

Preface

My father, Louis Khodabakhsh (also known as Louis Coda), lived a remarkable life from 1915 to 2013. He was born during the First World War in Russia. Soon after he was relocated to Urmia/Salmas region in Northern Iran. There, he lived under the guidance of his uncle, the Chaldean Catholic Archbishop Isaac-Jesu-Yab Khoudabache (Khodabakhsh), and received his education at the prestigious French Lazarist Seminary in Urmia.

A gifted linguist, my father was fluent in Persian (Farsi), French, Turkish, English, and familiar with Latin, and was a renowned scholar of the Assyrian language.

For over 12 years, throughout much of the 1980-1990s, I witnessed him dedicate many hours each day to the enormous task: researching and writing a one-of-a-kind English-Assyrian Dictionary.

His research was supported by a personal library of more than 25 dictionaries across various languages, which he used as reference material.

While he was unable to finalize this epic work before his passing, his legacy remains in a meticulous, handwritten manuscript that now awaits formal editing and publication.

A Note on Assyrian Grammar

According to my father, Assyrian grammar and etymology are extraordinarily rich and systematically structured. He often emphasized the complexity of the language, noting that verbs can be conjugated in over 60 different formats. Throughout his manuscript, he utilized these diverse verbal structures to illustrate the unique depth and enrichment of the language.

I am now presenting this extensive work to the world of Semitic scholars and others to utilize, enhance and promote the preservation of the Assyrian language and its vocabulary for generations to come.

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