Especially during a period of relative liberalisation with regards to discussions on the Armenian genocide within the Turkish public sphere, journeys of Armenians from the diaspora and from the Republic of Armenia through Eastern Anatolia/Western Armenia became easier and therefore also more frequent. I engage ethnographically with the spirit and affective charge of these journeys to reflect on how different sites and objects come to mediate people’s relation to the history of the land. I will juxtapose these with the practice and passion of ‘hunting’ for ‘Armenian’ treasures, very widespread among the (mostly Kurdish) local population. Both treasure-hunters and the descendants of survivors (not mutually exclusive identities) scour the landscape in search for materials and objects whose existence is often elusive, indeed erratic. In both cases, death and loss underlie people’s investment in and yearning for the materials and objects in question. And yet, the original violence draws a split that separates and leads to very different moral and political economies around these objects of desire.

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