

باسمہ تعالیٰ
نحمدہ و نصلي و نسلم علی رسولہ الکریم
و علی آلہ و اصحابہ أجمعین

From Istanbul to Islambul (The City of Islam)

IN THE WAKE OF AN ISLAMIC AWAKENING

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From Istanbul to Islambul (The City of Islam) - A Miraculous Islamic Awakening

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PREFACE

By the Grace and Mercy of Almighty Allâh, this servant was blessed with the opportunity of a short tour of Istanbul, in the year 1437 (2015). Upon return, on the request of friends to pen down some of the inspirations and lessons derived during this trip, the following pages were compiled.

May Almighty Allâh accept it through His Divine Mercy and make it a means of inspiring man and jinn till the end of times. Aameen!

FIRST IMPRESSIONS LAST

As I walked through the markets of Istanbul on the first day after my arrival I could smell the fragrance of an 'Islamic Awakening' drifting through the air. The scenes of religious destruction brought about by Mustafa Kamal Pasha upon this unique city of Islâm just ninety years ago were still fresh in my mind, but the scenario which I was now witnessing made me smile and left me wonder-struck at the Divine Power of Almighty Allâh in bringing life back to (spiritually) dead lands.

To adequately grasp and understand the thoughts that crossed my mind during the few days of my stay it is necessary that one first gains some insight into the Glorious History of Istanbul, during the days of the Mighty Ottoman Caliphate; followed by its fall into the pits of ruin at the hands of hypocrites/jewish conspirators; and finally its reawakening at a time when the lands of Shâm is in desperate search for a shoulder of Muslim support.

A CITY BROUGHT BACK TO LIFE – A MESSAGE THAT ISLAM SHALL NEVER DIE

Whilst witnessing the amazing, beautiful changes that the city of Istanbul is presently undergoing, one verse of Qurân that repeatedly flashed in my mind was the verse regarding the city of Al-Aqsâ (Jerusalem), after it was uprooted and laid to ruins by the barbaric forces of Bukht-e-Nasr (Nabachadnazzâr).

Before the arrival of Bukht-e-Nasr, the city of Jerusalem, with Masjid Al-Aqsa as its centre, had served as the capital of the worshippers of Almighty Allâh for hundreds of years. Established by Nabi Dawood عليه السلام, and erected by his noble son, Nabi Suleimân عليه السلام, this magnificent Masjid stood tall and high, as a symbol of religious rule in the lands.

Unfortunately this favour of Almighty Allâh was not appreciated, and a time came when the vast majority of the inhabitants of this unique city fell into acts of open transgression, inviting upon themselves Divine Wrath, which came in the form of the armies of the mightiest king of Babylon, Bukht-e-Nasr (Nebuchadnezzar II).

The tragedy that befell the city of Al-Aqsâ at the hands of the inhumane savages of this army has been described in great detail in the books of Târikh and Tafsîr, the gist of which is:

Almighty Allâh sent Bukht-e-Nasar of Babylon upon the Bani Israil as a punishment for the great acts of transgression they were perpetrating. His armies killed scores of the Bani Israil and exiled the remaining, leaving the city in total ruin. (Ibn Atiyya)

When Nabi Uzair عليه السلام passed by, in sadness and wonder he remarked:

أتى يحيى هذه الله بعد موتها

‘How will Allâh ever give life to this land after this!?’

As an exhibition of Almighty Allâh's Divine Power to revive the dead, and to keep religion and the lands of religion alive, despite its revival seeming impossible, Almighty Allâh caused this Nabi ﷺ to fall into a state of death for one hundred years. When he next opened his eyes, he found before him the land of Al-Aqsâ, bustling with people and religious fervour as it had once been.

It has been narrated that Almighty Allâh initiated the revival of Al-Aqsâ seventy years after his destruction, and its rebirth reached completion thirty years later, when Nabi Uzair ﷺ was given life again. (Ibn Kathîr¹)

In the verses of Qurân that discuss this unique historical episode one perceives some sort of indication that if one ever falls into depression witnessing the sad plight of religion and the people of religion, he should take consolation in the fact that within a hundred years Almighty Allâh shall surely bring about some sort of religious revival, either in that very land or at some other spot.

Rasulullâh ﷺ himself explained this point when he ﷺ stated:

إِنَّ اللَّهَ يَبْعَثُ لِهَيْدِهِ الْأُمَّةَ عَلَى رَأْسِ كُلِّ مِائَةِ سَنَةٍ مَنْ يُحَدِّدُ لَهَا دِينَهَا (سنن أبي داود)

'At the turn of every century Almighty Allâh shall bring forward such an individual/individuals who shall give life to religion!'

¹ اختلفوا في هذا المار من هو؟ فروى ابن أبي حاتم عن عصام بن رُوَاد عن آدم بن أبي إياس عن إسرائيل عن أبي إسحاق عن ناجية بن كعب عن علي بن أبي طالب أنه قال: هو عزير. ورواه ابن جرير عن ناجية نفسه. وحكاه ابن جرير وابن أبي حاتم عن ابن عباس والحسن وقتادة والسدي وسليمان بن بُرَيْدَةَ وهذا القول هو المشهور. وقال وهب بن منبه وعبد الله بن عبيد بن عمير: هو أرميا بن حلقيا وقال مجاهد بن جبر: هو رجل من بني إسرائيل. وذكر غير واحد أنه مات وهو ابن أربعين سنة؛ فبعثه الله وهو كذلك، وكان له ابن فيبلغ من السن مائة وعشرين سنة، وبلغ ابن ابنته تسعين وكان الجد شابا وابنه وابن ابنته شيخان كبيران قد بلغا الهرم، وأما القرية: فالمشهور أنها بيت المقدس مر عليها بعد تخريب بختنصر لها وقتل أهلها. { وَهِيَ خَاوِيَةٌ } أي: ليس فيها أحد من قومهم: خوت الدار تخوي خواءً وخُويًا. وقوله: { عَلَى عُرْوَتِهَا } أي: ساقطة سقفها وجدرانها على عرصاتها، فوقف متفكرا فيما آل أمرها إليه بعد العمارة العظيمة وقال: { أَنَّى يُحْيِي هَذِهِ اللَّهُ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا } وذلك لما رأى من دنورها وشدّة خرابها وبعدها عن العود إلى ما كانت عليه قال الله تعالى: { فَأَمَّا اللَّهُ فَمَنْ بَعَثَهُ } قال: وعمرت البلدة بعد مضي سبعين سنة من موته وتكامل ساكنوها وتراجعت بنو إسرائيل إليها (ابن كثير)

The state of Istanbul is much like that of Al-Aqsâ, i.e. it too occupied a most senior position as a religious capital before it fell into enemy hands, and after its collapse it needed only seventy odd years to find its roots again and bring about its revival.

When Mustafa Kamal Pasha reached the last days of his life, he perhaps took great joy in his satanic achievements of raping the city of Istanbul of its entire Islamic identity and transforming it into a 'secular' city of 'modern Europe'. Little did he realise that within less than one hundred years from his death the world would receive a practical answer to the question posed in the above verse of the Glorious Qurân, viz.

أَتَىٰ يَجِيبِي هَذِهِ اللَّهُ بَعْدَ مَوْتِهَا

'How will Allâh ever give life to this land after this!?'

As per the demand of 'following sequence' our first discussion shall centre around the rise of 'Islambul' (which was its name before Mustafa Kamal changed it to Istanbul) as a magnificent capital of the Ottoman Caliphate and Islamic World

From Constantinople to Islambul (The City of Islâm)

Constantinople was one of the largest and wealthiest cities in Europe. Throughout the medieval ages, it was renowned for its power and splendour. Covetous of its riches, many eastern and western powers sought the city for themselves. But despite countless attacks, Constantinople stood firm and survived for over 1,000 years. It fell once to Christian Crusaders in 1204 due to disunity which allowed the enemy to exploit a weakness in its defences. Only the Ottomans managed to conquer Constantinople in 1453. They did so by ushering in a new age of warfare; the age of gunpowder.

What made it so hard to conquer?

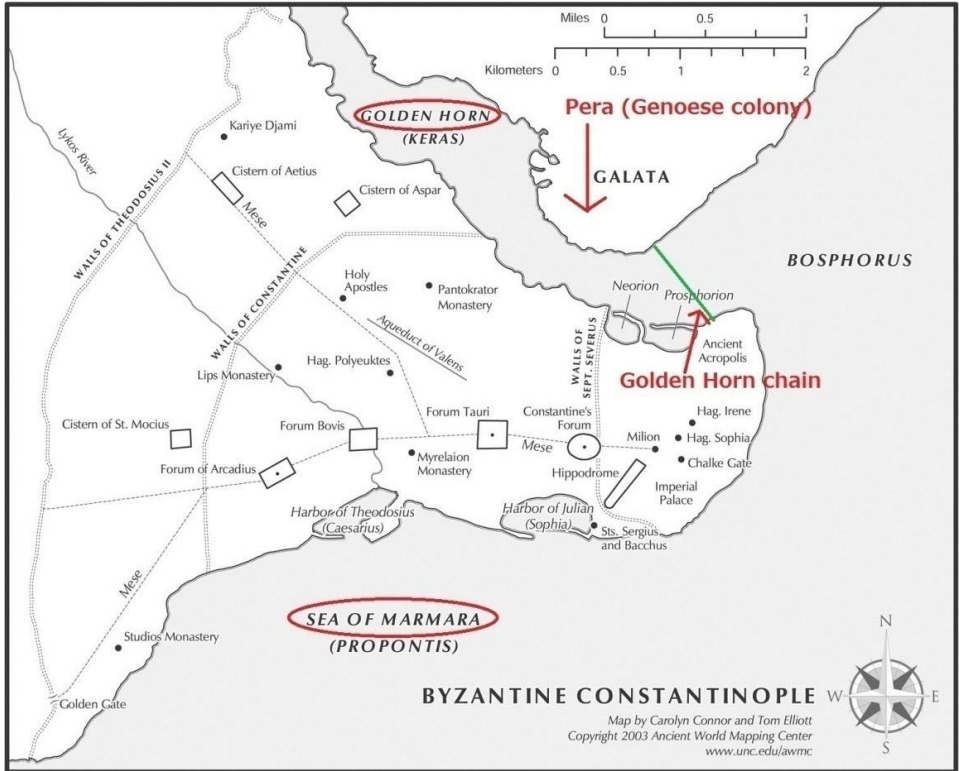
Constantinople was favoured with natural advantages that made it difficult to conquer. It was located on an elevated rocky peninsula, surrounded by the sea on three sides. To the north lay the estuary known as the Golden Horn. To the east lay the straits known as the Bosphorus. The Bosphorus connected the Black Sea further north with the Sea of Marmara. Finally, on the southern shore of Constantinople, lay the Sea of Marmara itself.

Attacking Constantinople by sea was difficult. The strong currents of the Bosphorus endangered hostile fleets without shelter. Meanwhile the Golden Horn served as a perfect harbour for the Byzantines in war and peace. During times of war, it sheltered friendly ships. At the same time it allowed Constantinople to receive supplies by sea to withstand long sieges. Enemy ships were easily blocked from entering the Golden Horn by chains laid out across the waters.



The Golden Horn

The only landward route to the city lay on its western side. Countless hosts of bloodthirsty enemies approached from this front in the hopes of taking the city. But the land walls of Constantinople continually thwarted their efforts. Known as the Theodosian walls, it was situated 1.5km west of the original Constantinian walls. The Theodosian walls, built around 412, stretched 6km.



The first line of defence was a moat that ran along the lands walls. It was about 20 metres wide and 7 metres deep. A stockade on the side of the city reinforced the moat. If enemy troops managed to cross the moat under heavy arrow fire, they came to the land walls of Constantinople.

Around 90 square of octagonal towers lined the walls every 70-75 meters. These towers provided additional defences and a position to mount catapults on. A low outer wall about 9 metres in height provided the second layer of defence. Enemy troops that made it past the outer wall and accompanying projectile fire would find themselves obstructed by the last line of defence; an inner wall. The formidable inner wall was around 12 metres high and about 6 metres thick. Adequately manned, the land walls of Constantinople were impregnable.

The walls of Constantinople (left)



The moat between the walls (right)



Despite its power, the land walls had some weaknesses which enemies could exploit. Firstly, there were the pipes and aqueducts that supplied the city with water. In times of war, the defenders cut off these supplies and survived on water collected by the cisterns. But the enemy could still enter Constantinople via the aqueducts if the defenders were not prepared.

Secondly, the Blachernae area where the land walls met the sea walls, tended to be more vulnerable. Situated on a slope, it was not part of the original walls and tended to jut out. As a result, it lacked an outer wall and a moat. This made it a source of frequent attacks during sieges. The Byzantines remedied this weakness by strengthening its defences in the 12th century.

The Gate of Romanus

Lastly, there was a vulnerable area between the Gate of Adrianople and the Gate of St Romanus known as the Mesoteichion. Due to the terrain, the walls had to accommodate the valley of the River Lykos. This gave the attackers the advantage of higher ground from which they could bombard the defenders. The moat also tended to be shallower in this area. Many attacks focused on this area of the walls. But all these vulnerabilities never delivered the city into the hands of attackers.

The Chain blocking the Golden Horn

Sea walls, not as powerfully built as the land walls, lined the sea facing sides of the city. Any naval attack on the city upon these walls however was difficult due to the hazardous sea currents. To be successful by sea, the enemy had to seize the Golden Horn on the northern side of the city. But a 300m long iron chain and the Byzantine navy blocked the Golden Horn in times of war. Supplementing these naval defences was the Byzantine secret weapon; Greek fire. Only once during the 4th Crusade did Constantinople fall because of its sea walls.

Greek Fire

A key factor in the defence of Constantinople was the secret weapon; Greek fire. Greek fire was a liquid flame projected through siphons that was capable of burning even on water. Not only were its effects devastating, it also dampened the morale of enemies who had never seen this fearsome weapon before. Many key naval engagements and sieges may have been lost without Greek fire. The exact composition of Greek fire was a state secret which remains unknown till today.

The capacity of Constantinople to withstand sieges

Because Constantinople was an imperial capital, it had to have the capacity to withstand long sieges. Water was essential to the survival of the city in times of war and peace. But Constantinople lacked drinking water. The Byzantines addressed this issue through two means. Firstly, aqueducts from Thrace supplied water to the city. Secondly, vast cisterns collected rainwater and stored it for public use.

Next, there was the issue of food supplies. Most of its residents had their own gardens to grow vegetables. Due to its strategic location, food and other necessities could reach Constantinople by land and sea. In the meantime, the imperial granaries stored a reserve of grain in case of an emergency. All these measures contributed to the ability of Constantinople to withstand long sieges which slowly whittled down its attackers through attrition.

Inefficient management of waste during a siege could be fatal to the health of the defenders. Luckily, Constantinople also had an underground drainage system that carried wastewater out of the city.

The morale of the defenders

Finally, there was the defenders; the human element. Most sieges tended to be long. As the months dragged on and the conditions worsened, hope and faith were all that sustained the defenders. It was the underlying self-confidence of the Byzantines that enabled them to fight on in the most adverse of circumstances.

Firstly, the Byzantines believed in the power of their defences, technology and the divine leadership of their emperor. Secondly, the Byzantines believed that Constantinople had divine protection from the Virgin Mary and the other precious relics stored in the city. By displaying the icon of

the Virgin Mary during a siege, the morale of the Byzantine defenders would receive a vital boost.

In a crux, conquering Constantinople during its heyday was a daunting task. The geographical advantages, fortifications, technology, bountiful supplies and dauntlessness of its defenders made the city almost impregnable. During many critical moments in their history, the Byzantines were also lucky to have skilled and valorous emperors to defend the empire against their enemies. **All these factors combined to make Constantinople one of the most difficult cities to conquer in history.**

The Muslim Ummah and Constantinople

The Muslim Ummah throughout times understood the importance of conquering this city. Despite the many failed attempts to capture the city and the mission seeming quite impossible, Muslim armies never lost hope in one day entering as conquerors due to the faith they held in the promise of Rasulullâh ﷺ that this city would one day surely be conquered.

Rasulullâh ﷺ had on various occasions spoke regarding this city, but the statement that contributed the most to creating zeal for this most daunting task was the praise Rasulullâh ﷺ had lauded upon the army that shall conquer this city.

لنتفتحن القسطنطينية و لنعم الأمير أميرها و لنعم الجيش ذلك الجيش (المستدرك للحاكم)²

You shall surely conquer Constantinople.

How wonderful shall be its leader and how wonderful shall be its army!

It was these words of Rasulullâh ﷺ that kept the desire burning within every Muslim leader to become the title-bearer of this royal glad-tiding,

² تعليق الذهبي قي التلخيص : صحيح

thus whenever the Ummah found the opportunity, an army would be sent out in this direction.

For this purpose, Hadrat Muawiyah رضي الله عنه, in the year 58 A.H. prepared a huge fleet under the command of Yusr ibn Abi Orto'a to put Constantinople under siege from the sea side. He sent his son, Yazîd Ibn Muawiyah, with an army from the land side. The siege continued for several months but they could not conquer it. The great companion, Hadhrat Abu Ayoub Ansâri رضي الله عنه passed away during this battle and was buried near the gates of Constantinople.

A second attempt was at the time of Sulaimân Ibn Abdul Malik (98H) when he prepared a large army under the command of his brother Maslama ibn Abdul Malik. He besieged the city by land and by sea for one full year. The Muslims retreated without conquering

A third attempt was made by the Abbâsi caliphate, Haroon Rasheed in the year 165H. The army had reached the suburb of Uskudar when the queen of the Romans asked for peace and promised to pay the Jizya. The caliph agreed and returned back without conquest.

Almighty Allâh had willed that the conquest happen at the hands of Sultan Mohammed ibn Mourad (Al-Fâtih –The Conqueror) He was the seventh in the Ottoman family.

Muhammad Al-Fatih was born on 27th Rajab, 835 A.H, (1432). He was brought up under the supervision of his father, Sultan Murad II, the seventh Ottoman Sultan. His father prepared and trained him to shoulder the responsibilities of the position of a Sultan. Muhammad Al-Fatih memorized the entire Qurân, studied Ahâdith, Islamic jurisprudence, mathematics, astronomy and the skills required for war.

He also learnt Arabic, Persian, Latin and Greek languages. He would join his father in his battles and conquests. His father appointed him as a ruler

of a small emirate so that he could receive practical training on administering state affairs under the supervision of some of the top scholars of that time. This matter influenced the character of the young prince and tinted his personality with Islamic morals and manners.

Shaikh Shamsud-Dîn رحمته الله عليه, one of the scholars who supervised the upbringing and education of Muhammad Al-Fâtih, managed to inculcate in his heart the spirit of Jihâd and the desire to be a person with high ambition. The Shaikh also told Muhammad Al-Fâtih that he may be the one referred to in the hadith regarding the conquest of Constantinople. All this shaped the character of Muhammad Al-Fâtih. He was devoted to Jihâd, highly ambitious, widely cultured, and had deep knowledge of the skills of war and combat.

While only twelve his father handed over to him the reins of rule, which allowed him to rule as Sultân for two years, until his father was forced back to the throne following an insurgence by the Sultân's personal guards.

After the death of his father, Sultan Murad II on 5th Muharram, 852 A.H.(1451), Muhammad Al-Fâtih once more took over. He was now a strong young man, only twenty years old, very enthusiastic and ambitious. He was thinking of the conquest of Constantinople, the capital of the Byzantine Empire. This dream overwhelmed him to the extent that he would not talk about any subject except for the conquest of Constantinople. He would not even allow anyone who was sitting with him to talk, except about the expected conquest.

The first step in achieving his dream was to take control of the Strait of the Bosphorus so that he could prevent any support or supplies that might come to Constantinople from Europe. For this he built a huge castle on the European seashore of the Strait of the Bosphorus. Along with top senior officials, he personally participated in building the castle. It took three months to build this castle that came to be known as the Romanis

Fort. On the other bank of the Strait of Bosphorus there was the Fort of Anatolia, built fifty years previously by Bayezid I, ("The Thunderbolt") as part of his preparations for the Second Ottoman Siege of Constantinople, which took place in 1395. He too had come on to the verge of conquering the city, after having laid siege to it for over five years, but then had to call it off due to problems being caused by shia groups back home. With these two forts it now became extremely difficult for any ship to cross except with permission from the Ottoman forces.

At that time, a talented engineer managed to make a number of cannons for the Sultan, Muhammad Al-Fâtih. One of these cannons, never known before that time, was 700 tons and its projectile weighed 1,500 kilograms. The sound of its shell could be heard from a long distance away. It was pulled by one hundred oxen aided by one hundred strong men. This giant cannon was called the Sultanic Cannon.

The conquest of Constantinople and the realization of the glad tidings:

After completing his preparations, Sultan Muhammad Al-Fâtih marched to Constantinople with an army of two hundred and sixty-five thousand fighters. This army had infantry forces as well as horsemen. Huge cannons supported this army. The army besieged Constantinople and the Ottoman cannons started to fire their missiles at the fortified walls of the city day and night.

A summary of the war

Preparation for the conquest of Constantinople began in 852A.H. (1452). Huge canons that were necessary for the great siege were moulded in Hungary. The Rumeli Fort on the European side was constructed to control the Bosphorus, a mighty fleet of 16 galleys was formed, the number of soldiers were doubled, the supply routes to Byzantine were taken under control, and finally an agreement was made with Genoese to

keep Galata neutral during the war. On the 6th of April 1453, the first Ottoman frontier forces were seen in front of the city, the siege was starting, which would last for 1 month, 3 weeks and 2 days. Here is a chronological dateline of the important points of the conquest:

Chronology

— 6 April 1453

Sultan Muhammad pitched his imperial tent by the door of St. Romanus in Topkapi neighborhood. The same day the city was besieged from the Golden Horn to the Marmara Sea from the land.

— 6-7 April 1453

First cannons fired. Some of the fortresses in Edirnekapi neighborhood were destroyed.

— 9 April 1453

Baltaoglu Suleyman Bey launched the first attack to enter the Golden Horn inlet.

— 9-10 April 1453

Some of the fortresses on Bosphorus were taken. Baltaoglu Süleyman Bey seized the Marmara Islands.

— 11 April 1453

The big walls were bombarded by cannon fires. Holes and cracks were opened here and there. Serious destruction inflicted by ceaseless bombardment.

— 12 April 1453

The Ottoman fleet attacked the ships protecting the Golden Horn. The victory of the Christian ships decreased the morale of the Ottoman army. At the order of Sultan Mehmed, the Byzantine ships were pounded by mortar fire, and one galley was sunk.

— 18 April 1453, Night

The Sultan gave his first crucial order. The attack lasted four hours but it was scattered.

— 20 April 1453

A naval skirmish took place close to Yenikapi neighborhood between the Ottoman fleet and four Byzantine warships with three supply ships full of food and weapons sent by the Papacy. The Sultan came to the shore himself and ordered Baltaoglu Süleyman Pasha to sink those ships by any means possible, but the Ottoman fleet were unable to stop the enemy's ships. With this failure, the Ottoman army lost its morale and showed the signs of defeat. Ottoman soldiers started defecting from the army. Soon, the Byzantine Emperor wanted to take advantage of this situation and offered peace.

The offer was supported by the Vizier Çandarlı Halil Pasha, but was rejected by the Sultan. The siege and bombardment of the fortresses with cannons continued.

During this chaos and widespread feeling of defeat, a harsh but encouraging letter from the Sultan's spiritual teacher, Shamsuddîn رحمة الله عليه, promised good news about the conquest. Encouraged by this spiritual support, the Sultan escalated the attack and decided to add an element of surprise.

His master plan was to attack the Eastern wall on the Golden Horn in the hope of drawing the defence away from the heavily guarded Western wall. In order to get around the chains and enemy ships blocking the Golden Horn, **he devised the most amazing scheme in the history of military strategy:**

The seas become dry

— 22 April 1453

Without having his enemies know, he ordered the cutting down of trees through a mountain side surrounding the city. He then ordered for several barrels of oil and grease to be brought. Without the knowledge of his enemies, he ordered for the timber to be laid on the landward side around the Chain boom from the Bosphorus region all the way up to the

Golden Horn. The logs were then greased to facilitate the transportation of 70 of the Muslim ships 3 miles over rough, mountainous land, around the massive chain boom, into the Golden Horn inlet from where he had planned to launch his surprise attack. Amazingly enough, he had miraculously accomplished this task in the cover of a single night!

In the early hours of the morning, Byzantines were shocked and horrified when they saw Ottoman galleys moving down on the hills of the harbor. Seventy ships carried by cows and balanced by hundreds of soldiers via ropes were slid over slipways. By the afternoon, the ships were inside the well protected bay.

The surprise appearance of the Ottoman fleet in the bay created panic among Byzantine residents of Constantinople. The wall on the shore of the Golden Horn became a vulnerable spot and some of the Byzantine forces were moved there.

This weakened the defence of the land walls. The Sultan ordered that both the Eastern and Western walls be attacked simultaneously using the Great Ottoman Bombard as a primary means of deterrence and attack. This action would severely demoralize the Byzantines, which would lead to the fall of Constantinople soon afterward.

Muhammad Al-Fatih would enter Constantinople in honor and dignity. He would spare the cities people and religious practices as well as grant freedom of passage to anyone who wished. He would also rebuild the massive walls which had been reduced to rubble during the siege out of respect and courtesy for the great city.

No army on Earth had ever accomplished what the army of Muhammad Al-Fatih had in every respect. It is said in history, that this strategic scheme of Muhammad Al-Fatih, to the Greeks, earned him the recognition of a commander who surpassed even Alexander the Great. This was undoubtedly one of the Ottoman Empire's most amazing highlights in history.

— 28 April 1453

The attempt to burn the Ottoman ships in the bay was prevented by heavy cannon fire. A bridge was constructed between Ayvansaray and Sutluce neighborhoods to attack the walls located on the shore of the bay. An offer of unconditional surrender was delivered to the Emperor through the Genoese. If he surrendered he could have gone wherever he wanted and the life and property of his people would have been spared. The Emperor rejected this offer.

— 7 May 1453

A three hour long attack was launched on the stream of Bayrampasa with a 30,000 strong force; but it was repelled.

— 12 May 1453

A thunderous attack made towards the point between Tekfur Palace and Edirnekapi was defeated by the Byzantine defence.

— 16 May 1453

When the underground tunnel dug in the direction of Egrikapi intersected the Byzantine underground tunnel, an underground skirmish erupted. The same day, an attempt to cut the big chain blocking the entrance of the Golden Horn failed. The following day the attack was repeated, but again ended with failure.

— 18 May 1453

Ottoman forces launched another attack from the direction of Topkapi neighborhood by using a wooden mobile tower. The Byzantines burned the tower at night and emptied the trenches that were filled by Ottomans. Over the following days, bombarding of the land walls continued.

— 25 May 1453

The Sultan sent Ismail Bey as an ambassador offering the Emperor to surrender for the last time. According to this offer, the Emperor and his followers could take their wealth and go anywhere they wished. The

people who decided to stay could keep their belongings and estates. This offer too was rejected.

— 26 May 1453

According to rumors, European countries and especially Hungarians were planning to mobilize their troops to help the Byzantines unless the siege was ended. Upon hearing these rumors Sultan Muhammad gathered his war council. In the meeting Halil Pasha and his party defended their previous position, that is, of putting an end to the siege. Sultan Muhammad with his tutor Zaganos Pasha, his teachers Shumsuddîn, Molla Gürâni and Molla Hüsrev opposed the idea of quitting. They decided to continue the war and Zaganos Pasha was commissioned for preparations.

— 27 May 1453

The general attack was announced to the Ottoman army.

— 28 May 1453

The army spent the day by resting and preparing for the next day's attack. There was a complete silence among soldiers. Sultan Muhammad inspected the army and encouraged them for the great attack. On the other side, a religious ceremony was held in the Hagia Sophia Church. The Emperor urged people to participate in the defense. This would be the last Byzantine ceremony.

— 29 May 1453

Platoons positioned for the assault. Sultan Muhammad gave the order to attack at midnight. Inside Constantinople, while the soldiers positioned for war, people filled the churches.

The Ottoman army launched its final assault. The first assault was performed by infantry and it was followed by Anatolian soldiers. When 300 Anatolian soldiers were killed, the Janissaries started their attack. With the presence of Sultan Muhammad, the Ottoman army was motivated and hand to hand fights started. A young soldier, Ulubatli

Hasan, who first erected the Ottoman flag on Byzantine land wall, was martyred. Upon the entrance of the Janissaries from Belgradkapi neighborhood and the surrender of the last defenders in Edirnekapi front, the Byzantine defense collapsed. The Emperor was killed during street skirmishes.

After the Ottoman forces conquered the city, Sultan Muhammad arrived on his horse in a great procession that included his ministers and army commanders. Ever since that time, the Sultan was known as Muhammad Al-Fâtih (the Conqueror). The soldiers were shouting:

Mâshâ-Allâh! Mâshâ-Allâh! Long live our Sultan! Long live our Sultân!

The Sultan's procession marched until it reached Hagia Sophia church where the people of the city had gathered. When they knew that the Sultan had arrived, they came out weeping and crying because they did not know their fate; what Sultan Muhammad Al-Faatih would do to them.

When the Sultan arrived, he dismounted from his horse and prayed two Rak`ahs thanking Allâh ﷻ Who had blessed him with this conquest. Then the Sultan addressed the people of the city who were still in tears:

'I am Sultan Muhammad and I would like to tell you, your brothers, and all the people present that your lives and freedoms are protected.'

The Sultan ordered that the church be turned into a Masjid and for the first time, the call for Salaah was heard from this place. He also decided to take Constantinople as a capital of his country. It was called Islambul, meaning the House of Islam. Later on the word was viciously twisted (by Mustapha Kamal) to become Istanbul.

The Sultan was very tolerant and merciful with the people of the city, and acted according to the teachings of Islam. He commanded his soldiers to treat their prisoners of war in a good manner. The Sultan himself paid the ransoms for a large number of prisoners of war from his own money. He

also allowed those who left the city when it was under siege to return home.



Istanbul -A city beautified with Masaajid

The end of the Middle Ages and the Beginning of The Modern Era

The conquest of Constantinople has had such a historical impact in the world, that some historians even marked it as the end of the Middle Ages. With the siege of Istanbul, the Ottomans proceeded to establish hegemony over numerous independent Turkish states (Beylik) within Anatolia (Asia Minor). The result of imperial conquest was to unify the Turkish populations in Anatolia. In turn, other non-Turkish, Muslim communities and principalities were brought together under the aegis of Ottoman leadership so that the Ottoman Beylik would eventually expand into an Empire.

After the conquest, Ottoman Muslims were to take dynamic roles in shaping international politics. Up until that point European Christendom has kept Muslims from Asia Minor away, with Istanbul functioning as a border station for the Crusaders. But after the conquest, the sovereignty

of the Muslims was assured, and they were no longer threatened by the Crusaders.

The aftermath of the conquest of Constantinople

Later on, Muhammad Al-Fatih رحمة الله عليه headed to complete his conquests in the Balkan. He managed to conquer Serbia Greece Romania Albania and Bosnia Herzegovina. He also looked forward to conquering Rome so that he would have another source of pride in addition to the conquest of Constantinople.

In order to achieve this great hope, he needed to conquer Italy. He prepared a tremendous fleet for this mission. He managed to land his forces and a large number of cannons near the Italian city Otarant. Consequently he managed to capture its castle in Jumaadaa Al-Awwal 885 A.H.,(July 1480).

Muhammad Al-Fâtih decided to take Otarant as a base for his northern military operations until he could reach Rome. The European world was terrified because of this attempt and they expected the fall of the historical city, Rome into the hands of Muhammad Al-Fâtih. Unfortunately, he passed away suddenly (on the 4th Rabee' Al-Awwal, 886 A.H.(3rd May, 1481) while he was preparing to realize this dream. All Europe was very happy when they knew about his death. The Pope of Rome ordered that thankfulness prayer be held in churches as a means of expressing joy and happiness over the news.

Muhammad Al-Fâtih as a statesman and a sponsor of civilization

During the reign of Muhammad Al-Fâtih and because of his wise leadership and well-planned policy, the Ottoman State reached boundaries that it had never done before.

All these conquests were not the only achievements of Muhammad Al-Fâtiḥ. Through the help of some of his loyal men, he managed to establish a constitution based on the Book of Allâh and the Sunnah of Rasulullâh', and the Ottoman state adhered to this constitution for about four centuries.

Although he was very busy, he managed to establish more than 300 masjids, 192 of which were in Istanbul alone. He also built 57 schools. Among his most famous architectural monuments are the Masjids of Sultan Muhammad, the Masjid of Abu Ayyub Al-Ansâri, and Sarai TopKapi Palace.

After Sultan Muhammad, Islamic conquests and the building of unique Masâjid in and around Constantinople continued, until it reached its peak some 60 years later, during the era of Suleiman, The Magnificent, the tenth and the longest reigning Ottoman Sultan, who ruled from 1520 till his death in 1566.³

The conquest of Constantinople in the light of the narrations

As mentioned above. from amongst the Ahâdith that discusses in a gist the various trails and events that the Ummah would see until the emergence of dajjâl, one that stands out quite glaring, especially in the unique manner that it indicates towards the beginning of the Crusades, the manner that Constantinople would be conquered and the unique Masâjid that the Ottoman Empire would erect, is the following:⁴

3 Much of the information given regarding the conquest of Constantinople has been taken from articles written on the topic and posted on the internet.

⁴ و قال خالد بن يزيد : يومئذ يضرب و الله بسيفه و يطعن برمحہ و يتبعه المسلمون حتى يبلغوا المضيق الذي عند القسطنطينية فيجدونه قد يبس ماؤه فيجيزون إلى المدينة حتى يزلوا بها فيهدم الله جدرانهم بالتكبير ثم يدخلونها فيقسمون أموالهم بالأترسة و قال أبو قبيل المعافري : فبينما هم على ذلك إذا جاءهم راكب فقال : أنتم هاهنا و الدجال قد خالفكم

أخبرني أحمد بن محمد بن إسماعيل بن مهران حدثني أبي ثنا أبو الطاهر و أبو الربيع المصريان قالا : ثنا عبد الله بن وهب أخبرني عبد الرحمن بن شريح عن ربيعة بن يوسف المعافري عن إسحاق بن عبد الله : أن عوف بن مالك الأشجعي أتى رسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم في فتح له فسلم عليه ثم قال : هنيئا لك يا رسول الله قد أعز الله نصرك و أظهر دينك و وضعت الحرب أوزارها بجزائها قال : و رسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم في قبة من آدم فقال : أدخل يا عوف فقال : أدخل كلي أو بعضي ؟ فقال : أدخل كلك فقال : إن الحرب لن تضع أوزارها حتى تكون ست : أولهن موتي فبكي عوف قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم : قل إحدى و الثانية فتح بيت المقدس و الثالثة فتنة تكون في الناس كعقاص الغنم و الرابعة فتنة تكون في الناس لا يبقى أهل بيت إلا دخل عليهم نصيبهم منها

Hadrat Auf ibn Mâlik Asjaa'ee ﷺ came to congratulate Rasulullâh ﷺ upon a conquest just made by the Muslims. After making Salaam, he ﷺ said, 'Glad tidings to you, O Messenger of Allâh ﷺ! Verily Allâh has aided you, elevated your religion and war has finally been brought to an end!' After inviting him in, Rasulullâh ﷺ said, 'War shall not come to end until six events reach their final.

The first is my death. Hearing this Auf ibn Mâlik ﷺ began crying. Rasulullâh ﷺ continued, 'The second shall be the conquest of Baitul-Maqdis. The third shall be a trial which shall be amongst the people as the hair of sheep (with each one moving into the next as though they are plaited). The forth shall be such a trial that no household shall remain except that they shall have a share in that trial.

Explanation:

'The first is my death. The second shall be the conquest of Baitul-Maqdis.'

(1st and 2nd predicted occurrence) -The death of Rasulullâh ﷺ (11 A.H - /632) was followed immediately by the wars against those who had

في أهليكم و إنما كانت كذبة فمن سمع العلماء في ذلك أقام على ما أصابه و أما غيرهم فانفضوا و يكون المسلمون يبنون المساجد في القسطنطينية و يغزون وراء ذلك حتى يخرج الدجال السادسة (هذا حديث صحيح الإسناد و لم يخرجاه -تعليق الذهبي في التلخيص : فيه انقطاع)

turned renegade. Thereafter the Muslim armies spread into the lands of Iraq and Shâm, and soon succeeded in taking over the Holy Lands of Jerusalem and Masjid-ul-Aqsa (16 A.H /637).

The third shall be a trial which shall be amongst the people as the hair of sheep (with each one moving into the next as though they are plaited).

(3rd predicted occurrence) - Muslim conquests continued until it stopped abruptly with the assassination of Hadrat Uthmân ؓ (36 A.H /656). From this moment on until Hadrat Muâwiyah ؓ took the seat of caliphate (41 A.H/661) the Ummah witnessed for the first time fighting within their own ranks, misunderstanding and mistrust between parties, and even wars between Muslim armies, which before this had been in full support of each other. It was most likely this period of trials and tribulations, caused mainly by hypocrites coming from Persia that had infiltrated the Muslim ranks, which Rasulullâh ﷺ had described as being like the 'hair of sheep', where each strand moves into the other, since it was in this trial that the swords of Muslims were raised against one another.

The forth shall be such a trial that no household shall remain except that they shall have a share in that trial.

(4th predicted occurrence) - During the twenty year era of Hadrat Muâwiyah ؓ much of the efforts of the hypocrites were stalled, and their agents were only able to resurface after his ؓ death in 60 A.H. /680. With the ascension of Yazid ibn Muâwiyah to the throne hypocrite forces worked tirelessly in bringing Hadrat Husein ؓ over to Iraq, promising that armies were awaiting there to pledge allegiance at his hands, but when he ؓ arrived they practically handed him over into the jaws of death. They then began their propaganda of painting the Umayyad government as a blood-thirsty cruel empire, filled with the hatred of Hadrat Hussein ؓ and the Ahle-Bait (The Noble Household of Rasulullâh ﷺ), whereas this was a far cry from the truth.

The strength of the hypocrite propaganda however managed to snare many innocent families and tribes into a battle to topple the Umayyad caliphate, a shaitani plot which found success about seventy years later (132 A.H. /750), when the Umayyads were uprooted and replaced by a Persian-backed Abbasi government, that began their era with the merciless massacre of every Umayyad male they could find.

The assassination of Hadrat Hussein ﷺ and the plots that thereafter followed using the slogan of 'love and revenge for the Ahle-Bait' was most probably what Rasulullâh ﷺ had indicated to when he said 'A trial that shall spare no house-hold except that it shall receive its portion of it', since through this shaitani plot, for the first time in Islamic history, a **caliphate was overthrown**, an act which would happen only once more when forces loyal to the British would overthrow the Ottoman Empire one thousand two hundred years later.

و الخامسة يولد في بني الأصفر غلام من أولاد الملوك يشب في اليوم كما يشب الصبي في الجمعة و يشب في الجمعة كما يشب الصبي في الشهر و يشب في الشهر كما يشب الصبي في السنة فلما بلغ اثني عشرة سنة ملكوه عليهم فقام بين أظهرهم فقال : إلى متى يغلبنا هؤلاء القوم على مكارم أرضنا إني رأيت أن أسير إليهم حتى أخرجهم منها فقام الخطباء فحسنوا له رأيه فبعث في الجزائر و البرية بصنعة السفن ثم حمل فيها المقاتلة حتى نزل بين أنطاكية و العريش

Continuing with the hadith, Rasulullâh ﷺ spoke in detail regarding the fifth event that shall occur before the emergence of dajjâl. He' explained:

The fifth shall be the birth of a roman lad, from the children of kings, who shall mature in a day as a child matures in a week, and he shall mature in a week as a child matures in a month and he shall mature in a month as a child matures in a year. When he shall reach the age of twelve the people shall take him as their leader. He shall stand amongst them and proclaim, 'Until when shall these people rule over us in our most noble land?! I feel it is time that we go and expel them from there!'

Eloquent lecturers shall thereafter stand up and voice their support for his intention. A command shall then be given in the islands and the lands that ships be prepared for the expedition, upon which fighters shall board. This shall continue until they settle in the lands between Antakya (AntiochTurkey) and Areesh (Egypt).

قال ابن شريح فسمعت من يقول : إنهم اثنا عشرة غاية تحت كل غاية اثنا عشر ألفا فيجتمع المسلمون إلى صاحبهم ببيت المقدس و أجمعوا في رأيهم أن يسيروا إلى مدينة الرسول صلى الله عليه و سلم حتى يكون مسالحهم بالسرح و خبير قال ابن أبي جعفر : قال رسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم : يخرجوا أمتي من منابت الشيخ قال أو قال : الحارث بن زيد : إنهم سيقموا فيها هنالك فيفر منهم الثلث و يقتل منهم الثلث فيهزمهم الله عز و جل بالثلث الصابر

Ibn Shureih said that he had heard from one of the narrators that the army shall have twelve flags, with twelve thousand under each flag. The Muslims shall gather around their leader in Baitul-Maqdis and they shall thereafter decide to move towards Madina Munawwarah, so that their forces may set up a military camp between Al-Sarh and Khaibar.

Ibn Ibu Ja'far says, Rasulullâh ﷺ said, 'They shall take my Ummah out from the lands where the Artemisia shrub is found in abundance. He, or Hârith ibn Zaid said, 'They shall remain there, after which one third of them (the Muslims) shall run away, one third shall be killed and Almighty Allâh shall defeat the enemy with one third patient believers.

Explanation : (5th predicted occurrence) -The rule of the Abbâsi would continue until the 923rd year A.H. (1517). During their era two major catastrophes would hit the Muslim Ummah, viz. losing Al-Aqsa (from 492 A.H. /1099) for close to a hundred years to the Crusaders followed shortly thereafter with the almost complete uprooting of the Muslim Lands by the Tartars (with its peak being reached in 656 A.H. /1258 when they ruthlessly sacked Baghdad).

The Crusades

Indicating towards the first major catastrophe Rasulullâh ﷺ made mention of a lad that shall mature rapidly, and at the age of twelve lead an army in war against those residing in the Holy Land of the Christians, which could refer to no other land but Al-Aqsa, thus the indication was towards the beginning of the Crusades.

'When he shall reach the age of twelve the people shall take him as their leader. He shall stand amongst them and proclaim, 'Until when shall these people rule over us in our most noble land?! I feel it is time that we go and expel them from there!'

Regarding this twelve-year old, historians have written regarding a French youngster, known simply as Stephan of Cloyes, who played an instrumental role in getting the 'Crusades Movement' of the ground. The crux of what they have written is as follows:

*The children's' crusade movement in France was led by a **twelve-year-old** French shepherd boy named Stephan of Cloyes, who claimed in June that he bore a letter for the king of France from Jesus. Large gangs of youth around his age were drawn to him, most of whom claimed to possess special gifts of God and thought themselves miracle workers. Attracting a following of over 30,000 adults and children, he went to Saint-Denis, where he was seen to cause miracles. From Saint-Denis, Stephan traveled around France, spreading his messages as he went, promising to lead charges of Christ to Jerusalem.*

In the narration above, indication was made towards to a lad that shall mature quite quickly, and shall take rule at the age of twelve, which is exactly what this lad, Stephan, did. The fact that thousands of adults joined his ranks is adequate enough proof that they viewed him as a mature, capable lad, despite his young age. It was not long after the 'children crusades' that the call for the 'Crusades' began being made from every pulpit. Mention is made in the narration that the orators shall lend their support to his mission and that is exactly what thereafter occurred.

'Eloquent lecturers shall thereafter stand up and voice their support for his intention.

In the narration mention is then made of the enemy army settling between Anatolia (Turkey) and Al-Areesh (Egypt).

'This shall continue until they settle in the lands between Antakya (Antioch Turkey) and Areesh (Egypt).'

The crusade army that laid the first siege upon the city of Jerusalem comprised of twelve thousand, a number which the narration has also indicated to, except that in the narration it appears as though twelve thousand shall be under every flag, not only the first.

The hadith states that these armies shall settle or spread between Antakya (Antioch) and Al-Areesh (Egypt), which is exactly what happened during the Crusades. A crux of the lands conquered during the Crusades is given in the article below. Take note at how 'The Siege of Antioch' features at top, since it occurred during the first Crusade, while Al-Areesh is mentioned right at the end, since the Crusader efforts to occupy it occurred at the end, just before the rise of Salaahudin Ayyubi.

*The **Siege of Antioch** took place during the First Crusade in 1097 and 1098. It lasted from 21 October 1097 to 2 June 1098. Antioch lay in a strategic location on the crusaders' route to Palestine. In the next few years the greater part of Palestine and the coast of Syria, Tortosa, Acre, Tricoli and Sidon fell into the hands of the Crusaders, and the conquest of Tyre in 1124 marked the apogee of their power. Seven years before the birth of Saladin, the Latin Kingdom was still in its zenith. Syria and Upper Mesopotamia lay at the feet of the Crusaders, whose almost daily raids reached from Maridin and Amid in Diyar-Bekr to **al-Arish** and 'the brook of Egypt'.*

The narration then speaks of the Muslims gathering around **their leader in Al-Aqsa**.

'The Muslims shall gather around their leader in Baitul-Maqdis'

This probably refers to the uniting of the Muslims ninety years later,(583 A.H /1187) under **Sultân Salaahuddin Ayyubi**, after his conquests and recapturing of Jerusalem from the Crusaders.

The hadith further speaks of an intention that shall then be made to move in the direction of Madina Munawwarah to establish it as a prime military post.

This could perhaps be in reference to the effort made during the era of Sultân Salâhuddin to bring of lands of Hijaz-e-Muqqadas under Ayyubi rule. His governor in fact did manage to take over Yemen, and was on the brink of taking Makkah Mukkaramah, had it not been for the intervention of Sultân Salâhuddin, relenting to the plea of the Abbâsi caliph to leave The Holy Cities of Hijâz under the rule of the caliph.

The Invasion of the Tartars

Finally, the hadith makes mention of an enemy that shall drive the Ummah out of conquered lands, in which ‘sheeh’ (Artemisia) shrubs are found in abundance.

‘They shall take my Ummah out from the lands where the Artemisia shrub is found in abundance.’

In another narration⁵ clear mention has been made that this army shall be the ‘Turks’, thus the war referred to in this paragraph indicates towards the Tartars surge upon the Muslim lands. The lands where the Artemisia plant grows includes amongst others, Iran, and Shâm, lands in which the Muslims suffered greatly at the ends of the Tartars.

° عن عبد الله بن بريدة عن أبيه رضي الله عنه : عن النبي صلى الله عليه و سلم قال : يجيء قوم صغار العيون عراض الوجوه كأن وجوههم الحشف فيلحقون أهل الإسلام بمنابت الشيح كأنى أنظر إليهم وقد ربطوا خيولهم بسواري المسجد فقيل لرسول الله صلى الله عليه و سلم يا رسول الله من هم ؟ قال : الترك قال الحاكم في المستدرک هذا حديث صحيح الإسناد ولم يخرجاه

During the surge of the Tartars upon Muslim lands millions of believers were put to the sword, due to which cowardice settled within the ranks, causing many Muslim populations to just lay down their arms and surrender to the invading Tartars. But when the decision of Almighty Allâh came to pass, one Egyptian army, led by Amir Qutz and Baibers Shah shattered with had become known to be an invincible horde and Islâm again stood upright after seeming on the brink of collapse. The article following sheds adequate light on the issue of the Tartar invasion and as an explanation of the words of the narration,

*'They shall remain there, after which one third of them (the Muslims) shall run away, one third shall be killed and Almighty Allâh shall defeat the enemy with **one third patient believers**'*

Crux of the Surge of the Tartars

In order to remove the Abbasid Caliphate, Genghis Khan thought it better to center himself first in the region of Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. For this reason, he fought a series of consecutive wars with the eastern part of the Islamic world, known at that time as the Khwarezmid State, including such important Islamic countries as Afghanistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Pakistan, and parts of Iran. The capital of this vast state was Urgench, currently in Turkmenistan.

It is within this context that the horrifying Tatarian hurricane fell upon the Muslim countries. It began with the first Tatarian attack against the Khwarezmid State. Genghis Khan came leading his great army to invade the state of Khawaarizm Shaah, and Muhammad ibn Khawaarizm Shaah with his army went out to face him. Both armies met in an atrocious battle that lasted for four days, East of Sirdaria River in Kazakhstan, leaving a great number of casualties in both armies. About 20,000 Muslims were martyred in that battle, and many times that number were killed from among the Tatars. Then, the fighting stopped between both parties, and Muhammad ibn Khawaarizm Shaah withdrew with his army, in flight from the huge number of the Tatars, and preferred to fortify the

huge and important cities in his extensive kingdom, especially Urgench, the capital. This bloody clash took place in 616 A.H. / 1219 A.D.

Muhammad ibn Khawaarizm Shaah engaged in mobilizing the armies from the different ends of his state. The preparatory tactic of Muhammad ibn Khawaarizm Shaah made an evident mistake. In spite of his great concern to fortify Urgench, the capital, he left the eastern parts of the extensive state unprotected. Muhammad ibn Khawaarizm gave special care to securing himself, his family and his closest men, but neglected, to a great extent, securing his people. He was eager to preserve his treasures and the treasures of his forefathers, but neglected guarding the valuables and possessions of his people.

Genghis Khan prepared his army anew and hastened to break into all parts of Kazakhstan, and proceeded till he came to the Muslim city of Bukhaara in Uzbekistan. He besieged the city in 616 A.H. / 1219 A.D., and when its inhabitants requested security in return for surrender, Genghis Khan granted them security.

The gates of the Muslim city were opened for the Tatars, and Genghis Khan entered the huge city and, at first, granted safety to its inhabitants, by way of deception, in order to gain dominance over the fighters inside the castle.

Genghis Khan besieged the castle and asked the (surrendering) Muslims to help him fill with earth the ditches surrounding the castle, in order to be able to intrude it more easily; and they did accordingly. The blockade continued for ten days, after which he opened it by force. When he entered, he fought those who were in it until he killed them all. Thus, Bukhaara became void of its Mujaahids.

Genghis Khan then began his treachery. Allamah Ibn Katheer depicts that situation in Al-Bidaayah with the words "They killed of its people a great multitude whose number is known only by Allâh ﷻ, and took women and

children as captives, and committed immoralities with women in the presence of their families." In this way, Bukhaara was ruined entirely in 616 A.H.
/ 1219 A.D.

This was only the first page of the story, and the commencement of the deluge and hurricane of the Tartars. By the coming of 617 A.H. / 1220 A.D, the Tatars committed atrocities beyond description. They repeated what they had previously done in Bukhara in many great Muslim cities as Samarqand, wherein Genghis Khan, the slayer, settled.

The Tartars conquered land after land in the Muslim world. They seemed more powerful than any "super power" we can imagine.

When the Abbâsi Caliph, Abu Ahmad Al-Musta'sim began preparing an army to stop the invasion, his minister Al-Alkami tricked him by convincing him to make friends with the invaders. Al-Alkami wrote secret letters to the Tartars promising them to halt any resistance against them provided that they appointed him as a Caliph and allowed him to establish his own Shia' state in Baghdad. When Al-Alkami misinformed the caliph and made him think that a peace agreement had been reached with the Tartars, Caliph Al Musta'sim left with his minister, scholars, and leaders to Baghdad to meet the leader of the Tartars, who killed them all, and captured Baghdad. After that the Tartars killed Al-Alkami too because they knew that a person who betrays his leader wouldn't spare his enemy.

After the invasion of Baghdad the Tartars conquered Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, and parts of Egypt. After the downfall of Damascus, the Tartars headed to Egypt and Morocco. The Tartar leader sent a letter full of threats to the Amir of Egypt, Amir Qutz.

Against expectation, instead of submitting in fear, he challenged them. When Amir Qutz's reply reached the Tartars through their spies in Egypt they knew that they were going to face a different type of enemy.

Unity- The Key to Success: Amir Qutz started preparing for the war. To achieve unity he sent messages to the dispersed leaders of the Mamaleeks such as Baibers Al-Bandakari (who was later known as Baibers the superior) asking them to get rid of their unimportant differences and unite to defeat their main enemies.

The most renowned scholar who contributed to this cause was the Sultan of the Scholars, Al-Izz Bin Abdus Salam رحمته الله عليه. He encouraged Amir Qutz to fight the Tartars and all Muslims to unite under his banner for this purpose.

The results were tremendous. Before the Muslims didn't have the strength to fight the Tartars but now the Muslims gained strength and left Egypt for Syria. Before the Muslims never left their city to go out and fight. In Syria the Muslims led by Amir Mahmood Saifuddin Qutz moved outside the city and reached a place called Ain Jaloot and the battle took place there. Amir Qutz ordered his army to start moving to face the enemy. He also sent an exploratory battalion under the leadership of Baibers towards Gaza in Palestine, which faced parts of the Tartar's army in small amounts and beat them, covering the movements of the main army under the leadership of Amir Qutz, which finally arrived near the Palestine shore where the Crusaders had some strongholds. Amir Qutz warned the Crusaders and made it clear to them that he could finish them before he met the Tartars if they didn't stay neutral in this war. Realizing the authenticity of this threat and seeing the power of the Muslim army, the Crusaders were forced to stay neutral.

When the Muslim army came close to the enemy, Amir Qutz, selected the battlefield to be in a valley surrounded by mountains and he steadied some of his soldiers on the mountains to protect the back of the army against any possible enemy. When the Tartar's army finally came, fighting erupted in the battlefield and the battle became in favor of the Tartars, with their army's right wing overcoming the Muslim armies left wing. When the Muslims began retreating, Amir Qutz climbed on a rock and

shouted “Wah Islamah... Wah Islamah...” urging the Muslim army to keep firm and fight the enemy. The Muslims fought on and soon after the battle turned in favor of the Muslims, until the Tartar army was shattered. Not one Tartar escaped death or capture. In this way the beginning of the defeat of the Tartars began⁶, and Islâm again proved its being divinely protected by withstanding the worst that the lobbies of shaitaan could muster at that time.

The Conquest of Constantinople

The narration finally describes the rise of Islam that would occur thereafter through the establishing of the Ottoman Empire, and later launching a successful attack against the ancient city of Constantinople, a city that had found itself under siege more than twenty times, yet on only two or three occasions did the siege prove successful.

Khâlid ibn Yazid said, *‘By Allâh! On that day **he** shall strike with his sword and his spear, and the Muslims shall follow behind until they reach the **strait** which is at Constantinople.*

‘He’ probably refers to the 7th Sultân of the Ottoman Empire, Sultân Muhammad ii, who succeeded in conquering Constantinople in the year 857 A.H (1453). The ‘strait’ refers to what is known as ‘The Golden Horn’, which was the only point of entry for in-coming ships.

Due to the enemy sealing off the Golden Horn at its tip with iron chains, behind which lied a fleet of warships, with their secret, devastating weapon known as Greek-fire, to ward off any boat trying to cut through the chains, the only possible area to launch an attack would be from the Western side of the city, which was the only real area which the city defenders needed to concentrate their efforts on. Thus, despite the huge

⁶ (Quoted, with slight editing, from various articles written on this subject and posted on the net)

cannons brought by Sultân Muhammad coupled with the years of preparations and plans he had made for the siege, within a few weeks it became apparent that it was not sufficient. Witnessing the large number of Mujâhid casualties, senior members proposed quite strongly that the siege be lifted and the Muslim army return before the arrival of Christian reinforcements which would cause even more harm to the Muslims.

Sultân Muhammad was deeply hurt at the situation he found himself in and searched for an alternative. If his fleet could somehow get into the Golden Horn and wage their attack from that side as well, it would surely weaken the enemy defence on the Western side and would make matters much easier for his warriors. Unfortunately the Golden Horn was well sealed off, allowing no space for a ship to pass through. The only way into the Golden Horn was to somehow bypass the chain and the enemy fleet. For this Almighty Allâh inspired Sultân Muhammad with a feat which had never been dreamt about before, which was to steer his ships over miles of mountainous terrain, by mounting them upon wheeled boards, which were then pulled by thousands of men and oxen, taking aid from slippery boards laid underneath.

Just as this feat was a marvel, so too is the manner that it had been described more than 800 years before its occurrence. Slight pondering over the wording of the narration shall leave one wonder-struck at how aptly it described what occurred on that auspicious day when for the first time in history ships sailed not over water, but rather over dry land. The wording is as follows:

فيجدونه قد يبس ماؤه فيجيزون إلى المدينة حتى يزلوا بها

They shall find the strait, with its water dried up.

They shall thus pass over it and enter into the city.

The 'drying up of the water of the Golden Horn' thus enabling the ships to pass through it to reach the city, is indeed a most unique, apt and

splendid description of the feat of ‘moving ships over land, a description which could only have come from the lips of Nubuwwah.

The Christians only realized what was happening when the ships of the Ottomans made their sudden appearance in the Golden Horn. The enemy ships that turned to attack were quickly destroyed and the Muslim armies were now able to spread out their attacks upon the Eastern side of the city as well.

As described earlier on, the walls of Constantinople were a wonder of its time. Only after a further one month of effort did the walls finally crack to the continuous pounding it was receiving from the cannons of the Muslims, accompanied by the echoing slogans of takbîr, allowing Muslim armies the chance to break into the city.

A phrase of an article which presently hangs on one of the walls of the Panorama, has done wonders in describing the difficulties borne and the selfless sacrifices made by the army of Sultân Muhammed in breaking down the mighty walls of the city and penetrating its defences. The phrase reads as follows:

‘Indeed it was nought but the cries of Takbeer and the spirit of Imân that brought down the mighty walls of that great city!’

In the hadith quite a similar description has been given of the outcome of the battle. The words are:

‘Almighty Allâh shall break down their walls with the calls of Takbeer⁷. They shall then enter the city and shall distribute its booty with their shields.’

⁷ وقد روي هذا بالتفصيل عن كعب الاحبار قال : « أنصار الله الذين ينتصر بهم يوم الملحمة الكبرى أهل إيمان لا غش فيهم يفتحها الله عز وجل عليهم ثم يسرون فيدخلون أرض الروم ، فلا يمرون بحصن إلا استزلوه ولا بأرض إلا دانت لهم حتى ينتهوا إلى الخليج فيبسه الله عز وجل لهم حتى تجوزه الخيل ثم يسبوا حتى يتلوا على القسطنطينية فيقاتلوهم فيغدون

*Abu Qubeil Mu'âfiri narrates, 'A rider shall at that moment approach them saying, You are busy here, whereas dajjâl has entered upon your families in your absence! The news shall be a **small lie**. Those that shall heed the scholar's advice shall remain behind, whilst others shall head off. The Muslims shall continue building Masâjid in Constantinople and waging war until the occurrence of the sixth event, which shall be the emergence of dajjâl!'⁸*

In the words of the narration, 'The Muslims shall continue building Masâjid in Constantinople' there is a unique indication that the Masâjid that shall be constructed in Constantinople after its conquest shall be of a 'most unique and magnificent' nature, otherwise there would have been no reason to make special mention of this, since all Muslim conquerors and leaders erect Masâjid in the lands they conquer.

The wonders that one can find in the architectural master-pieces of the Ottoman builders requires hardly much introduction. Even one bereft of any knowledge regarding building shall find himself stunned by the beauty and wonders of the Masâjid in Istanbul (Constantinople), with The Suleimâniya Masjid and the Sultân Ahmed Masjid (Blue Masjid) featuring at the top.

The Suleimâniya Masjid – An architectural masterpiece

عليهم يوما حتى يدنوا حائطها فيكبروا تكبيرة فيضع الله عز وجل لهم ما بين برجين حتى ينهضوا إليها ولا يدخلوها حتى يعودوا إليها في اليوم الثاني، فيفعلون مثل اليوم الأول ثم يعودون في اليوم الثالث حتى ينتهوا إلى حائطها، فيكبروا تكبيرة يضع الله تعالى لهم ما بين برجين، ثم ينهضوا إليها فيفتحها الله عليهم فبينما هم على ذلك فيأتيهم آت من الشام فيخبرهم أن الدجال قد خرج فلا يفزعنكم ذلك فإنه لا يخرج لسبع سنين بعد فتحها فخذوا واحتملوا من غنيمتها (السنن الواردة في الفتن للداي) «

⁸ The issue of 'the emergence of dajjâl' following soon after the conquest of Constantinople has been discussed in detail in a book written by this servant, titled 'Looking into the Eye of dajjâl – A stark yet hidden reality'



To gain some sort of idea as to what heights the Ottomans had reached in the constructing of Masâjid the following article, titled 'The Suleymaniya Mosque and the great architect Sinan' should suffice:

The Suleymaniye mosque in Istanbul stands atop of the third hill of the imperial city, and has been doing so as a monument to Ottoman culture and civilization for over 450 years, becoming an integral part of the landscape.

Named after the Ottoman ruler who commissioned it, Suleyman the Magnificent - otherwise known as Kanuni Sultan Suleyman - its construction was completed in the year 1558 after being impeccably designed by the one of the greatest architects of the millennium, Sinan.

Complete with schools, a library, a public bath, a hospital and many other facilities, its dome stands at 53 meters off the ground and is still one of the largest mosques in Turkey today.

Having survived a number of earthquakes and fires with only minimal damage, its awe-inspiring design, art and architecture has mesmerized both worshippers and visitors alike for centuries, and has become a subject of great interest and study for contemporary architects all over the world.

Sultan Suleyman hired Sinan, whose expertise had caught the attention of his superiors while serving in battle with the Ottoman janissaries in the field of military infrastructure, to construct a mosque that would symbolize his magnificence as a ruler – as was a custom tradition for Ottoman rulers at the time.

The Sultan had no doubt that such a grand project would take many years to complete, but trusted Sinan nonetheless to get the job done properly. However, after many years, not a single brick had been laid. Sinan, it seems, was in no rush to get started.

Consequently, rumors and accusations about Sinan began to spread among the people, with some claiming that Sinan had realized he had taken on an impossible mission and was planning to go on the run so he wouldn't have to face the furious Sultan. Nonetheless, the rumors reached the palace, and Suleyman was understandably very upset with what he was hearing.

Sinan, in an autobiographical account, reported that he himself had no idea about the rumors that were being spread about him, and was shocked when he suddenly found the Sultan confronting him about the delay. When the Sultan asked Sinan when the construction of the mosque would be finished, Sinan simply replied saying 'It will be complete within two months.'

While Suleyman had every right to suspect that Sinan was pulling his leg, which was indeed a grave and punishable act, the Sultan decided to give Sinan a chance to prove himself, and turned back to the palace. Meanwhile, Suleyman's ministers and advisers were convinced that Sinan had lost his mind.

Upon the completion of the mosque, the Sultan once again suspected that Sinan was wasting time when he heard rumors that Sinan was sitting in the middle prayer hall smoking shisha (narghile/hookah). Arriving at the

mosque to find that Sinan was indeed blowing on a waterpipe, the Sultan was once again infuriated.

However, on closer inspection, the Sultan found that Sinan was not actually smoking tobacco, but was simply blowing bubbles in the water. He was in fact listening to the sound of the bubbles to test the acoustics in the prayer hall, measuring the echo of sound bouncing off the mihrab.

Sinan was well-known not just for the aesthetic beauty of his masterpieces, but for also taking many factors into consideration when designing his buildings. Another factor he considered was the smoke that would come out from the 275 candles that would be used to light the prayer hall at night. He therefore designed the walls in such a way that the soot coming from the candles would be channeled into a special gallery inside the mosque, where it would be collected and later turned into a very fine ink.

Furthermore, his buildings also held some symbolic meanings. For example, the presence of a total of 10 balconies on the mosque's four minarets is in tribute to Sultan Suleyman being the 10th ruler of the Ottoman Empire.

His adoption of using rails to support the structure of the Suleymaniye mosque, which would allow the building flexibility to shift up to 5 degrees to either side, is today used as a basis by contemporary architects when constructing tall skyscrapers.

In fact, Sinan was so thoughtful that he left hidden handwritten notes all over the mosque, giving advice to architects in the future who would come to carry out repair and maintenance work.

In the 50s, when the Suleymaniya Masjid was undergoing repairs, maintenance workers found a message written in Ottoman Turkish. After the message was transliterated and translated into modern Turkish,

architects realized they had stumbled upon a personal message signed and dated by none other than Sinan himself.

The message read, 'As you have found this note, it means that one of the locking stones in the arch has slipped and you are unsure of how to replace it,' before going on to describe the necessary process required to in doing so.

Sinan's advice was taken, and today, almost 500 years on, the Suleymaniye mosque still stands as a tribute to the great mind and legacy of this proud son of Anatolia. (Worldbulletin.net)



1 Inside The Suleimaniyah Masjid – Note the design of the interior that wherever one sits he enjoys a full view of the Imaam at the front

The fall of the Caliphate and the secularizing/modernizing of Istanbul, raping it of its true Islamic garb

The manner in which the rise to power of Mustafa Kamal and the ‘Young Turks’ was orchestrated by shaitaani agents working around the clock to abolish the caliphate and ensure it never stands again is indeed a point worthy of deep contemplation, since this devilish trick has been drawn from shaitân’s magical hat on numerous occasions throughout history, yet one still finds fellow bretheren falling for the trap time and again, merely on account of ‘media hype playing with one’s emotions’.

Rasulullâh ﷺ, with great affection, advised his Ummah to take lesson from previous errors and mishaps, since those traps and tricks of the shaitân and his agents which had delivered results once are bound to be utilized again and again. Rasulullâh ﷺ thus stated:

لَا يُلْدَغُ مُؤْمِنٌ مِنْ حُجْرٍ مَرَّتَيْنِ^٩

‘A believer is not bitten/should not be bitten from the same hole twice!’

Shaitaani trickery in Istanbul

Throughout history, where many sincere men and women were prevented from practicing on their Din, through torture, threats and untold forms of persecution, there were many others who were misled into abandoning their Din totally, except that they did it happily.

Where the iron fist was used, the fear would always remain of the masses uprising, but where corrupt leaders were portrayed to the masses as saviours of their Din, they would even be ready to apostate, and still regard their leader as ‘The sign of God’.

^٩ رَوَاهُ أَبُو دَاوُدَ الطَّيَالِسِيُّ بِسَنَدِ الصَّحِيحِ - اتحاف الخيرة

Well known examples of this are:

1. Paul –the 1st major adulterer of the teachings of Nabi Isa ﷺ

After Nabi Isa ﷺ was lifted, his disciples, with great difficulty, and under constant persecution, continued with his noble work. Then suddenly, a wealthy man called Paul, famous for his harshness against the Christians, steps into the scene. He explains the reason for his repentance, i.e. a figure that had appeared in front of him, covering the horizon, and reprimanding him for his evil ways, and efforts against the Christians.

The Christians explode in excitement, and accept him immediately in their circles. His money, efforts and life has now been sacrificed for the Christian cause...or so it seems...

Not long after, the close disciples of Nabi Isa ﷺ start drawing away from Paul, for he is now making claims of such beliefs that they had never heard before. Explaining the true belief to Paul proves futile for he is convinced that Jesus is conversing with him directly. Explaining to his supporters is also quite difficult, since Paul is hero-number-1. The disciples voice their concern, but the harm has already been done. Christianity has been poisoned.

2. Constantine –the 2nd major adulterer of the teachings of Nabi Isa ﷺ

Constantine, the grand emperor of the Romans accepted the Christian faith about three hundred years after the ascension of Nabi Isa ﷺ to the heavens, which caused a great deal of rejoicing in all religious quarters, since this was the first leader of a mighty kingdom that had accepted the Christian faith. The religion would now reach new heights, or so it seemed...

The support that Paul's views had enjoyed was until now limited. Through Constantine and his mother, Helina, Paul's Christianity became law, with a unique blend of Persian, fire-worshipping beliefs. Many Christians would later voice their concerns but the damage had already been done. Amongst the masses the notion had settled that Constantine can never be wrong. Rather it seems as though he is God's vicegerent on earth (Na uuzubillâh!!)

3. Khomeini –shaitâns helping hand in rebuilding the nest of the devil in Iran/Irâq under the name of 'shiasm'

Prior to the era of Hadrat Umar رضي الله عنه the land of Irâq (including Irân) had served for over a thousand years as the centre of the Persian fire-worshipping/satanic empire. In fact, the role that this land played in shaitaani activities, before and even after Islâm, was such that special mention was made in the narrations regarding its importance in shaitaani missions. For example:

- ★ Hadrât Abdullâh ibn Umar رضي الله عنه has narrated that he witnessed Rasulullâh صلى الله عليه وسلم pointing towards Irâq, saying, *'Listen well! Fitnah (trials and tribulations for the Ummah) shall come from there! (Rasulullâh صلى الله عليه وسلم repeated this thrice.) It is there that the horn of shaitân shall rise!'*¹⁰
- ★ When Hadrat Umar رضي الله عنه was preparing an expedition towards Iraq, Ka'b Ahbâr رضي الله عنه cautioned him saying: *'O leader of the faithful, do not proceed in that direction, for verily in that land lies nine-tenths of black-magic, the most evil of the*

¹⁰ عن ابن عمر قال : رأيت رسول الله صلى الله عليه وسلم يشير بيده يوم العراق ها ان الفتنة ههنا ها ان الفتنة ههنا ثلاث مرات من حيث يطلع قرن الشيطان (مسند احمد بسند صحيح)

*jinn, and the worst of the killer diseases!*¹¹ *And it is here that shaitaan has laid his eggs and they have hatched!*¹²

Throughout Islamic history shaitaani plots would be hatched from the lands of Irâq and Irân, but due to it being under Muslim Rule the plots would always be implemented in a concealed manner. As long as this land remained under Muslim rule it was always possible for the righteous scholars and the pious to refute the practices and innovations of the shaitaani agents of that land. It is for this reason that the Ulema of Irâq and Irân, throughout the centuries, stood out boldly as ‘revivers of Dîn’ and ‘preservers of the faith’.

Unfortunately all of this changed when the shia state of Irân was established. From that time on, the land has witnessed the most sorrowful tales of shia persecution against Muslims of true faith, whilst at the same time trumpeting their hypocritical slogan of ‘desirous of unity’.

One thus hardly finds it difficult to believe articles of the nature as the one produced below. Rather, if one were to say that the facts in the article are a mere scratch on the surface of the actual torture and oppression meted out to the Ahlus-Sunnah in Iran by government forces, one would not at all be exaggerating.

The article is as follows:

¹¹ ان عمر بن الخطاب أراد الخروج إلى العراق فقال له كعب لا تخرج إليها يا أمير المؤمنين فإن بها تسعة أعشار السحر (الشري) وبها فسقة الجن وبه الداء العضال (موطأً إمام مالك باب ما جاء في المشرك)
¹² وبها باض إبليس وفرخ (كتر العمال)

Sunni Muslims living in fear in Iran as state-sponsored persecution ramps up

By Peter Tatchell January 22, 2015

(<http://www.ibtimes.co.uk/sunni-muslims-living-in-fear-in-iran>)

Iran is a majority Muslim country, on in which Islam is enshrined in the constitution and all laws are subject to Islamic principles. Indeed, the country's official title is the Islamic Republic of Iran.

You'd think, therefore, that Iran would be a safe haven for Muslims; a nation where there are none of the anti-Muslim persecutions that happen in other parts of the world.

But you'd be wrong.

In recent months, there has been a wave of arrests of Sunni Muslims. Dozens are currently on death row and at risk of death by the sadistic Iranian method of hoisting on cranes and slow strangulation by hanging. How can this be?

Iran is a Shia Muslim state. Muslims who don't adhere to the Shia interpretation of Islam are regarded with official distrust and disrespect. They often suffer discrimination - and sometimes much worse.

While Iran officially claims to defend the rights of Islamic minorities - their freedom of faith is enshrined in the constitution - the reality is very different. Followers of non-Shia Islamic sects are deemed not true Muslims. They are seen as potential enemies of the state and of God, which is a capital offence. This is particularly the case with Sunni Muslims. The Shia-dominated Tehran regime regards them as their main religious rivals - and a threat.

In everyday life, Sunni Islam is tolerated up to a point. But whenever it gains converts or influence, the state cracks down - particularly in the ethnic minority Kurdish, Arab and Baluch regions of Iran.

Last November, two Sunni prisoners of conscience from Iran's Baluch minority were executed. According to the Human Rights Activists News Agency (HRANA), 22-year old Vahid Shah Bakhsh and 23-year old Mahmoud Shah Bakhsh were hanged on charges of 'Moharabeh [enmity against God] and acting against national security'.

Both men had been subjected to severe torture at the Ministry of Intelligence Detention Centre in Zahedan. There are serious doubts about the evidence against them and the fairness of their trial. That same month the Supreme Court of Iran confirmed the 33-year jail term imposed on an Iraqi Sunni Muslim, Marivan Abdolkarim Reza, who was found guilty on similarly vague charges.

Also last November, 16 Sunni converts from Iran's Ahwazi Arab minority were arrested during a Qur'an class in Ahwaz city, according to HRANA.

Meanwhile, the International Campaign for Sunni Prisoners in Iran (ICSPI) reports: "The pro-Shia Iranian government has been alarmed by the rise of Sunni Islam among the Ahwazi Arabs in the traditionally Shia-majority Khuzestan province.

"At least 10 Sunni converts were arrested in July 2014, with three arrested after preaching Sunni beliefs and seven arrested after holding congregational Sunni Taraweeh prayers during Ramadan."

More than 20 Sunni converts were arrested last February at a Qur'an and Arabic language study meeting in Koye Alawi in Ahwaz city. The ICSPI adds that, "only a month ago, a further two Muslims from Iran's Ahwazi Arab minority, who had preached Sunni beliefs after converting from Shi'ism, were charged with 'causing corruption on earth', a charge which carries the death penalty.

"The Iranian authorities claim the two Sunni preachers, Hossein Saboori and Sami Zebady Alboghobesh, were involved in burning down a Husseiniya [a Shia place of worship]. The two men have strongly denied the accusation.

"The Iranian authorities often falsely accuse Sunni preachers and activists of involvement in various incidents in an attempt to justify their arrest. In some cases, a single incident has been used as justification for the imprisonment of dozens of different Sunni activists."

Intensification of persecution

The Iranian human rights organisation, the Abdorrahman Boroumand Foundation (ABF), confirms that the repression of Sunni Muslims has been intensifying since late 2012 when six young Kurdish Sunni activists were hanged in Rajai Shahr Prison. Their execution was shrouded in secrecy, as was the judicial process that stripped them of their rights to due process and a fair trial.

The six activists were tried along with four other young Sunnis - Shahram Ahmadi, Jamshid and Jahangir Dehqani and Kamal Mola'i - who are also now at imminent risk of execution. All 10 defendants said their confessions were extracted from them after months of torture and solitary confinement and after promises of leniency.

ABF observes: "Sunni Muslims are estimated to constitute about 10% of Iran's total population. According to Article 12 of the Islamic Republic's Constitution, they can practice their faith freely. In practice, however, the Shia rulers of Iran have subjected Sunnis to discrimination and have denied them political, civil, economic, social, and cultural rights, through restrictions in access to government positions, employment, education, and places of worship.

"Sunnis live in a majority in the most impoverished provinces of Iran, such as Kurdistan, Turkmen Sahra, and Sistan & Baluchestan, and the uneven distribution of resources remains one of their main grievances, vis-a-vis the central government."

Blocking entry into mosques

Restrictions on places of worship for Sunnis are cited by Human Rights Watch, including the refusal of permission to build new mosques and blocking entry into mosques on important Sunni religious occasions. A 2008 report by Amnesty International noted that there was not a single Sunni mosque in Tehran.

"The religious institutions of Sunni Kurds are generally blocked, while those of Shias are encouraged and supported by the state...the government has restricted the expansion of Sunni mosques that exist elsewhere in the country," said Amnesty.

The Iranian government's objective seems to be to restrict the growth and influence of Sunni Islam and to encourage Sunnis to pray in mosques controlled by Shia clerics in the hope of eventually converting them. With this in mind, dissident Sunni clergy have been detained, imprisoned, exiled and even executed for the vaguely worded offence of "waging war against God."

In 2014, a report by the UN Special Rapporteur on Iran stated that at least 150 Sunni Muslims are currently "detained for reportedly organising religious meetings and activities or after trials that allegedly often failed to meet international standards."

These failures include being denied access to their lawyer and the right to call evidence and witnesses in their defence; as well as subjecting the accused to 10-minute summary trials while shackled and blindfolded.

Many Sunnis believe their persecution is aimed at stopping them from promoting their own interpretation of Islam, raising awareness about the unjust treatment of Sunnis and exposing the misuse of religion by the state.(End of quoted article)

How did Komeini rise to power?

Upon the destruction of the Ottoman Caliphate the Muslims were gripped with an inferiority complex. There was no power that could muster the courage to speak against Britain and America.

Then suddenly the oppressive Shah of Iran was defeated, and Khomeini, whose lectures and appeals to the public had, 'most surprisingly' been aired from Paris throughout the Shah's rule, stepped into the scene.

Iraq, armed by the West, launched numerous attacks against the 'newly formed Islamic Iranian Revolution' but 'surprisingly' Iran could not be defeated (the reason being that Iran too was secretly receiving weapons from shaitani Western states.)

In front of Iran's threats even the most daring weapon-wielding-West 'amazingly' drew back in fear. Muslims around the world rejoiced, thinking that Islam has finally found a protector. A revolution had begun. Islam had found a savior....or so it seemed.

Not long after, Khomeini in bits and trickles began explaining his concocted version of Islam. Concern was voiced, but the Iranian masses could not accept that their Ayatullah Khomeini could ever be wrong.

Shia-Iran thus emerged as one the most glaring examples of shiataani trickery in recent times.

4. ISIS – Islamic State of Irâq and Syria – the western world's scapegoat to massacre thousands of Syrians without any fear of reproach

When one studies the various shaitani conspiracies that the believing world has thus far seen, one shall realise that in every conspiracy Almighty Allâh clouds the minds of the conspirators, causing them to make major

errors in carrying out their mischievous activities, despite it having been rehearsed and planned to the finest detail.

Such errors were witnessed world-wide after the September 11 attacks on The World Trade Centre in New York City, when shaitaani agents attempted to pin the blame upon a lone figure hiding in the mountains of Afghanistan, by the name of Usama ibn Ladin, then on a 'international terrorist organization', by the name of Al-Qaeda, which prior to this attack was so unknown that perhaps even Usama himself was unaware of the existence of such a group!

The numerous errors committed by the shaitaani agents during their quick investigation, followed by their united allegation that Usama ibn Ladin was responsible for the attacks, have been gathered by independent researches and investigators and published on an independent basis, but unfortunately the vast majority of 'modern' man has been trained to eat only that which the international media feeds.

In the issue of ISIS too the errors of the shaitaani agents behind this movement were made evident right at the very beginning. Here too however, due to playing upon emotions, the media were quickly able to cover the tracks of the conspirators behind ISIS, and the voices of concern of the few who could see, beyond its dazzling veil, the true, ugly face of ISIS, fell upon deaf ears.

Had the message of Nabi Yaqûb ﷺ been heeded, many who had initially fell for the trap of ISIS, laid by shaitaani conspirators, would probably have been saved from their foolish error.

In the hope that perhaps this message of Nabi Yaqûb ﷺ benefits someone in the future, it shall be explained here-under:

A valuable lesson taught by Nabi Yaqûb ﷺ

The brothers of Nabi Yusuf ﷺ, after managing to draw him away from his protecting father, differed whether they should murder him (Na uuzubillâh) or merely lower him into some well, in the hope that travellers shall discover him and take him away as their slave. After agreeing on the second option they felt it appropriate to present some proof for the tale they had fabricated, i.e. that a wolf had attacked young Yusuf in their absence and had torn him into pieces.

As proof of their tale they slaughtered a ram and dipped the upper garment of Nabi Yusuf ﷺ into its blood. As they approached home they began their act of uncontrollable weeping and lamenting. When Nabi Yaqûb ﷺ enquired the cause of their pitiable state, they brought forward the garment soaked in blood, and between huge sobs explained their predicament.

Nabi Yaqûb ﷺ at that moment did not allow himself to be blinded with the scary sight of dark, red blood, nor did he allow their sobs and tears to throw him into emotional blindness. Rather, with full control over his mental state, he ﷺ looked through the tears and the blood and pondered over the issues which the brothers desired to remain concealed.

Realising that the garment of Nabi Yusuf ﷺ had not even a tear, forget being ripped in pieces, Nabi Yaqûb ﷺ clamly stated:

بَلْ سَوَّلَتْ لَكُمْ أَنْفُسُكُمْ أَمْرًا فَصَبِرْ جَمِيلٌ وَاللَّهُ الْمُسْتَعَانُ عَلَىٰ مَا تَصِفُونَ

‘Rather, this is that which you have concocted.

Patience shall be my recourse, and from Allah do we seek help over what you claim!

The lesson that Nabi Yaqûb ﷺ left for the Ummah in his short but unique method of investigation is that ‘blood’ and ‘tears’ are many a time utilized in order to blind one from a stark reality lying behind the false screen of emotion and fear. Nabi Yaqûb ﷺ did not spoil his investigation by staring at the blood on the garment of Nabi Yusuf ﷺ. Rather, he ﷺ looked

beyond the blood and trained his eyes upon the garment itself. When he found no tear on the garment, he understood immediately that there was no 'wolf' in this episode.

Had this method of reasoning been applied at the immediate outbreak of ISIS into international spotlight, the falsehood of this organization would have been made evident from the very beginning. The details of this is as follows:

ISIS sprang to international spotlight with the 'execution'slaughter' of a British citizen at the hands of an ISIS recruit, known as 'Jihâdi John'. The brutal execution was videod and made viral through all methods of social network. In the scene one could see an executioner, with face covered, drawing his knife back and forth against the neck of the 'hostage'. After a short pause, the next scene shows the 'hostage' lying face down with stains of blood upon his drape. These two sights were enough to throw the world into panic, and play upon the emotions of the world at large, causing Non-Muslims to burn in fury against the Muslim World, and at the same time instigating innocent, ignorant Muslim youth to voice their support and happiness over the incident, as though it was a 'brave deed of Islâm'!

The mistake that the 'executioner' made was that he ignored the 'obvious' fact that when a knife is pushed hard against the sensitive skin of a man's neck, the immediate result should have been a spontaneous outburst of blood, which did not occur.

The trained eye of photo speacialsists and investigators very soon hatched unto the error and declared the entire 'execution' to be a fraud. Unfortunately, due to the shaitaani agents who orchestrated this 'drama' in order to give rise to 'ISIS' having control over the international media the declaration of 'fraud' was given no prominence, as though it was never made.

(An interesting article regarding this can be read under the heading of crimesofempire.com/...isis-fraud-exposed-leaked-video-appears-to-show-the-staged-killing-of-james-foley/)

Once it was established that the rise of ISIS to prominence was based upon a 'total lie' it should have become clear that the entire structure of this organization is naught but a 'shaitaani event'. Unfortunately, for the vast majority, that never happened, due to most of man being trapped in a world of 'mind-control', programmed to accept whatever is fed by the media, and never to search for answers to issues that make no sense whatsoever.

Mustafa Kamal Another 'lie' in a long series of lies

Istanbul, the capital state of the Caliphate was on the brink of being taken into British control. The rule of the Ottoman Empire over the Arab lands had already been snatched away. It seemed as if nothing could now stop the British robbing the Turks of their independence.

Suddenly, Mustafa Kamal, a young Turk, who had 'coincidentally' just returned from England, stepped into the arena. The invincible British army, upon seeing Kamal's small band of soldiers, retreated almost immediately. (A similar episode occurred during the initial stages of the rise of ISIS.)

The Turks were left amazed. Mustafa Kamal had preserved their independence and thus received the accolade of 'Ataturk' (Father of the Turks). His fame spread far and wide. The Caliph had no option but to appoint him as chief commander of the Turkish army. Mustafa had saved for the Turks their land and their religion...or so it seemed...

Not long after, the Caliph is robbed of all his authority. Mustafa even has the caliph jailed on charges of fraud. Within a short while, Azaan, Salaah, the Arabic language, learning and reciting Qurân is prohibited. The pious

voice their concern, but it is too late. Atarturk can never be wrong. Rather, the accepted view amongst the masses is that he is their saviour!

Mustafa Kamal and his modus operandi in stripping Istanbul and Turkey of its Islamic identity

After having imprinted his awe and majesty in the minds of the masses Mustafa Kamal now found no impediment in implementing his devilish reforms, amongst which were:

- 1) Abandoning the Arabic script, which was being utilized for writing Turkish, and replacing it with the Latin script
- 2) Abandoning the Islamic Calender and replacing it with the Gregorian Calender
- 3) Issuing an edict that the public dress in accordance to western standards and discard the garb of the religious elders
(Had there been no real significance in adopting the garb of the pious, the shaitaani agents operating behind Mustafa Kamal would never have bothered issuing and forcefully implementing such an edict)
- 4) Appointing western-oriented lecturers as the Imams of all the Masâjid of Turkey, which had by then reached 70 000. Through these eloquent hypocrite preachers in a few years Mustafa was able to corrupt the mindset of the general Turks, and create a western, modern, atheistic orientated Turkey.
- 5) Issuing an edict that the Azaan be called out in the Turkish language, instead of Arabic
- 6) Banning the learning and teaching of the Glorious Quraan

- 7) Closing down Madrasahs and erecting instead westernized schools and universities, in which a uniform exposing the legs of females was made compulsory. Through this, in a short space of time, the Muslim women of Turkey lost their shame and soon became accustomed to walking around in almost total nudity
- 8) Converting the Masajid into museums, whereby it could be frequented by, and desecrated by hundreds of nude, impure women of Europe on a daily basis
- 9) Having his spies pinpoint the areas and individuals posing a threat to his shaitani mission and in a subtle manner having them assassinated by his secret police
- 10) Prohibitting the usage of the word 'Allâh' and replacing it with '*Tanri*' (which means God of the Blue Sky)

Note: Shaitani agents have always desired that man discard the name 'Allâh' and utilize instead some substitute, whereas the name of Allâh has no substitute, nor any translation.

If one wishes he may utilize a translation of any of the Qualities of Almighty Allâh, known as The Ninety Nine Names of Allâh, eg. The Most Merciful, The Most Forgiving, The Creator, The Sustainer, etc. As for the word Allâh itself, which is the Only True Name of Almighty Allâh, this has no substitute.

Having understood this one should ponder deeply as to the origin of the word 'God' and to its true meaning. It is obviously not a translation of the name 'Allâh', nor is it a translation of any of the Divine Qualities of Almighty Allâh. So what then is it and what does it really mean. When one delves into this issue it becomes clear that there are many such words in our Islamic vocabulary which have been blindly adopted

from non-Muslim translators, whose intentions when translating were not always sincere.

For example:

- a) **'Prophet'** – This is not a true translation of Rasûl, which means 'Messenger' nor is it a translation of Nabi, which means 'Informer of the unknown'. As for the word 'prophet' one many a time finds it being used in dictionaries as a synonym for the word 'soothsayer'.

The intended purpose of the one who first coined the term 'prophet' shall perhaps never be known, but it would obviously be advisable to avoid such a word, and instead use the word 'messenger', or to simply utilize the Arabic words 'Rasul' and 'Nabi'.

- b) **'Mekka'** – Initially this was the common spelling method used for the most sacred city of the Muslims, which houses the Magnificent Ka'bah.

It was only after Muslim scholars alerted the the Saudi government to the actual meaning of 'Mekka', which refers to any centre which attracts crowds, even if it be for evil, filthy purposes, did they retract from this spelling and pronounce an order that the sacred city should be spelled as 'Makkah' or Makkah al-Mukarramah, instead of Mecca.

- c) **Mosque** – This word does not provide a true translation to the word Masjid, which refers to an area designated for the special worship of Almighty Allâh. As for the word 'mosque' much speculation has been made over its origin and actual initially intended meaning. It would thus be best to avoid it and use the word 'Masjid' instead.

These are but a few examples of shaitaan's tactics in getting Muslims themselves to show disrespect to matters demanding the greatest of sanctity and honour. Although the usage of such words, when utilized

with sincere intentions, is not sinful, it should still be avoided, and instead an effort should be made to utilize the original Arabic word instead, viz. Nabi; Rasûl; Masjid, etc.

The Death of Mustafa Kamal and the birth of an Islamic Revolution

As with Al-Aqsâ after its being left in ruins by the army of Bukhk-e-Nasr, Istanbul too soon began picking up its pieces and bringing about its religious revival. Due to hypocrites occupying senior positions in Istanbul's cabinet and due to strong anti-Islam military support the process of revival was obviously going to be subtle and slow, but after seventy years from the demise of Mustafa Kamal one who visits the land of Istanbul shall surely get a smell of the fragrance of an Islamic Revival.

How it happened

The following article, written by Dr. Can Erimtan¹³, published on the 13th Jan, 2015, explains the 'religious revolution' that Turkey is currently undergoing and how it came to be¹⁴:

The end of "Secular Turkey" or "Ottomans re-emergence"?

On the international scene Turkey is playing a high stakes game, trying to transform itself into an international energy hub as vividly illustrated by the recent rapprochement between Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russia's Vladimir Putin.

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Domestically however, the current government seems more concerned with the spiritual well-being of the people under its care and the spread of Islam in the nation.

Intra-Islamic rivalry inside a "secular" system

Turkey throughout the 20th century had been dominated by the long shadow of Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his far-reaching reform movements that transformed Turkey into a paragon of 'modernity in the Middle East' and a beacon of 'democracy and secularism' in a sea of 'reactionary Islam' or backward Muslim dictatorships.

The common consensus was that, in Turkey, the issue of religion (meaning Islam) had been relegated to the private sphere and that public life was dominated by the various right- and left-wing strands of political discourse well-known in moderate and less moderate societies elsewhere.

The Republic of Turkey was founded in 1923 as the successor to the Ottoman Empire, the self-proclaimed leader of the (Sunni) Muslim world as the home of the Caliphate. In contrast, the Republican base was firmly entrenched in the ideology of nationalism, Turkish nationalism, and this philosophical framework largely replaced the religion of Islam as a source of communal identity for the ethnically rather mixed population groups of Anatolia.

But rather than being the outcome of an organic personal experience, the religious life of Turkey's people was in reality largely controlled by the state by means of the Directorate of Religious Affairs (or Diyanet, in Turkish). At the same time, however, the authorities actively promoted a permissive attitude towards Islamic restrictions and regulations (such as the prohibition of alcohol and the obligation of five daily prayers). And as a shorthand, people at home as well as abroad referred to this Kemalist project advocating a lenient state of affairs as constituting "Turkish Secularism" (called laiklik, in Turkish after the French laïcité), as vividly illustrated by the much-respected BBC announcing in 2007 that the "modern Turkish state was established on strict secular principles." And the Constitution stipulated that the Turkish Army was supposed to act as the 'guardian of Turkey's secularism', hence the numerous military coups and interventions in post-war Turkey. A salient and fairly recent example

of such military meddling was the so-called "Eighteen Recommendations" issued by the National Security Council (SNC) on 28 February 1997 (known in Turkish simply as 28 Şubat). This military intervention has been characterized as a Post-modern coup and led to the resignation of Turkey's first Islamist Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan.

In early January 1998, Turkey's constitutional court even banned Erbakan's Welfare Party (or RP, Refah Partisi in Turkish). Following this successful military intervention against Turkey's creeping Islamization, Turkey's Armed Forces next issued a so-called E-memorandum (in Turkish, e-muhtıra), published on the internet on 27 April 2007, in an effort to influence the election of Turkey's president. This last "virtual" military intervention contained the following declaration of intent:

"It should not be forgotten that the Turkish Armed Forces are a[n] . . . absolute defender of secularism . . . Those who are opposed to Great Leader Mustafa Kemal Atatürk . . . are enemies of the Republic of Turkey and will remain so."

Islamic re-awakening, 1982-2014: Piety through education

In spite of the Turkish Army's above-cited readiness to defend Atatürk's legacy, I would argue that the military coup of 12 September 1980 in many ways laid the groundwork for a re-emergence of Islam in Turkey's public life and a concomitant growth in displays of piety in the wider nation and its leadership.

The 12 September coup leaders introduced "a new constitution in 1982 and in the present context, this legal document's 24th article appears particularly poignant. The article starts off with the phrase,

"Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religious belief and conviction," but then also contains this section: *"Education and instruction in religion and ethics shall be conducted under state supervision and control. Instruction in religious culture and moral education shall be compulsory in the curricula of primary and secondary schools",*

It would [thus] appear that the military coup's indirect outcome was to challenge the very doctrine that General Evren and his henchmen set out to defend. In 1994, 12 years after the new constitution was introduced, Necmettin Erbakan's pro-Islamic Welfare Party came to national prominence and... today's AKP under Recep Tayyip Erdogan is but the apparent heir to the long-since-banned RP.”

In other words, I would argue that, in an effort to placate the wider population (or pacify the masses) and stem the rise of political violence that in the course of the 1970's had reached near-civil war proportions, the Turkish Armed Forces let the genie out of the bottle. It might even seem possible that in the then-current Cold War context, the Turkish Army acted in accordance with Zbigniew Brzezinski's scheme of utilizing Islam as a weapon against Communism. The above-quoted relatively recent military interventions - the 1997 28 Subat and the 2007 e-muhitira - were belated attempts to reverse this trend, but by then the momentum had become irreversible and the current AKP-led government is now busy putting the Islamic cherry on top of the proverbial Turkish cake.

As persuasively illustrated by the 1982 Constitution, the best way to influence the future behavior of a population is through tampering with the **education system**. In December 2013, the 19th National Education Council (or Sura) took place in the coastal city of Antalya and during that meeting a momentous **179 "recommendatory decisions"** were taken.

Those included **the introduction of religious courses into the curriculum of primary schools**. Whereas, middle school pupils undergoing training to memorize the Quran (known as hafızlık in Turkish) would be able to leave school for the duration of two years but will still be allowed to sit exams. At the same time religious instruction in high schools will be doubled, while the teaching of the history of Turkey's reforms and the principles of Kemalism in middle and high schools will be subjected to a critical revision more in line with a contemporary understanding and current needs. **But the most spectacular "recommendation" or decision was arguably to turn the instruction of the Ottoman language (Osmanlıca, in Turkish) into a compulsory course for vocational religious high schools as well as social science high schools.**

Turks turning Ottoman: 1994-2014

These "recommendations" will undoubtedly leave their mark on the children that will be attending school in the coming years. These pupils will learn about religion (Islam) all throughout their school-going years, which will arguably mean that they will become well-versed in Islamic doctrines, beliefs, and practices later on in life. But the fact that the instruction of the early history of the Republic of Turkey and the principles of its founding father, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, will be reinterpreted and adapted to contemporary conditions probably means that the emphasis will now be laid on continuity rather than change - the continuity between the Ottoman period and the current Republican age.

Traditionally, history education in Turkey was primarily aimed at highlighting the novel and progressive aspects of the Republic of Turkey, much to the detriment of the preceding Ottoman period, generally portrayed as a backward time when the people at large had been subject to the regressive influence of Islam and the arbitrary rule of despotic sultans. In reality though, over the past two decades (particularly following the RP's meteoric emergence in 1994), public opinion in Turkey has very much re-appropriated the Ottoman past.

The introduction of the new Turkish Latin alphabet in November 1928 ensured that Turks would more readily look towards Europe and the West than to their Arab and Muslim neighbors in the East. Throughout Turkey's Kemalist period (1923-2002), the terms Ottoman and Islam were used interchangeably, and in the current post-Kemalist era, ushered in by the AKP, this attitude has not changed. But instead of a negative stigma, the current political leadership of the country presents the Ottomans' adherence to Islam as a positive trait meant to transform the Muslim creed into an even more attractive proposition for Turkey's wider population, arguably alienated from their pious roots by means of years of Kemalist indoctrination and a permissive attitude towards Islamic restrictions and regulations. As a result, it seems to me that these classes in the Ottoman language are more like a backdoor to learning the Arabic alphabet, which is a prerequisite for reading the Quran.

Rather than training pupils in learning a dead language comprised of three separate tongues (Turkish, Arabic, and Farsi) and ill-suited to the quick

pace of modern life, these classes will guarantee that every pupil (and subsequent adult incarnation) will in future be able to go to the Holy Book and read its hallowed lines for him- or herself. **And the end result of this exercise in educational engineering (for want of a better term) will arguably be that future citizens of the Republic of Turkey will identify themselves primary as Muslims (or Neo- or Pseudo-Ottomans, if you will) rather than Turks.**

The Ministry of Education has sent 39-page fascicles to the Governors' Offices in all 81 provinces across the country, containing an outline of a new moral education program to be taught in schools nationwide. The Turkish daily Milliyet reported that these documents contain such pious phrases like "*death is a blessing according to our faith. It means salvations from the heavy burden of living,*" and that "*patience protects moral chastity,*" lines clearly meant to inculcate deep Muslim feelings of predestination and resignation into the hearts and minds of Turkey's malleable pupils.

The Quraan shall never be defeated!

Mufti Muhammad Taqi Uthmâni has written regarding his own experience when he visited Istanbul in 1407 (1986), 46 years after the death of Mustafa Kamal:

"A programme was made to visit one of the Madrasahs of Istanbul, a madressa for memorising the Quraan. I expected it to be some small structure catering for a handful of students, but when my eyes fell upon it, I was overjoyed. The Madressa was a five-story high building, used for classes as well as boarding. The number of those boarding was over six hundred. Besides them there were many more students who were staying elsewhere and coming daily for classes.

Together with the memorising of The Noble Quraan, lessons were also being imparted regarding basic Arabic and daily, practical masaail (injunctions of the Shariah). The colour of 'obedience to the Sunnah' was evident upon all the Asâtizah (teachers), in their dressing as well as their

conduct. From their talks one could easily ascertain that these were men of sincerity and zeal for Islam.

The standar of education seemed quite high. We were taken into a large hall wherein about 100 students, ranging from the ages of 10 to seventeen, sitting on carpet, were engaged in the recitation of the Noble Qurân, in a most unique and systematic manner, under the supervision of a Ustaadh seated at the front of the hall. On our approach he stood up to greet us, but then too his students did not even halt in their recitation. The Ustaadh explained that these were those students who had completed the memorising of the Noble Quraan and were now busy in ‘dhor’ (constant repetition). We were then asked to test the students at random. (365)

I tested close to twenty students and found the results quite amazing. Each one recited at least one ‘ruku’, and not a single one of them erred, neither in recitation nor in their application of the rules of tajweed. Their voices were so melodious that one felt like listening to them the entire night.

I was later informed that this Madrassah was just one of a number operating under a well structured programme. In the city of Istanbul alone there were over two hundred such Madressahs. As for the entire Turkey over five thousand of such Madressahs had already been set up, which was catering for six hundred students plus. All these Madressahs operate with the explicit permission of the government.

Whilst listening to the details of these Madressahs the thought passed my mind that this is that very land in which Mustafa Kamal had at one time smashed a copy of the Noble Quraan on the head of the acting “Sheikhul-Islam” (implying that Turkey no longer has any need for the Ulema nor for the Quraan – Nauu’zubillah!). It was this very land in which Quraanic education had been declared unlawful. Even Azaan in the Arabic language had been prohibited!

Mustafa Kamal perhaps thought that by forcing his nation to abandon the Islamic headgear (topi) and replace it instead with western caps, he would succeed in making their minds 'western'. Almighty Allah's plan however rules above all else. Today, six hundred thousand of Turkey's young generation have once again donned Beautiful Islamic headgear and are engaged in memorising the Glorious Quraan.

During meals I had the opportunity to engage with many Ulema of the city, during which we discussed in detail with regards to the past, the present and the future of Islam in Turkey. Until then, it was only a picture of a modern land that would come to mind whenever Istanbul would be discussed, drowning in western culture and adoration. During the discussion however I found a new picture of Turkey taking shape, one of true Islam, which was always the original direction of the masses of this land. Despite thousands of shaitaani efforts the traces of true Islam in Turkey could never be effaced, and today with great vigour one finds it coming again to the fore. (End of quote, with slight editing)

That was what Hadrat Mufti Sahib had seen in 1986. Today, 30 years later, one can clearly perceive, in every Masjid of Istanbul, the re-emergence of the Glorious Quraan as the most valuable asset of the masses of Turkey, as it was during the days of The Glorious Ottomon Empire.

Mustafa Kamal and his shaitaani superiors had perhaps thought, that through theri nefarious plots and schemes, the spirit of Quraan had been lifted forever from Turkey. It seems that their filthy minds were oblivious of Almighty Allah's Divine Declaration of:

إِنَّا نَحْنُ نَزَّلْنَا الذِّكْرَ وَإِنَّا لَهُ لَحَافِظُونَ

*'We alone have revealed This Reminder (The Quraan),
and We alone shall see to its preservation!'*

A Personal Experience

On the first day of our visit to Istanbul we were directed to the world famous ‘Masjid of Sultan Ahmed’, commonly known amongst Westerners as ‘The Blue Mosque’, due to the beautiful blue colour perceived within when the rays of the sun filter through its blue panes.



The Masjid Of Sultaan Ahmed (The Blue Mosque)

In order to subdue the spiritual light that permeates from the Masaajid, Mustafa Kamal had converted the Masaajid of Istanbul into museums and tourist sites, thus allowing it to be desecrated by the scantily dressed immoral women of Western countries, who come in droves to view the fantastic architecture of the Masaajid of this land.

It was thus with a deep feeling of sorrow and hurt that we proceeded towards the Masjid, surrounded on all sides by tourists rushing to gain entrance. From far our eyes fell on the sad sight of non-Muslim men and

women, gaily striding into the Masjid, snapping 'selfies' as they proceeded along. This was my first perception of the scene from far. However, as we proceeded ahead and glanced at the situation from close quarters a different picture came to the fore, one that brought a smile to the lips and a unique thrill and awe of the Fantastic Workings of Almighty Allah to the mind.

A subtle invitation to Islam, hidden under the robes of Mustafa Kamal's treachery

Perhaps due to internal pressure the present government finds itself still unable to prohibit the entrance of non-Muslims into the Masaajid. What they have done however is to subtly curb the extent of desecration by enforcing the following:

- 1) Those in unsuitable attire are required to don additional pieces of garment provided at the entrance, which includes scarfs, arm coverings, trousers, burqahs, etc.
- 2) Shoes must be removed
- 3) Non-Muslims must confine themselves to a designated area at the back
- 4) Permission for entry as a tourist stops half an hour before Salaah

What fascinated me was the sight of non-Muslim women happily donning Islamic modest attire in order to receive permission to enter. In their homelands, western media work tirelessly in pumping drivel that such attire is oppressive, back-dated, etc. It seemed as though all the effect of such western propaganda was being washed away in just seconds as these women slid themselves into simple samples of Islamic dress code. One could not help overhearing them ask their partners to snap a picture of them dressed as a 'Muslimah'. When one woman asked her friends as to how she looked, and they replied in unison that she looked 'gorgeous', it was then that I realized that Almighty Allah had opened up a door of

subtle invitation to towards 'modest Islamic dress' in the very land that Mustafa Kamal had forbidden Islamic attire.

Mustafa had left no stone unturned in ensuring that every Muslim girl in Istanbul exposes her legs in public, by enforcing school education, coupled with a compulsory western dress code. This very Mustafa's plans of bringing tourists into the Masaajid was now being used by Almighty Allah as a means of educating 'brainwashed westerners' with regards to the beauty that lies within modesty. That women who had never dreamt of covering her hair and legs in public, especially not on a scorching day of Summer, was now happily throwing herself into an Islamic garb and experiencing for herself the sense of self-honour, security, and inner-satisfaction that Islamic dress affords women.

Women, born as Muslim, many a time do not realize the thrill that Islamic garb creates within one, due to never having experienced the darkness that is associated with immodest dress. As for a non-Muslim, drowning in spiritual darkness and frantically searching for even a spark of light, an Imaani thrill envelopes them as soon as they cover themselves in accordance to Islamic principle.

The thought also passed the mind that just as the magicians in the era of Nabi Moosa عليه السلام had been blessed with Imaan, on account of their donning themselves in the garb of Nabi Moosa himself, and on account of the respect they afforded Nabi Moosa عليه السلام when they asked whether he would initiate the contest or should they do so, here too was a scene of non-Muslims, happily and in respect of the sacredness of the Masaajid, donning themselves in the garb of Islam. It is thus not far-fetched that this act of theirs shall follow them home and soon become a means of their as well as their entire family reverting to Islam. (And nothing is difficult for Almighty Allah).

[Effacing western media poison](#)

In the beautiful courtyard of the Masjid I found scores of tourists lining up at the walls, attempting to understand the beautiful frames that had been hung across. Here too I felt myself being gripped by the awe of Divine Wisdom, as I witnessed non-Muslims, with the aid of Islamic frames, happily and perhaps unknowingly educate themselves regarding 'true Islam'.

From amongst the frames that caught my attention was one depicting the 'genealogy tree' of the famous Ambiya عليه السلام, beginning with Nabi Adam عليه السلام and ending with the seal of the Ambiya, Sayyiduna Muhammed صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم.

Through the diagram one could get a clear picture of the relationship of Rasulallah صلى الله عليه وآله وسلم to Nabi Ibahim عليه السلام (Abraham), who the Christian and the Jew regard as the 'Father of the Messengers'. Translated verses of the Noble Quraan on the frame also helped explain the exalted honour that Nabi Isa عليه السلام (Jesus) as well as his noble mother, Mariam عليها السلام (Mary) occupy in Islam.

It was indeed most heart-warming to hear a non-Muslim father affectionately explain to his small son the details of the frame, innocently and unknowingly exposing himself as well as his son to the beauty of true Islamic knowledge.

The sight of non-Muslims clustering around a frame of the Magnificent Ka'bah, showing millions in prostration around it, also left a unforgettable impression upon my mind. For those who have been blessed to personally set eyes upon as well as touch the Holy Ka'bah a picture of the Ka'bah may perhaps not draw more than a second glance of appreciation. But for the one who has never seen this Magnificent building, even an artists impression of it is enough to cause the eye to stare in admiration and the fingers to click away on the camera, in order to share the sight of this most beautiful building with their family and friends back home. And the

cherry on top of this awe-striking picture's subtle invitation to Islam is the information that this 'House of Almighty Allah' was erected for the worship of Almighty Allah by none other than Nabi Ibrahim عليه السلام (Abraham), the father of the Ambiya عليهم السلام, and the great-grandfather of the Bani Israil.

Other frames that caught my attention were those depicting the honour of women in Islam, by citing the bequest of Rasulullah made in favour of women in his sermon during the final Hajj; those depicting Islam's sanctity for the blood, wealth and respect of fellow mankind, irrespective of their creed; and those depicting Islam's attitude against terrorism, by citing the command of Rasulullah that even in times of war, the aged, the young, and women must not be harmed.

With such frames delivering their subtle messages, and being happily perused by simple-minded tourists, it was not surprising to find many entering a room at the far end, designated for answering questions of guests interested in knowing more about Islam. Through the frames of the courtyard of the Masjid of Sultan Ahmed I am sure much of the poison injected by western media regarding Islam and terrorism, Islam and cruelty to women, etc in seconds gets wiped away. With thousands of western tourists visiting this site per month, it is not far-fetched that as they return home a subtle invitation towards 'true Islam' returns with them.

The lasting impression of a man in prostration and the melodious tune of Quraanic recital

Immediately after the Fardh Salaah tourists start pouring into the back section of the Masjid, greeted by the sight of many still engaged in the optional prayers. The fact that many immediately drew out their cameras and mobiles to catch the scene impressed upon my mind the beauty that Almighty Allah has placed in the postures of Salaah, especially that of

Sajda (prostration). One could clearly make out the expressions of awe and delight of the non-Muslim tourists as they witnessed men and women around them falling into prostration.

A few minutes later a recitation of one Ruku' of Quraan commences from the front. The melodious tune of the recitor echoes throughout the Masjid and perhaps for many of these tourists this becomes their first acquaintance with the beauty of Quraan, which for many perhaps becomes the moment of their life where they experience their first pull towards Islam.

These were just some of the feelings and thoughts that settled in the mind during my first visit to 'The Blue Mosque' (The Masjid of Sultan Ahmed), thoughts that left me feeling that I was indeed in the wake of an Islamic Awakening in Istanbul, one whose ripples shall soon be felt throughout Europe, Insha Allah!



The Masjid of Sultaan Ahmed (at night)

Final Note

Upon my return, after hearing me praising and requesting dua for the present government of Turkey, many friends queried regarding 'Fathullah Gulen' due to the many religious education institutes that he and his supporters are presently erecting in South Africa.

My knowledge with regards to this man is indeed limited. However two aspects of his life do stand out in lending sufficient indication that this man and his institutes could well be 'a wolf in sheeps clothing'.

The first is with regards to the reasons behind the party of Recep Tayyib Erdogan totally distancing themselves from Fathullah Gulen and branding him a 'traitor', after enjoying years of support from The Gulen Movement. Had Fathullah Gulen been truly loyal to the cause of Islam, why would he ever involve himself in a plot to overthrow the ruling party at a time when its giving rise to 'true Islam' has become so evident?

The second aspect that leaves question marks on Gulen's 'sincere intentions' is the fact that CIA agents assisted greatly in his acquiring asylum status in the United States. From that time onwards, from his small centre in Pennsylvania, he has managed to open up over 120 charter schools in America alone, making it the largest charter network in the US.

During present times, when Muslim organizations around the world are targeted and branded as 'terrorist hotspots' upon the most flimsiest of excuses, one cannot be blamed for expressing amazement that no 'real effort' has been made by American Intelligence to shut down or at least hamper the spread of Fathullah Gulen's influence in the States.

And Almighty Allah knows best and He indeed is The Best of Planners.

و آخر دعوانا ان الحمد لله رب العالمين