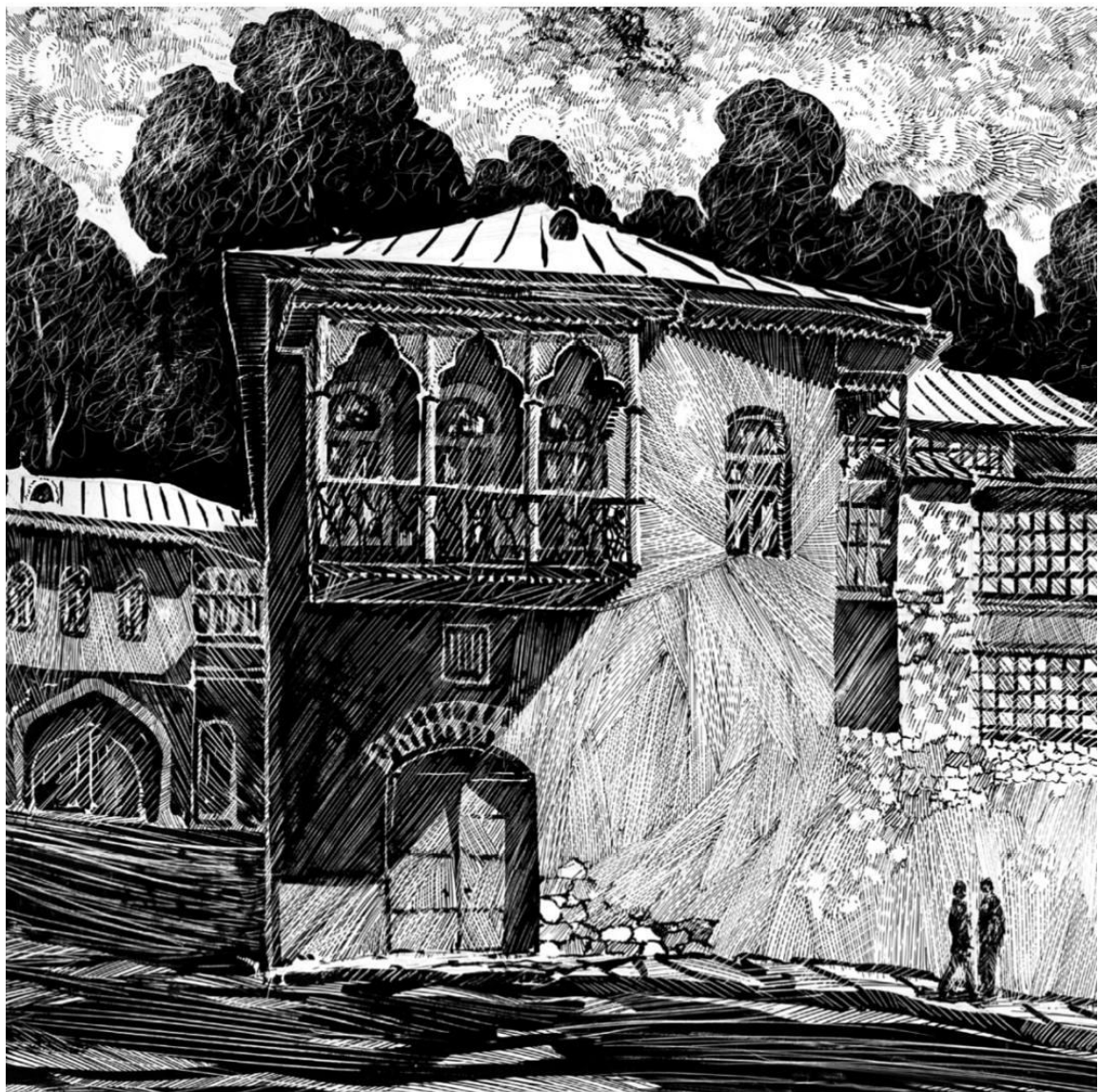


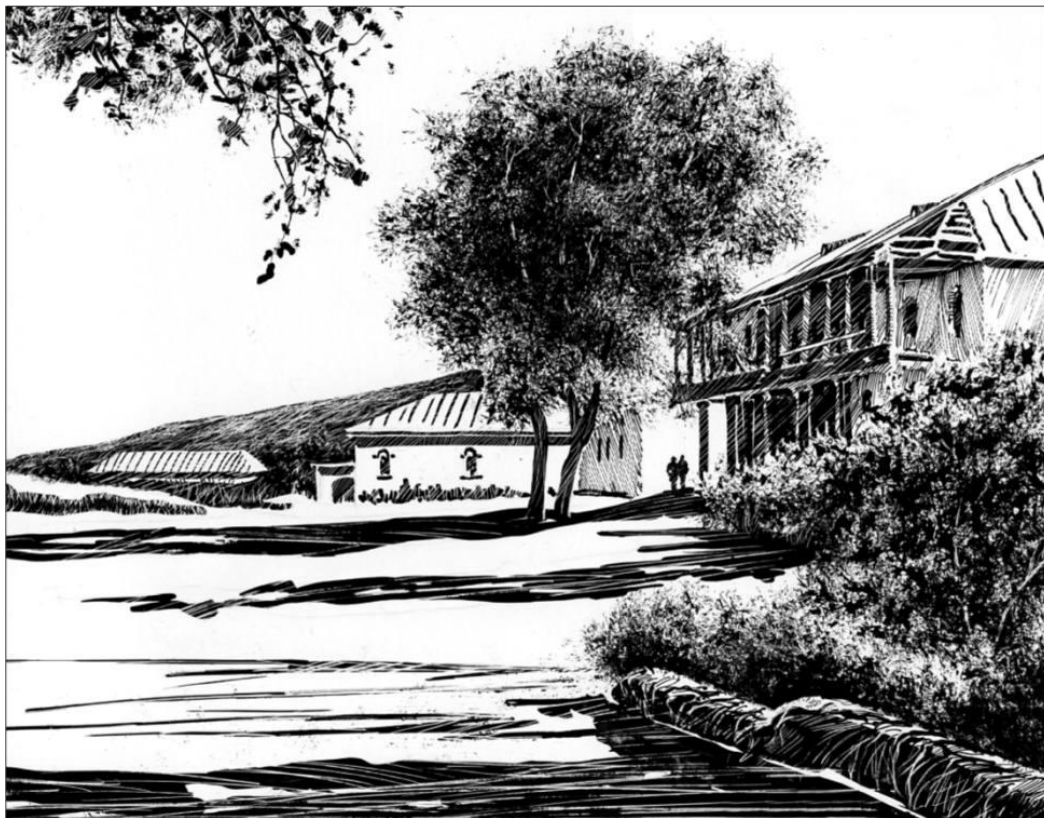
ELTURAN SHUSHA ETCHINGS

QARA BOYUKKHANIM'S TOWER

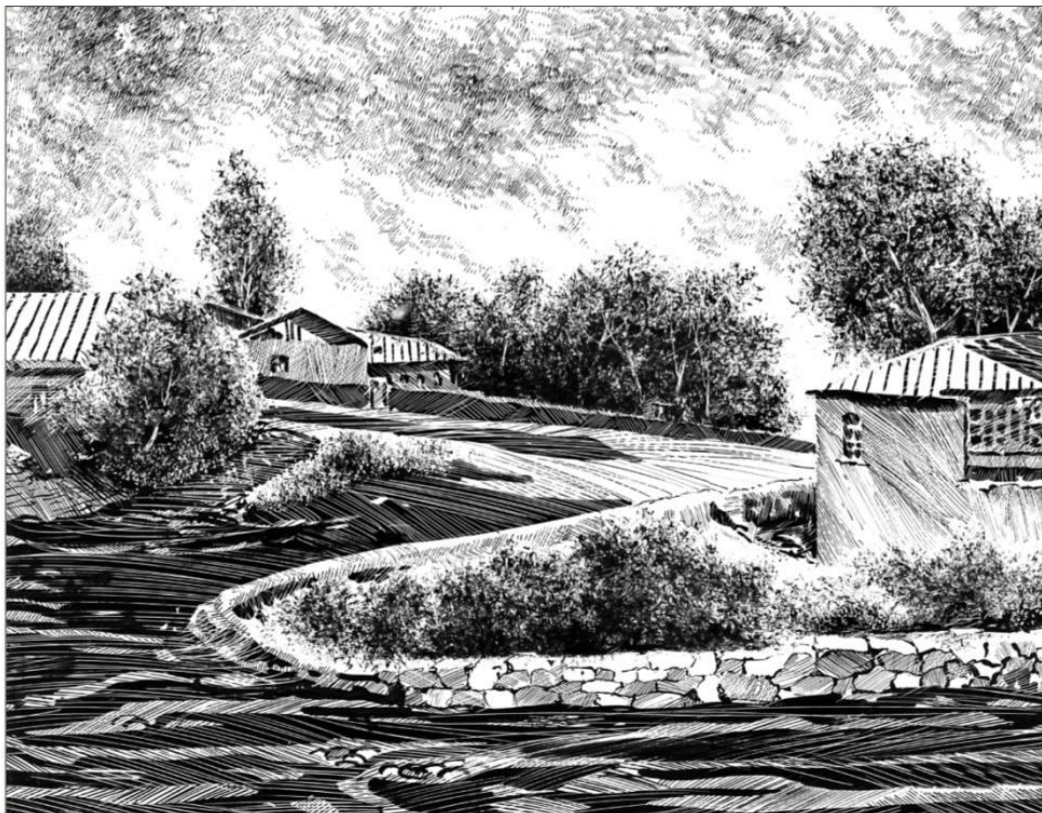


JULFA QUARTER





TORPAQ SQUARE



CHOL QALA QUARTER

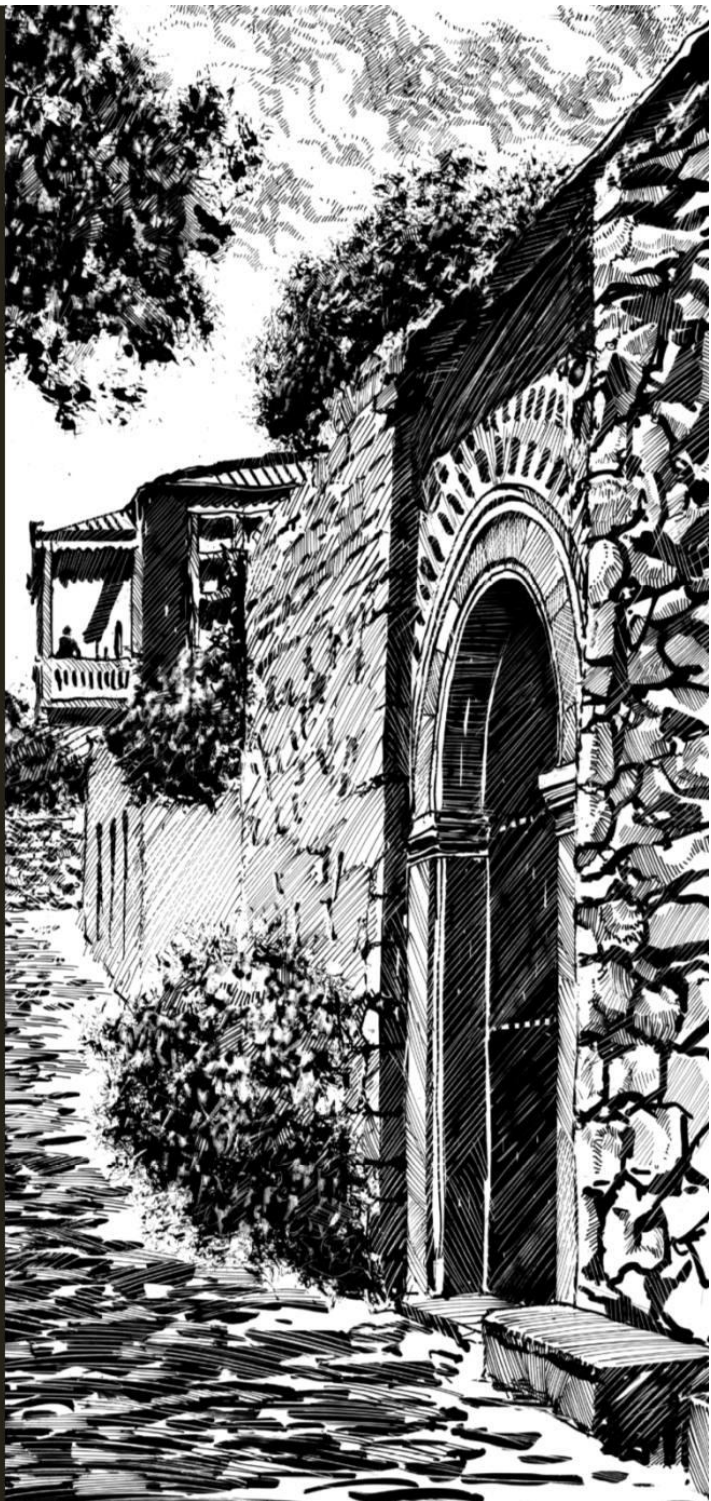


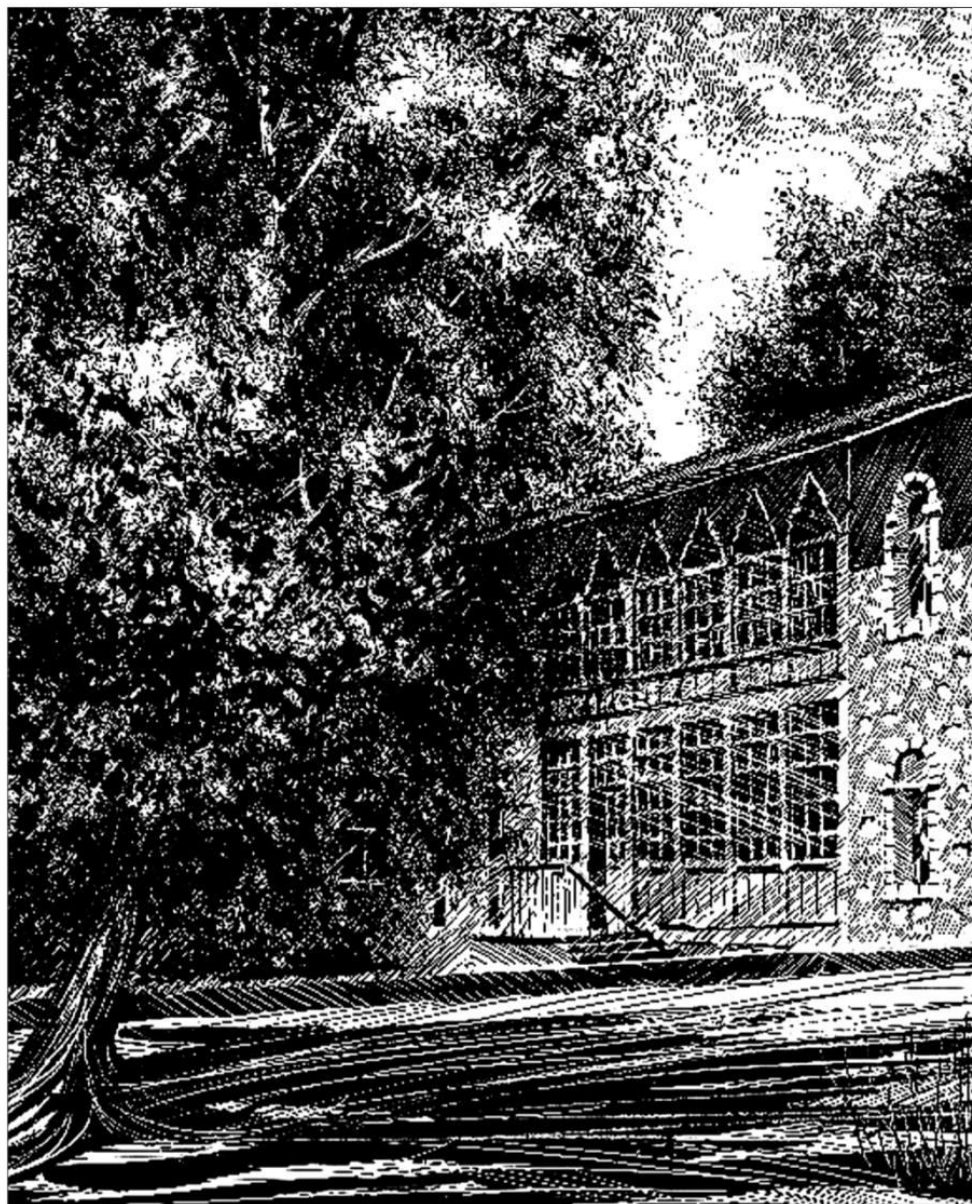


CHOL QALA QUARTER SQUARE



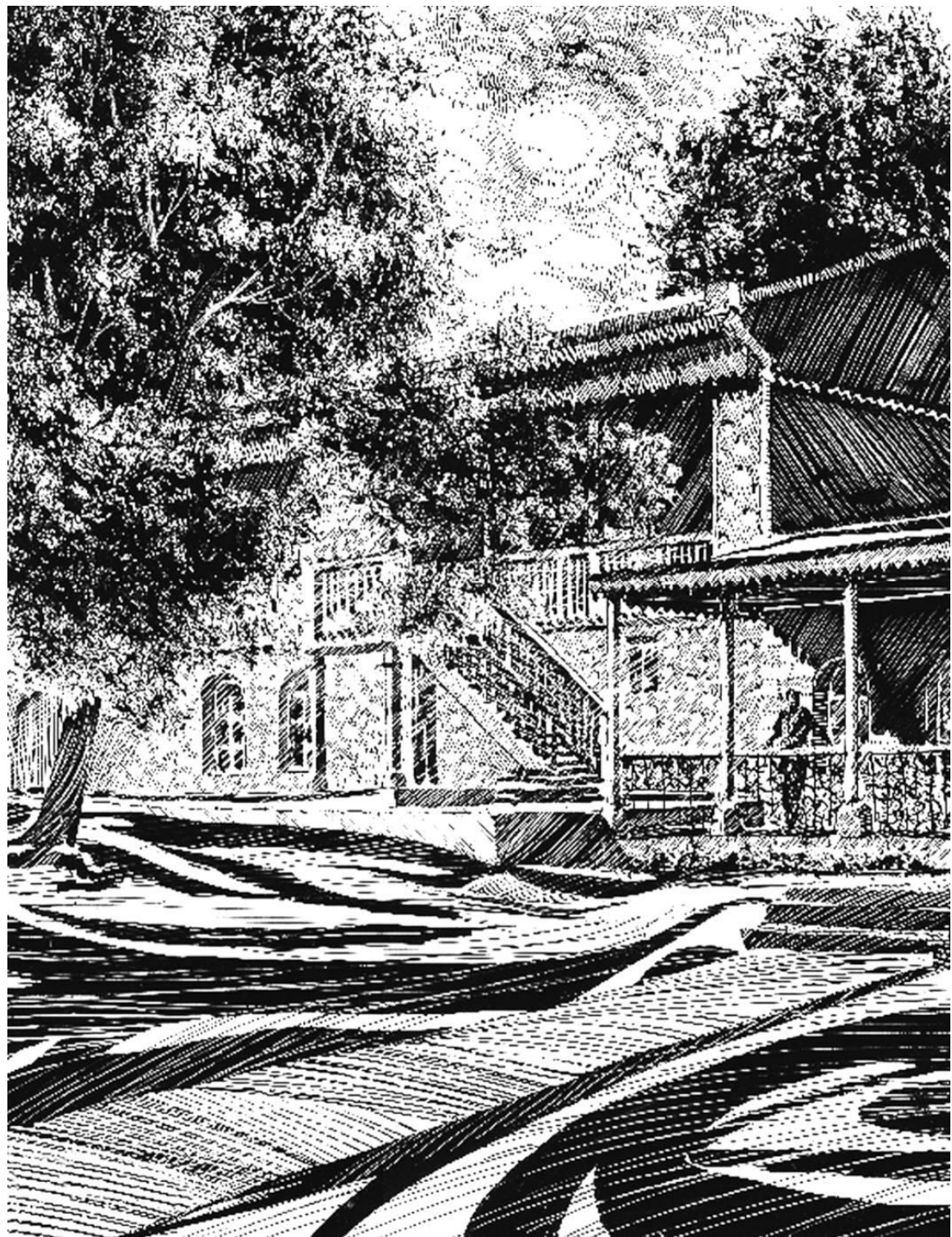
STREET IN CHOL QALA QUARTER







THE KHAN'S HOUSE

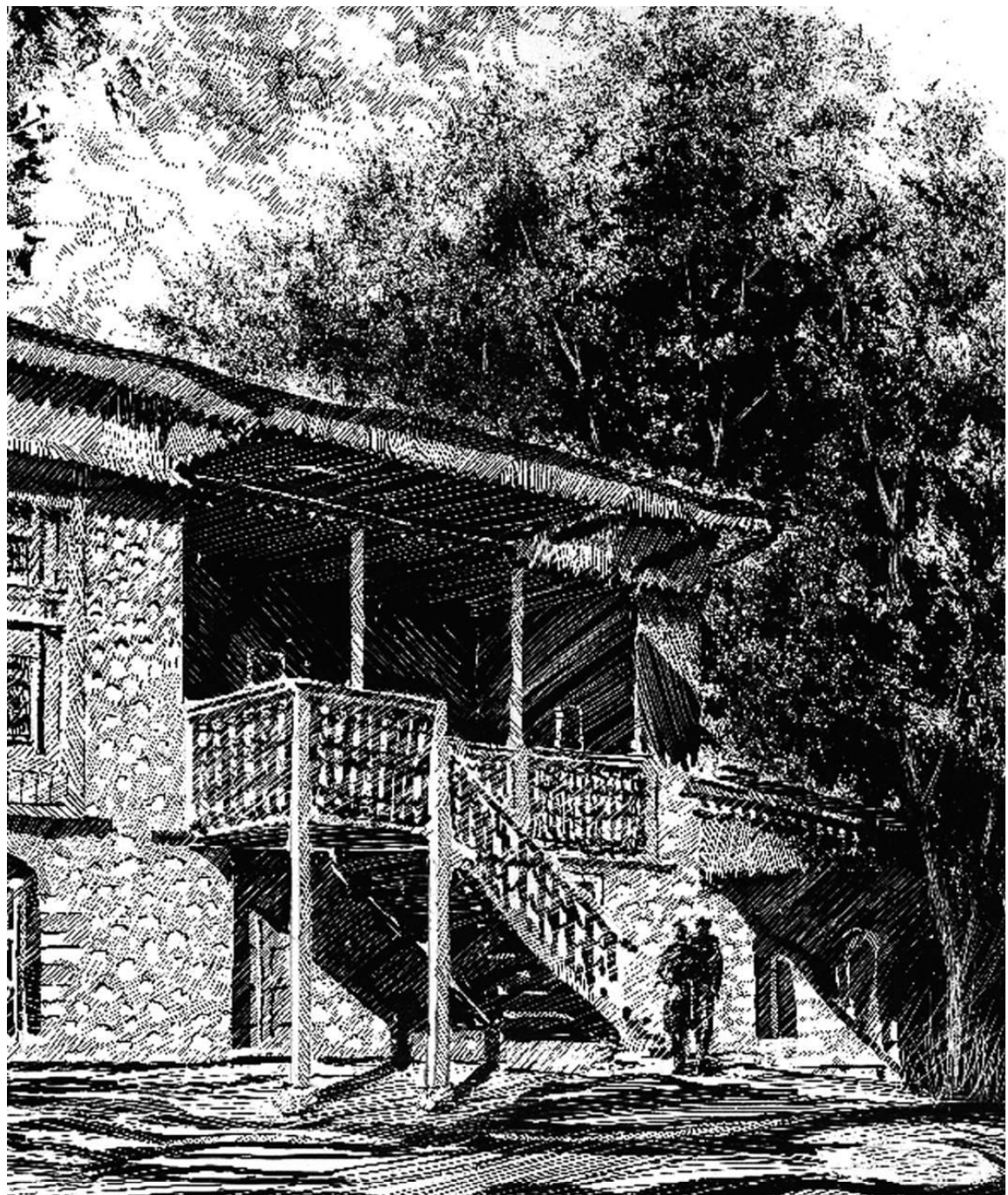


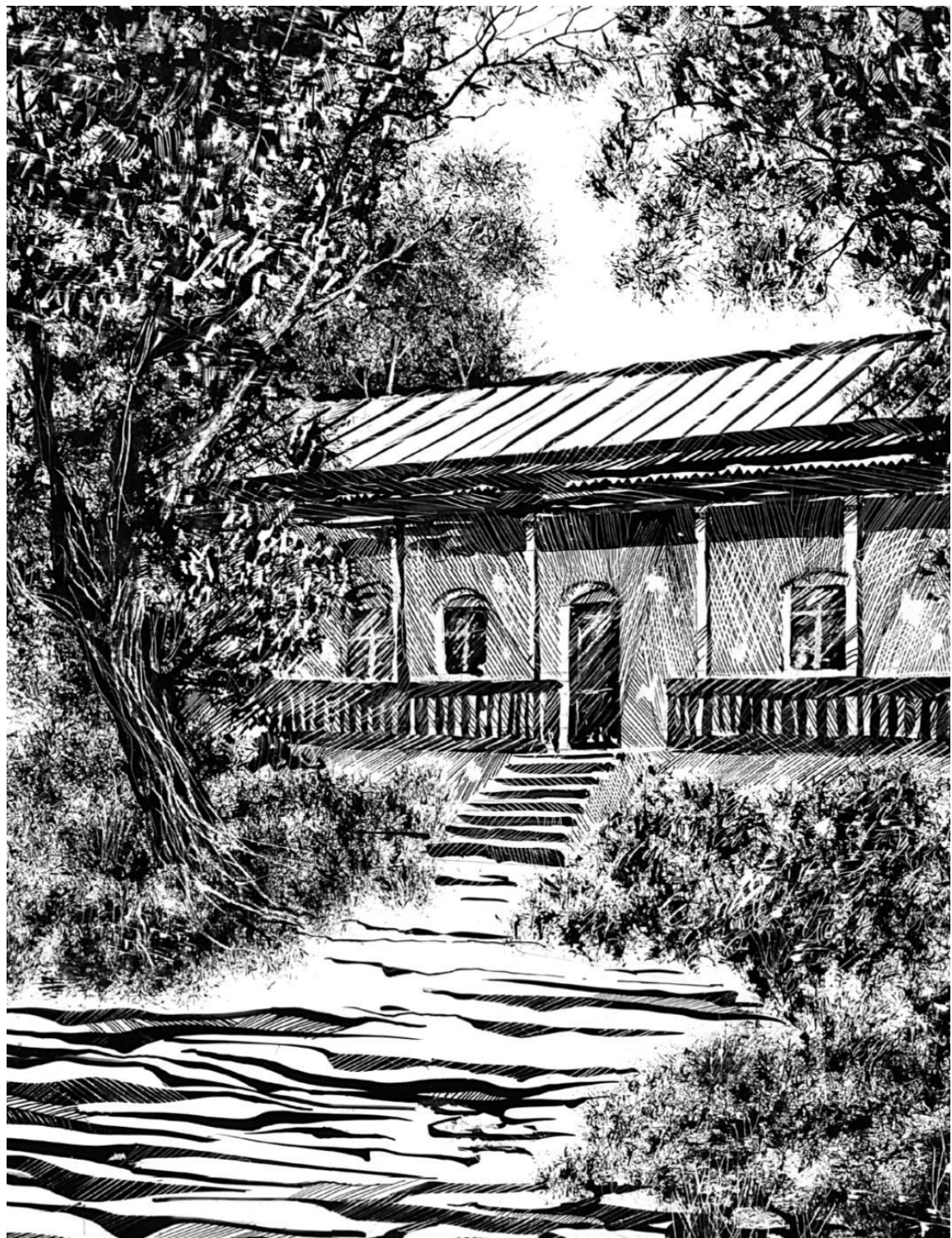


COMPOSER
UZEYIR HAJIBAYOV'S HOUSE



KHAN SHUSHINSKI'S HOUSE







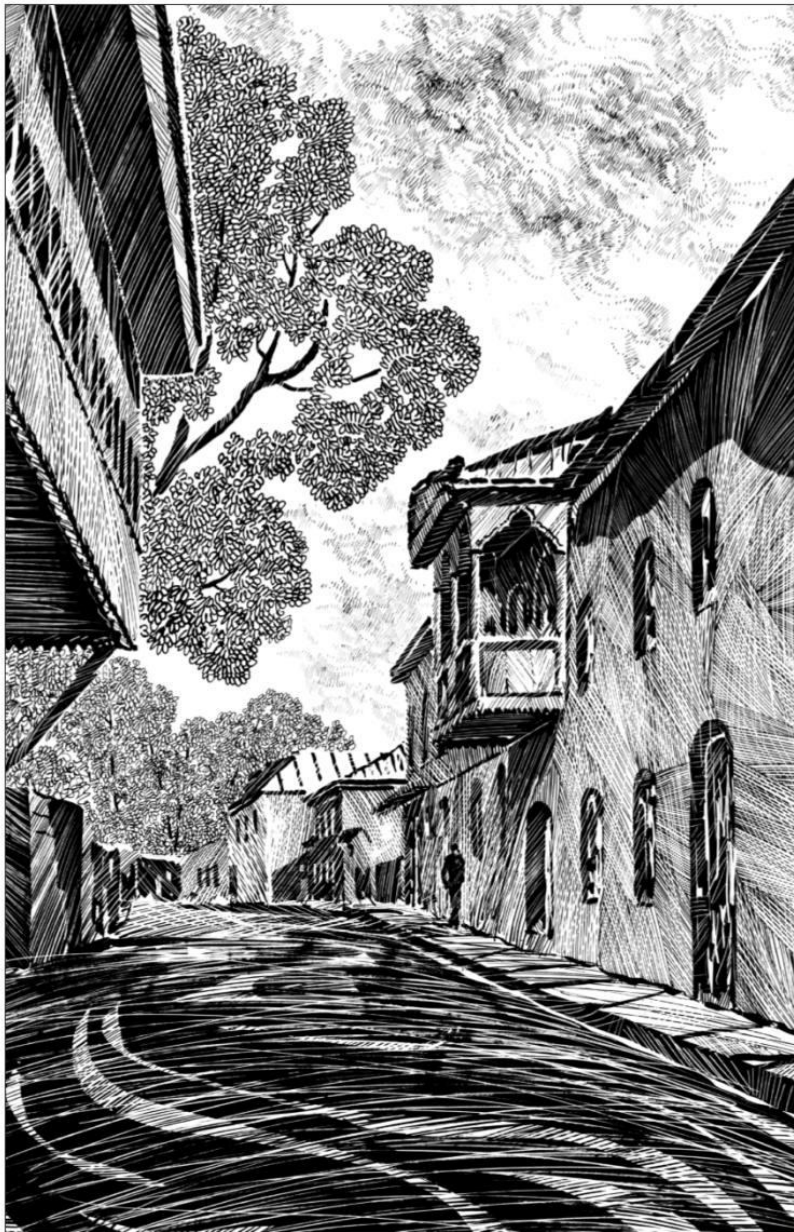
ELTURAN SHUSHA ETCHINGS

BUL-BUL'S HOUSE

COMPOSER SULEYMAN ALASGAROV'S HOUSE

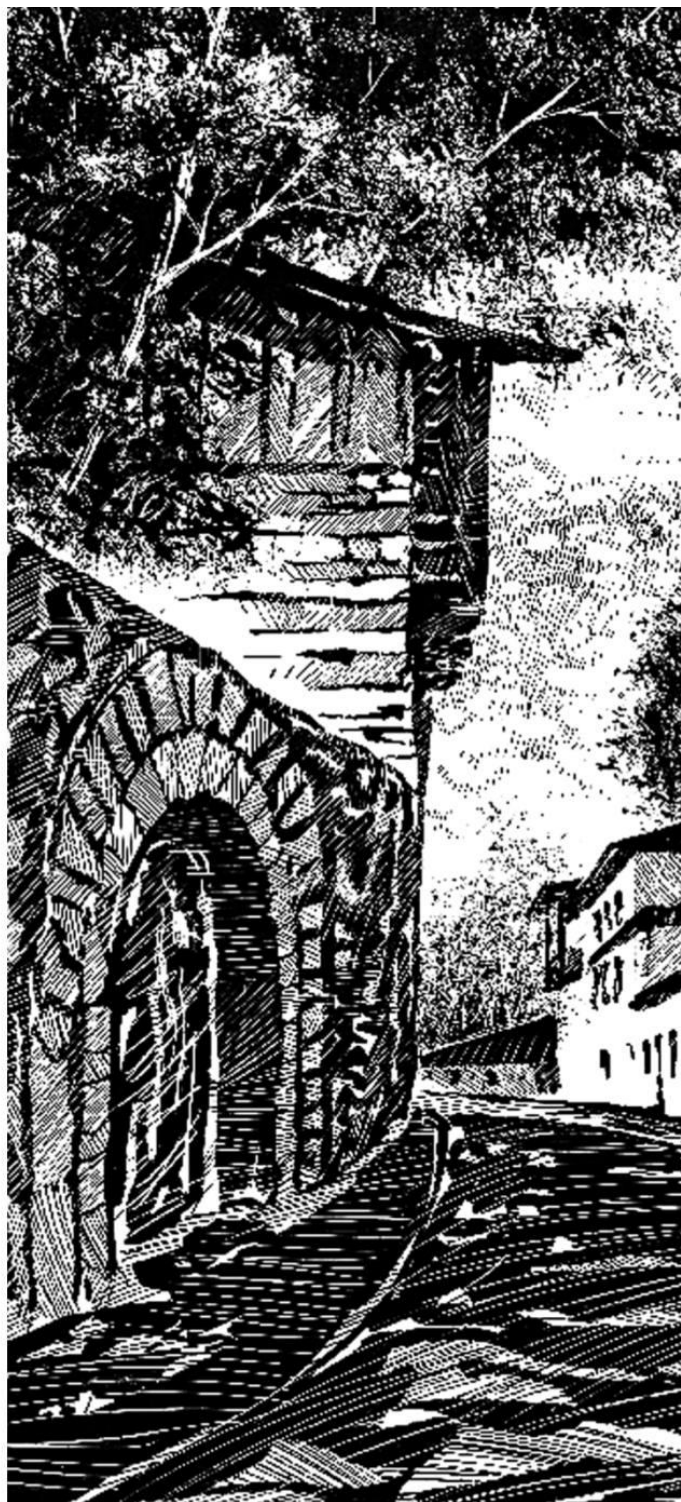


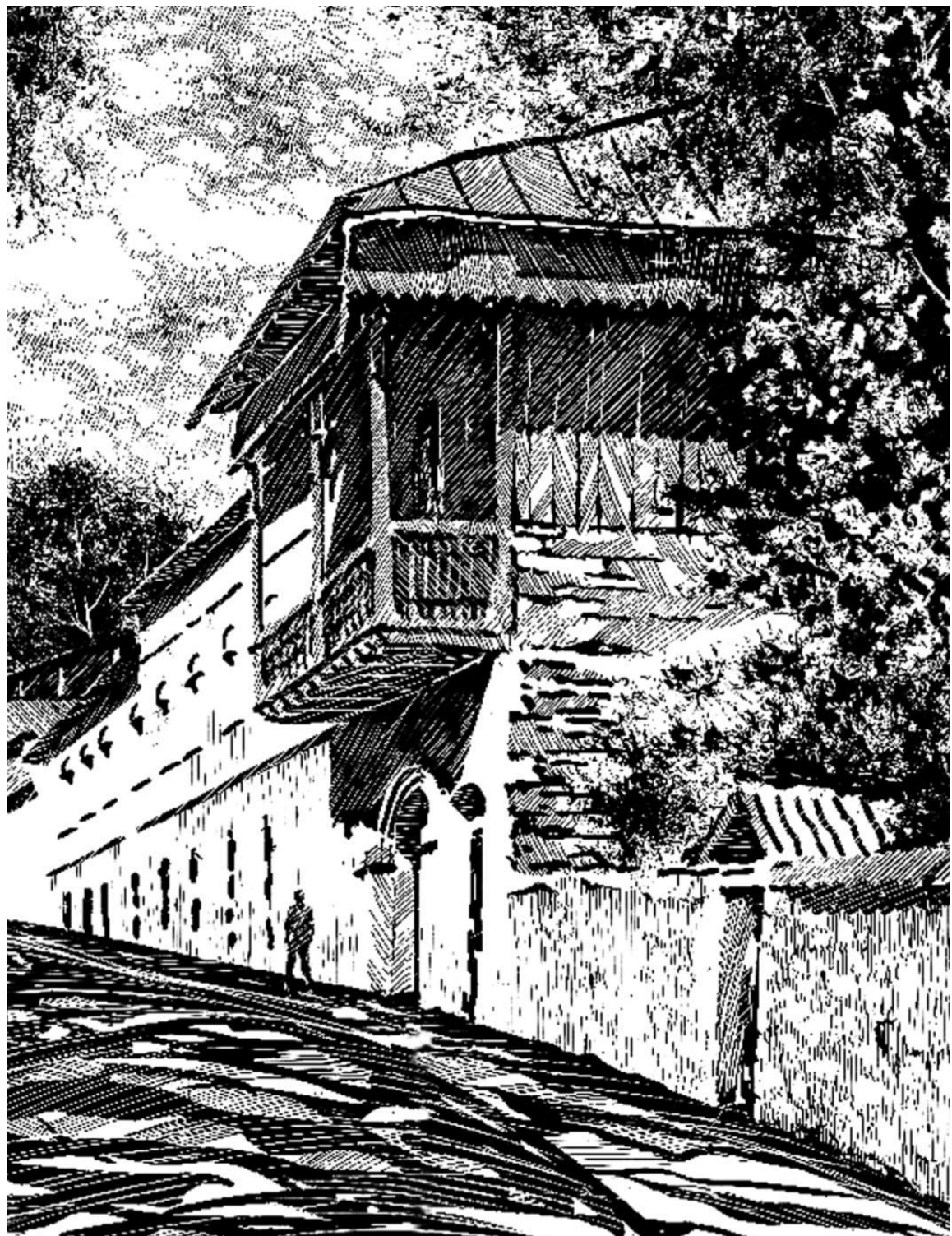


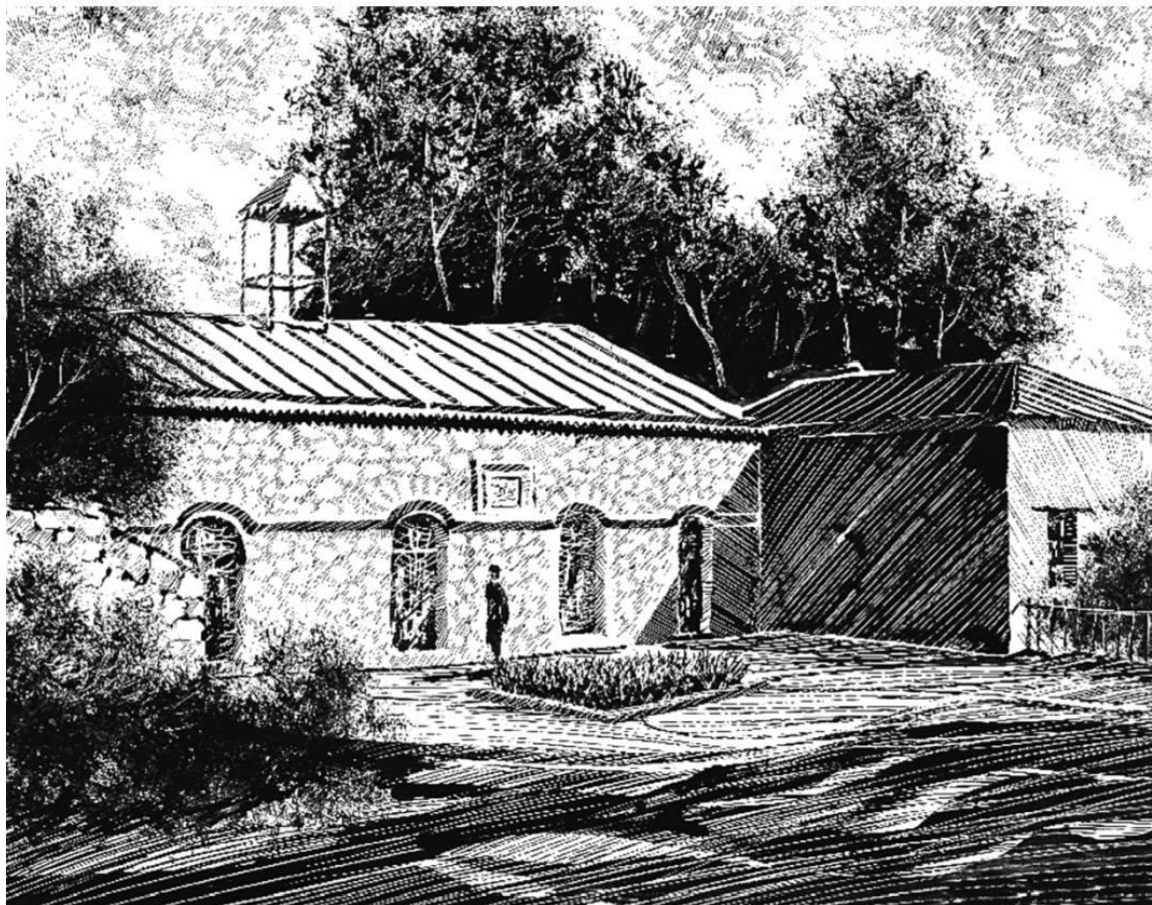




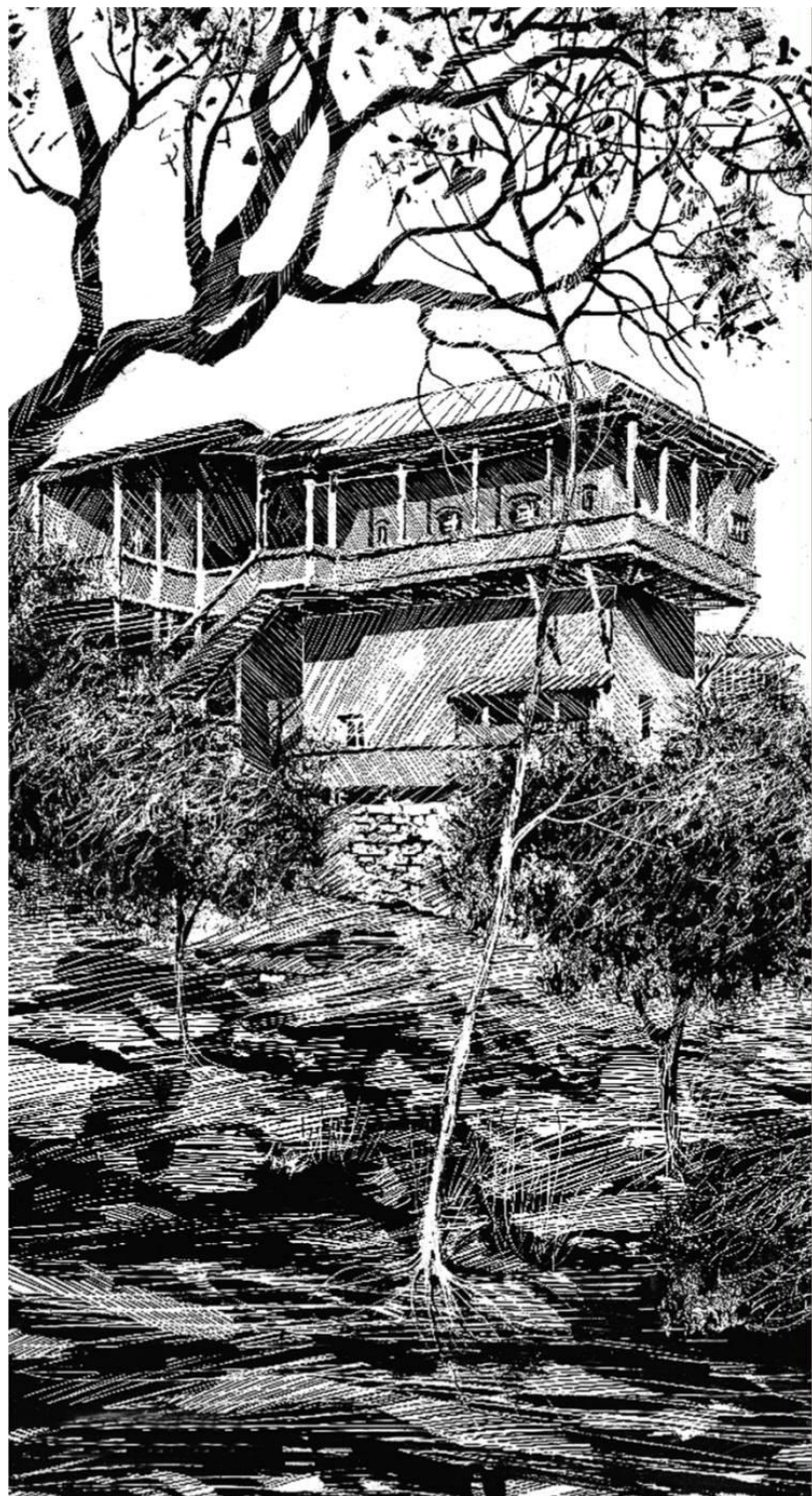
MAMAYI QUARTER

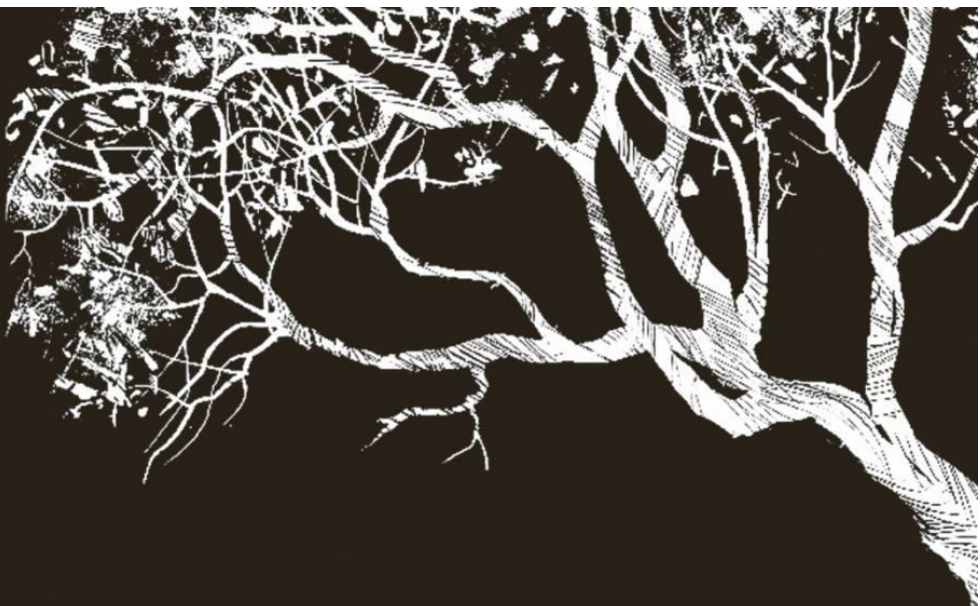






MAMAYI QUARTER'S MOSQUE





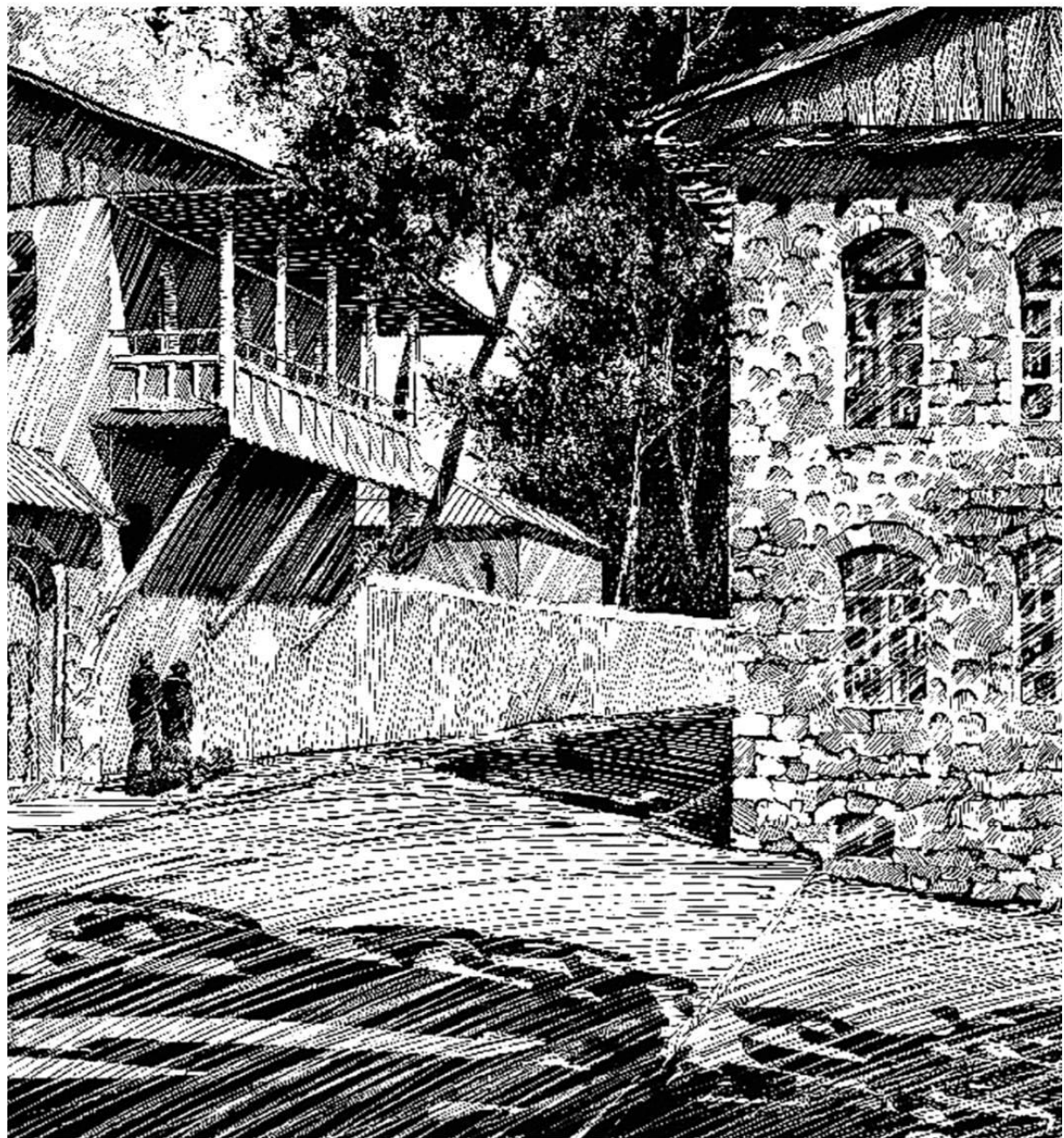
KOCHARLI QUARTER, JAFARQULU KHAN'S MANSION

MASHADI SHUKUR'S CARAVANSARAI

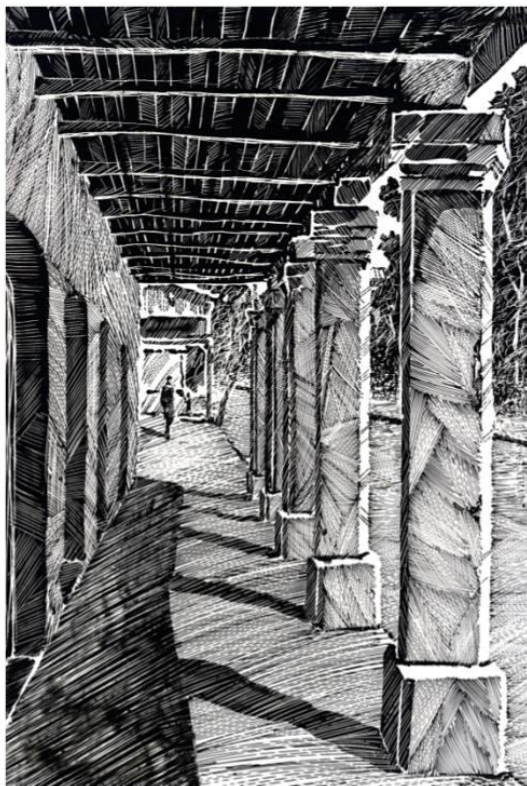




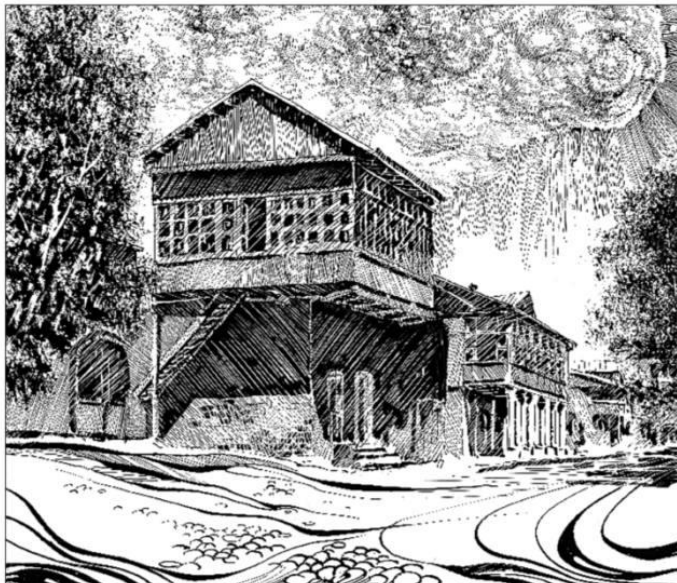
MARDINLI QUARTER



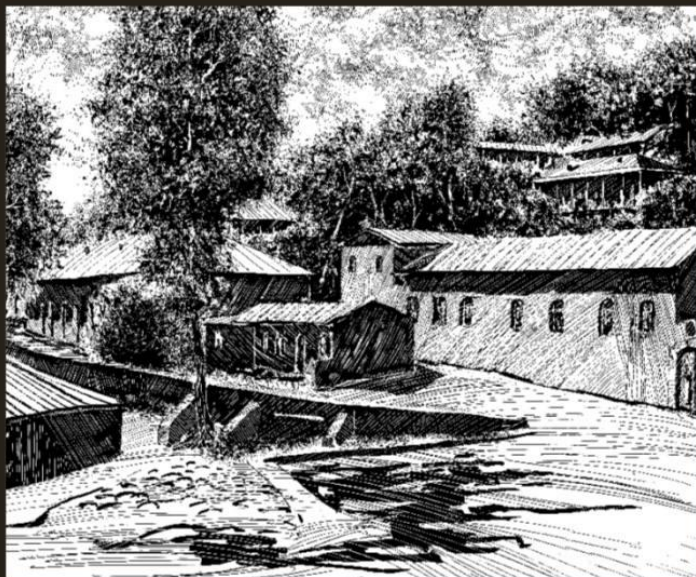




DEVIL BAZAAR



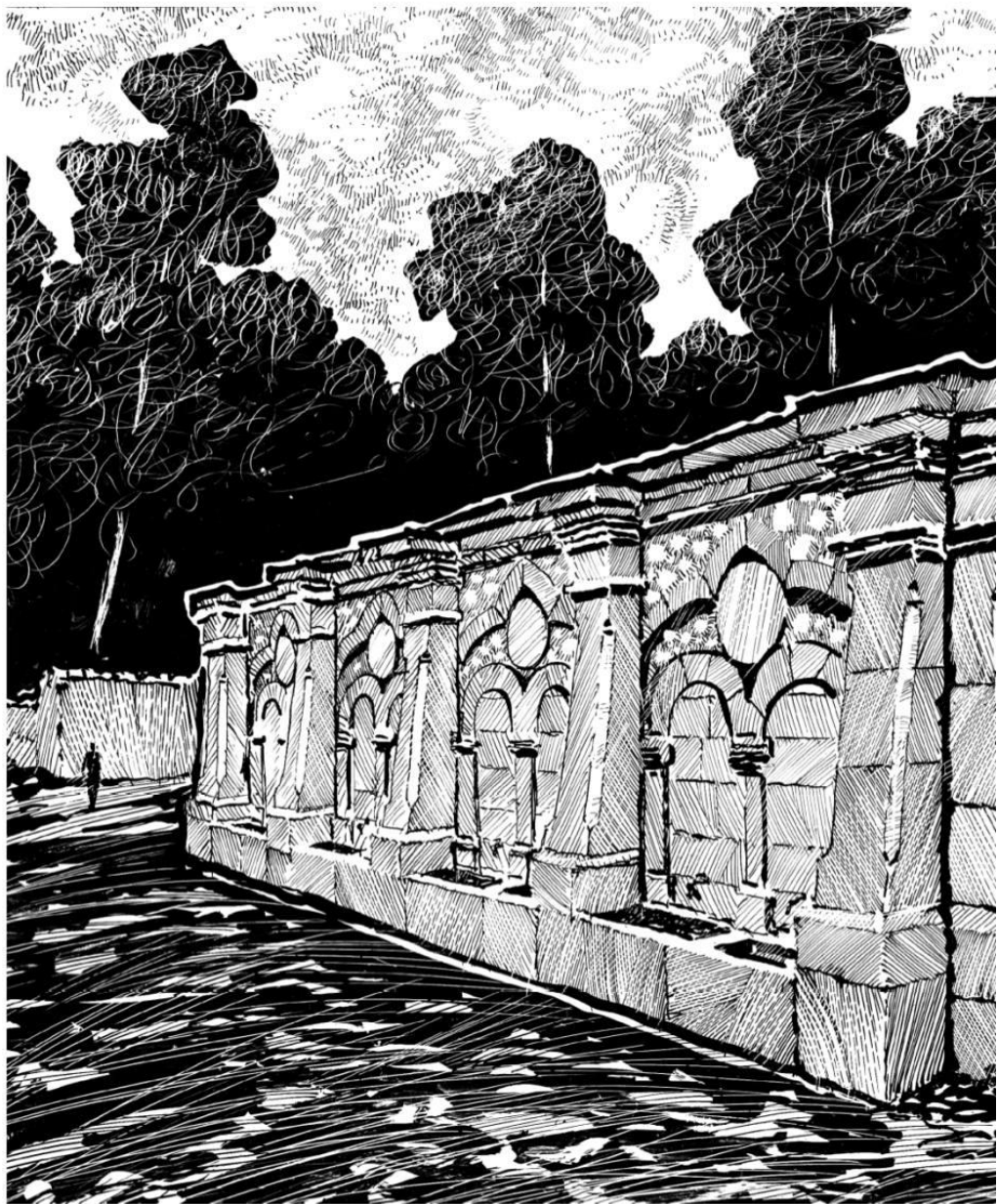
DEVIL BAZAAR

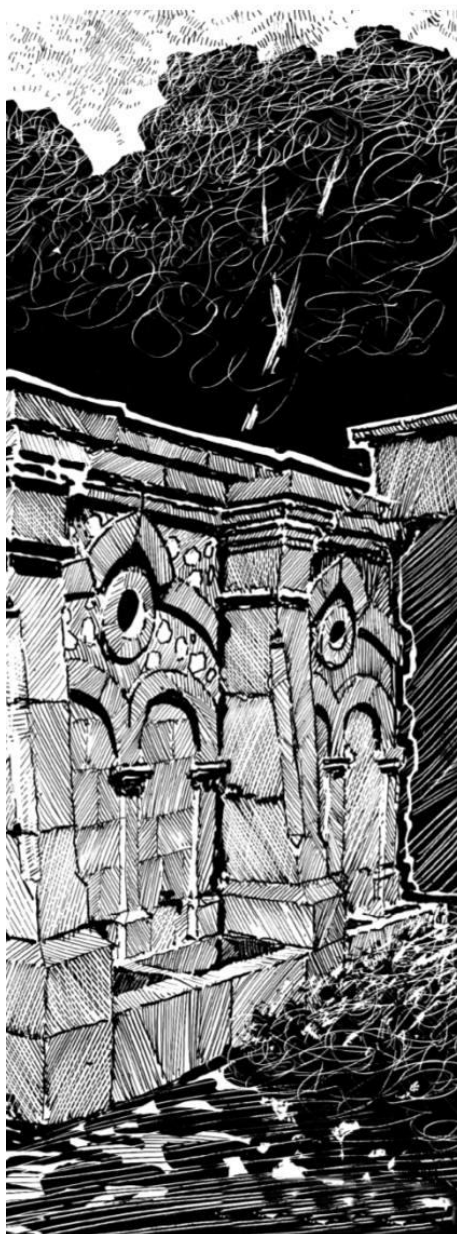


A QUARTER IN SHUSHA



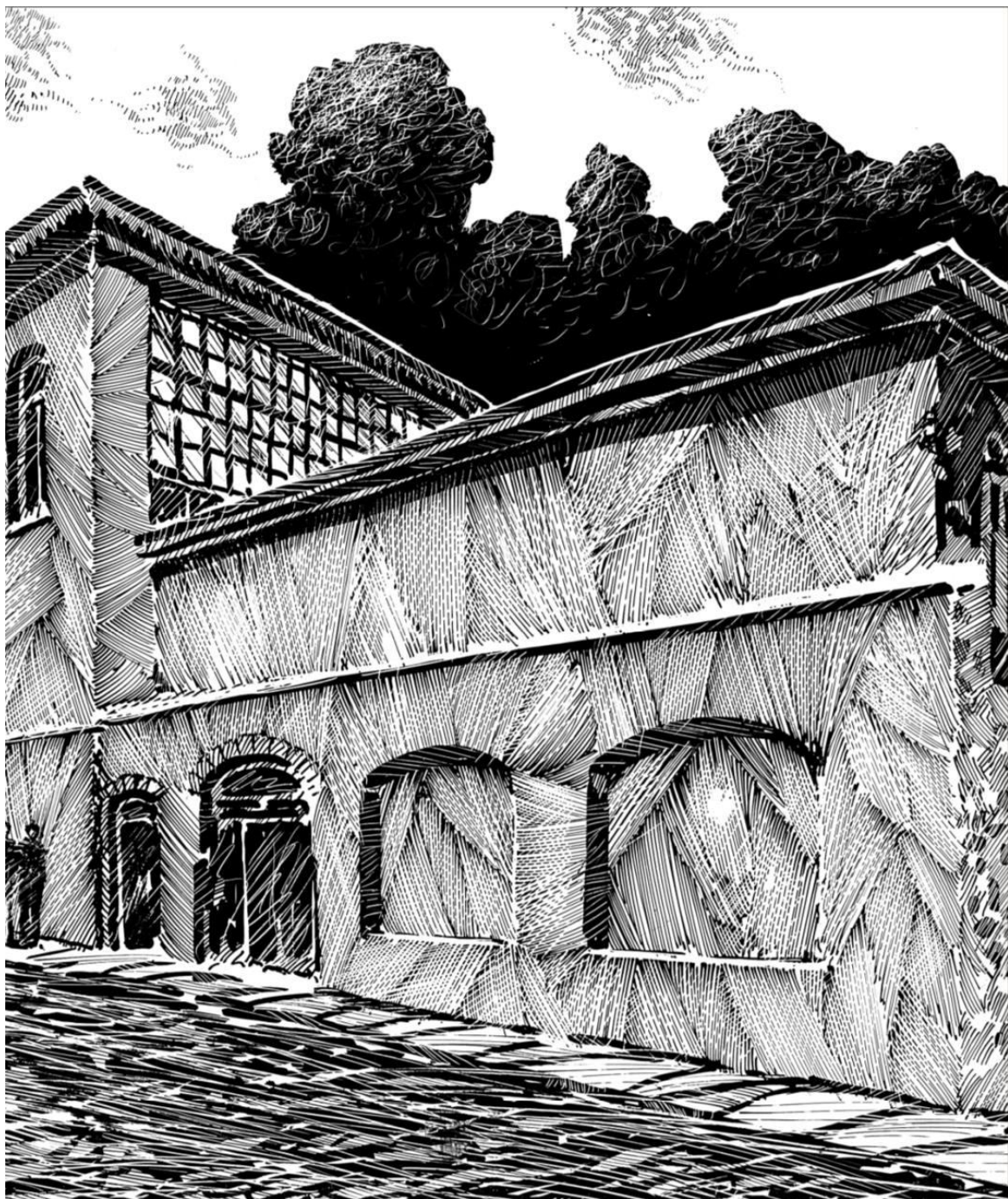
HOUSE OF THE KHAN'S DAUGHTER NATAVAN



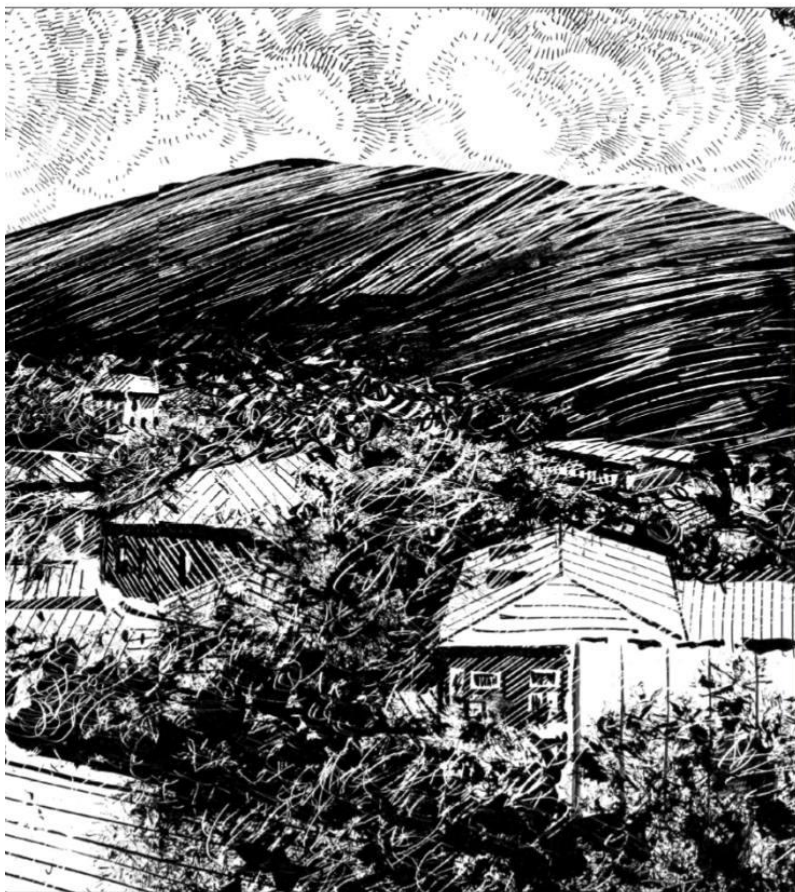




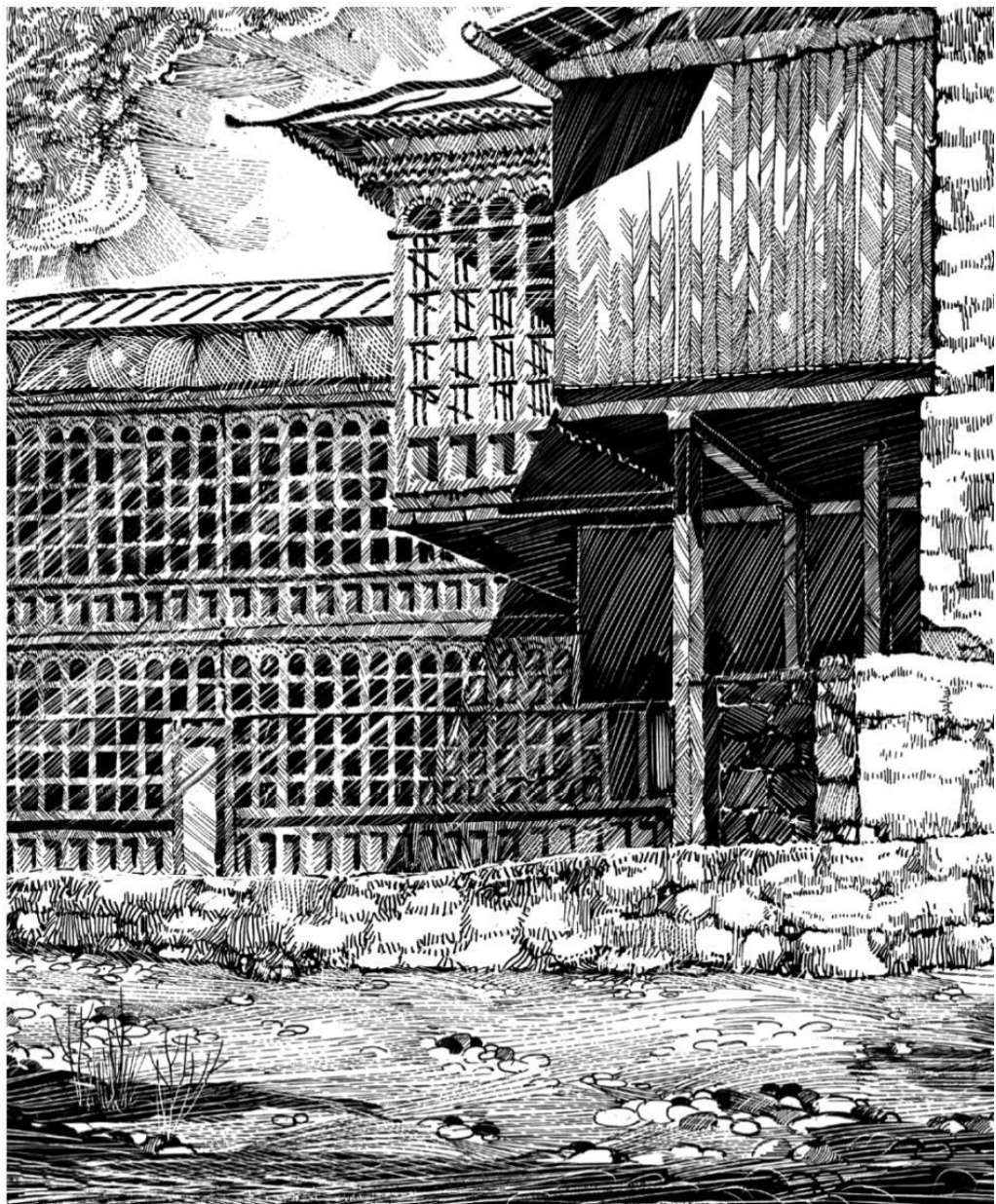
THE FRONT OF A HAMAM (BATHHOUSE)





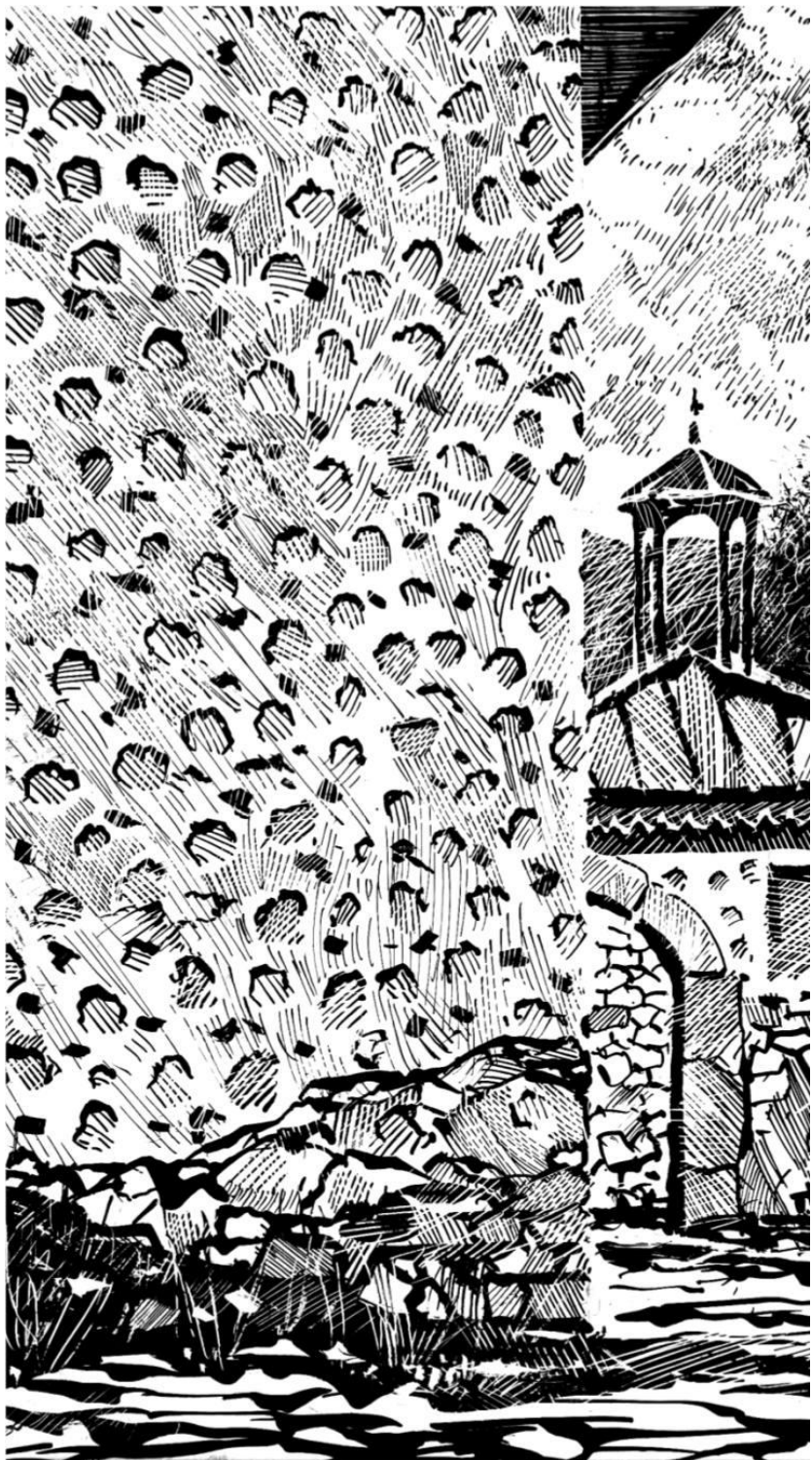


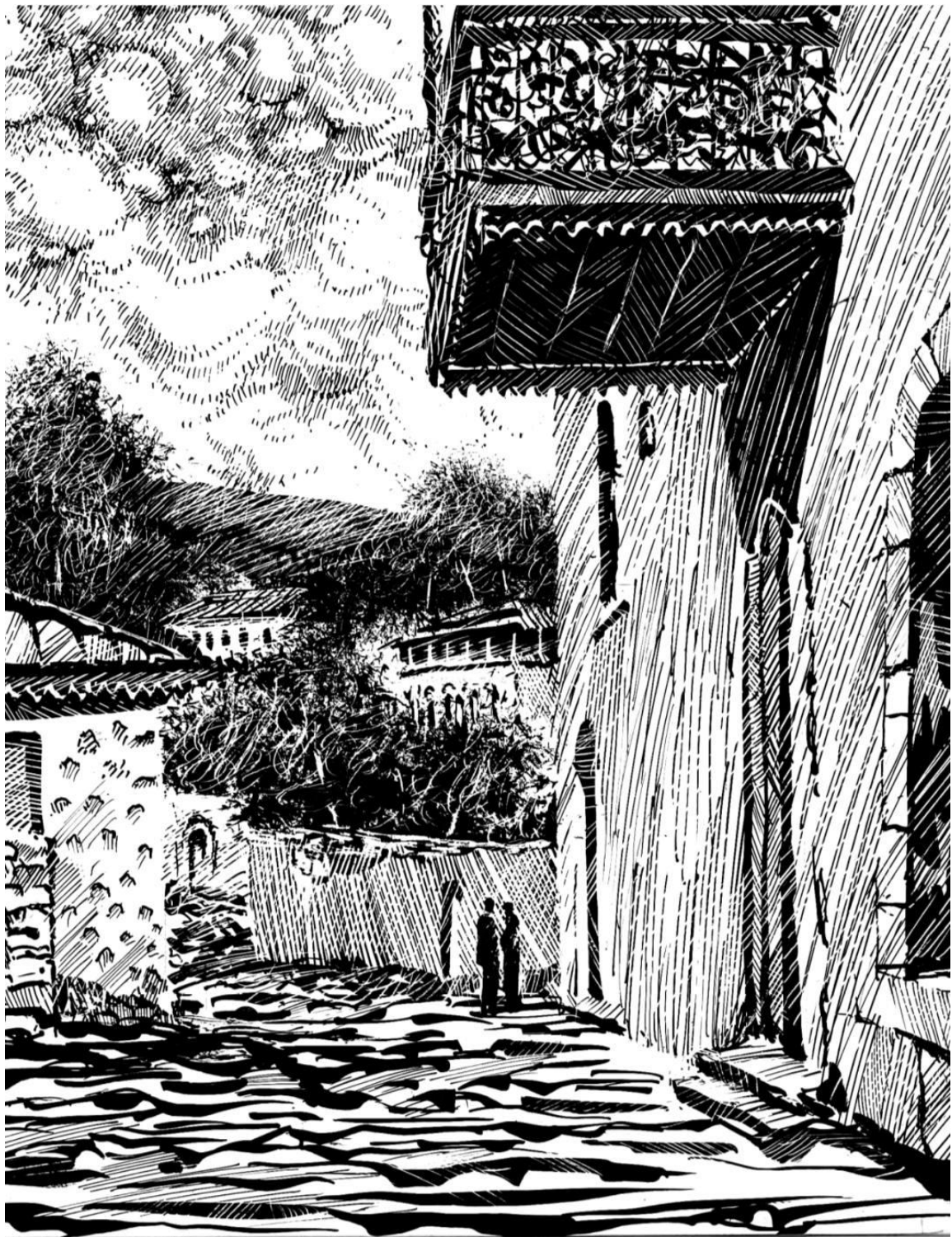
UPPER QUARTERS





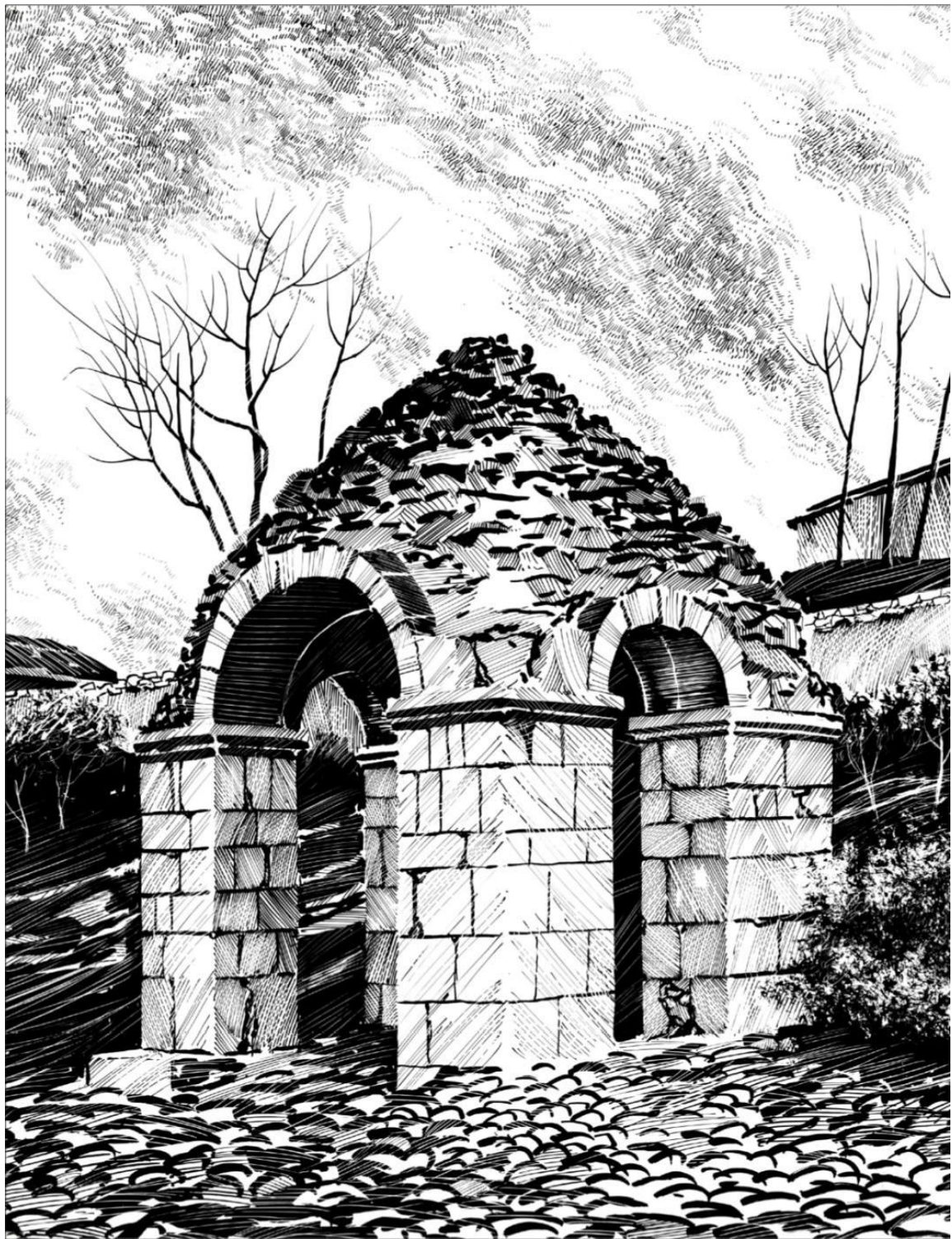
SEYIDLİ QUARTER

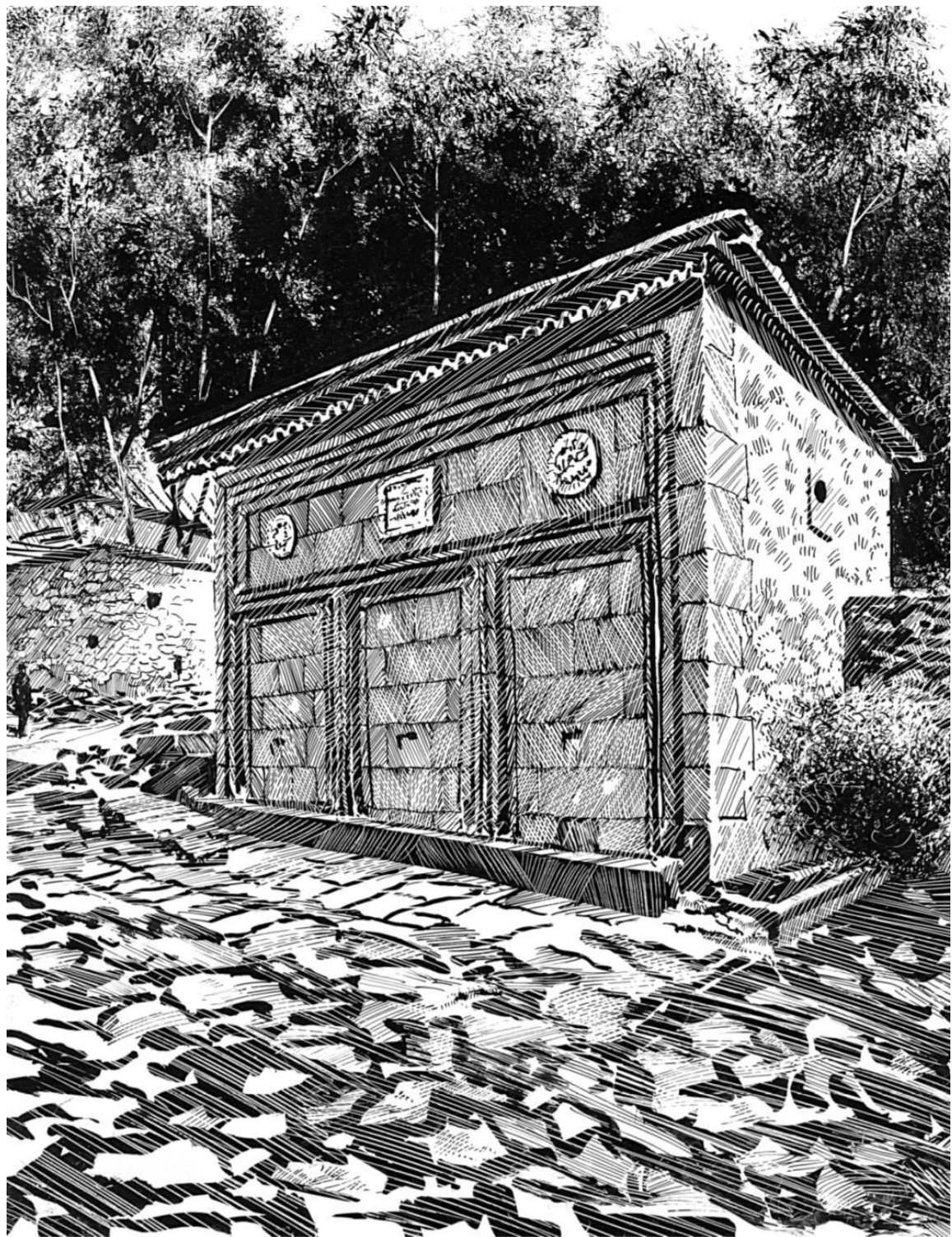




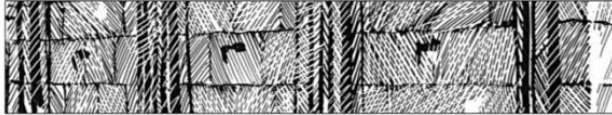


SHOR WELL





NEW QUARTER WELL

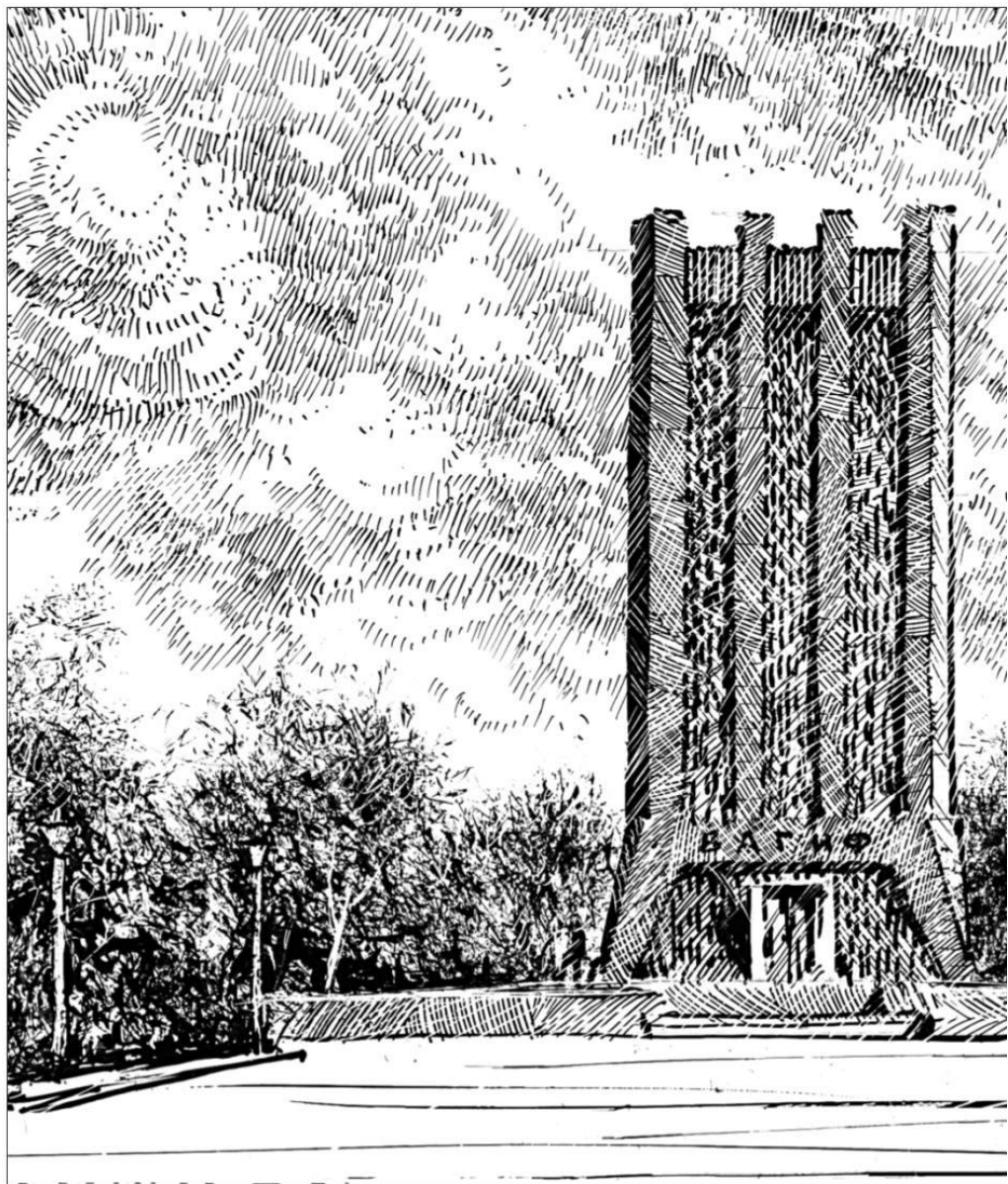














MOLLA PANAH VAQIF'S MAUSOLEUM

Elturan Avalon
SHUSHA
ETCHINGS

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LAYOUT
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