

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

First and foremost, Murad was courageous, hardworking, generous and religious. He loved organization and adhered to it; dealt justly with his subjects and soldiers, passionate about military expeditions, the construction of mosques, schools and shelters. He was surrounded by a group of the best leaders, experienced people and soldiers, and amongst them he established a committee for consultation.

He expanded the kingdom in Asia Minor and Europe at the same time. In Europe, the Ottoman army attacked the places governed by the Byzantines, then they seized the city of Edirne in 763 AH / 1360 CE - a city of strategic importance in the Balkans and the second city in the Byzantine Empire after Constantinople. Murad took this city as the capital of the Ottoman Empire since 768 AH/ 1466 CE, and thus the capital moved to Europe and Edirne became the Islamic capital. Murad's goal behind this move was:

[a] To take advantage of the strength of Edirne's military fortifications and its close proximity to the scene of Jihad operations.

[b] His desire to annex the European territories which they [i.e. him and his armies] reached in their Jihad and establish themselves over there.

[c] In this capital, Murad gathered all the apparatus of government for the advancement of the state, such as the principles of governance and different groups of employees. He categorised the army divisions, the different groups of people engaged in Islamic law and the religious scholars. He established courts, public schools for the populace and military institutes to train the Janissaries. Edirne continued upon this political, military, administrative, cultural and religious establishment, until the Ottomans conquered Constantinople in the year 857 AH / 1453 AD, and it became the capital of their state (1). [An Excerpt from Ad-Dawlah Al-Uthmaaniyyah Awaamil An-Nuhood wa Asbaab As-Suqoot 6/59. slightly paraphrased]

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[1] NB: The conquest 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 Greaatest], but not with many people (i.e. army men) and (many) weaponerys, 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]