

Contemporary Copy of the Letter of Mehmet II to the Greek Archons

26 December 1454

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[Copy of tugra of Mehmed II]

» Τοῦ μεγάλου αὐθεντὸς · καὶ μεγάλου ἀμυρὰ σουλντάν Μουχα  
μέθ » · πρὸς τοὺς κατα πάντ(α) ἡμετέρους τῆς αὐθεντίας μου  
ἄρχοντας · Ἐν πρώτοις εἰς ἄρχον κυρ Σφραντζῆς με ὅλλους τοὺς ἐδικούς του  
καὶ κυρ Μανουῆλ Ραοῦλ με ὅλλους τοὺς ἐδικούς του · καὶ κυρ Σωφριανὸς  
με ὅλλους τοὺς ἐδικούς του · καὶ Λάσκαρις κυρ Δημητρ(ιος) με  
ὅλλους τοὺς ἐδικούς του · καὶ Διπλοβατατζεῖ · Καβακίοι Πα  
γομενέοι · Φρανγκοπουλεῖ · καὶ Σγουρομαλαίοι · καὶ  
Μαυρὸπαπας · καὶ Φιλανθρωπηνέους · καὶ Πετρῶ  
Μπουιέι · καὶ εἰς ὅσοι ἄλλοι θελήσουν ν' ἀρθοῦν ὅλλους  
χαιρετάσας ἡ αὐθεντία μου · Νὰ ἐγνωρίσεται το πῶς ἦλθεν  
ἐδῶ ὁ τημιμένος Ἄγας · ὁ Χασαμπεῖς · καὶ ἀνέφερεν  
τῆς αὐθεντίας μου το πῶς θελεται ν' ἀρθῇται νὰ ἦστε ἐδεκεῖ μου.  
Εἰς τουτῶ γυρενετα ὀρισμὸν τῆς αὐθεντίας μου. Εἰς τοῦτῶ στέλνο σας  
τὸν αὐτόν μου ὀρισμὸν · καὶ ὀμνέγο σας εἰς τὸν μέγαν μας προφήτην  
τὸν Μουάμεθ τὸν πιστεύομεν ἡμεῖς οἱ μουσουλμάνοι  
καὶ εἰς τὰ ἑπτὰ μας μουσάφια καὶ τὰς ρκδ' χιλιάδας  
προφῆτας μας · καὶ εἰς το σπαθι ὅπου ζονομε · καὶ εἰς τὴν ψυχὴν  
τοῦ πατρός μου · τοῦ Χοδοβεδικιάρει ὅτι ἀπὸ τα πράγματα σας  
καὶ ἀπὸ τα παιδιὰ σας καὶ ἀπὸ τα κεφάλια σας καὶ ἀπὸ πασα σας  
πραγμα τίποτας νὰ μέν[ει] σας ἐγκίσω ἀμε νὰ σας ἀνα  
παύσω νὰ ἦσθαι κάλιον παροῦ πρῶτῖν καὶ διὰ το ἀξιόπι[στον]  
ἐδωθι ὁ αὐτὸς μου ὀρισμὸς καὶ ἐπεραιοθεῖ καθὼς ~~ἔρεται~~ ἀνωθεν  
εἴρεται  
μηνῖ Δικεμ(βρίου) Κστ ἔνδον Κωνσταντινουπόλε(ως)

» The great Lord and great Amir, Sultan Mehmet »  
to all our people everywhere [and] the archons of My Excellency:  
First, to the archon Kyr Sphrantzes with all his people,  
and Kyr Manuel Raoul with all his people, and Kyr Sophianos  
with all his people, and Kyr Demetrious Laskaris with  
all his people, and the Diplovatatoi, the Kavakioi, the  
Pagomenoi, the Frangopouloi, the Sgouromalaioi, and  
Mavropapas, the Philanthropenoi, and Petro  
Bua and his people, and those who want to come.  
My Excellency [sends] greetings to all. Let it be known that  
the honored Aga, Hassan Bey, has come here and has reported  
to My Excellency that you want to come be my people.  
To this end he asks for My Excellency's decision. To this end I send you  
my very decision: I swear to you by the great prophet  
Mohammed whom we Moslems believe,  
and by our seven musafia and by our hundred and twenty-four thousand  
prophets, and by the sword I wear, and by the soul  
of my father, the Hudavendigâr, that of your possessions,  
and your children, and your heads, and anything of your possessions that  
remain to you, I will touch nothing, but I will leave you in peace  
so that you are better than before, and for this my most worthy command  
has been given and signed as is seen above.  
26 December, in Constantinople.