



Translation help from <https://lyricstranslate.com/>

And page 40 (35 in the book) from here: <https://dokumen.tips/documents/songbook-all.html>

Note: Armenians use the term “Mernem” or “I would die for” a lot in their conversations. They pick a part of the person, like the eye, heart, hands, and whenever appropriate they address lovingly the person with “Achid mernem”, literally meaning “I would die for that eye”.

So for example if I just made a beautiful drawing my grandma might say dzerkerid mernem (I would die for those hands of yours!).

So it becomes less of a statement of passionate truth and more of a loving call/name for the person.

For example, my grandma would often tell me to eat and then at the end of the sentence add, “Arevi telerit mernem”. Instead of saying, “Eat Mané,” she would say, “Eat, rays of sun for which I would die.” It sounds too much in English but in Armenian it's a common thing to hear especially among family, with grandmas or aunts or moms adoring their children.

So looking at the lyrics, and seeing qele qele (let's go, let's go, or come come) and seeing achid mernem (I would die for your eye), I realized it's not saying statements of passionate truth but rather encouraging a loved one to come by naming that person through their characteristics. So instead of Let's go, Mané! It says, let's go eye of yours for which I would die. And this isn't weird for us because we use this construction a lot to show family love. Hopes this gives more context to these beautiful lyrics.

As for the veil, to put it in context, armenian women have traditionally worn a head covering and traditionally we don't unveil brides during weddings, so veil in the English is not the same veil in armenian. For religious church services women have to put something over their head even now but outside church many women still wore a veil that covered some of the hair and not the face. My grandma from the village wore a head wrap all the time and most others in her generation did as well. I think there may be a number of reasons why, one being that armenian women in the Ottoman Empire in the villages were around Muslim women who wore veils. Since the veil then became a part of the women, just like the headcap Puritan women would wear, I would understand why the song would say I would die for your veil, because it was an integral distinguishing part of the armenian woman.