

The Parajanov Kaleidoscope





The PARAJANOV KALEIDOSCOPE

Drawings
Collages
Assemblages

Sergey Parajanov Museum

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Parajanov after his trip to the Bamer-dum Film Festival, against the background of the festival poster devoted to him. Tbilisi, February 1988
Photo by Zaven Sarajyan

THE MASTER OF INNER FREEDOM

Sergey Parajanov's life and work are an epitome of the fight for freedom and human rights. Through his life, he confirmed the truth that those to whom some people are superior will inevitably view others as inferior. It is this "slave complex" that pushes someone up the career ladder and makes them crave power over others. It is this very slave within us, nurtured by the totalitarian regime, which we should try and get rid of. Authoritarian regimes imply partial submission, while totalitarian ones claim full and unconditional surrender. Sergey Parajanov, the great master of inner freedom, lived and worked under the most totalitarian of all regimes.

In the Soviet Union, ideology was imposed by the authorities, who ruled in the name of the ideology. Manipulations of public conscience took a devastating toll: people were caged, humiliated, corrupted, and stripped of essential parts of their inner selves. Fortunately, however, we did not degrade ourselves to the level of compliant and controllable puppets. In spite of the formidable range of the techniques used by the regime, humanity was not conquered. Parajanov was one of the champions of the fight for keeping a man human.

Soviet totalitarianism failed to prevail over nature. The drama that lasted seven decades demonstrated that there is a meaning to humanity. This humanity will help us overcome the challenges of the period that followed the collapse of the regime. The significance of Parajanov's humanity for all of us living in the post-Soviet world is hard to overestimate. He is as relevant as ever.

Sergey Parajanov is a great example of a man who lived under totalitarian regime and defied it. He was the freest of all men in a country that was most un-free.

Armen Harutyunyan
Human Rights Defender of Armenia