

Qabla usbū‘in uqīmat ṣalātu l-jumu‘a fī Aya Ṣūfiyā li awwali marratin mundhu waqtin ṭawīl. Wa bi dhālika rufi‘a l-khiziyu ‘ani l-masjid wa l-madīna wa l-balad wa l-muslimīn.

As-sultān Muḥammadi l-fātiḥ fataḥa l-qusṭanṭīniyya (Istanbul), wa wajada Aya Ṣūfiyā fī ḥālatin mudhriya. Kāna l-makānu l-muqaddas li n-naṣārā l-urthudhux qad tamma takhrībuhu mina l-kāthūlik, wa marra ‘alayhi mā’atu ‘āmin bidūni s-sti‘māl. Wa ka fātiḥin kānā yaḥiqqu li s-sultāni an yastawlī ‘alā hādha l-makāni l-muqaddas, wa lākinnaḥu lam yaf‘ala dhālik. Bal sa’ala l-jamā‘ati l-urthudhuxiyya an yabī‘ūhu Aya Ṣūfiyā, fa wāfaqū ‘alā dhālika bi ḥamās.

Fa sh-shtarā s-sultānu Aya Ṣūfiyā wa aṣlahāhā wa ja‘alaha ka masjidin waqfan ilā yawmi l-qiyāma, wa la‘ana man ista‘malaha fī ghayri mā ūqifat lah.

wa li muddati tis‘īna sana tamma tajāhula shurūṭi s-sultān, wa sumiḥa li n-nāsi bi d-dukūhūli wa lam yusmaḥ bi ṣ-ṣalāti fih.

Wa l-’āna ‘ādat ilā ḥāliha l-qadīm al-ladhī ūqifat min ajlih, wa rufi‘a l-khiziyu ‘ani l-muslimīn. – Alḥamdu li l-llāh.

A week ago, for the first time in a long time, Friday prayer was held in the Aya Sofia, thus removing a curse from the mosque, the city, the country and Muslims in general.

Sultan Mohammed al-Fatih had conquered Constantinople (Istanbul) and found the Aya Sofia in a terrible state. The sanctuary of the Orthodox Christians had been devastated by the Catholics and had been unused for a hundred years. As conqueror, the Sulten could have simply annexed the sanctuary. But he did not do that. Instead, he asked the Orthodox community if they would sell him the Aya Sofia, which they agreed to with great enthusiasm.

So the Sultan bought the Hagia Sophia, Aya Sofia, renovated it, declared it a Waqf until yamil l-qiyama, and put a curse on those who would use the place in any other way than this.

For ninety years the Sultan’s order had been ignored, all kinds of people were allowed to enter, only prayers had been forbidden.

Now finally it was returned to a use it had had for several hundred years, and the curse was taken away from the Muslims. – Al-Hamdu li-llah.