

In The Name of Allaah, The Most Merciful, The Bestower of Mercy.

After the death of Uthmaan I [may Allaah have mercy upon him], his son Orkhan took over rulership and followed the same policy of his father in ruling and conquests. In the year 727AH corresponding to 1327 AD, he conquered Nicomedia, located in northwest Asia Minor near the city of Istanbul, which is the current city of Izmit, and then he established the first Ottoman university there. He took care of establishing the army based on the needs of the era and made it a regular army.

Sultan Orkhan was keen to achieve the glad tidings of Allaah's Messenger [peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him] regarding the conquest of Constantinople (1), and to develop a strategic plan aimed at besieging the Byzantine capital from the west and the east simultaneously, and to achieve this, he sent his son Sulaymaan to cross the (Dardanelles) strait and seize some sites in the western side. So, in the year 758AH, Sulaymaan crossed the strait (of the Dardanelles) at night with forty Muslim Knights, and after reaching the West Bank, they seized the Roman boats anchored there and took them back to the East Bank.

As the Ottomans did not have a fleet at that time, and their state was still in the beginning of its foundations, Sulaymaan ordered his soldiers to board the boats in the East Bank and they were transported to the European coast, where they opened the port of the castle Gallipoli in which the fortress Canakkale and Rodesto are all located on the strait (of the Dardanelles) from south to north. And with this, the Sultan took a great step that benefited those who came after him in the conquest of Constantinople (i.e. the conquest other than the one mentioned in the authentic ahaadeeth). (2)

[An Excerpt from Ad-Dawlah Al-Uthmaaniyyah Awaamil An-Nuhood wa Asbaab As-Suqoot 6/52. slightly paraphrased]

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**Refs 1 and 2:** Hadeeth regarding the conquest of Constantinople: The fall of the Byzantine capital Constantinople - at the hands of Sultan Muhammad Al-Faatih (may Allah have mercy upon him) is not the conquest of Constantinople that is intended in the Ahaadeeth. Al-Allaamah Hamood at-Tuwayjiree [may Allaah have mercy upon him] stated, "I say, indeed Constantinople was conquered in the year 857 AH at the hands of the Uthmaanee Turkman Sultan Muhammad Al-Faatih [he was referred to as Al-Faatih (the Conqueror) due to his conquest of Constantinople], and Constantinople has not ceased to be in the hands of the Uthmaaniyyeen up until this era of ours at the end of the fourteenth century after the Hijrah. This conquest is not the one mentioned in the Prophetic reports which have already been mentioned (in this discourse), because indeed that one will only occur after the great combat and a short period before the

Dajjaal appears, as it has already been made known in a number of Prophetic reports in this chapter, as will also be stated in the two Prophetic reports (transmitted) by Mu'aadh and Abdullaah Ibn Bishr [may Allaah be pleased with both of them]. Its conquest [i.e. Constantinople] will occur together with Tasbeeh [i.e. utterance of the statement 'Subhaan Allaah' - Glory be to Allaah and free is He from all imperfections], Tahleel (i.e. the statement Laa Ilaaha Illal laah - There is no deity worthy of worship except Allaah] and Takbeer [i.e. the statement Allaahu Akbar- allaah is the Greatest], but not with many people (i.e. army men) and (many) weaponers, as clearly mentioned in more than one hadeeth in this chapter. Its conquest will occur at the hands of the Arabs and not at the hands of the Turks, and this is proven in his (i.e. the the Prophet - peace and blessings of Allaah be upon him) statement reported in the hadeeth that was transmitted by Amr Bin Awf [may Allaah be pleased with him] that "Thereafter, (the forceful, firm, strong etc youth of the Muslims) of the Arabian Peninsula - who whilst striving in the path of Allaah do not fear the blame of the blamers - will come out to them, until Allaah grants them the conquest of Constantinople and Rome with Tasbeeh and Takbeer". And in the hadeeth transmitted by Abu Hurairah [may Allaah be pleased with him] in Saheeh Muslim, (he stated), "Then an army from Madeenah will come out to them who will be the best of the people of the entire Earth at that time". [See It'haaf Al-Jamaa'ah Bimaa Jaa'a Fil Fitan Wal-Malaahim Wa Ashraat As-Saa'ah. Vol 1. pages 403-404]