



The Sultan of Mercy: **ABDÜLMECID I - SULTAN ABDÜLMECID HAN - SULTAN ABDUL MEJID**

By Dr. Rateb Jneid

Some moments in history shine so bright that people remember them forever. One such moment happened in 1847, during a terrible time called the Irish Famine. Ireland was starving. The land was empty, crops had failed and families were losing hope. Many children cried from hunger, and people felt forgotten by the world. But far away in Istanbul, the heart of the Ottoman Empire, one young ruler was listening. His name was **Sultan Abdülmecid I**, known in Turkish as **Sultan Abdülmecid Han**. Though he was only in his twenties, his heart was full of mercy.

When he heard about the suffering in Ireland, he did not ask:

“Are they from our religion?” “Are they our allies?” “What will we gain?”

He asked only: **“How can we help?”**

The Sultan first planned to send **£10,000**, a huge amount at that time. But diplomats told him Queen Victoria had sent less and it would not look proper for a Sultan to give more than a Queen.

So, he reduced the official amount. But his compassion did not stop there.

In secret, under the night sky, he ordered something incredible: **“Send the ships.”**

Three Ottoman ships sailed across dangerous seas, not for war, not for power, but loaded with food and supplies, enough to save countless lives.

When they arrived at the port of **Drogheda** in Ireland, the people cried with joy. Muslims from a distant land had come to help Christians they had never met, expecting nothing in return.

Out of gratitude, the people of Drogheda later adopted the **crescent and star**, a symbol forever linked to this act of kindness.

Sultan Abdülmecid Han showed the world that true leadership is not about having power, it is about using power to help others.

He taught us:

- **Kingdoms do not last forever**
- **Thrones eventually fall**
- **But mercy never dies**

His story is a reminder that a single act of compassion can live forever, shining brighter than any crown. This was not just a Sultan. This was **Sultan Abdülmecid Han**; the ruler whose greatest throne was his heart.