

Neopaganism in Armenia The Arordiner Movement

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Armenian Paganism

- Nature worshipers
- Polytheism: major gods Aramazd, Anahit and Mihr

Armenian Neopaganism

- New religious movement
- Rose in the 20th century after the collapse of the Soviet Union
- Arordiner was created in 1991 by Slak Kakosyan
- Based on the ideologies of Karekin Njteh Tseghakron

Tseghakron

- Carrier of the race or race religion
- Promote national identity
- Awakening of nationalism and patriotism within the Armenian communities.
- The nation should be protected and praised at any price.
- an individual cannot exist outside of his own national group.

Arordiner or Children of Ara

- Polytheists
- Ara is the father god
- Anahit is the mother goddess
- Vahagn the son of Ara and Anahit
- Hetanos deriving from ethnos, nation.
- nature worshipers

Ukhtagirk

- Sacred book
- Put together by Slak Kakosyan
- Combination of Karekin Njtech's ideologies, Armenian folk tales, sources of Armenian historic books.
- Has 7 parts: the *Astvatsashoonch*, the *Tsakumnaran*, *Avetaran*, *Dzonaran*, *Veharan*, *Patgamaran* and the *Hymnergaran*.
- The book is open for amendments at anytime

Sacred Monuments

- The temple of Garni
- Urartian Fortress in Erebuni
- Shengavit settlement
- Mount Aragats
- Mount Khustup
- Zorats Karer

Ceremonial practices and rituals

- New year birth of Vahagn March 21
- Trendez February 14th
- Zatik
- Hambartsum
- Vartavar
- Navasard
- Birth of Mihr