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## Sadullah Pasha's Poem, "The Nineteenth Century": A literary Echo of Ottoman Modernization

*Mehmet KALPAKLI*

Sadullah Bey, a contemporary of Namık Kemal and Şinasi, achieved renown as the translator of the open letter from Mustafa Fazıl Paşa to Sultan Abdülaziz, which was published in the French newspaper *Liberté*, on 24 March 1867. Sadullah Bey, an intimate friend of Namık Kemal, was also involved in the Young Ottomans (*Yeni Osmanlılar*) movement. Sadullah Bey, the son of the Vizier Ayaşlı Esad Muhlis Paşa, was born on 7 July 1838. His secondary education included religious training from private tutors, the study of Eastern and Western literature, economics, politics, natural sciences, chemistry, as well as the Arabic, Persian and French languages. In 1853, at the age of fifteen, he was appointed to the Office of State Revenues (*Maliye Gelirler Kalemi*), and three years later was transferred to the Translation Office in the Sublime Porte. Over a span of twenty years he held a variety of bureaucratic posts which included Chief Secretaryship of the Council of State (*Şûrâ-yı Devlet Baş Katipliği*), Undersecretaryship of Ministry of Education (*Maârif Müsteşarlığı*), Chairship of the Supreme Court of Appeal (*Temyiz Mahkemesi Birinci Reisliği*), and Ministry of Commerce (*Ticaret Nazırlığı*). Upon the accession of Sultan Murad V in 1876, Sadullah Bey was promoted to the office of the First Secretaryship of the Imperial Chancery (*Mabeyn-i Hümayûn Baş Katipliği*). He was discharged from this post when Sultan Abdülhamid II came to the throne and became ambassador to Berlin. He represented the Ottoman State as the Second Delegate in the Treaty of St. Stefano in 1877 and at the Berlin Congress that same year. In 1881 he was granted the title of vizierate. He was appointed ambassador to Vienna in 1883 and it was during his time abroad that his Austrian servant, with whom he had an illegitimate relationship, became pregnant. According to Uzunçarşılı,<sup>1</sup> Sadullah Paşa committed suicide as a result of this event. Mehmed Galib Bey, who was Sadullah Paşa's Second Secretary during his years in Vienna, wrote an account of Sadullah Paşa's experiences as an Ottoman bureaucrat and published them under the title *Sadullah Paşa yahut Mezardan Bir Nida* (Sadullah Pasha or a cry from his grave) (İstanbul, 1909). This work was

<sup>1</sup> İ.H. Uzunçarşılı, "Viyana Büyük Elçisi Vezir Sadullah Paşa'nın İntiharına Dair", *Bellekten*, XIV/55, (1950), pp.419-449.