Mehmed Said Efendi’s *Sefâretnâme* (Book of Embassy) from his diplomatic mission to Sweden 1733 is a skilfully designed text. It begins with an epic travel narrative, but then its tone and content changes depending on Said’s different tasks during his stay in Sweden. The presentation takes its starting point in current scholarly debates on circulation of knowledge between East and West and explores Said Efendi’s role as a cultural mediator during a transformative period for both Sweden and the Ottoman Empire. Why does Said identify the Swedes with the Goths and how should we understand the absence of concepts like “infidels”? By a careful reading of Said’s *Sefâretnâme* new aspects of early modern Ottoman diplomacy, culture and intellectual history are reviled.

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