

Life of the Prophet

(peace be upon him)



The Blessed Immigration

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Deposit No. 20068/2003

I.S.B.N.: 977-361-198-1

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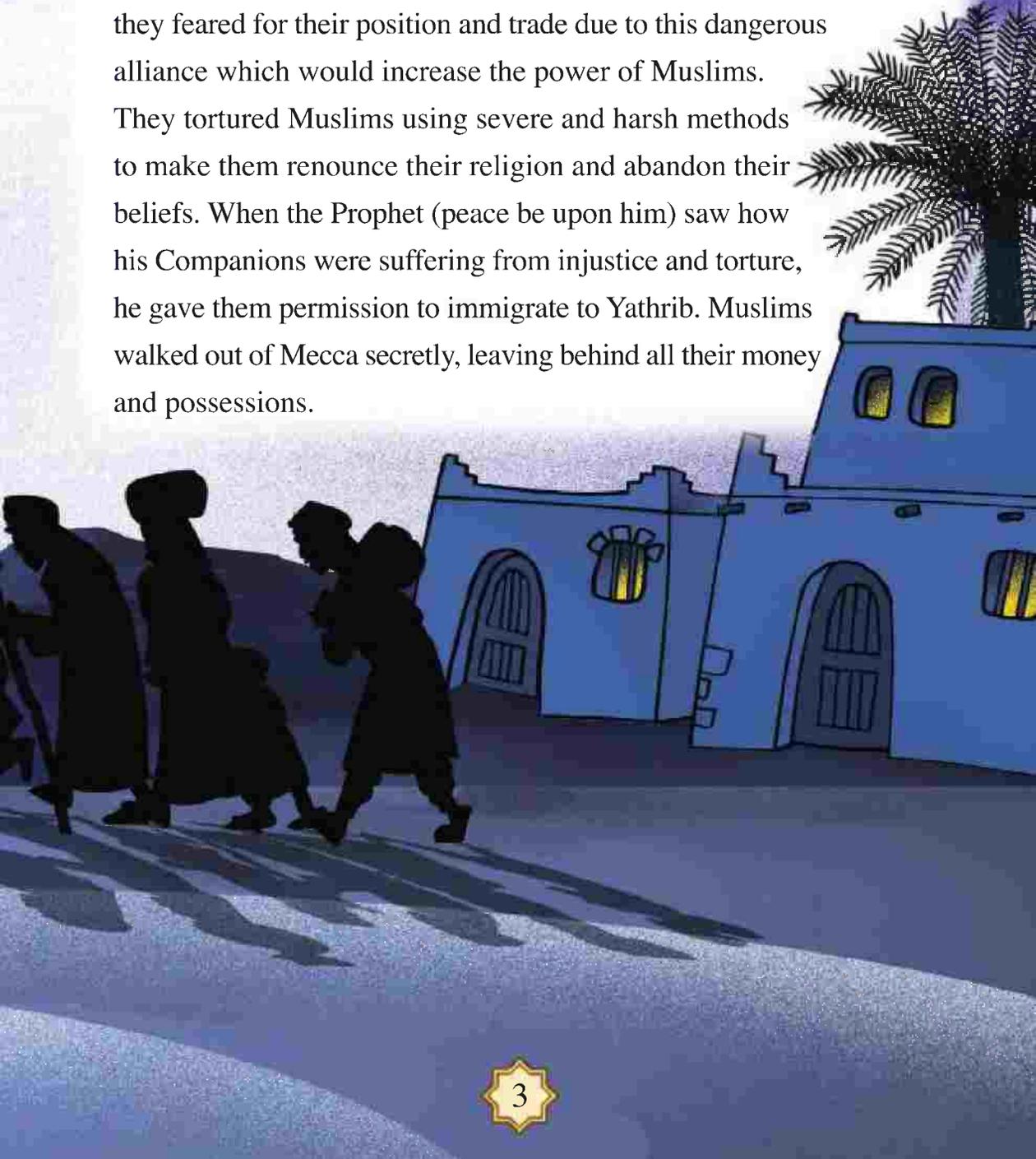
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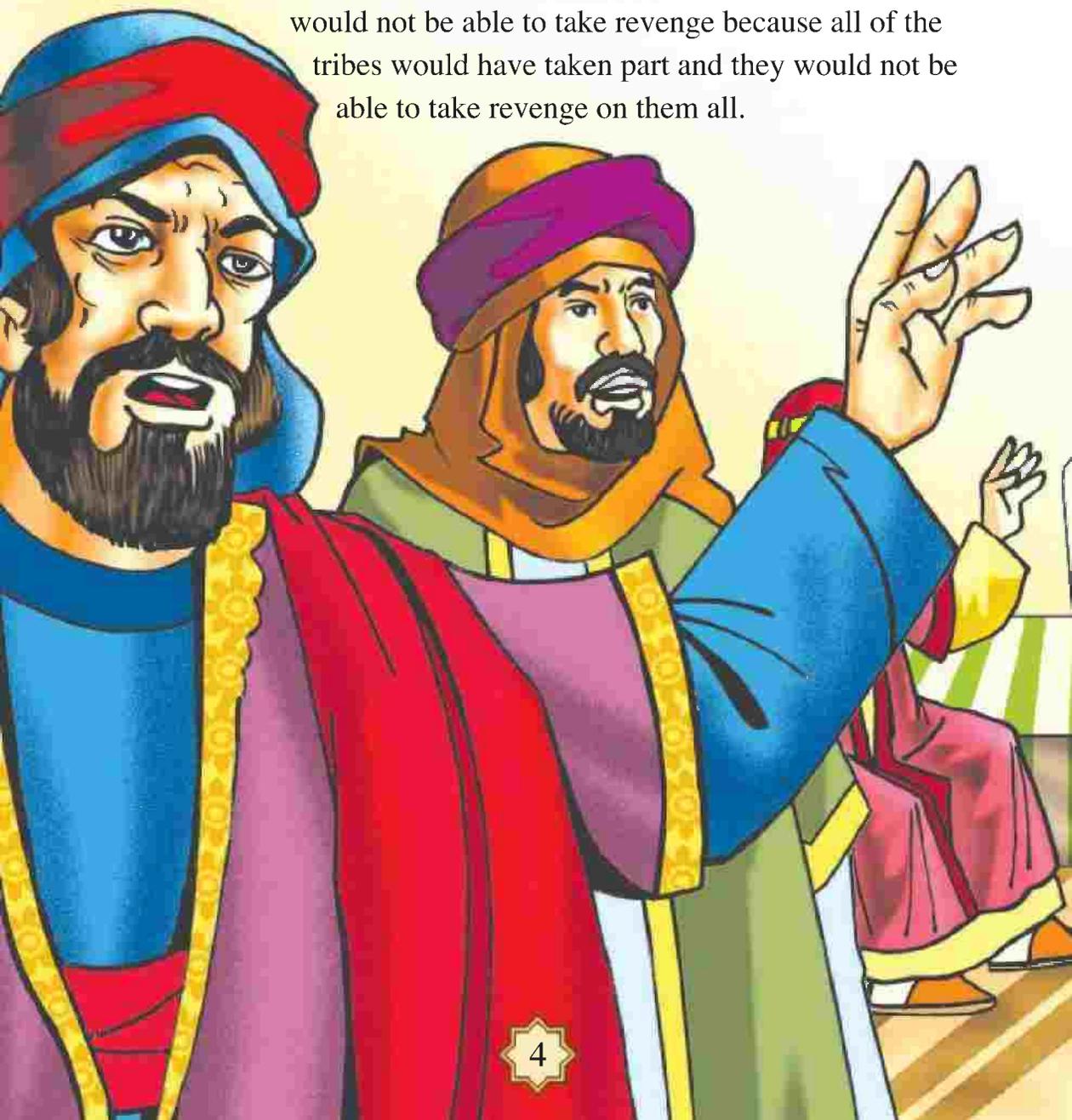


Permission for Immigration

When the Tribe of Quraish learned of the second pledge of Al-'Aqabah and the alliance between the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and the people of Yathrib (the old name for Medina), they feared for their position and trade due to this dangerous alliance which would increase the power of Muslims. They tortured Muslims using severe and harsh methods to make them renounce their religion and abandon their beliefs. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) saw how his Companions were suffering from injustice and torture, he gave them permission to immigrate to Yathrib. Muslims walked out of Mecca secretly, leaving behind all their money and possessions.



Leaders of the tribe of Quraish knew that the Prophet (peace be upon him) would follow his Companions to Yathrib. They held a big meeting in the assembly house in order to decide how to kill the Prophet (peace be upon him) and put an end to his call. They decided to choose a strong youth from each tribe and give him a sharp sword and then all of them would beat the Prophet (peace be upon him) together as one. They would kill him in this way so that his family would not be able to take revenge because all of the tribes would have taken part and they would not be able to take revenge on them all.



On the day in which the disbelievers decided to do this, Allah sent down Jibrîl (Gabriel, peace be upon him) to inform the Prophet (peace be upon him) of what the tribe of Quraish had decided and ordered him not to stay in his house that night. He informed him also that Allah gave him permission to immigrate to Yathrib. The Prophet (peace be upon him) began to prepare himself to immigrate. He went to the house of his friend Abu Bakr at noon and informed him that Allah had given him permission to immigrate and that he would accompany him on his blessed journey. Abu Bakr wept out of happiness and the Prophet (peace be upon him) returned to his house, waiting for the night.

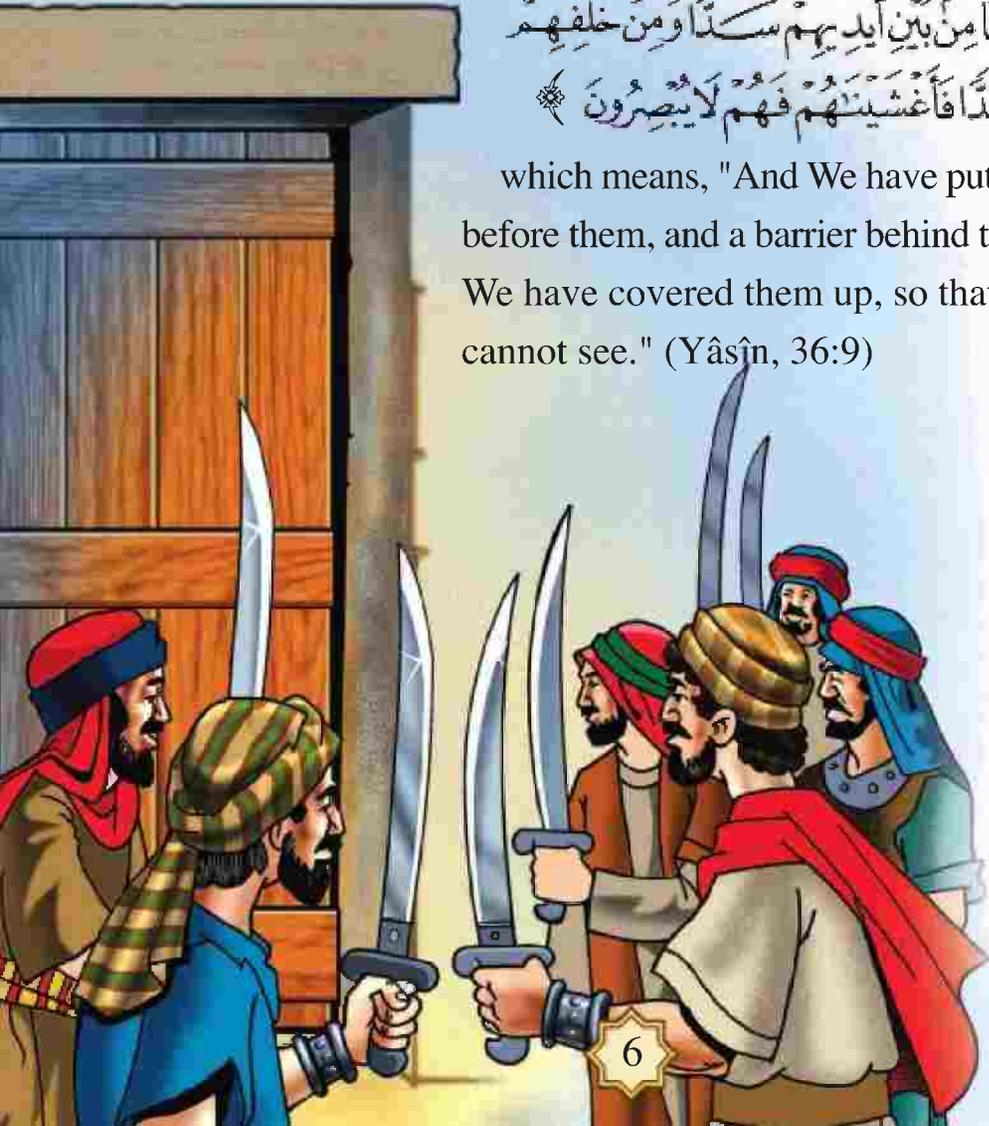


The Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered 'Aly bin Abu T̄alib to stay in Mecca in order to repay the deposits in his possession to their owners and ordered him to sleep in his bed that night, as well.

Before the Prophet (peace be upon him) came out of his house, the disbelievers surrounded his house to kill him, but Allah protected him. He (peace be upon him) came out of the door, passed through their lines and Allah made them blind. They did not see him. Allah says,

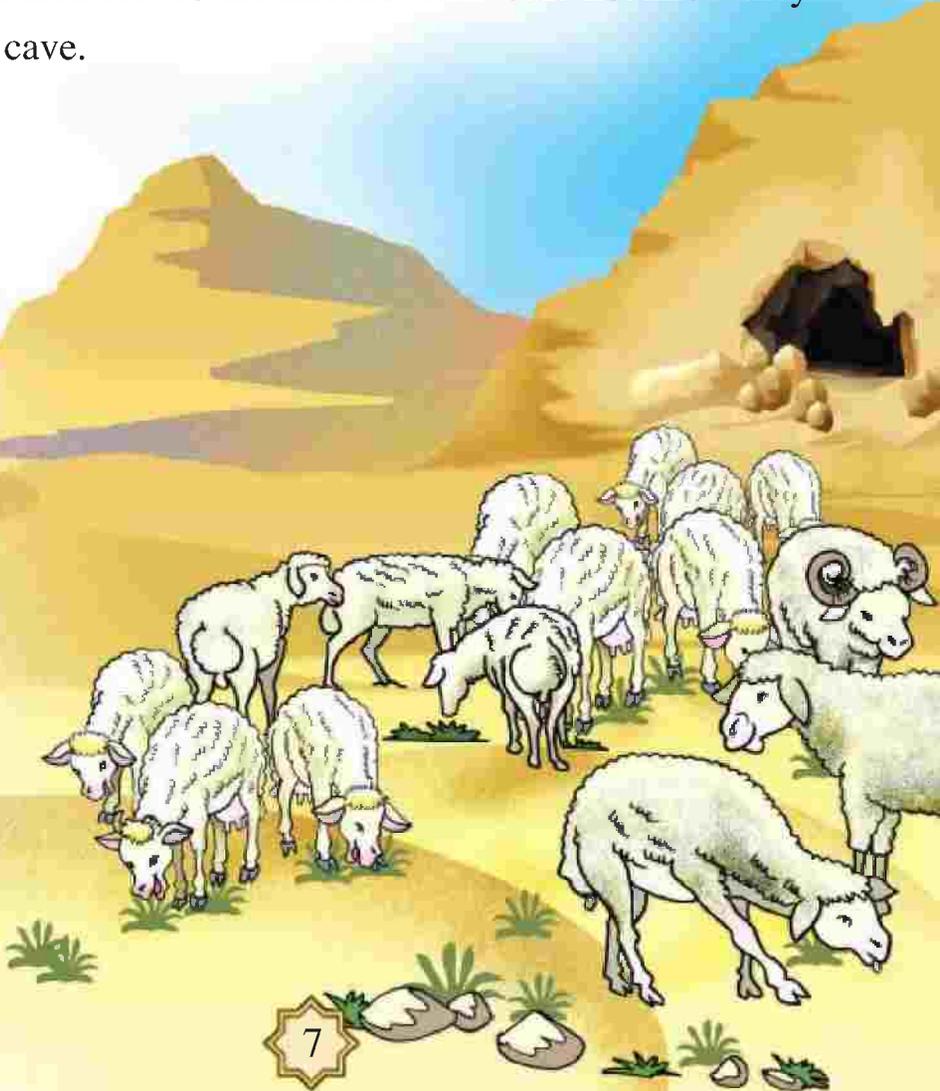
﴿وَجَعَلْنَا مِنْ بَيْنِ أَيْدِيهِمْ سَدًّا وَمِنْ خَلْفِهِمْ
سَدًّا فَأَغْشَيْنَاهُمْ فَهُمْ لَا يُبْصِرُونَ﴾

which means, "And We have put a barrier before them, and a barrier behind them, and We have covered them up, so that they cannot see." (Yâsîn, 36:9)



The Cave of Thawr

The Prophet (peace be upon him) went to the house of Abu Bakr and together they headed toward the south until they reached a cave that was known as the cave of Thawr. They hid inside it for three days. 'Abdullâh bin Abu Bakr used bring them the news of the Quraish. His sister Asmâ' used to carry food and drink to them, while 'Âmir bin Fuhairah the freed slave of Abu Bakr used to bring the sheep of his master to graze to eliminate the traces of their feet so the disbelievers would not know they were in the cave.



The disbelievers became very angry when they learned that the Prophet (peace be upon him) had escaped from them. They hurried after him, searching for him everywhere. When they had lost hope of catching him, they announced a large reward of 100 she-camels to anyone who could guide them to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his Companion Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him).



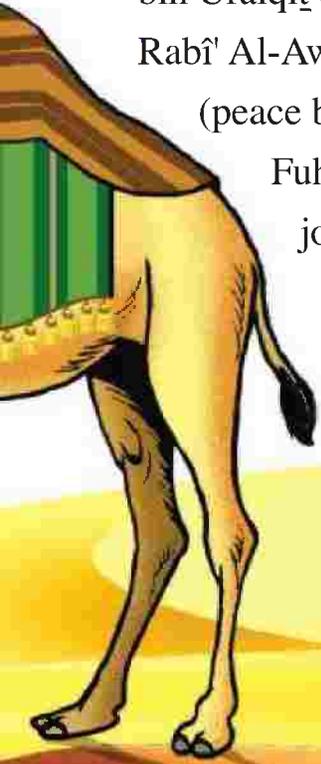
Many people searched for the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) in the plains, hills, mountains and valleys. After much effort, they reached the opening of the cave. When Abu Bakr heard their voices, he said sadly, "O Messenger of Allah! If anyone of them looks down at his feet, he will see us." The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) said to him, "O Abu Bakr! What do you think of two men whose third (companion) is Allah?" The people did not see them and returned to Mecca.



The Blessed Immigration

The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and his Companion Abu Bakr hired 'Abdullâh bin Uraiqit who was a disbeliever but the Prophet (peace be upon him) asked for his help because of his experience in the paths of the desert. They gave him their two camels and agreed that he would meet them at the cave after three days. When the three days passed, 'Abdullâh bin Uraiqit came on the time with the two camels. On the 1st of Rabî' Al-Awwal in the first Hijri year, the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him), his companion, Abu Bakr, 'Âmir bin Fuhairah and 'Abdullâh bin Uraiqit started their blessed journey to Yathrib.

'Abdullâh bin Uraiqit guided the Prophet (peace be upon him) and Abu Bakr south to Yemen in order to mislead the disbelievers and then he took them north near the shore of the Red Sea.



He guided them on paths no one used but the hunters did not stop chasing the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) hoping for the big reward that the Quraish had decided to give to whomever would catch the Prophet (peace be upon him).

Among such hunters was Surâqah bin Mâlik who chased the Prophet (peace be upon him) on his horse when he learned where he was.

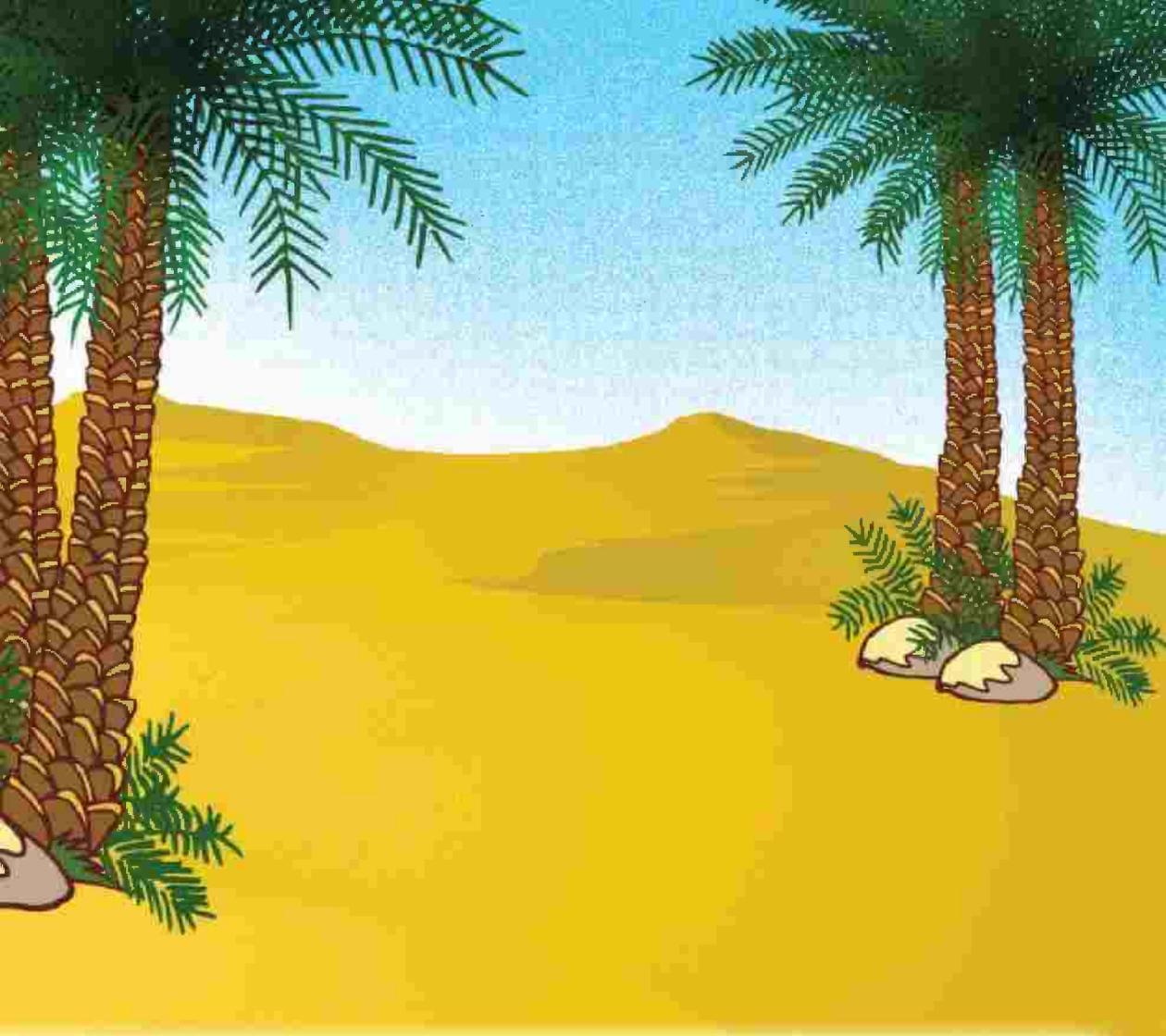
When he was about to catch the Prophet (peace be upon him), his horse's feet sank into the sand and he fell down. He stood up and tried again, but the feet of his horse sank once again. He became frightened and knew that Allah was protecting His Prophet (peace be upon him). He then called out loudly, seeking assurance from the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) that he would not harm him. The Prophet (peace be upon him) granted it to him and asked him to mislead the disbelievers and then the riders continued under the Protection of Allah.





The First Mosque in Islam

On Monday, the 8th of Rabî' Awwal, the Prophet (peace be upon him) reached Qibâ' (a place on the heights of Medina). Muslims hurried to meet him, happy at his arrival, while glorifying Allah saying, "Allâhu Akbar (Allah is the Greatest)." The Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) stayed there for four days. During this period, he established the Mosque of Qibâ' which was the first mosque built in Islam. While he was still in Qibâ', 'Aly bin Abu Tâlib followed him after repaying the deposits and trusts that the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) had held to their owners.



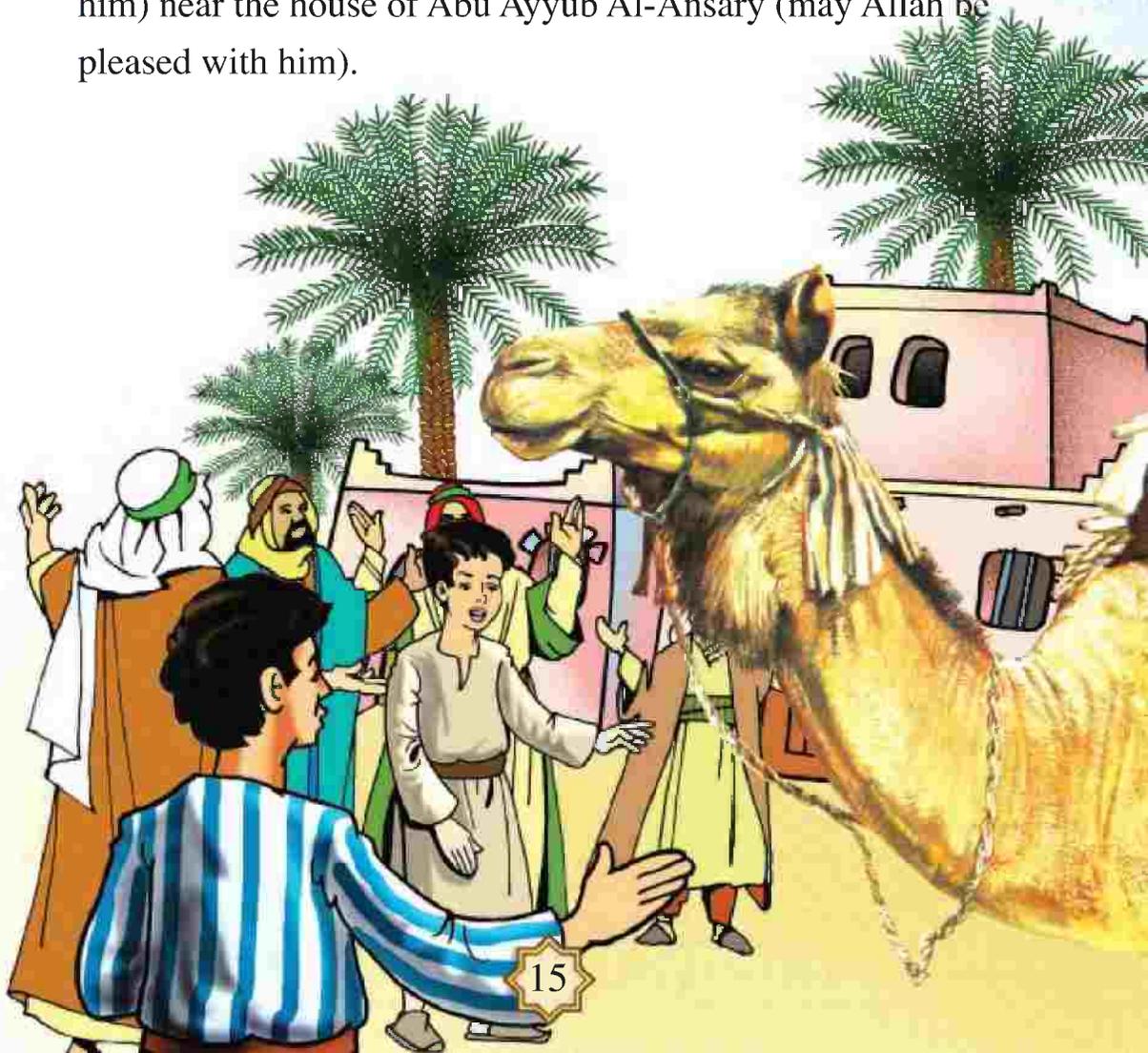
The Prophet (peace be upon him) at Medina

The blessed riders went on in their journey until they reached Medina on Friday, the 12th of Rabî' Awwal. All the people of Medina went out to meet them with smiles on their faces and happiness in their hearts and while glorifying Allah. They sang beautiful songs on that day welcoming the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his companion.

The full moon has emerged upon us
From behind the mountains of the valley
Thankfulness has become a necessity to us
Whenever a caller calls to Allah
O the one who has been sent to us
You have come with what can be obeyed
You have come to honor Medina
Welcome! O the best of the callers



Al-Ansâr (supporters) surrounded the she-camel of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and everyone of them wished to welcome the Prophet (peace be upon him) as his guest. Whenever the Prophet (peace be upon him) passed by a house of Al-Ansâr's, the people raced to entertain the Prophet (peace be upon him) as their guest. They would take the bridle of the she-camel, but he would say, "Leave it, for it is ordered." The she-camel walked until it stopped on a land of two orphans from the tribe of Banu An-Najjâr, the maternal uncles of the Prophet (peace be upon him) near the house of Abu Ayyûb Al-Ansârî (may Allah be pleased with him).



Abu Ayyûb Al-Anṣârî was very happy when he saw the she-camel of the Prophet (peace be upon him) in front of his house. He hurried to take the possessions of the Prophet (peace be upon him) inside his house. The Prophet (peace be upon him) stayed with him as his guest.

From this day forth, the Anṣâr called their country *Madînatur-Rasûl* (the country of the Messenger) because of their happiness at his blessed immigration. After that it was known as Medina or Al-Madînah Al-Munawwarah.

