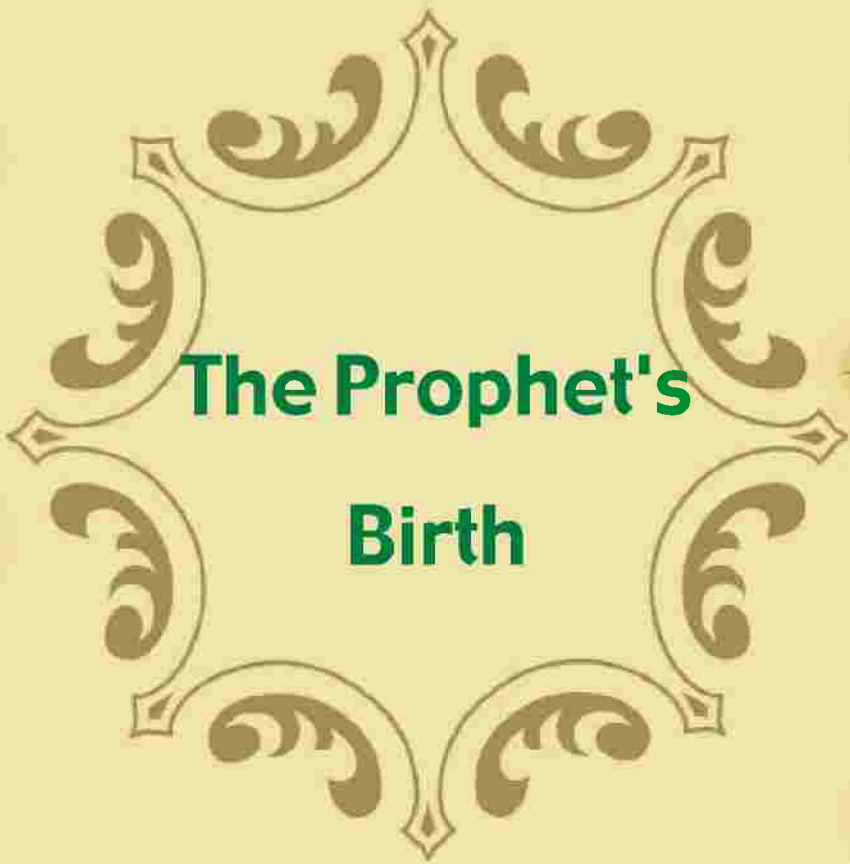


Life of the Prophet

(peace be upon him)

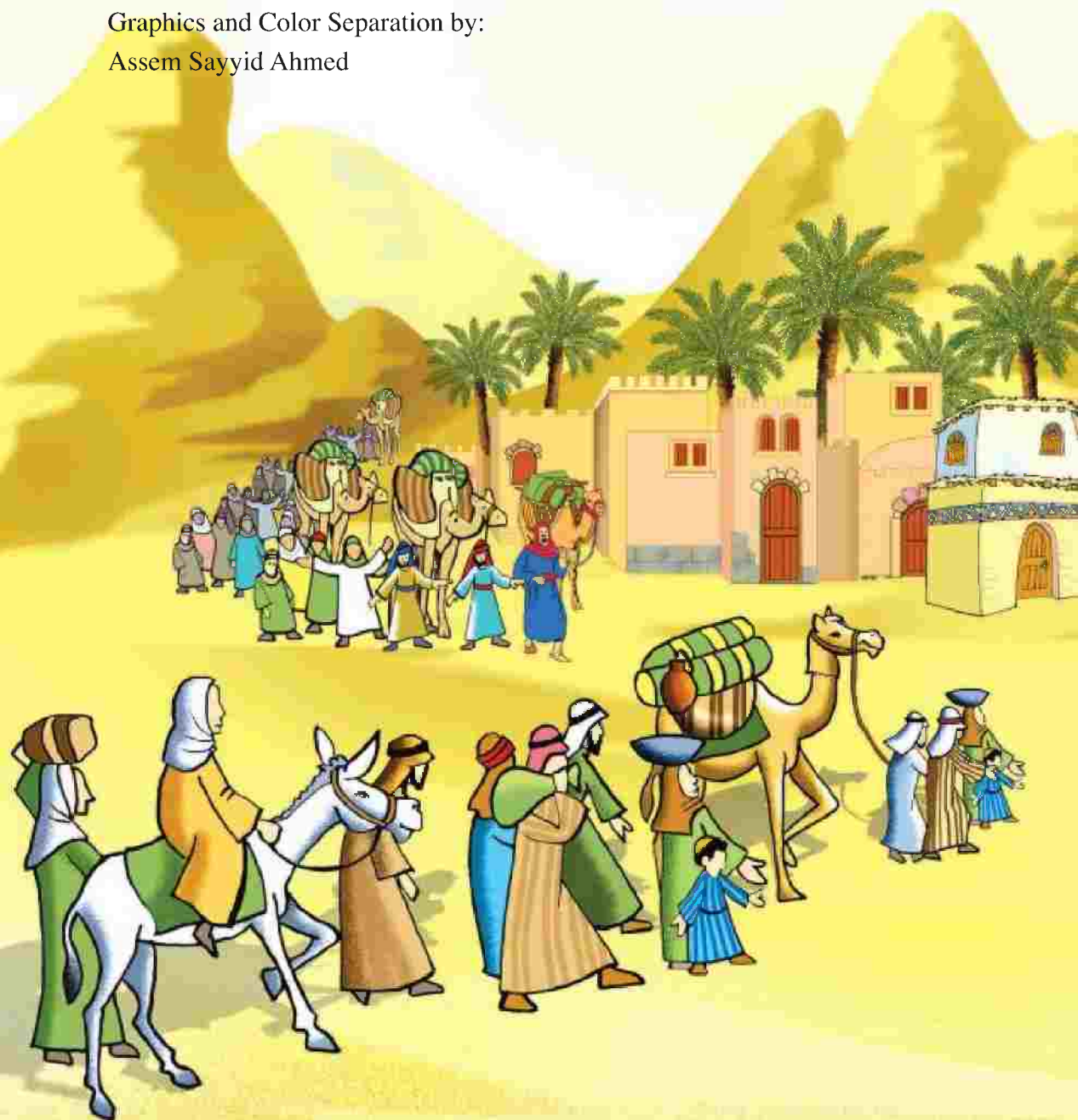


The Prophet's Birth

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The Holy Ka'bah was built in Mecca by Prophet Ibrâhîm and his son Ismâ'îl (peace be upon them). Being the Sacred House of Allah, the Arabs used to perform Hajj to the Ka'bah every year.



They used to come from all over the Arabian Peninsula. With the passage of time, people started to worship idols. They also used to place them around the Ka'bah as a source for blessings.

The care and glorification of the Ka'bah by the Arabs made many kings and rulers jealous and envious in neighboring countries. Abrahah, the Abyssinian, and the king of Yemen at that time, was one of those who were very angry because the Ka'bah held great importance in the heart of the Arabs.

Abrahah built a great church and called it "Al-Qullais". It was the biggest and the most beautiful construction ever seen by the Arabs. Abrahah wanted to divert people the Ka'bah, so that they would perform pilgrimage to Al-Qullais instead. But the Arabs were not interested in the church, and nobody went to visit it.



This made Abrahah very angry. He then prepared a large army. Huge elephants headed the army. They marched on Mecca with the intention of destroying it. When the Arabs learned of it, some of the tribes went out to face him and fight his army. But unfortunately, he defeated them and triumphed over them.



Abrahah continued on his march until he reached the hills of Mecca. His soldiers took all that they found on their way including the property, sheep and camels of the people of Mecca. Among the things they took were 200 camels of ‘Abdul-Muttalib bin ‘Hâshim, the master of Quraish.



Abrahah sent one of his men to Mecca to meet its leader ‘Abdul-Muttalib. He called him to meet him. When ‘Abdul-Muttalib came, Abrahah felt great respect toward him. So he honored and respected him more greatly. After that, he asked him what he desired. ‘Abdul-Muttalib said, “My desire is to get back the 200 camels the king’s soldiers took.”



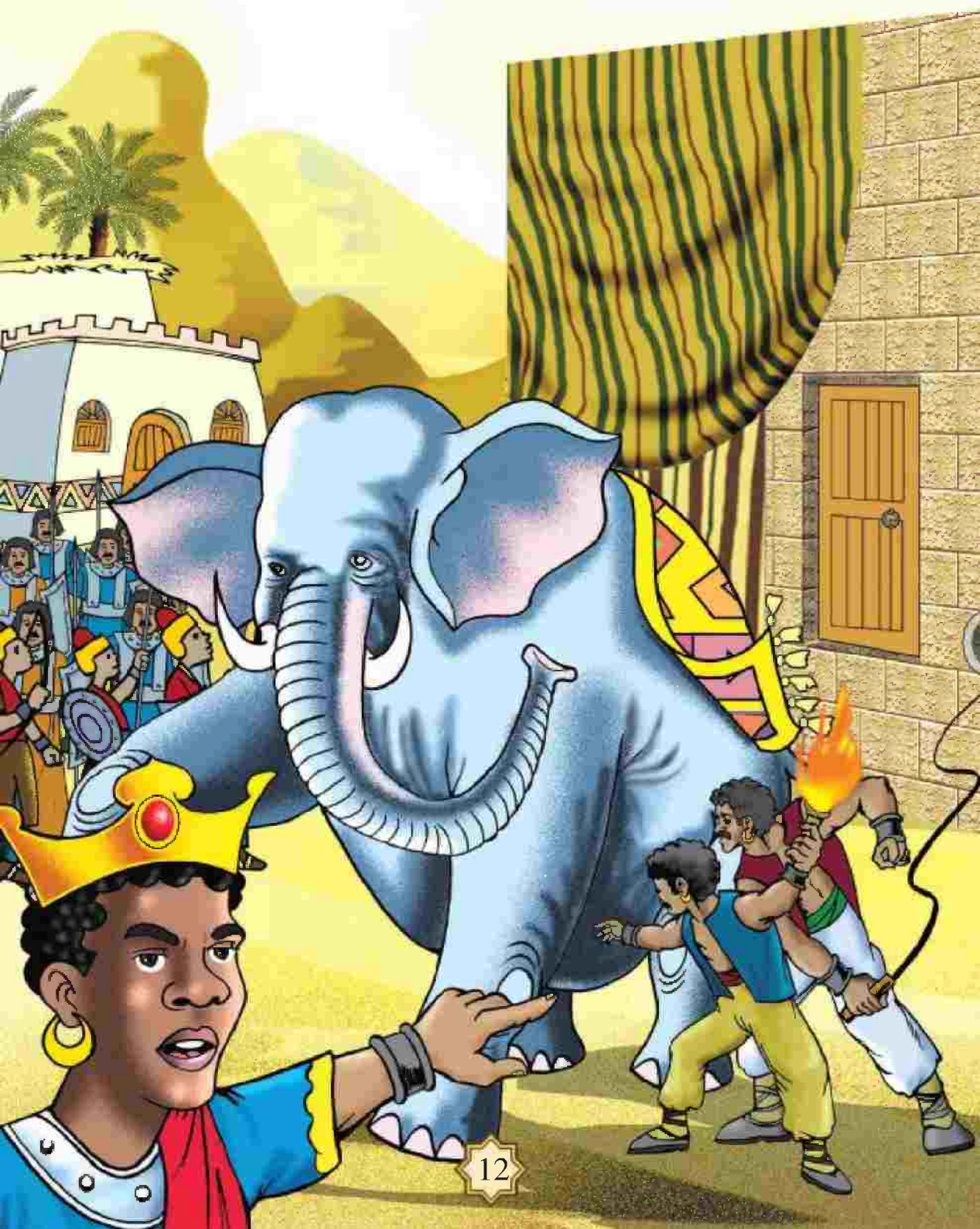
Abraham looked at ‘Abdul-Muttalib with astonishment, and said to him in surprise, “Verily, I was impressed by you when I first saw you. When you talked to me I became astonished by your affair! Do you talk to me about the 200 camels and forget the Ka’bah, which is your religion and the religion of your fathers which I have come to destroy?!”

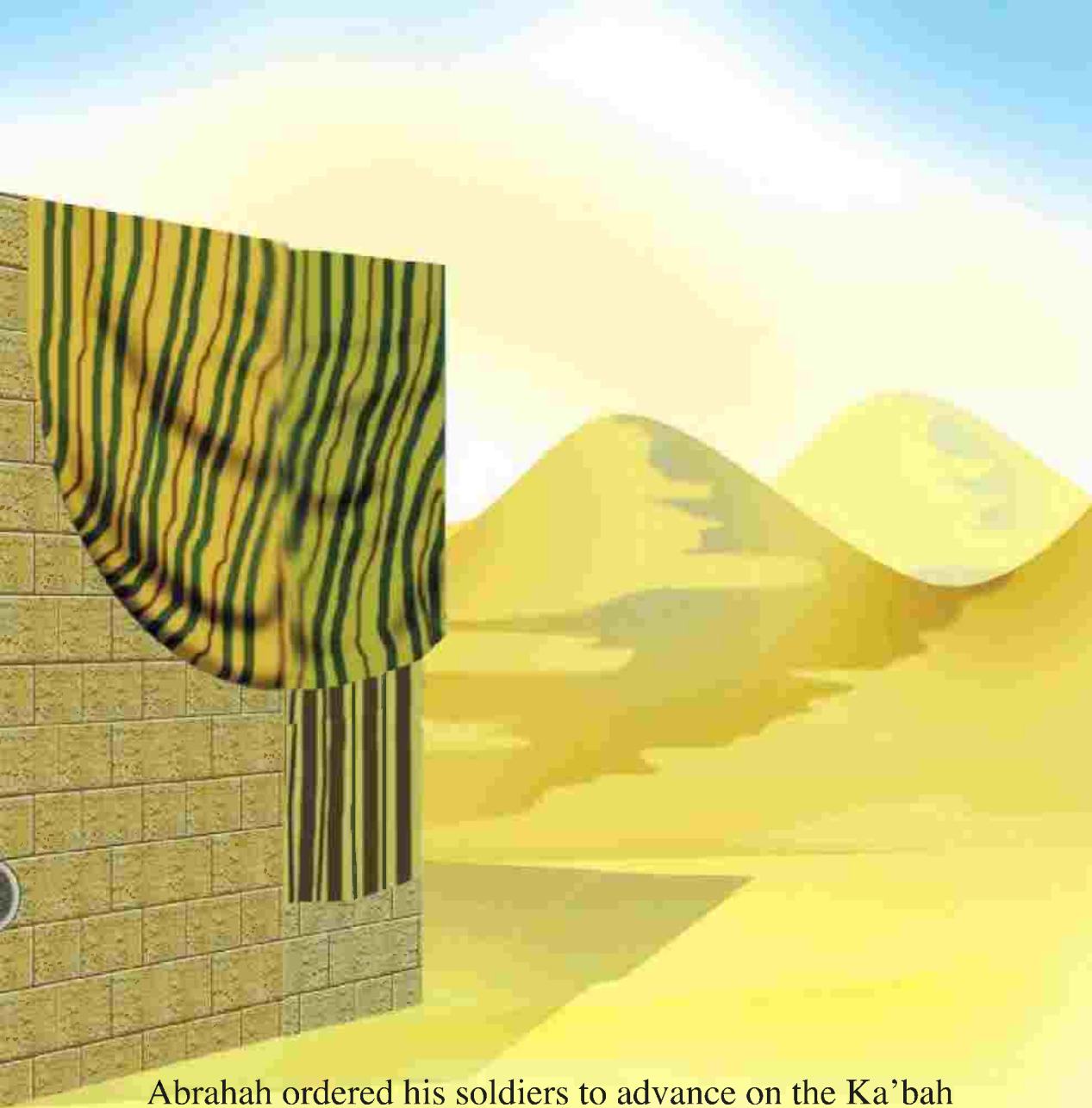


‘Abdul-Muttalib said, while getting ready to leave, “O king! As for the camels, they belong to me, but as for the House, it has a Lord who will protect it.” So Abrahah said angrily, “Let Him protect it then!” ‘Abdul-Muttalib then said with confidence and calmness, “O king, you will see that for yourself!”

‘Abdul-Muttalib went back to Mecca, and told its people about what had gone on with Abrahah. He then ordered them to move out of Mecca and go to the nearby mountains for protection. They left and waited to see what Abrahah would do to Mecca and the Holy Ka’bah.







Abrahamah ordered his soldiers to advance on the Ka'bah in order to destroy it. But the elephants knelt down and refused to move. Whenever the soldiers directed them in other directions, they would quickly stand up, but when they directed them toward the Ka'bah, they would kneel down again and refuse to move.

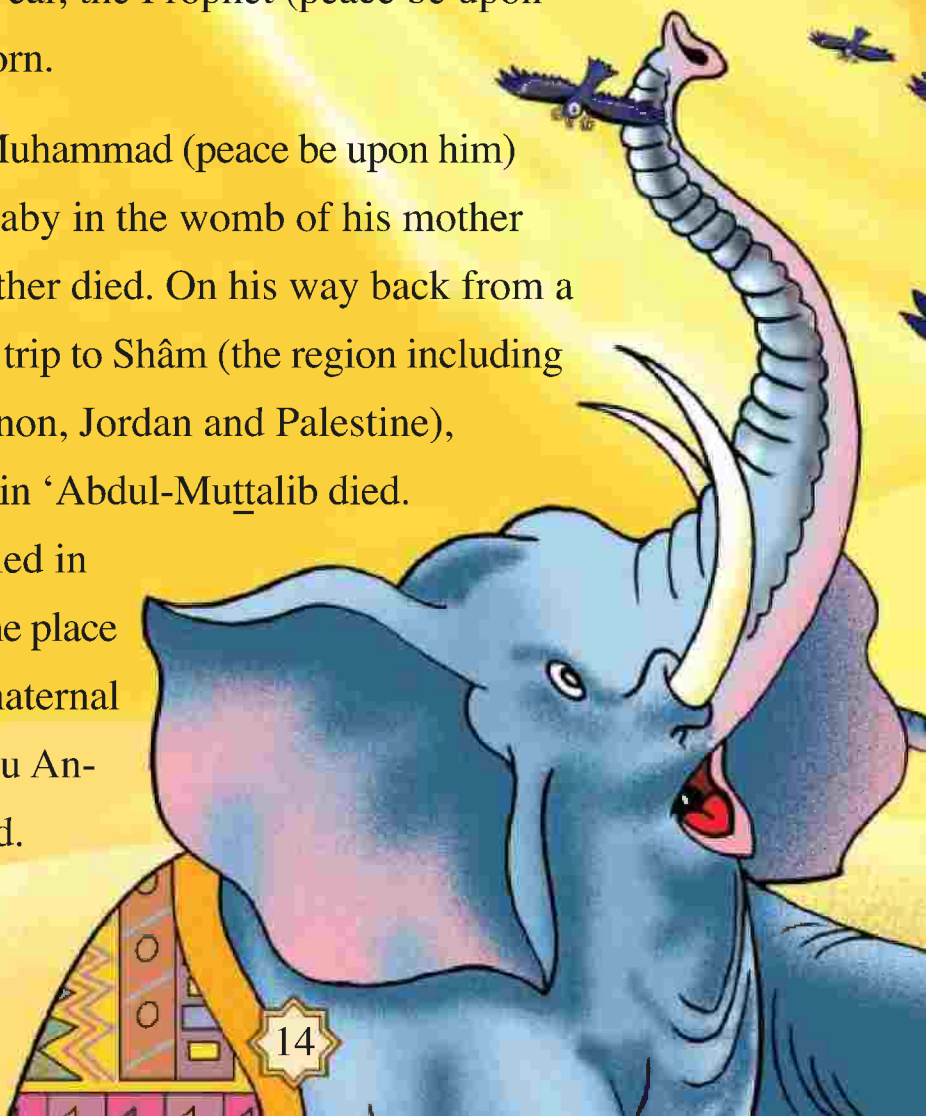
All of a sudden, the sky became dark and a big black cloud covered the area. The cloud consisted of a huge group of small birds.

These birds began throwing small stones upon Abrahah and his soldiers. The stones destroyed everyone they hit.

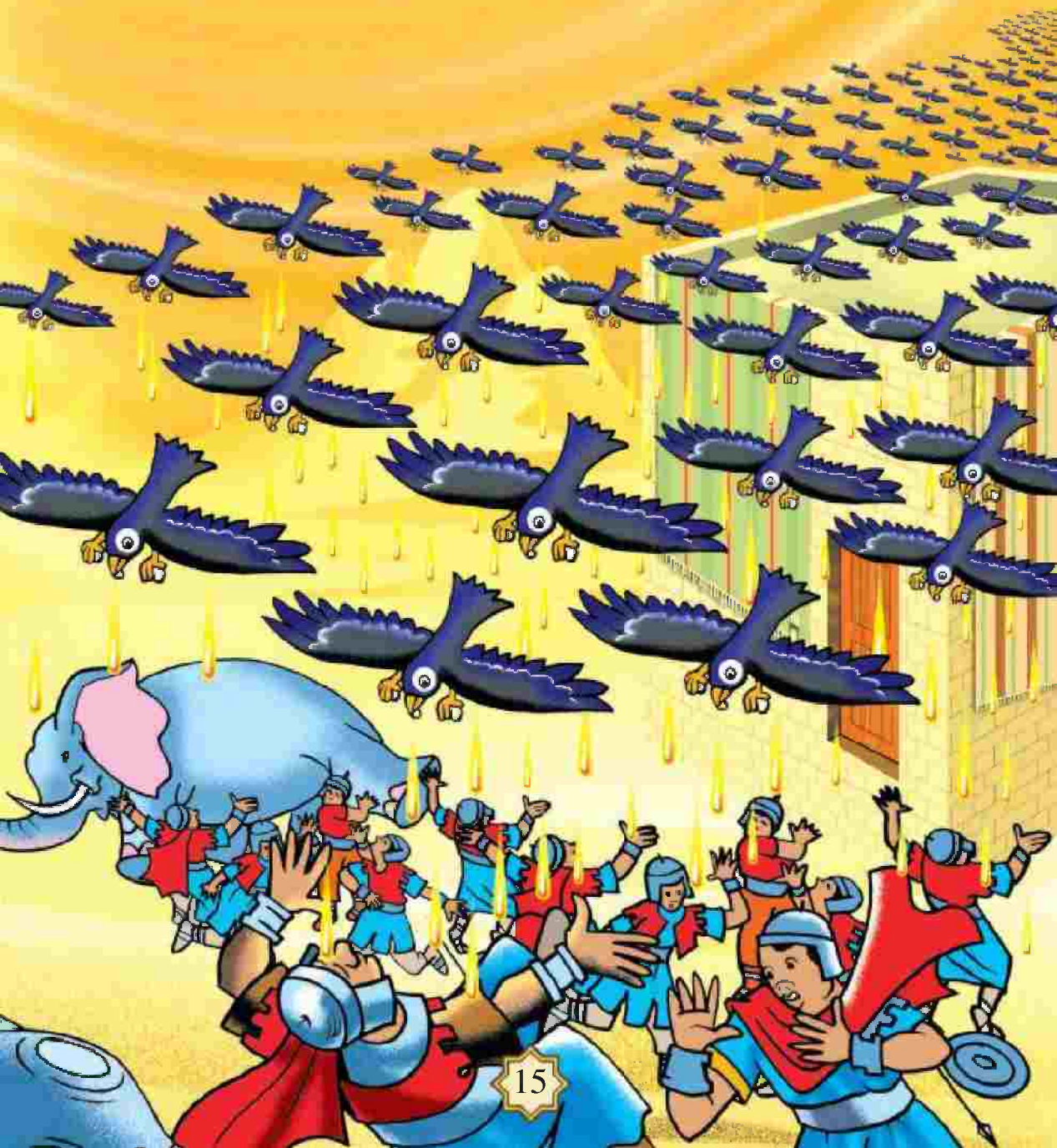
Those who were saved quickly fled and went back to Yemen. People called this year “The Year of the Elephant” and in this year, the Prophet (peace be upon him) was born.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was still a baby in the womb of his mother when his father died. On his way back from a commercial trip to Shâm (the region including Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine), ‘Abdullâh bin ‘Abdul-Muttalib died.

He was buried in Medina at the place where his maternal uncles (Banu An-Najjâr) lived.



When Lady Âminah bint Wahb gave birth to her child, his grandfather ‘Abdul-Muttalib was very happy and he called him “Muhammad.”



One of the customs of the Arabs was to send their children to the desert with wet nurses. They did this so that their children would be nursed and become strong in body and acquire the utmost purity of speech.

So the newborn “Muhammad” (peace be upon him) was taken by the Halimah As-Sa’diyyah. She took him with her to the region of her people “Banu Sa’d.”

Muhammad (peace be upon him) lived in the region of Banu Sa’d for nearly four years. His presence among them was a source of abundant good and blessings for them. After sometime, he returned to Mecca to live in the arms of his mother for a few months. It was as if he was saying goodbye to her before she left this world.

