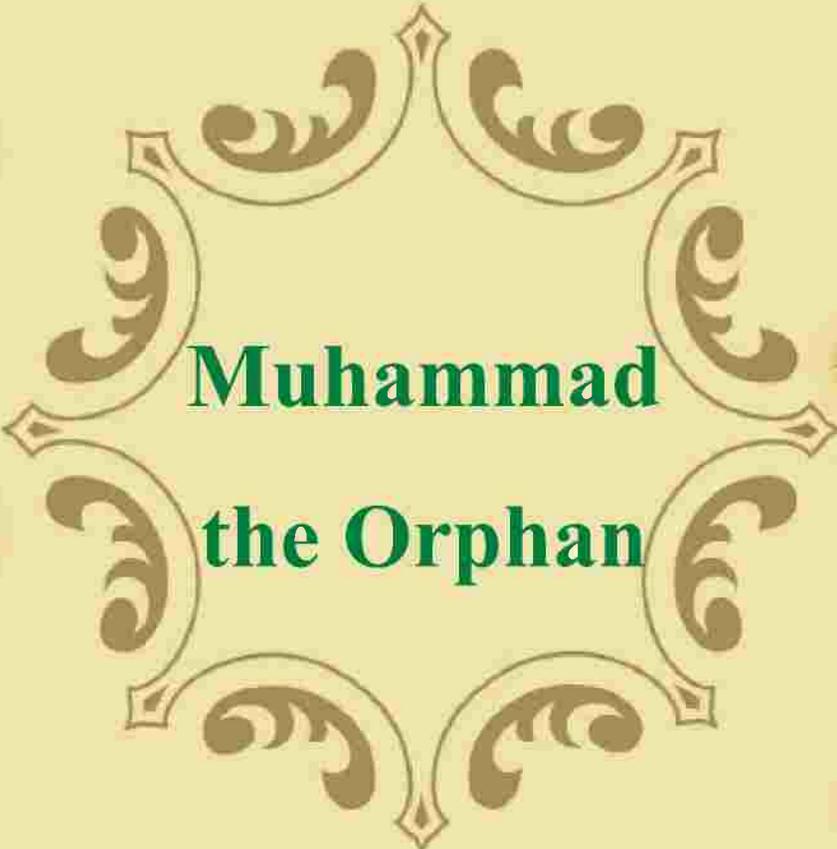


# **Life of the Prophet**

**(peace be upon him)**

A decorative scrollwork border in a light brown color, featuring symmetrical, swirling patterns that frame the central text.

## **Muhammad** **the Orphan**

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**Cartoon:**  
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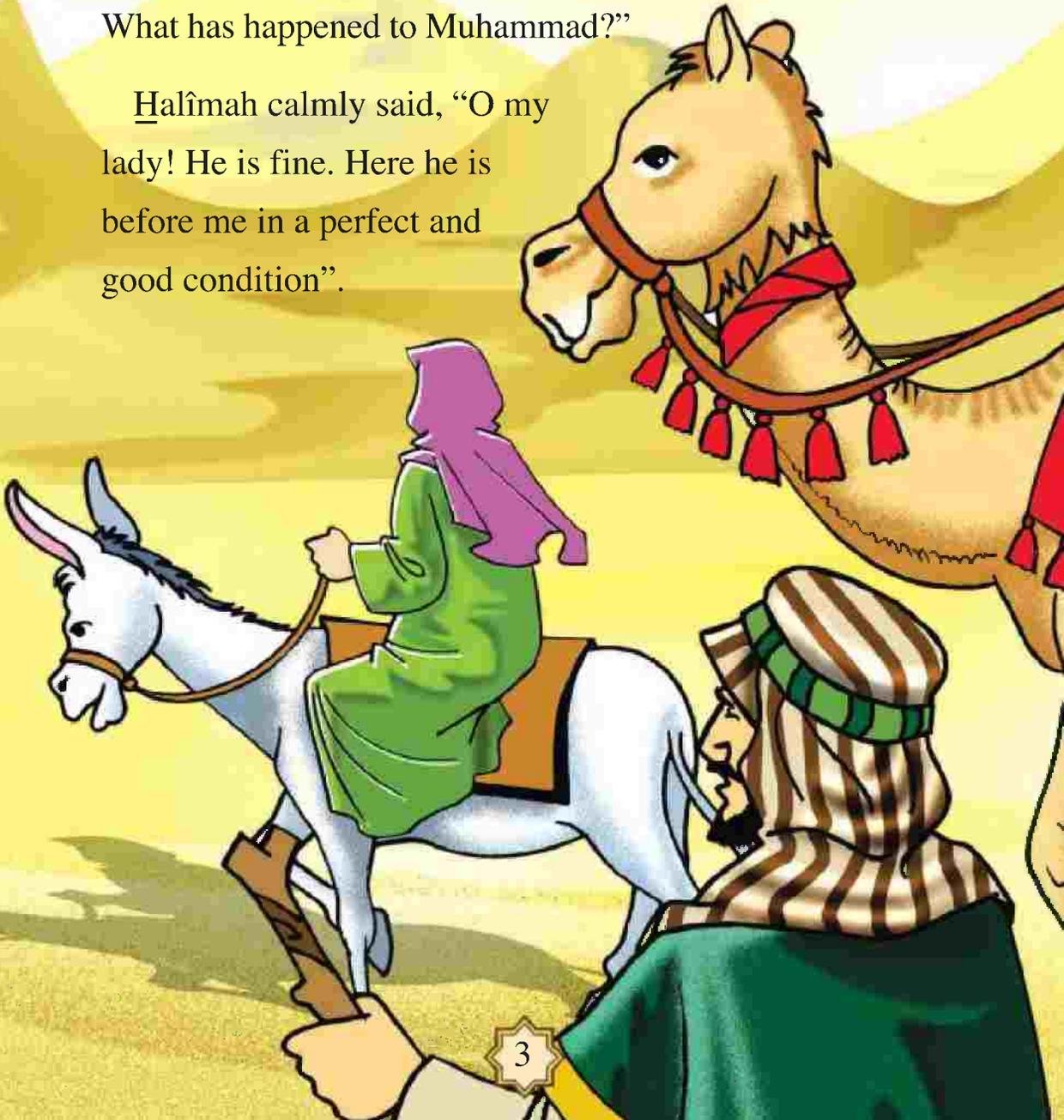
Graphics and Color Separation by: Assem Sayyid Ahmed



Halimah returned to Mecca, taking Muhammad with her to his mother. Lady Âminah was astonished when Halimah came before her carrying Muhammad.

She looked at her in surprise and said, “O Halimah! What has happened? You have come before your appointed time! What has happened to Muhammad?”

Halimah calmly said, “O my lady! He is fine. Here he is before me in a perfect and good condition”.

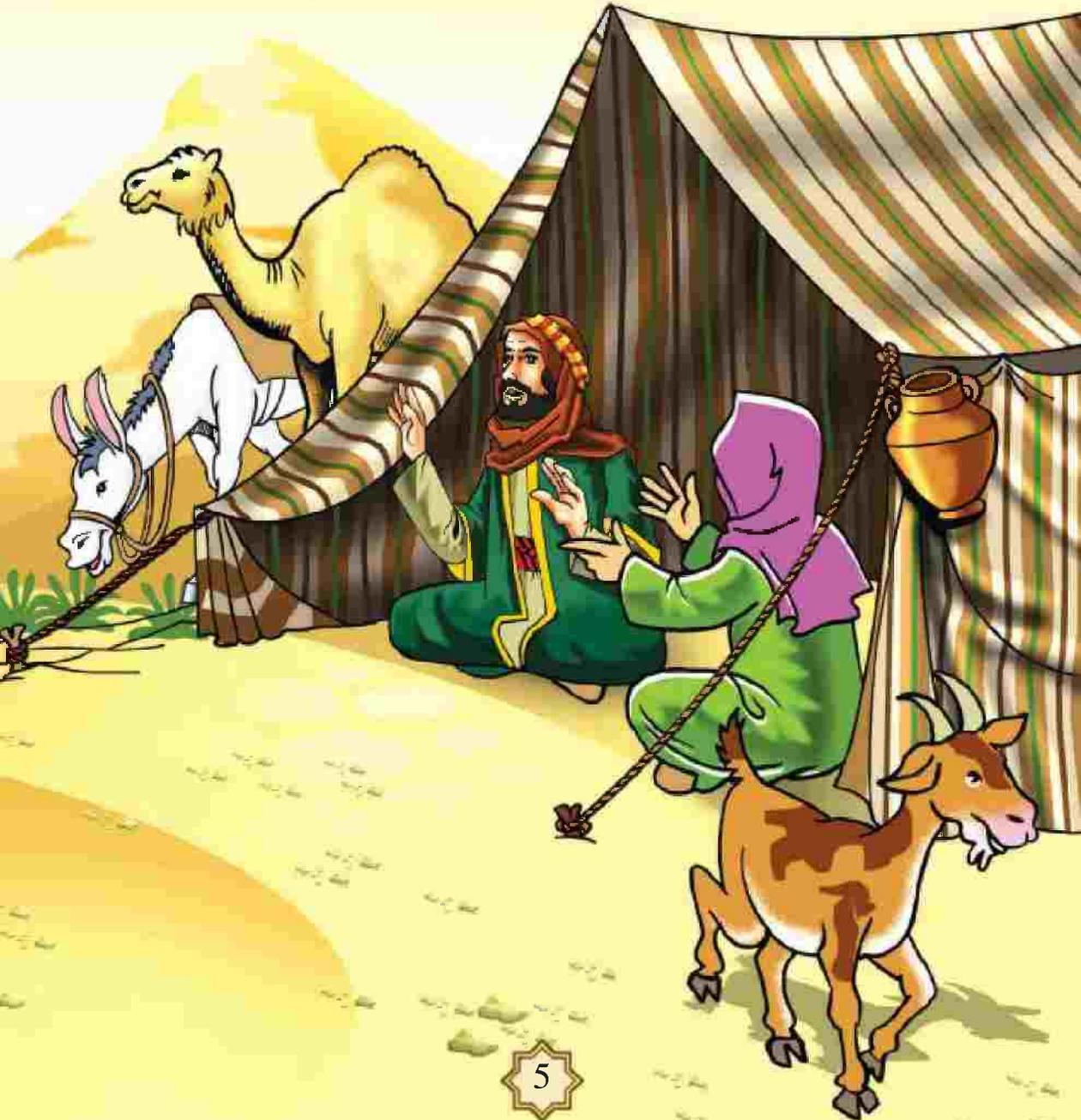


Âminah asked her without hiding her longing and worry, “What happened?! O Halîmah! tell me!!”

Halîmah told her while looking at Muhammad lovingly and tenderly, “In fact, something strange happened to Muhammad. That is why I hurried to return him to you”.



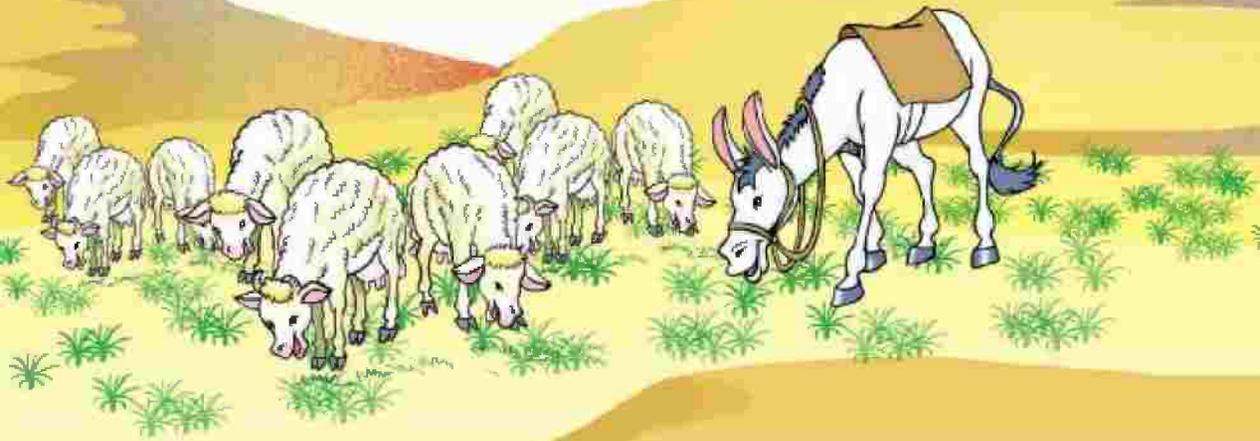
Âminah looked at her in astonishment. At the same time, Halîmah continued talking and said, “I was sitting with my husband Al-Hârith bin ‘Abd Al-‘Uzzâ, and all of a sudden, my son came to me, calling for help by saying, 'Help my brother!! Help Muhammad!'”



When we asked him what had happened, he told us that he saw two men wearing white garments. They took him and laid him down on the ground. They split open his chest, and then they took something out of it."

"Go on! O Halîmah." Said Âminah.

"My husband and I immediately hurried to Muhammad. We found his face full of fear. We took him and began to calm him down and relieve his worry, until he was free of fear. After that, we found it best to return him to you.



For we fear that something harmful or unpleasant might happen to him." Âminah came closer to Muhammad and then said while embracing him lovingly and affectionately, “

By Allah, this son of mine is blessed, for I have seen some signs and good omens which filled my heart with pleasure and security concerning him”.



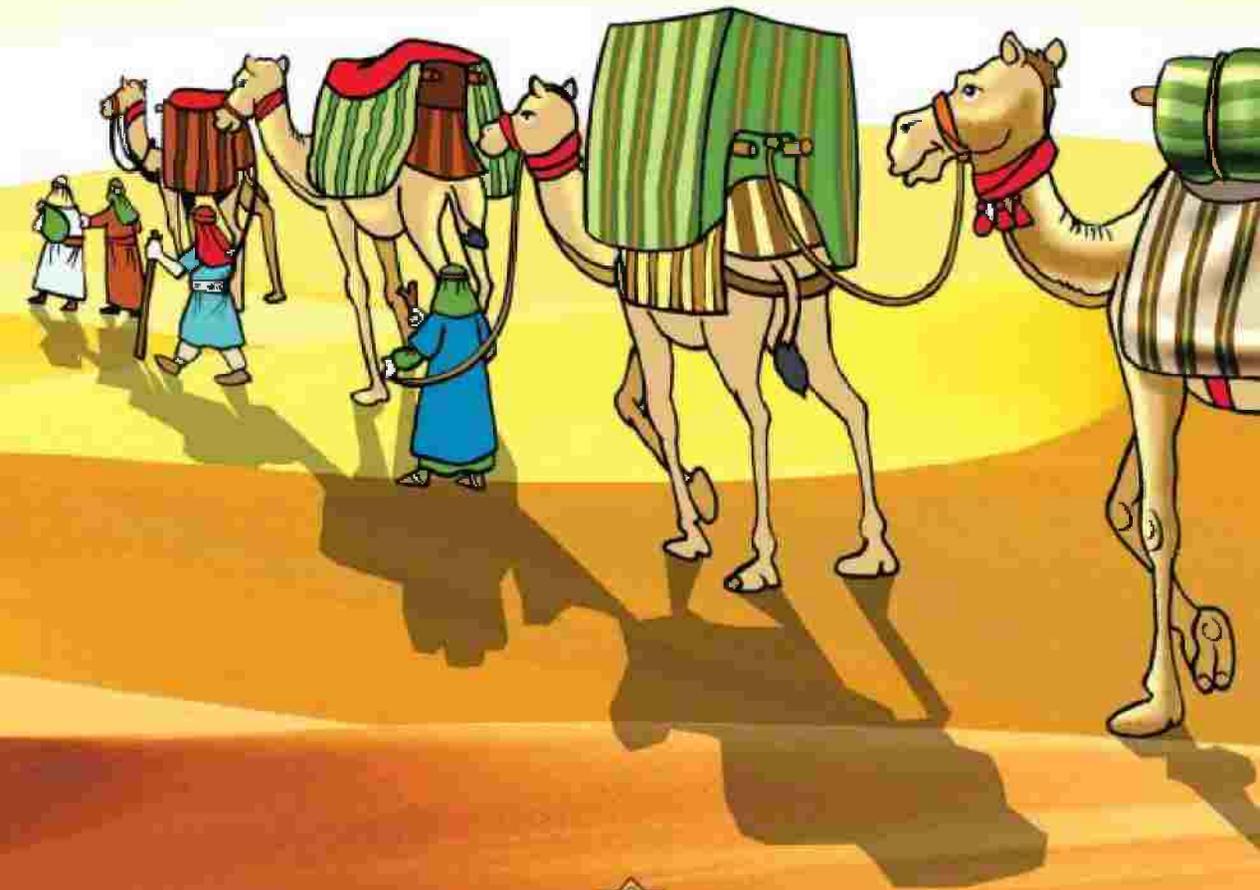
After she had returned Muhammad to his mother, Halîmah left for the region of her people.

Âminah intended to take Muhammad to Medina to visit his maternal uncles of Banu An-Najjâr. Muhammad was very happy, feeling his mother's tenderness, love and affection for him. He never left her a moment throughout that hard journey, across the long empty desert, until they arrived at

the regions of Banu An-Najjâr. And there, he was welcomed with love and hospitality, for they found in him, the substitute for his father who had died before seeing his one and only child.

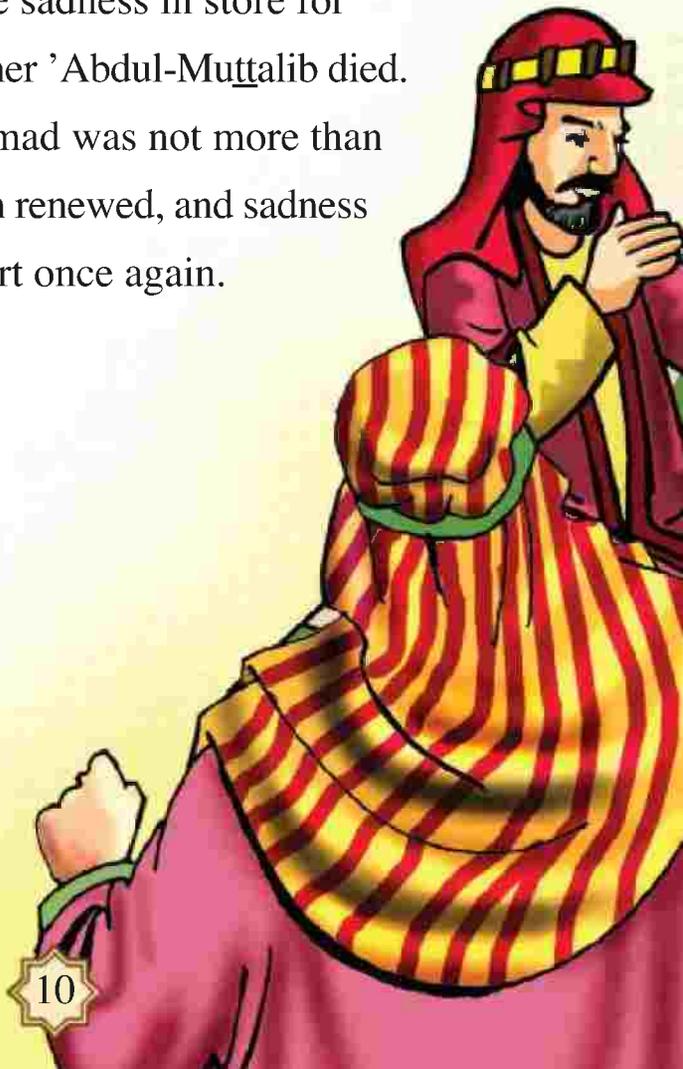
When Âminah and Muhammad's visit to Medina came to end, she decided to take her son back to Mecca. However, she died on the road, and was buried near Medina.

After the death of his mother, Muhammad returned to Mecca alone. He wept sadly for parting from her, for being deprived of his parents had left a painful impression of sadness and grief on his heart.



‘Abdul-Muttalib, the grandfather of Muhammad, wished to lighten his grief and the sadness of loneliness. He took care of him and showered him with love and protection. He compensated him for the death of his parents through his compassion and affection. Consequently, Muhammad became attached to his grandfather passionately. He was always with him. Even in the places where the elders of the Quraish gathered, he sat with him.

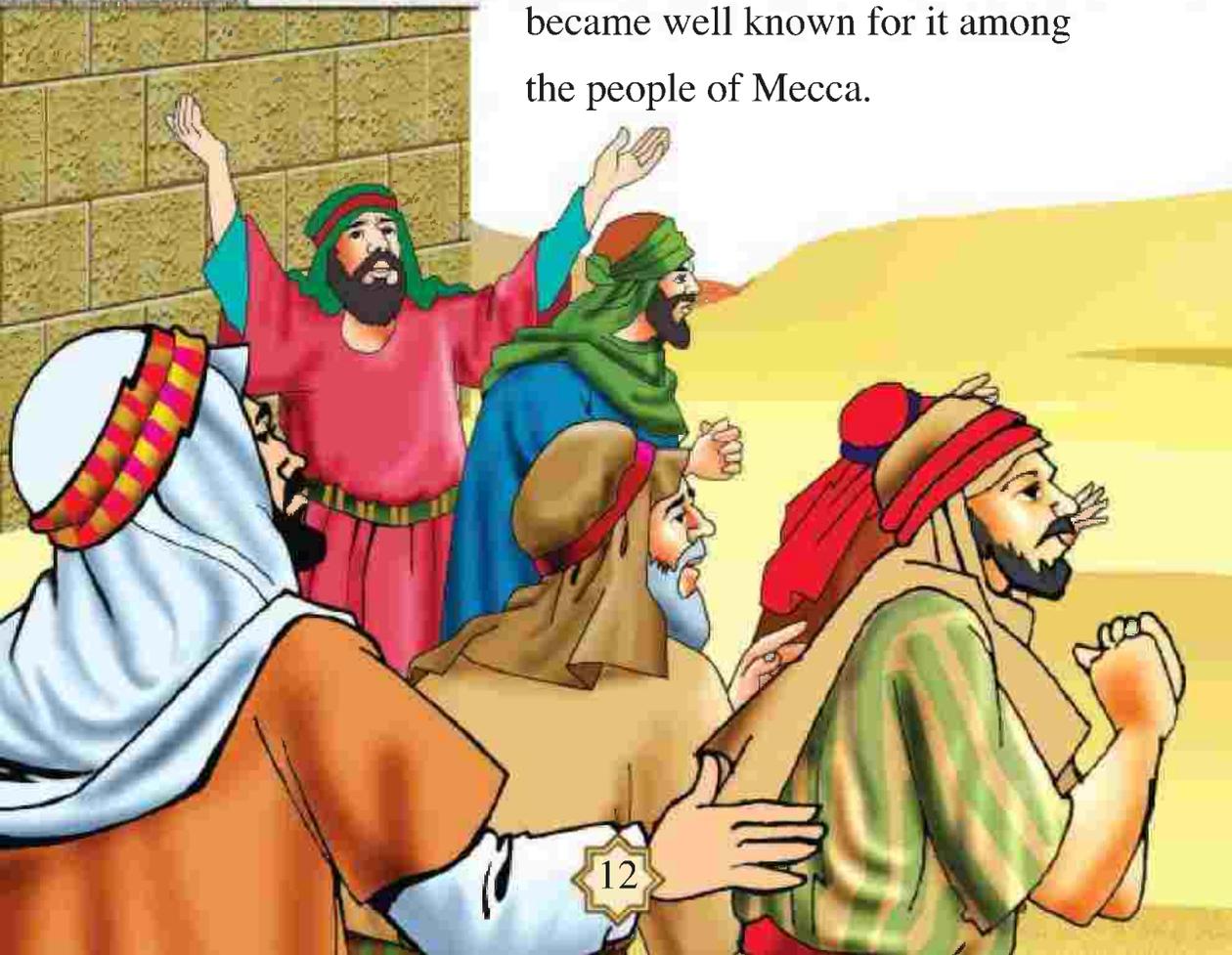
Yet, there was still more sadness in store for Muhammad. His grandfather ‘Abdul-Muttalib died. And at that time, Muhammad was not more than eight years of age. His pain renewed, and sadness found its way into his heart once again.







Muhammad did not like the life of amusement and leisure that his fellows were used to in Mecca. He never prostrated himself before any idol as the people of Mecca did. He never participated in the gatherings of amusement that were found throughout Mecca and other places. He was an example of faithfulness, honesty and good manners, until he became well known for it among the people of Mecca.



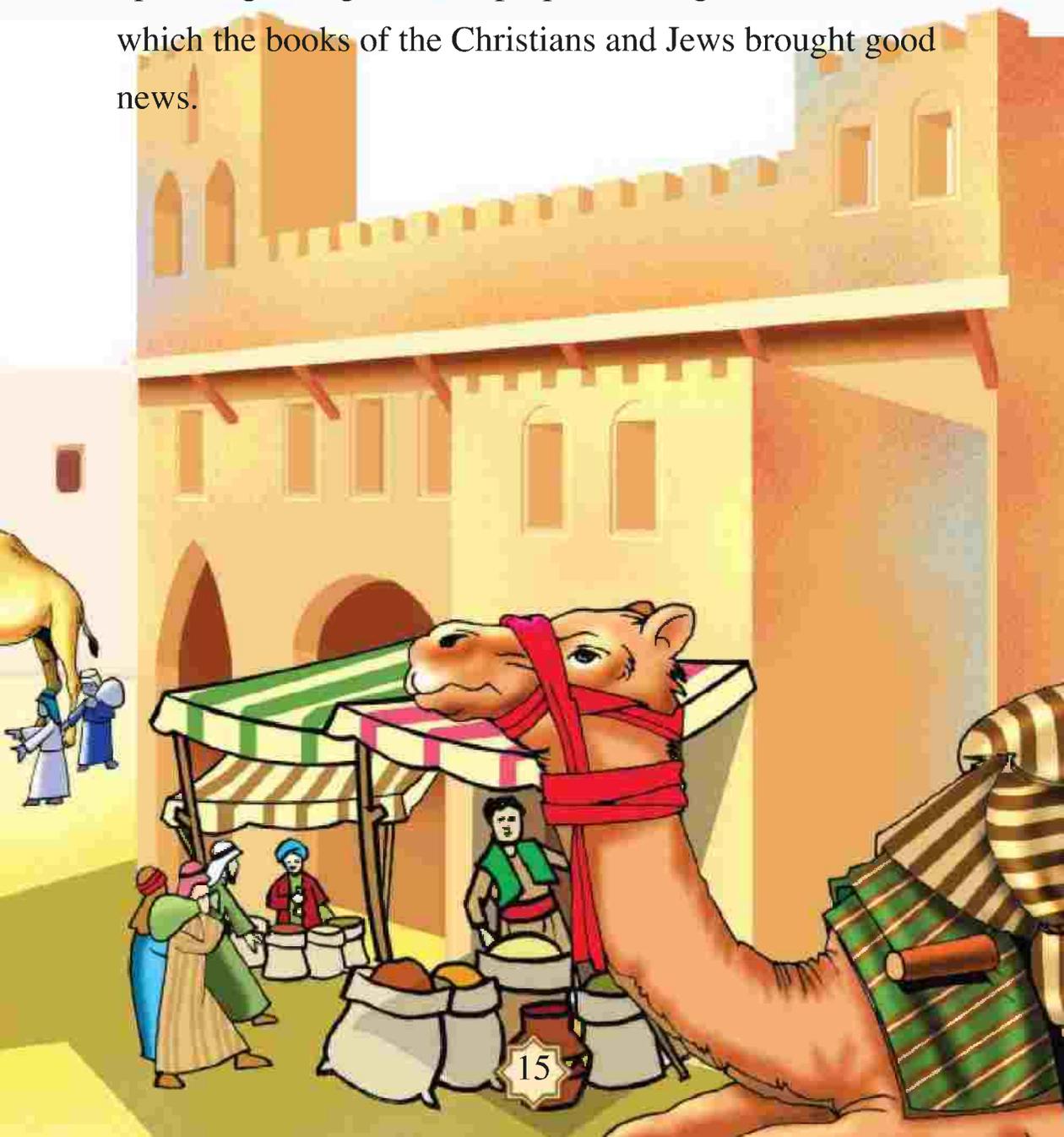
After the death of 'Abdul-Muttalib, Muhammad moved to the house of his uncle Abu Ṯalib. Abu Ṯalib was a poor man, but then Allah blessed him by virtue of his care for this blessed orphan. Muhammad found in his uncle, love and care that compensated for what he had lost of his grandfather's compassion, affection and mercy.

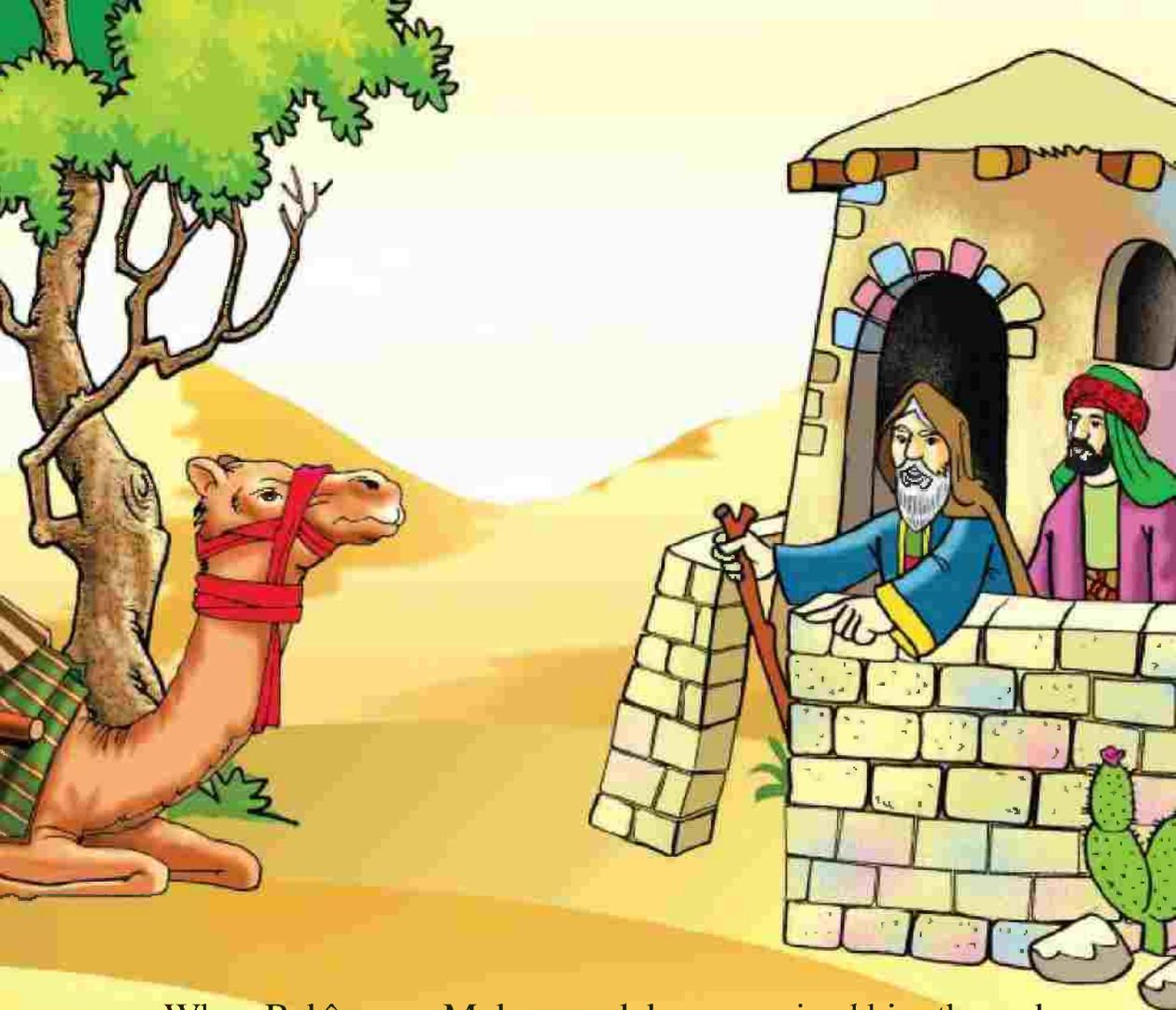


When Muhammad attained the age of 12, his uncle wanted to go on a journey with some goods to Shâm (the region covering Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine). Muhammad held fast to him, and insisted on going with him. His uncle relented and took him with him. That journey was the first journey Muhammad took to the land of Shâm. The caravan crossed deserts and valleys, until it arrived at the borders of Shâm, after a long and hard journey.



The caravan stopped at one of the monasteries at the outskirts of Shâm, as Arab caravans used to do every year on their journeys. The monk Bahîra went out to them to inquire about the news of Mecca. He told them of the upcoming emergence of a prophet among the Arabs, of which the books of the Christians and Jews brought good news.





When Bahîra saw Muhammad, he recognized him through some of the descriptions from their sacred book. So he understood that he was the expected Prophet. He asked who had accompanied him. When they pointed at his uncle, he told him that this boy would be an important person in the future. He advised him to take him back to Mecca and warned him against the Jews. After a short journey in the land of Shâm, Muhammad went back to Mecca to begin a new phase of his life.