

Life of the Prophet

(peace be upon him)

A decorative border consisting of eight stylized, symmetrical scrollwork elements arranged in a circular pattern around the central text.

Battle of Khaibar

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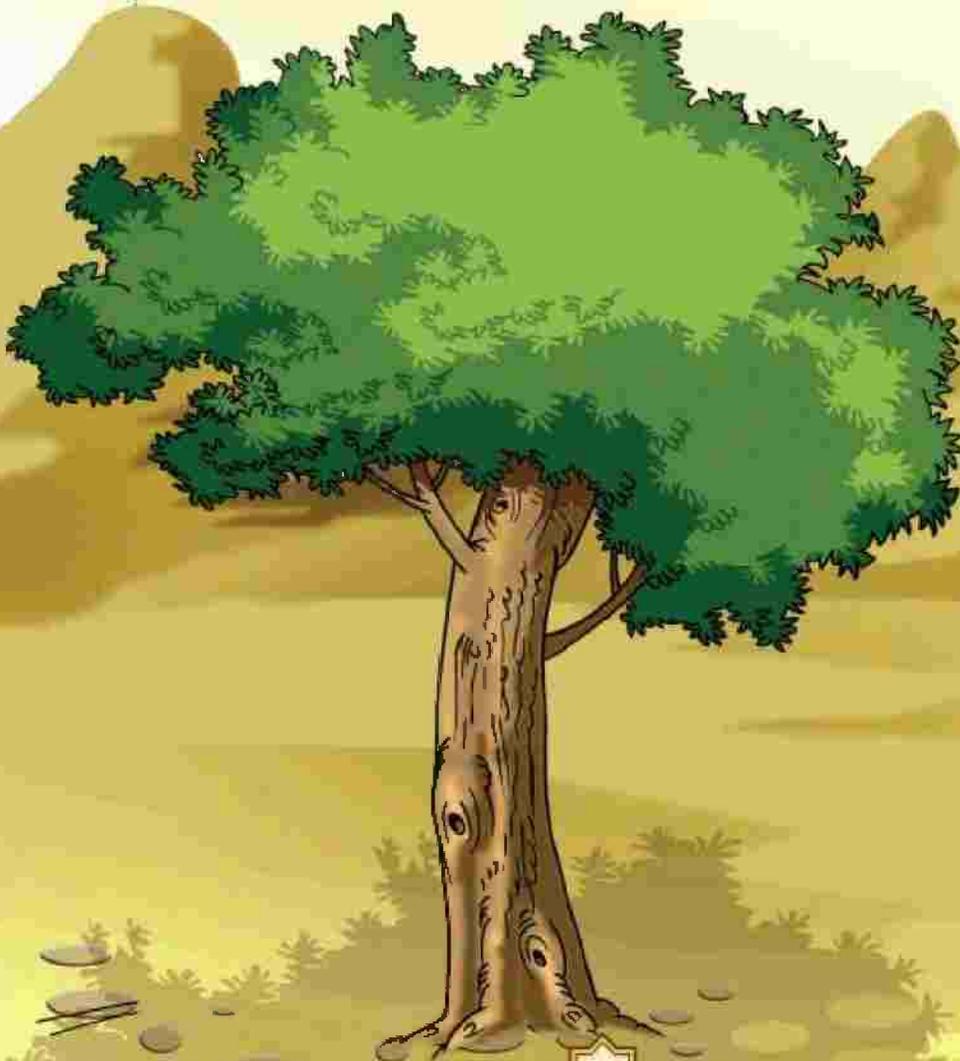
Assem Sayyid Ahmed



The Prophet (peace be upon him) had a dream that he went to Mecca and entered Al-Masjid Al-Harâm (the Holy Mosque) along with his Companions. He also dreamt that he took the key of the Ka'bah and that he and his Companions circumambulated it and performed 'Umrah (minor Hajj). He told his Companions of the dream and they were very happy. They believed that they would enter Mecca that year for sure. Later on, the Prophet (peace be upon him) decided to perform 'Umrah and he told his Companions who happily prepared themselves to accompany him on that holy trip.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) left Medina on Monday, the first of the month of Dhul-Qa'dah, in the 6th Hijri year). Umm Salamah, wife of the Prophet (peace be upon him) accompanied him along with 1500 of the Companions. They carried no weapons of war, only the simple weapons of ordinary travelers.

The Quraish received news of the coming of the Prophet (peace be upon him). They decided to prevent him and his Companions from entering Mecca and the Holy Mosque. They prepared themselves well. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) learned of this, he negotiated with the people of Quraish for some time. In the end, the Prophet (peace be upon him) sent his Companion, 'Uthmân bin 'Affân, as an ambassador of peace to the Quraish in order to show them his true intention and reason behind this journey.



'Uthmân went to them, met the leaders of Quraish and conveyed the message of the Prophet (peace be upon him) to them. When he finished talking, they suggested that he circumambulate the Ka'bah, but he refused to do so until the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) did.

Bai'atur-Ridwân

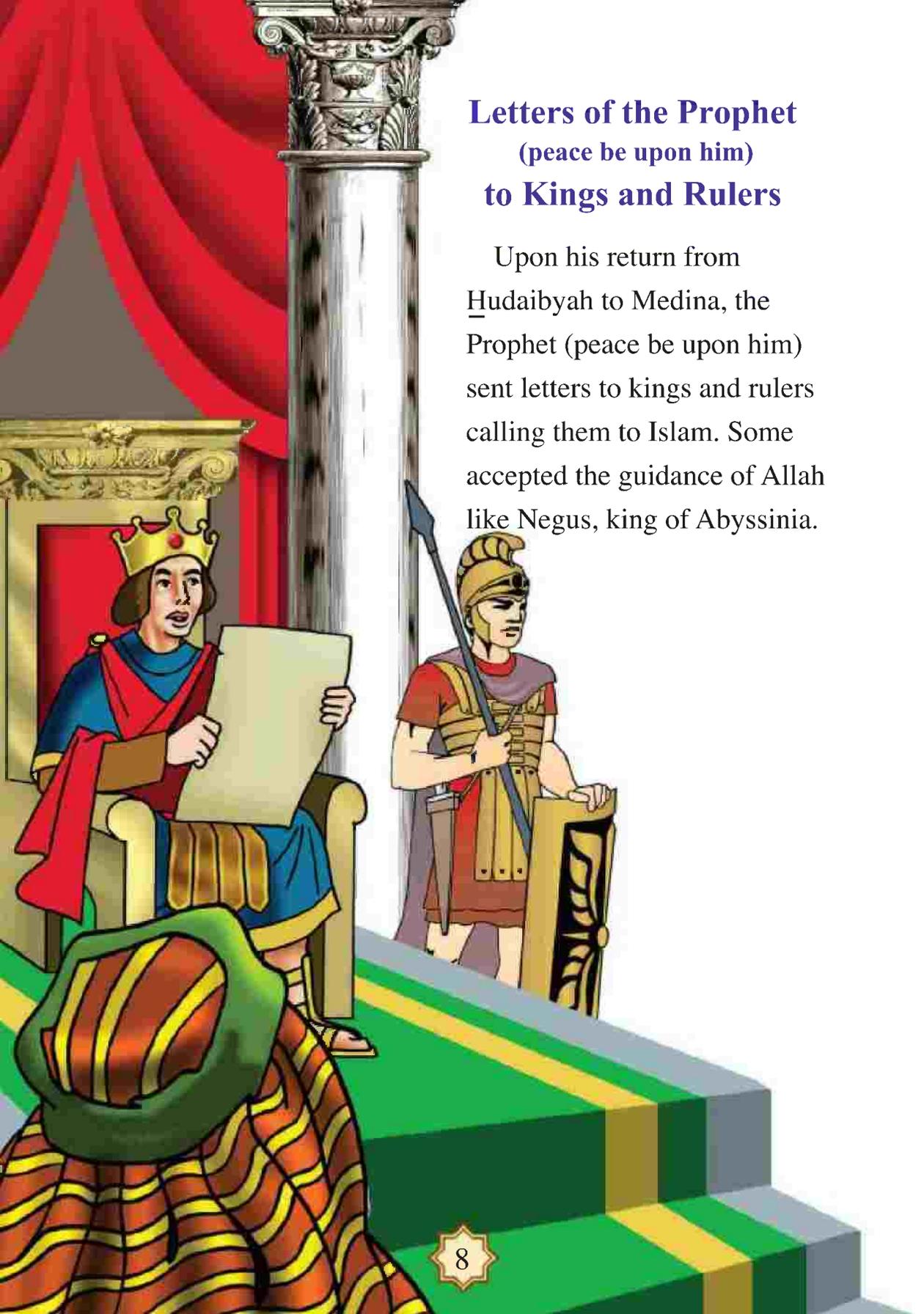
'Uthmân stayed for a long time in Mecca consulting with the Quraish. So it was rumored among the Muslims that 'Uthmân had been killed. The Prophet (peace be upon him) decided to attack the Quraish. He called upon Muslims to come and give him a pledge of allegiance and swear not to flee from fighting. This was called Bai'atur-Ridwân (Ar-Ridwân Pledge of Allegiance).

But 'Uthman (may Allah be pleased with him) came back and the Muslims calmed down.

Sulh Al-Hudaibiyah

When the Quraish learned of their pledge, they sent Suhail bin 'Amr in order to negotiate a peace treaty with the Muslims. When the man came to the Prophet (peace be upon him), he was happy and said to his Companions, "Your matter is facilitated (by Allah, through dealing with this man whose name means 'facility' in Arabic). They (the Quraish) wanted peace so they sent this man." Suhail came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and spoke with him. They agreed on the items of the peace treaty. They were:

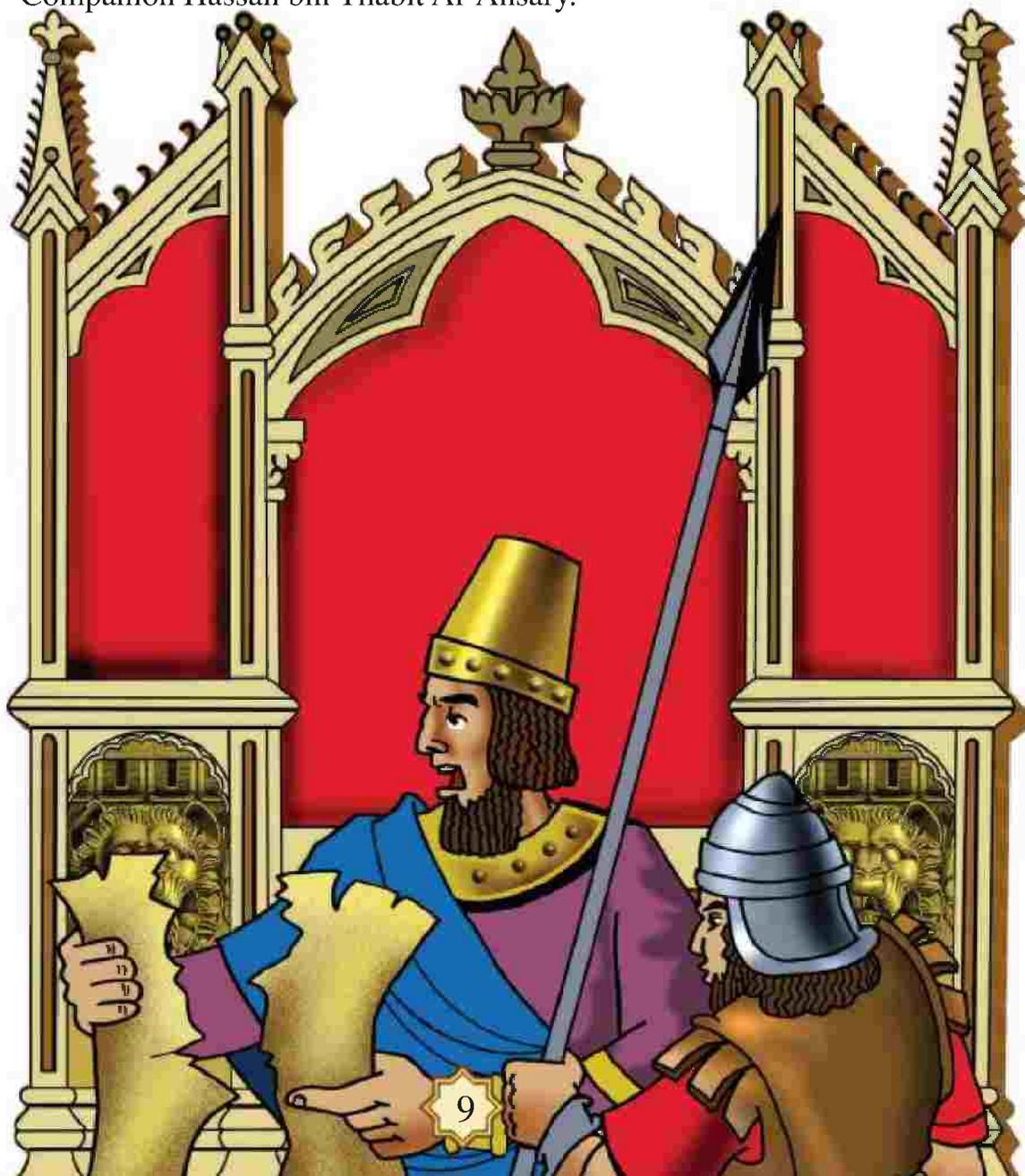
"The Prophet (peace be upon him) would postpone performing 'Umrah until the next year. The war between the two parties would be suspended for ten years. Tribes would be allowed to join or support either of the two parties as they wish. Muslims would not accept anyone who came to them and embraced Islam, if he had left the Quraish without asking the permission of his guardian. On the other hand, the Quraish were not committed to send any Muslim back who came back to them." 'Aly bin Abu Tâlib recorded these items in a book. After concluding the Peace Treaty, the Prophet (peace be upon him) slaughtered his Hady (sacrificial animals slaughtered at the end of Hajj or 'Umrah). He also cut his hair. Muslims followed him and did the same. Then they all came back to Medina.



Letters of the Prophet (peace be upon him) to Kings and Rulers

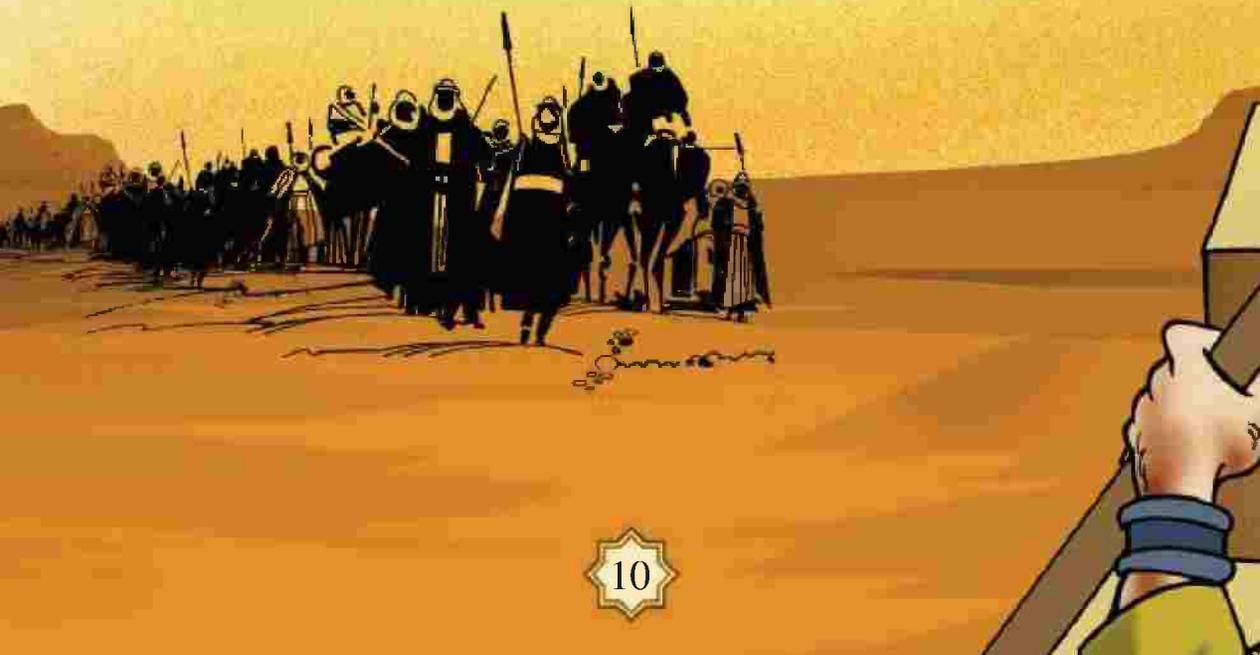
Upon his return from Hudaibyah to Medina, the Prophet (peace be upon him) sent letters to kings and rulers calling them to Islam. Some accepted the guidance of Allah like Negus, king of Abyssinia.

Others refused like Heraclius, king of the Byzantines and Khosrau, king of Persia. Other kings received the envoy of the Messenger of Allah well like Al-Muqawqas, king of Egypt. He sent many presents to the Prophet (peace be upon him) as well as two slave girls; one was Maria, a Copt, whom the Prophet (peace be upon him) later married and who gave birth to his son, Ibrâhîm, and the other was Sîrîn, whom the Prophet (peace be upon him) presented to his Companion Hassân bin Thâbit Al-Ansârî.

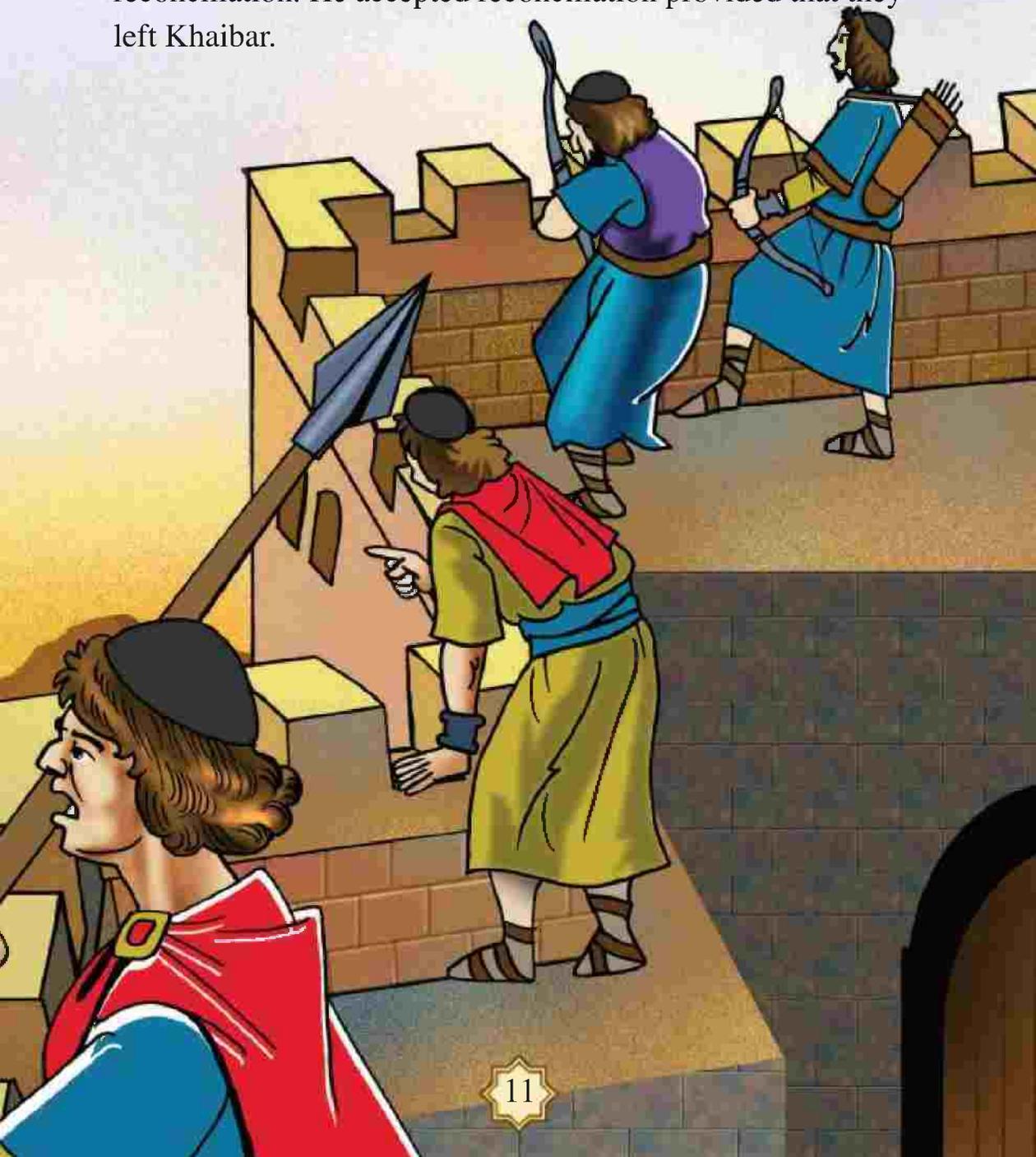


The Battle of Khaibar

After Al-Hudaibiyah Treaty, the Jews of Khaibar envied the Muslims. They started to incite tribes to defy the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him). The Prophet (peace be upon him) decided to punish the Jews and put an end to their evil. He went to fight them in the month of Rajab in the 7th Hijri year. He took with him 1600 fighters. They reached a place near Khaibar by night. The Prophet (peace be upon him) spent the night there because he would not attack people at night. After performing the Fajr (Dawn) Prayer, He prepared himself to attack. When the people of Khaibar saw the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his army, they rushed back full of terror. They said to their people, "It is Muhammad! It is Muhammad and the army." They retreated to their fortifications. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said happily, "Allah is the Greatest. Khaibar is destroyed, and surely we will overcome them as victory is always ours."



The war between the two parties was fierce. Allah honored the Muslims led by 'Aly bin Abu T̄alib and they took the strongest of the forts. Then the rest of the forts surrendered one after the other. The Jews asked the Prophet (peace be upon him) for reconciliation. He accepted reconciliation provided that they left Khaibar.

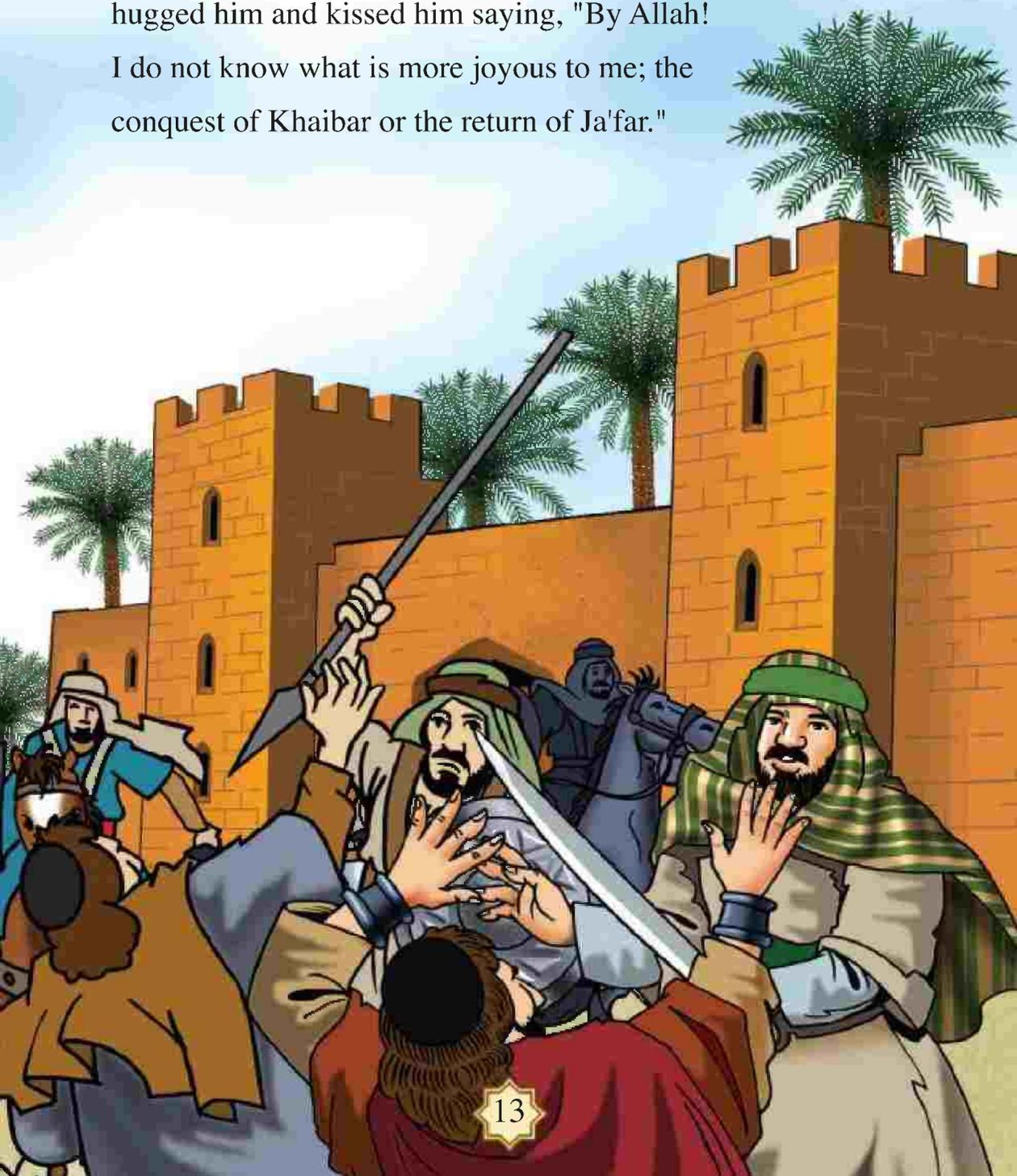


They accepted the condition and surrendered the castles. Among the captured at that battle was Safiyyah bint Huyay. Later she became a Muslim and the Prophet (peace be upon him) married her.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) wanted to expel all the Jews from Khaibar. However, they asked him to allow them to stay in Khaibar as farmers and farm laborers. Since the Prophet (peace be upon him) and the Companions had no farmers to work on the farms of Khaibar, he accepted and let them work on the farms of Khaibar in return for half of its production.

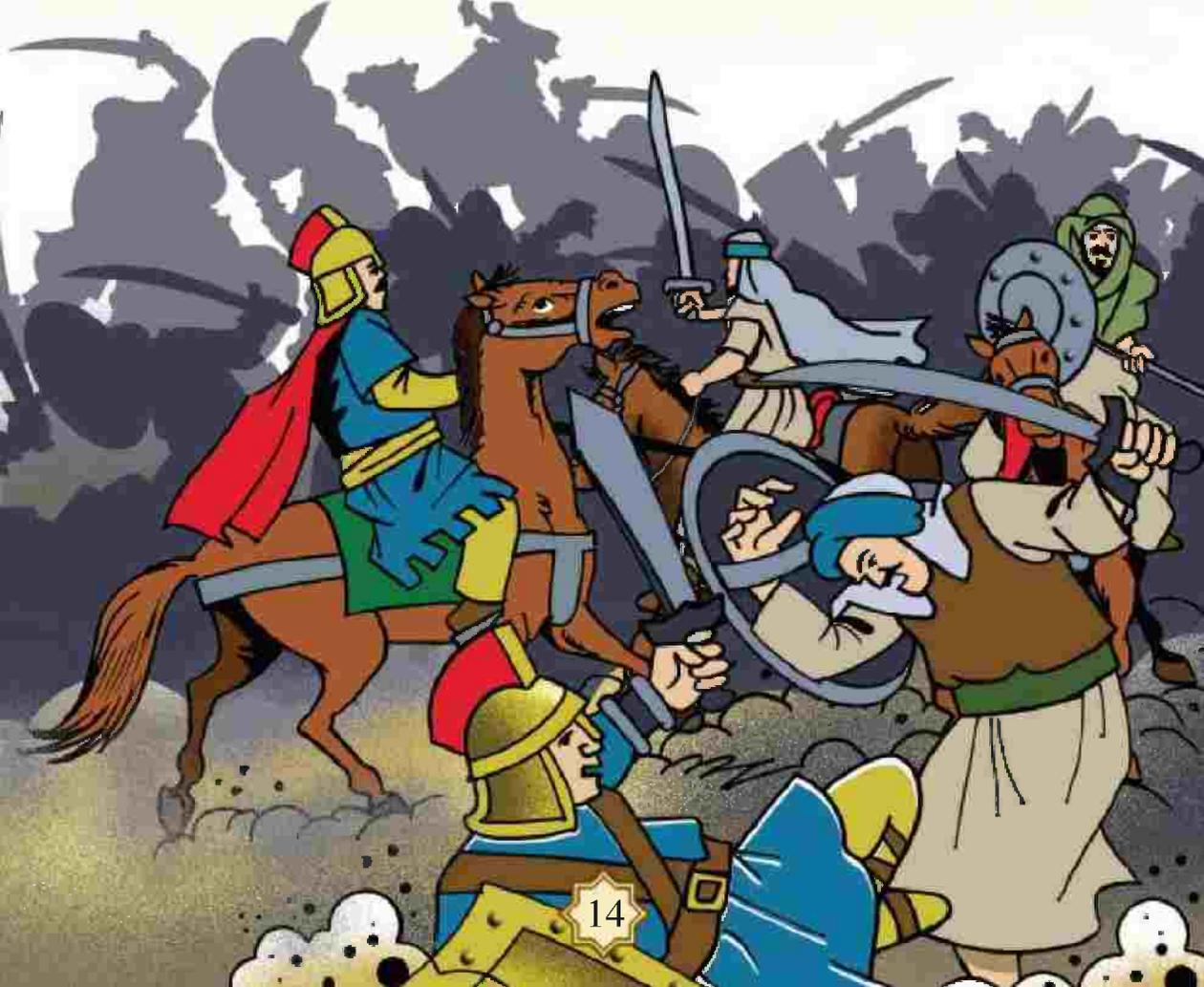


During this Battle, Ja'far bin Abu Tâlib and his company came back from Abyssinia. When he came to the Prophet (peace be upon him), he hugged him and kissed him saying, "By Allah! I do not know what is more joyous to me; the conquest of Khaibar or the return of Ja'far."

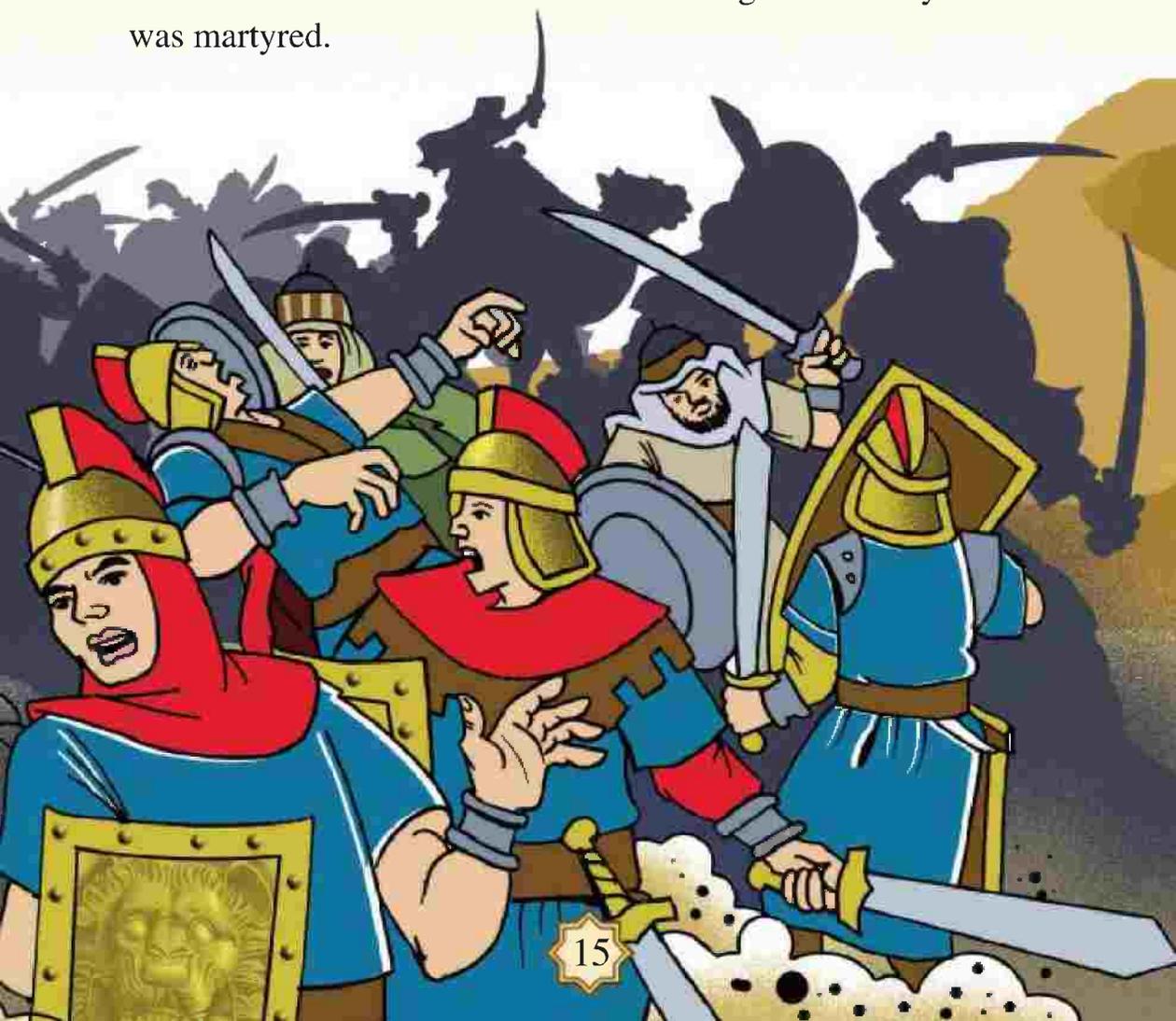


The Battle of Mu'tah

In the 8th Hijri year, the Prophet (peace be upon him) sent Al-Hârith bin 'Umair Al-Azdy to the ruler of Buṣrâ Al Ghassâny. But Al-Hârith was insulted and killed there. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) learned of it, he prepared a great army of 3000 fighters. He appointed three of the leading Companions as leaders of that army. The first to lead was Zaid bin Hârithah, if he was killed then Ja'far bin Abu Tâlib would take his place and if he was killed then 'Abdullâh bin Rawâḥah would take his place. The army proceeded until it reached the boundaries of the Shâm (the region covering Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine).



A huge army of the enemy surprised the Muslims. They were about 100,000 Arabs, and an equivalent force of Byzantines. Muslims hesitated to encounter such a tremendous number of fighters. Then 'Abdullâh bin Rawâḥah called on the Muslims, "O people! It is neither the number of the fighters nor the amount of weapons that are crucial in the war against these people; rather it is our religion and faith that are the crucial factors." The people said, "Yes, you are right." The Battle started and Zaid carried the banner as the leader until he was martyred. Then Ja'far received the banner as the leader and fought until he was martyred too. 'Abdullâh then received the banner and fought the enemy until he was martyred.



In the end, Muslims chose Khâlid bin Al-Walîd to be the leader. Because he was smart, he managed to retreat with the Muslim army to avoid complete destruction. They went back to Medina. Even though the Muslims had been fighting against an tremendous number of enemies, they withstood firmly. Only 12 of them were martyred. The Prophet (peace be upon him) informed his Companions in Medina of the death of the three leaders of the Muslim army, although he was in Medina. He gave Khâlid bin Al-Walîd the title "The Sword of Allah."

