Anniversary of the Conquest of Constantinople: A Fulfilled Glad Tiding and Glad Tidings to Come

(Translated)

Al-Rayah Newspaper - Issue 626 - 18/11/2026

By: Ustadh Abdullah Hussein (Abu Muhammad Al-Fatih) *

We mark the anniversary of the Conquest of Constantinople, which occurred on 20 Jumada al-Awwal 857 AH, corresponding to 29 May 1453 CE, achieved at the hands of Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror, son of Murad II, (Mohammad al-Fateh) thereby fulfilling the glad tidings of the Prophet (saw). Abdullah ibn Amr ibn al-As reported: "While we were around the Messenger of Allah (saw) writing, the Messenger of Allah (saw) was asked: "Which of the two cities will be conquered first, Constantinople or Rome?" The Messenger of Allah (saw) said: **«مَدِينَةُ هِرَقْلَ تُفْتَحُ أَوَّلاً» "The city of Heraclius will be conquered first"** meaning Constantinople. And from Abdullah ibn Bishr al-Khath'ami, from his father, that he heard the Prophet (saw) say: **«لَتُفْتَحَنَّ الْقُسْطَنْطِينِيَّةُ فَلَنِعْمَ الأَمِيرُ أَمِيرُهَا وَلَنِعْمَ الْجَيْشُ ذَلِكَ الْجَيْشُ» "Verily, Constantinople shall be conquered; how excellent a commander is its commander, and how excellent an army is that army."** Abdullah said: Maslamah ibn Abd al-Malik summoned me and asked me, so I narrated it to him, and he then campaigned against Constantinople. This glad tiding was realized at the hands of the young Muhammad Al-Fateh, who was not yet twenty-one years of age. However, he had been prepared with a sound preparation since his childhood. His father, Sultan Murad II, took great care of him, having him study under the finest scholars of his era, among them Ahmad ibn Ismail al-Kurani—al-Suyuti mentioned that he was the Al-Fateh's first teacher and said of him that he "was a learned jurist, recognized by the 'ulema of his time for his excellence and mastery; indeed, they used to call him the Abu Hanifah of his age"—as well as Shaykh Aq Shams al-Din Sangar, who was the first to plant in his mind from a young age the hadith of the Messenger of Allah (saw) concerning the "Conquest of Constantinople." The young man grew up aspiring to achieve that conquest with his own hands. Shaykh Aq Shams al-Din taught Mehmed the Conqueror the fundamental sciences of Qur'an, Hadith, the Prophetic Sunnah, and Fiqh, as well as the Arabic, Persian, and Turkish languages. He also taught him some life sciences such as mathematics, astronomy, and history. This is in addition to his courage in horsemanship and the arts of combat. And Allah (swt) honored him with His grace and bounty, so he deserved the praise of the Messenger of Allah (saw), for indeed Al-Fateh was an excellent commander and his soldiers were excellent soldiers, as their hearts were filled with Iman and their limbs set forth with preparation and sincere jihad. They supported Allah (swt), so He supported them with this great conquest, so all praise is to Allah, the Lord of all humanity.

Al-Fateh was sound in vision and accurate in insight and foresight. Whenever he saw a breach, he remedied it appropriately by the permission of Allah (swt), and whenever an obstacle appeared to him, he removed it with the support of Allah (swt). He faced three obstacles and resolved them with sharp intelligence and remarkable acumen:

1. His soldiers complained to him about the cold weather while they were in the open around the walls, so he built a fortress for them to take shelter in whenever necessary. He did not want the soldiers to break the siege if it dragged on and return as the previous Muslim armies that had invaded Constantinople had done; rather, he wanted there to be no turning back except with the conquest of Constantinople by the permission of Allah (swt).

2. Likewise, the walls of Constantinople were three layers thick, with several meters between each layer. This perplexed Al-Fateh, as the weapons of their era lacked destructive power; the strongest they had were catapults that hurled stones—not small, but insufficient to

breach a wall of such magnitude. Since Muhammad Al-Fateh kept abreast of global military capabilities, he learned of a Hungarian engineer named Orban who had devised the concept of manufacturing cannons with exceptional power capable of demolishing walls. Orban had offered his services to the Emperor of Constantinople, who showed no interest. Al-Fateh, however, received him warmly, lavished him with funds, and provided all the means necessary to complete his invention. Orban, assisted by Ottoman engineers, began crafting the cannons, with Al-Fateh personally supervising them. Within three months, Orban had produced three large cannons, each shell weighing about one and a half tons. The Conqueror opted not to test the cannon near the walls, fearing the results might fall short and be witnessed by the Romans behind the walls, which could demoralize the Muslims. Instead, he conducted the trial in Edirne, where it proved successful. He praised Allah (swt) and transported the three cannons to the vicinity of Constantinople's walls.

3. There was another matter that preoccupied him: he knew that the walls were weak in the area of the inlet around Constantinople. Although the Romans were aware of this, they were complacent, believing that Muslim ships would be unable to reach them due to the metal chain blocking the entrance to the inlet. However, Al-Fateh had reached a decision to slide the ships across the surface of the hill opposite the wall on the inlet side. He fixed timbers on the hill's surface, poured enormous quantities of oils and grease over them, then slid the ships across. In a single night, he managed to launch 70 ships into the inlet. The Romans were astonished; when morning came and they saw the Muslim ships in the inlet, their hearts were filled with terror—and victory, conquest, and praise be to Allah, Lord of all humanity, were achieved.

We recall the memory of the Conquest of Constantinople for the following reasons:

First: so that every person with eyes may see how great the Muslims are when their Islam is put into practice, for then kufr (disbelief) will have no standing; rather, the truth will prevail and rise as high as the call to prayer. And so it was—Persia and Byzantium bowed before it, and soon, Allah willing, Byzantium's sister Rome will follow, fulfilling the other part of the Messenger's glad tidings regarding the conquest of Rome.

And second: to reassure your hearts with the fulfillment of the three remaining glad tidings of the Messenger of Allah (saw), just as the first glad tiding was fulfilled. He (saw) gave us the glad tidings of the conquest of Constantinople, the conquest of Rome, the return of the Khilafah (Caliphate) on the Method of the Prophethood, and the fighting of the Jews and their most severe defeat. The Messenger (saw) does not speak from his own desire; it is but a Revelation revealed. His three remaining glad tidings will be fulfilled by the Permission of Allah (swt), but they will not be fulfilled by angels descending from the heavens to hand them to us. Rather, the way (sunnah) of Allah (swt) has decreed that we support Him so that He supports us—that we establish His Shariah Law, raise the edifice of His state, and wage jihad in His Path. Then, the three remaining glad tidings will dawn, and the earth will be illuminated once more by the Khilafah Rashidah (rightly guided Caliphate).

So let us strive earnestly and diligently to achieve the three glad tidings, foremost among them the establishment of the Khilafah Rashidah, through which we will achieve the other two glad tidings: fighting the Jews and removing their occupying entity, and the opening of Rome and all the cities of the Cross—Washington, London, and Paris—by the permission of Allah (swt). Allah (swt) said, ﴿إِذَا جَاءَ نَصْرُ اللَّهِ وَالْفَتْحُ * وَرَأَيْتَ النَّاسَ يَدْخُلُونَ فِي دِينِ اللَّهِ أَفْوَاجاً﴾ **"When the victory of Allah has come and the conquest * And you see the people entering into the Deen of Allah in multitudes"** [TMQ Surah An-Nasr 1-2].

*** Member of the Central Contact Committee of Hizb ut Tahrir in Wilayah Sudan**