

Conquest of Constantinople

Imam Ahmad reported in his *Musnad* and Al-Hakim in his *Mustadrak* on the authority of 'Abdullah Ibn Bishr Al-Khathami from his father that he heard Allah's Messenger, blessings and peace of Allah be upon him, say: "Constantinople shall be conquered; and how excellent its leader shall be and how excellent the army which will conquer it shall be". ('Abdullah Ibn Bishr, the narrator of this *Hadith*) said: "Maslamah Ibn 'Abdul-Malik then called me and asked me about this *Hadith*. When I narrated it to him, he went and tried to conquer Constantinople."

Indeed, Allah, Most High, had actually made into reality what His noble Messenger, blessings and peace of Allah be upon him, predicted. Constantinople was conquered and the conqueror was Muhammad Al-



Fati'h, the 7th Ottoman *Khaleefah*. His full name was Sultan Muhammad Ibn Sultan Murad Khan. He was born in the Year 835 A.H. He assumed the sultanate in the Year 856 and he ruled for 31 years.

The author of *Al-A'lam* wrote: "Sultan Muhammad Al-Fati'h was one of the greatest 'Uthmani rulers. He was a great and noble *Khaleefah*. Of all the 'Uthmani *Khulafa'*, he made the greatest *Jihad* and was the bravest of all, most courageous, the most resilient and he exercised firm reliance on Allah. He was the founder of the 'Uthmani Rule, and he created for them laws that the 'Uthmanis followed for ages.

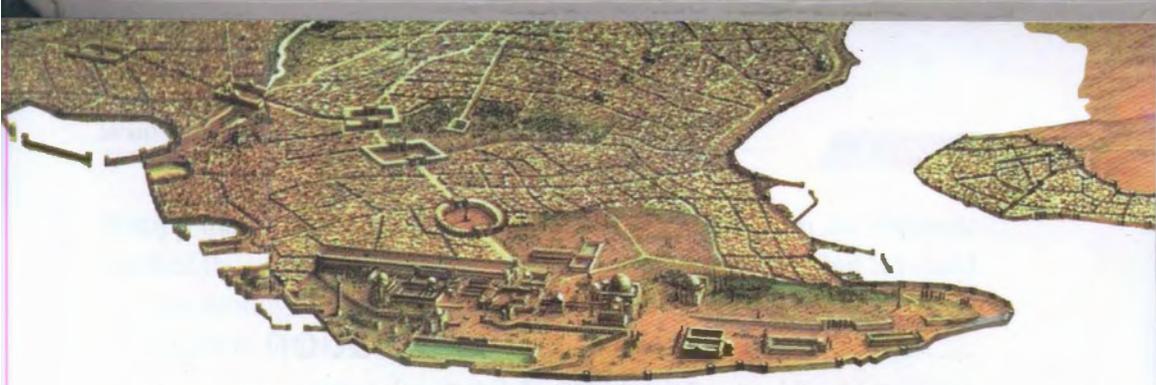
He had excellent qualities and beautiful traits, and his impact can be seen on the pages of history. This impact can never be wiped out, however much the times change. He fought wars in which he destroyed crosses and idols. One of his greatest wars was the conquest of greater Constantinople which he invaded with ships full of his brave soldiers. He laid siege to it for fifty days — a siege regarded as one of the fiercest in the world. He tightened the noose on its sinful disbelievers and unsheathed Allah's sword over them. He fought that war shielding himself and his soldiers in the impregnable fortress of Allah. He knocked





Historical Sultan Ahmad Mosque, Istanbul, Turkey (also known as Blue Mosque) .
It was built between 1609 and 1616 during the rule of Ottoman Empire.

on the door of victory which is usually opened for whoever knocks on it continuously. He exercised utmost perseverance and resilience until Allah gave him victory. He conquered Constantinople (today known as Istanbul) on the 51st day of the siege which was Wednesday, 20th Jumada Al-Akhir, in the Year 850 A.H. He offered the *Jumu'ah* prayer in the city's largest Christian Cathedral. Sultan Muhammad Al-Fati'h established a strong and solid foundation of knowledge that can never be uprooted.



He established schools there making the enrollment in them easy and laid down rules that were in harmony with the Qur'an and the *Sunnah* and with reason. May Allah reward him with good on behalf of the students who studied in those schools! For, while they were studying, he allocated to them stipends with which they could meet their financial needs. After their graduation, he gave them salaries that could help them rise and attain the happiness in this world and that could serve as a means of attaining prosperity in the Hereafter.

He brought great scholars from all over the world and gave them generous awards and showed them extreme magnanimity. Prominent among these scholars were Maulana 'Ali Al-Qawshaji, Al-Fadid At-Tusi, Al-'Alim Al-Kurani and a host of other leading Muslim scholars. With these scholars, Istanbul became an important global centre of learning and a source of pride and enlightenment. The city brought together distinguished scholars in every field of knowledge. Till today, its scholars are among the greatest scholars of Islam and its experts are among the most erudite wise men. Its leaders are among the most able leaders of the mankind. The Muslims, especially the scholars, are deeply indebted to this great Sultan.¹



1 Taken from *Shadharat Adh-Dhahab*.