



## Περίληψη :

The Mandylion, a piece of cloth on which, according to the legend, the image of Jesus Christ had been miraculously imprinted, was initially kept in Edessa of Syria as an *acheiropoietos* (not made by human hands) icon of Christ. On August 15<sup>th</sup>, 944 it was transferred to Constantinople as a precious holy relic and its cult assumed a political meaning too. The arrival of the relic in the capital became a religious feast and was celebrated each year on August 16<sup>th</sup>.

## Χρονολόγηση

early or mid-July - August 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>, 944

## Γεωγραφικός Εντοπισμός

Asia Minor - Constantinople

### 1. The cult of icons and relics in Byzantium

The cult of the holy icons was widely spread in the bosom of the Orthodox Church, especially in the period after [Justinian I](#) (527-565) and was one of the most important demonstrations of piety of the Byzantines. Meanwhile the cult of the holy relics (holy bodies of saints or martyrs and objects which had been sanctified through contact with them) continued undiminished throughout the Middle Ages. In the eve of the [Iconoclasm](#) the cult of relics and icons was that popular that it turned out to be a dangerous superstition and resulted in the outbreak of Iconoclasm.

[Constantinople](#) possessed the greatest treasure of relics in the Christian Medieval world.<sup>1</sup> One of the most important relics of this treasure was the [Holy Mandylion](#), a piece of cloth on which, according to the legend, the characteristics of the face of Jesus Christ were imprinted. It was considered to be an *acheiropoietos* (not made by human hands) icon to which miraculous qualities were attributed. The Mandylion was initially kept in [Edessa](#) (mod. Urfa, Turkey), where it remained after the conquest of the city by the Muslims in 639. It was transferred to Constantinople in the middle of the 10<sup>th</sup> century, when [Romanos I Lakapenos](#) (920-944) was emperor and Constantine VII Porphyrogenitus (908-959) was co-emperor.

### 2. The hand-over and translation of the Mandylion

In 944 the city of Edessa was besieged by the Byzantines and the Arab authorities were forced to hand over the relic to general [John Kourkouas](#). In exchange the Byzantines released 200 Muslim prisoners and were bound by a treaty not to make any raids in the area of the city in the future. The translation of the Mandylion is described in detail in the *Narratio de Imagine Edessena*, a text which is attributed to Constantine Porphyrogenitus and was written probably in 945, for the celebration of the first anniversary of the arrival of the Mandylion in Constantinople.<sup>2</sup> According to this text, along with the icon, a letter of Jesus addressing to king Abgar (king of Edessa in the 1<sup>st</sup> century AD, during the rule of whom the acquirement of the Mandylion is dated) was given to the Byzantines.<sup>3</sup>

The holy relic was transferred with a luxurious escort to [Constantinople](#). The itinerary of the translation could be in general lines reconstructed as follows: the procession followed a 12 miles long road on foot and reached the Syrian side of river Euphrates, where they embarked on a ship, in order to reach the city of [Samosata](#) on the opposite bank. Then it crossed Asia Minor. The last stop of the procession was made at the Monastery of Theotokos which was at the site of *Ta Eusebiou*, on the river Sangarios ([Theme of Optimaton](#)).<sup>4</sup>

It seems rather plausible that the procession did not follow the crowded diagonal road, which passed from [Nicaea](#), but a more eastern road which connected Sykes (Galatia) with [Nicomedia](#). This road crossed the valley of river Gallos, and then crossed the bridge of Justinian I on Sagarios and the northern bank of Sophon or Boane lake (*Lacus Sophonensis*, today Sabanca). At



Sangarios the Mandylion was officially received by a delegate of Romanos Lakapenos, the **parakoinomenos** Theophanes.

### 3. Reception and procession of the Mandylion at Constantinople

The reception of the Mandylion at the Byzantine capital on 15<sup>th</sup> August 944 became a major religious festival. The Mandylion was initially transferred at the church of the [Blachernai](#), where it became an object of pilgrimage and worship and then it was moved to the chapel of the Pharos, in the [Great Palace](#). The next day (16<sup>th</sup> August) the reliquary with the image and the letter of Jesus were loaded on the imperial ship (royal [trireme](#)), which sailed around the city and anchored outside the western wall. The escort disembarked and entered through the [Golden Gate](#) in Constantinople, where it was received by the sons of emperor Romanos I Lekapenos, co-emperors Constantine and Stephanos, and the patriarch Theophylaktos (933-956). The triumphal procession crossed the city, while a big crowd attended this unique spectacle, reached the forum, which was in front of the [Augustaion](#), and ended at the Palace. There the image was initially placed on the imperial throne at the hall of the [triclinium](#) and finally it was placed in the church of Theotokos of the Pharos.<sup>5</sup>

The ceremony (arrival, procession and litany of the image), which clearly sought to sanctify the city and the state and to promote the image as the protector of Constantinople and of the emperor, was celebrated every year on 16<sup>th</sup> August in Constantinople.<sup>6</sup> The relic remained at the imperial capital until the 13<sup>th</sup> century, when, according to one version, it was sold to King Louis XIX of France by the [Latin emperor](#) Baldwin II and was transferred to Sainte Chapelle in Paris, from where it was lost (or destroyed) during the French Revolution.

### 4. The political exploitation of the Mandylion by Porphyrogennetos

The translation of the Mandylion to Constantinople was a major event which was carried out thanks to the initiative of emperor Romanos I Lakapenos. The reception of the image by his sons and mainly its placing on the imperial throne during its litany had a clear political meaning and aimed to connect the holy relic with the dynasty of Romanos, as a kind of legalization. In reality, Romanos I had put aside [Constantine VII Porphyrogennetos](#), and, having crowned his sons as co-emperors, wanted to establish a dynasty of his own.<sup>7</sup>

A few months after the arrival of the Mandylion at the capital however, in December 944, Romanos I Lakapenos was dethroned by his two sons, co-emperors Constantine and Stephanos, and imprisoned in a monastery on the island of Prote. In January 945 Constantine VII Porphyrogennetos arrested and exiled the two usurpers, remaining the sole sovereign ruler and free to exercise his imperial office. A few months later the *Narratio* was written, by himself or on order, in order to commemorate the first anniversary of the arrival of the Mandylion in Constantinople. In this text the effort to present Porphyrogennetos as a pious emperor who fulfills his spiritual duties by taking care of the obtention of holy relics and their transfer to the city is evident. The image, on the other hand, is presented as a protector of Porphyrogennetos' right to power: it is characteristic that one of the miracles of the image is made only when a believer applauds Constantine Porphyrogennetos as the sole emperor, failing to mention the name of Romanos.<sup>8</sup>

After all the *Narratio* is not an isolated example of the effort of Porphyrogennetos to exploit politically the Mandylion and its transfer to Constantinople. On a triptych of the mid-10<sup>th</sup> century from the monastery of Saint Catherine of Sinai we see, on the upper zone of the left wing, [king Abgar receiving the Mandylion](#). It has been proven that Abgar is depicted under the facial traits of Porphyrogennetos, practically promoting the latter as the successor of the first in the possession of the holy relic.<sup>9</sup>

1. See Talbot, R. F. - Kazhdan, A., "Relics" in *The Oxford Dictionary of Byzantium* III, Kazhdan, A. (ed.), (New York - Oxford 1991), pp. 1779-1781.

2. Constantinus Porphyrogenitus, *Narratio de Imagine Edessena*, *Patrologia Graeca* 113, col. 421-454.



3. The legend for this letter is in fact older than the one of the Mandylion and is already documented by Eusebius in his *Eκκλησιαστική Ιστορία* (1st half of the 4th century AD).
4. Janin, R., *Les Églises et les monastères des grands centres byzantins : Bithynie, Hellespont, Latros, Galésios, Trébizonde, Athènes, Thessalonique* (Paris 1975), p. 93.
5. Janin, R., *La géographie ecclésiastique de l'Empire byzantin I : Le siège de Constantinople et le Patriarcat Oecuménique*, v. III: *Les églises et les monastères* (Paris 1969), p. 232.
6. Grumel, V., "Léon de Chalcédoine et le canon de la fête du saint Mandilion", *Analecta Bollandiana* 68 (1950), pp. 135-152. Cf. Cameron, Av., "The History of the Image of Edessa: The Telling of a Story", in *Okeanos. Essays presented to I. Ševčenko, Harvard Ukrainian Studies* 7 (1983), pp. 91-93.
7. Ostrogorsky, G., *Iστορία του Βυζαντινού Κράτους*, vol. 2, transl. Παναγόπουλος Ι. (Αθήνα 1997), pp. 147-8.
8. Patlagean, E. "L'entrée de la Sainte Face d' Edesse à Constantinople en 944", in Vauchez, A. (ed.), *La religion civique à l'époque médiévale et moderne (Chrétienté et Islam)*, Actes du colloque (Nanterre, 21-23 juin 1993) (Coll. de l'École française de Rome 213, Rome 1995), pp. 21-35. Cf. also text 2 in the Appendix.
9. Weitzmann, K., "The Mandylion and Constantine Porphyrogenitus", *Cahiers archéologiques* 11 (1960), pp. 183-184.

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### Γλωσσάριο :

	<b>acheiropoietos</b>
	Icon, usually of Christ, which-according to the legend-was non-hand made. Several legends concerning <i>acheiropoietes</i> icons appeared in Byzantium since the 6th c. and refer to objects which miraculously preserved the imprint of the face or the body of Christ, after having come in contact with Him. The most famous is the Holy Mandylion of Edessa. During the middle byzantine period most of those <i>acheiropoietes</i> icons of Christ are forgotten, though many legends emerged concerning <i>acheiropoietes</i> icons of saints.
	<b>parakoimomenos</b>
	The guardian of the imperial private chambers. This high office was given usually to eunuchs that were persons of confidence, since they could not ascend to the throne. From the 9th and up to the 11th century, this office assumed a great importance and there were παρακοιμώμενοι that played important roles in the course of the empire, such as Joseph Bringa.
	<b>triclinium</b>
	Hall for symposia where three anaklintra were placed around the three sides of a square table. During the Late Roman period it was the main reception area of both houses and palaces (the term is maintained in the Byzantine era).
	<b>tireme</b>
	Anc. oblong war ship (37 m. length and 5.5 m. width) which used 170 oarsmen who sat in three levels. It could quickly cover long distances and ram the ships of the enemy.
	Byz. the largest type of dromon, powered by three banks of rowers. In "De ceremoniis" of Constantine VII, there are references to this large type of dromon which had banks of oars for 230 rowers. The length of these large tenth-century dromons has been estimated at 60 m, their breadth at 10 m, and their height from the keel to the top of the bow and stern towers as 5–6 m. Their draft was 1.5 m. With a displacement of more than 100 tons, these vessels could cruise at 5 knots and developed a battle speed of 7 knots.

### Πηγές

Κωνσταντίνος Πιοφυρογέννητος, *Narratio de Imagine Edessena*, Migne, J.P. (ed.), *Patrologia Graeca* 113, cols. 421-454. [Edition of the text with an english translation in Guscin, M., *The Image of Edessa* (Leiden-Boston 2009), pp. 8-69.]

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### Παραθέματα

1. Transfer and litany of the Holy Mandylion

ἀλλὰ τοῦ τῶν Σαρακηνῶν ἀρχηγοῦ, ὑφ' ᾧ τὸ πᾶν τῆς ἔξουσίας ἀνέκειτο, ἐμμένειν τοῖς ώμολογημένοις κρίνοντος δεῖν καὶ ἐκπηροῦν τὴν ὑπόσχεσιν, ἐξήει τῆς πόλεως τὸ τιμαλφέστατον ἀπεικόνισμα καὶ τὸ χριστόγραφον ἐπιστόλιον καὶ πρὸς τὰ ἐνταῦθα



διεκομίζετο.

καὶ δὴ τὴν ὄδὸν διανύοντες, οἱ ταῦτα ἐπιφερόμενοι τὸν Εὐφράτην κατέλαβον [...] ἡ γὰρ ναῦς, μεθ' ἡς τὸν Εὐφράτην περαιωθῆναι αὐτοῖς προσῆκειτο, ἔτι πρὸς τὰ τῆς Συρίας ὁρμοῦμένην μέρη, ὡς μόνον εἰσῆλθον ἐν αὐτῇ οἱ ἐπίσκοποι τὴν θείαν εἰκόνα καὶ τὴν ἐπιστολὴν ἐπικομιζόμενοι, ἔτι τοῦ σάλου τοὺς στασιώτας κατέχοντος, ἐξαίφνης χωρὶς ἐρετῶν χωρὶς τοῦ κυβερνῶντος ἡ ἐλκοντος πρὸς τὴν ἀντιπέρας κατῆρε γῆν μόνῳ τῷ θείῳ κυβερνῶμένη βουλήματι, ὃ δὴ τοὺς προστυχόντας καὶ ιδόντας ἀπαντας θάμψους ἐπλήρωσε καὶ ἐκπλήξεως καὶ ἑκόντας παραχωρῆσαι τὴν ἔκπεμψιν ἐπεισεν.

ἐντεῦθεν καταλαμβάνουσι τὰ Σαμόσατα οἱ τῶν φερομένων διάκονοι· ἥσαν δὲ ὁ τῶν Σαμοσάτων καὶ ὁ τῆς Ἐδέσης ἀρχιερεὺς καὶ ὁ τούτου πρωτοπρεσβύτερος καὶ ἔτεροι τινες των ευλαβεστέρων Χριστιανῶν, οἵς καὶ ὁ τοῦ ἀμφηρᾶ ὑπηρέτης συνῆν, ὃς ἀπὸ Ρώμης κατωνομάζετο· ἐνταῦθα ἐπὶ τίνας ἡμέρας χρονοτιμβήσαντες πολλῶν ἐκεῖσε θαυμάτων γεγονότων εἶχοντο τῆς ὄδου· καὶ πάλιν ἀπειρα θαύματα ἐτελεῖτο ἐν τῇ ὄδῳ ὑπὸ τῆς ἰερᾶς εἰκόνος καὶ τῆς ἐπιστολῆς τοῦ Χριστοῦ [...]

ἥδη οὖν τὸ πολὺ τῆς ὄδου διανύσαντες φθάνουσι καὶ εἰς τὴν τῆς ὑπεροχαγίας θεοτόκου μονήν, ἡ τὰ Εύσεβίου κατονομάζεται ἐν τῷ τῶν Οπτιμάτων λεγομένω τυγχάνουσαν θέματι [...]

τῇ πέμπτῃ ἐπὶ δεκάτῃ τοῦ Αυγούστου μηνὸς συνήθως τῶν βασιλέων τὴν ἑορτὴν ἀγόντων τῆς μεταστάσεως τῆς ἀειπαρθένου καὶ θεομήτορος ἐν τῷ πανσέπτῳ ταύτης κατὰ Βλαχέρνας ναῷ, περὶ δείλης ὁψίας κατέλαβον ἐκεῖσε οἱ τῶν τιμίων τούτων διάκονοι καὶ ἀπετέθη ἐν τῷ ὑπεροχῷ εὐκτηρίῳ τοῦ τοιούτου θείου ναοῦ ἡ ἔνδον ἔχουσα τὴν εἰκόνα καὶ τὴν ἐπιστολὴν κιβωτός· καὶ προσελθόντες οἱ βασιλεῖς ἔξωθεν ταύτην σεβασμίως ἡσπάσαντο προσκυνήσαντες, εἴτα μετὰ τιμῆς καὶ δορυφορίας καὶ λαμπάδων συχνῶν πρὸς τὴν βασίλειον τριμήρην ταύτην διακομίσαντες σὺν αὐτῇ κατέλαβον τὰ βασίλεια καὶ ἐν τῷ ἐκεῖσε θείῳ ναῷ, ὃς Φάρος ὠνόμασται ἵστως διὰ τὸ οἰον ἴματιον λαμπρὸν κεκαλλωπίσθαι, αὐτὸν περιττῶς ταύτην ἀπέθεντο· τῇ δὲ ἱκνουμένῃ ταῶν ἡμερῶν, ἥτις ἔξκαιδεκάτη τοῦ μηνὸς ἦν, μετ' αἰδοῦς καὶ εὐλαβείας πάλιν τὸν ἀσπασμὸν καὶ τὴν προσκύνησιν ποιούμενοι καὶ λαβόντες αὐτὴν ἐκεῖθεν οἱ τε ιερεῖς καὶ οἱ νεάροντες βασιλεῖς – ὡς γέρων οἰκουρὸς δὲ ἀσθένειαν κατελείπετο – μετὰ ψαλμῶν καὶ ὑμνῶν καὶ δαψιλοῦς τοῦ φωτός διὰ τῆς πρὸς θάλασσαν καθόδου εἰς τὴν βασίλειον τριμήρην αὐθὶς ἐνθέμενοι, τῆς πόλεως ἐν χρῷ σχεδὸν τὴν εἰρεσίαν ποιούμενοι, ἵνα τρόπον τινὰ διαζώσῃ τὸ ἀστυ διὰ τῆς ἐν θαλάσσῃ πορείας αὐτῆς, ἐκτὸς τοῦ πρὸς δύσιν τείχους τῆς πόλεως προσωριμίσθησαν· ἐνθα τῆς νεώς ἐκβάντες πεζοποδοῦντες οἱ τε βασιλεῖς καὶ πάντες οἱ τῆς γερουσίας βουλῆς καὶ ὁ τῶν ἰερῶν κατάρχων μετὰ παντὸς τοῦ τῆς ἐκκλησίας πληρώματος τῇ προσηκουόσῃ δορυφορίᾳ ὡς ἄλλην κιβωτόν, μᾶλλον δὲ καὶ ὑπὲρ ταύτην, τὸ τῶν ἀγιωτάτων καὶ τιμίων φρουρὸν σκεύος παρέπεμπον καὶ τὰ ἐκτὸς τοῦ τείχους μέχρι τῆς Χρυσῆς διελθόντες Πύλης· εἴτα ἐκεῖθεν ἐντὸς γεγονότες τοῦ ἀστεος μετὰ μετεώρων ψαλμῳδιῶν καὶ ὑμνῶν καὶ φῶν πνευματικῶν καὶ ἀπείρου λαμπάδων φωτὸς τὴν πάνδημον συγκροτοῦντες παραπομπὴν διὰ μέσης τῆς πόλεως τὴν πορείαν διήνυον, ἀγιασμὸν μεταλαβεῖν καὶ κρείττονος σθένους τὴν πόλιν διὰ τοῦτο πιστεύοντες καὶ ἀβλαβῆ καὶ ἀπόρθητον εἰς τὸν αἰῶνα συντηρηθήσεθαι· τοῦ δὲ σχολάζοντος ὅχλου πρὸς τὴν θέαν συντρέχοντος καὶ ὥσπερ κύματα μακρὰ τοῦ δήμου πολλαχόθεν κινούμενον τε καὶ συρρέοντος ἀνθρωπος τις τὰς βάσεις παρειμένος καὶ ἀσθενῆς ἀπὸ χρόνου μακρού τοῖς οἰκείοις διακόνοις ἐπερειδόμενος διανέστη πρὸς τὸ την θείαν εἰκόνα διερχομένην ἰδεῖν καὶ ἀμά τῇ θέᾳ παραδόξως ὑγιωθεῖς καὶ γνοὺς ισχυροποιηθέντα τῶν βάσεων αὐτοῦ τὰ σφυρὰ προσέδραμεν [...] τὴν πρὸ τοῦ Αὐγούστείου τοίνυν φθάσαντες ἀγοράν οἱ τῆς πανηγύρεως ἔξαρχοι καὶ τῆς εὐθείας ὄδού μικρὸν πρὸς τὰ λαιὰ παρεκενύσαντες τὸ τῆς θείας Σοφίας θεοῦ ἐπώνυμον ιερὸν καταλαμβάνουσι τέμενος καὶ τῶν ἀδύτων τοῦ ἱλαστηρίου ἐντὸς τὴν τιμίαν εἰκόνα καὶ τὴν ἐπιστολὴν ἀποτίθενται· ἐνταῦθα δὲ παντὸς τοῦ τῆς ἐκκλησίας πληρώματος προσκυνήσαντος καὶ τὰ εικότα τιμήσαντος ἐξήλθον πάλιν ἐκεῖθεν μετὰ τοῦ φόρτου τοῦ ιεροῦ οἱ τελοῦντες τὴν πρόσθιον καὶ τὰ τῶν βασιλείων καταλαβόντες ἀνάκτορα ἐν τῷ κατ' ἐπωνυμίαν Τρικλίνῳ Χρυσῷ ἐπὶ τοῦ βασιλείου θρόνου, ἐν ᾧ περὶ τῶν μεγίστων χρηματίζειν εἰώθασι, τὴν θείαν εἰκόνα τέως ἰδρύουσιν ἀγιασθῆναι πάντως καὶ τὴν ἀνακτορικὴν καθέδραν καὶ δικαιοσύνης ὄμοιν καὶ χρηστότητος ἐπιεικῶς μεταδοῦναι τοῖς ἐπὶ ταύτης ἐφεζομένοις οὐκ ἀπεικότως πιστεύσαντες· ἐκτενοῦς δὲ συνήθως γεγονούσας δεήσεως ἥρθη μετὰ τὴν ταύτης συμπλήρωσιν ἐντεῦθεν πάλιν ἡ θεία εἰκὼν καὶ ἐν τῷ προρηθέντι τοῦ Φάρου ναῷ ἐν τῷ δεξιῷ πρὸς ἀνατολὰς ἀνιερώθη καὶ ἀνετέθη μέρει εἰς δόξαν πιστῶν, εἰς φυλακὴν βασιλέων καὶ εἰς ἀσφάλειαν ὅλης τῆς πόλεως καὶ τῆς τῶν Χριστιανῶν καταστάσεως.

Constantinus Porphyrogenitus, *De imagine Edessena*, 49-64, Patrologia Graeca 113, col. 448-452.

## 2. The prophecy on Porphyrogenetos' sole rule of in one of the miracles of the icon

ἥδη οὖν τὸ πολὺ τῆς ὄδου διανύσαντες φθάνουσι καὶ εἰς τὴν τῆς ὑπεροχαγίας θεοτόκου μονήν, ἡ τὰ Εύσεβίου κατονομάζεται ἐν τῷ τῶν Οπτιμάτων λεγομένω τυγχάνουσαν θέματι [...]

την παραπομπή : Δημητρόκας Ιωάννης, "Mandylion, Transfer of, 944", Εγκυλοπαίδεια Μειζονος Ελληνισμού, Κωνσταντινούπολη

URL: <<http://www.elw.gr/l.aspx?id=9040>>



Constantinus Porphyrogenitus, *De imagine Edessena*, 53-4, *Patrologia Greaca* 113, col. 448-9.

### 3. The story of Mandylion from the Arab's perspective

En l'année 331 [15 sept. 942 - 3 sept. 943], les armées grecques arrivèrent dans le Diyar Bekr, réduisirent en captivité un grand nombre de ses habitants et s'étant emparés d'Arzan, dévastèrent la totalité du pays et arrivèrent près de Nisibe. Ils demandèrent aux habitants de leur remettre la sainte image du «mandil» conservée dans l'église d'Édesse avec lequel N.-S. Jésus le Messie s'était essuyé le visage et sur lequel les traits de sa face étaient restés imprimés.

Les Grecs leur offrirent, s'ils leur livraient ce «mandil», de mettre en liberté, parmi les prisonniers musulmans qu'ils détenaient entre leurs mains, le nombre qu'ils leur indiqueraient. On écrivit à ce sujet à Muttaqi à Bagdad. Le vizir Abu 'l-Hasan b. Muqla présenta au calife la lettre qui venait d'arriver en ce sens, et lui demanda de lui indiquer ce qu'il devait faire. Muttaqi lui ordonna de convoquer les qadis et les jurisconsultes, de leur demander une consultation juridique à ce sujet et d'agir suivant leur réponse.

Le vizir fit venir ces personnalités ainsi que 'Ali b. 'Isa et les principaux fonctionnaires de l'administration. Il les mit au courant de la lettre qui était arrivée au sujet de l'affaire et leur demanda leur opinion. Il y eut alors une longue discussion. L'un des assistants exposa la question du «mandil»; il dit qu'il était depuis très longtemps dans l'église d'Édesse et que jamais aucun roi de Rum ne l'avait encore réclamé. Le lui remettre, disait-il, serait humiliant l'islam, alors que les Musulmans méritent plus que quiconque de posséder le «mandil» de Jésus ('Isa) - que le salut soit sur lui! - 'Ali b. 'Isa dit qu'il était bien plus nécessaire et méritoire de libérer les prisonniers musulmans et de les faire sortir du pays des Infidèles où ils endurent toutes sortes de souffrances et de maux. Un grand nombre des assistants se rangèrent à son avis et il conseilla, avec plusieurs qadis des Musulmans, d'échanger, contre le «mandil» les prisonniers musulmans au pouvoir des Rum, puisque le gouvernement ne pouvait rien pour eux et n'avait aucun moyen de les arracher aux mains de l'ennemi. Le vizir fit rédiger un acte en ce sens et le fit signer par tous les assistants. Puis, il le présenta à Muttaqi, qui ordonna de rédiger la réponse prescrivant aux habitants d'Édesse de se conformer à cette décision.

Le traité fut conclu entre les habitants d'Édesse et les Rum aux conditions suivantes: les Rum remirent aux gens d'Édesse deux cent Musulmans qu'ils avaient faits prisonniers, s'engagèrent envers eux à ne pas faire à l'avenir d'incursions dans leur pays et conclurent avec eux une paix perpétuelle.

Les Rum prirent possession du «mandil» et l'emportèrent à Constantinople, où il fut introduit le jeudi 1er du mois de Ab (août). Stéphane, son frère le Patriarche Théophylacte et Constantin fils de l'empereur Romain, se rendirent à la Porte d'Or pour y recevoir le «mandil». Il fut apporté à la grande église de Sainte-Sophie (Agia Sufia), précédé de tous les dignitaires de l'empire, qui marchaient en tenant de nombreux cierges à la main; de là, il fut transporté au Palais (al-Balat). Cette cérémonie eut lieu dans la 24<sup>e</sup> année du règne de Romain l'ancien, empereur conjointement avec Constantin, fils de Léon.

From the work of the Arab historian Yahya ibn Sa'id, in Vasiliev, A., *Byzance et les Arabes*, vol. II: *La dynastie Macédonienne (867-959), Deuxième partie: Extraits des sources arabes* [= Corpus Bruxellense Historiae Byzantinae 2.2], transl. H. Gregoire and M. Canard (Bruxelles 1950), pp. 91-92.