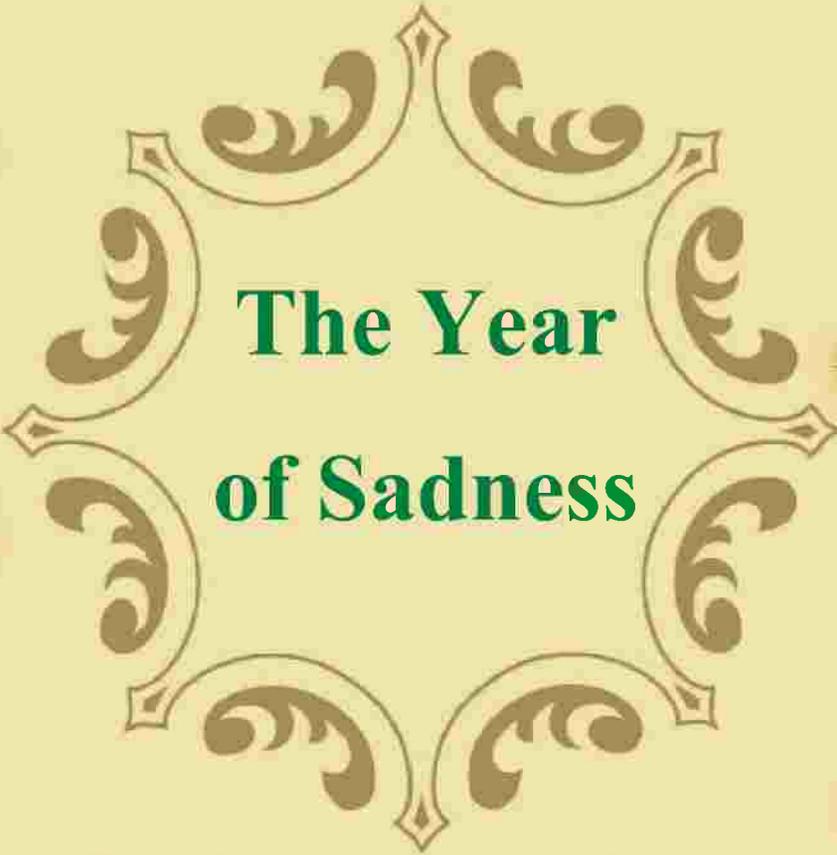


Life of the Prophet

(peace be upon him)

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

The Year of Sadness

Written by:

Salamah Muhammad Salamah

Cartoon:

'Abd Al-Murdy Ubaid

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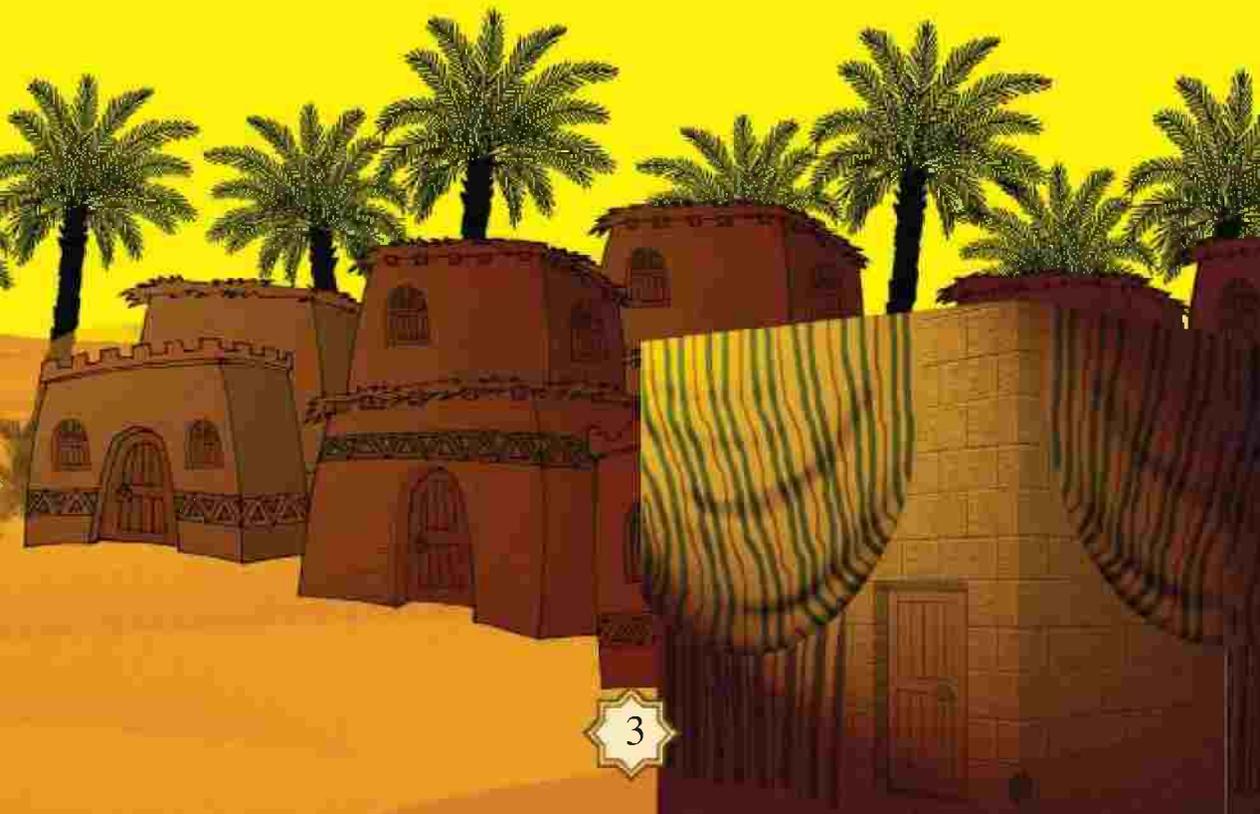
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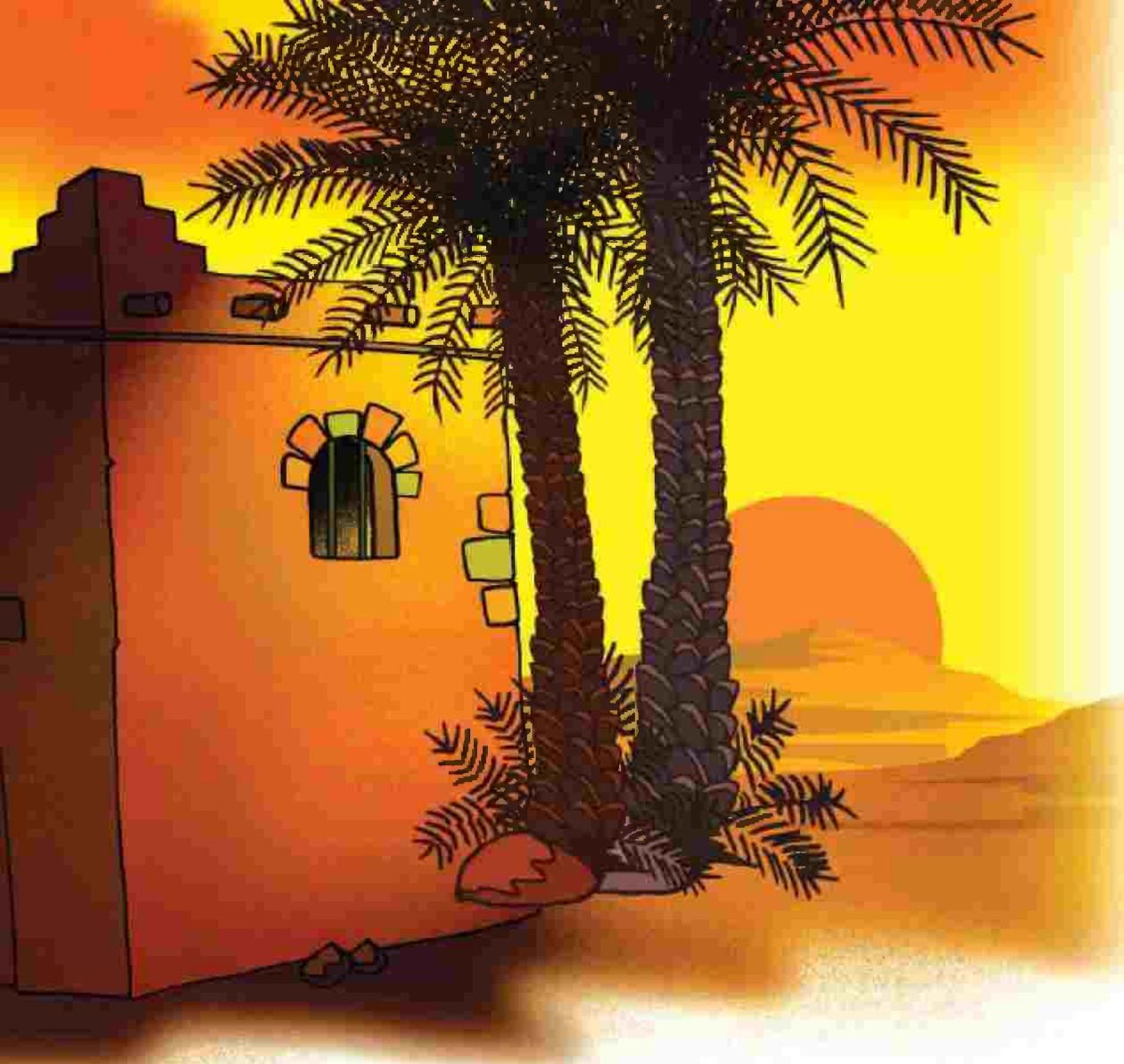
Graphics and Color Separation by:

Assem Sayyid Ahmed

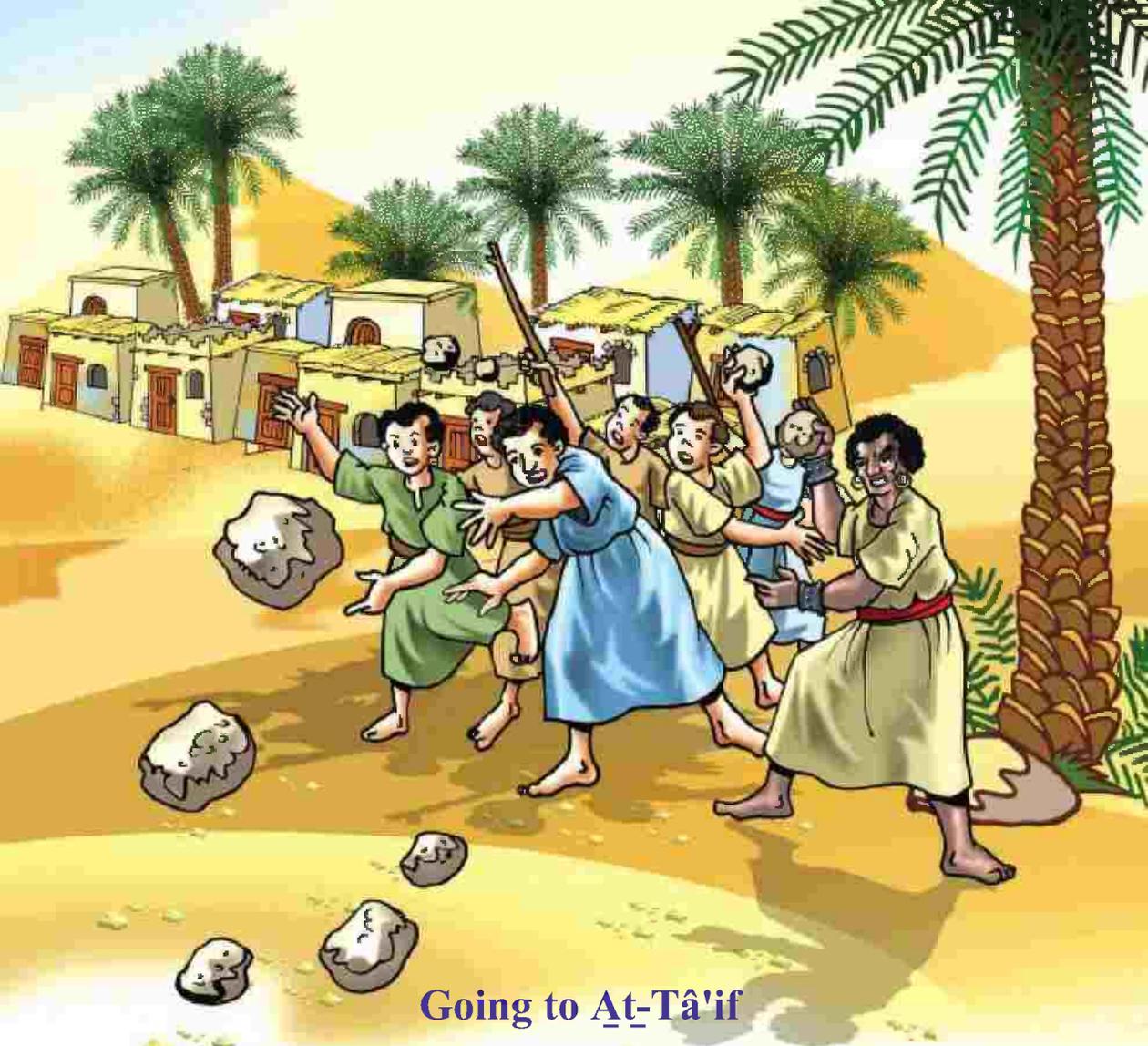
The Year of Sadness

Following the end of the Quraish's boycott of Banu Hashim, the Prophet's clan, the Prophet (peace be upon him) suffered many difficulties. His uncle Abu Tâlib became very ill. Abu Tâlib was an old man over 80 years old. The Prophet (peace be upon him) wished that his uncle would embrace Islam before his death. This did not happen and Abu Tâlib died believing in his ancestors' religion. The Prophet (peace be upon him) was very sad over his death as he had lost his dear uncle who used to help, support and protect him as much as he could.



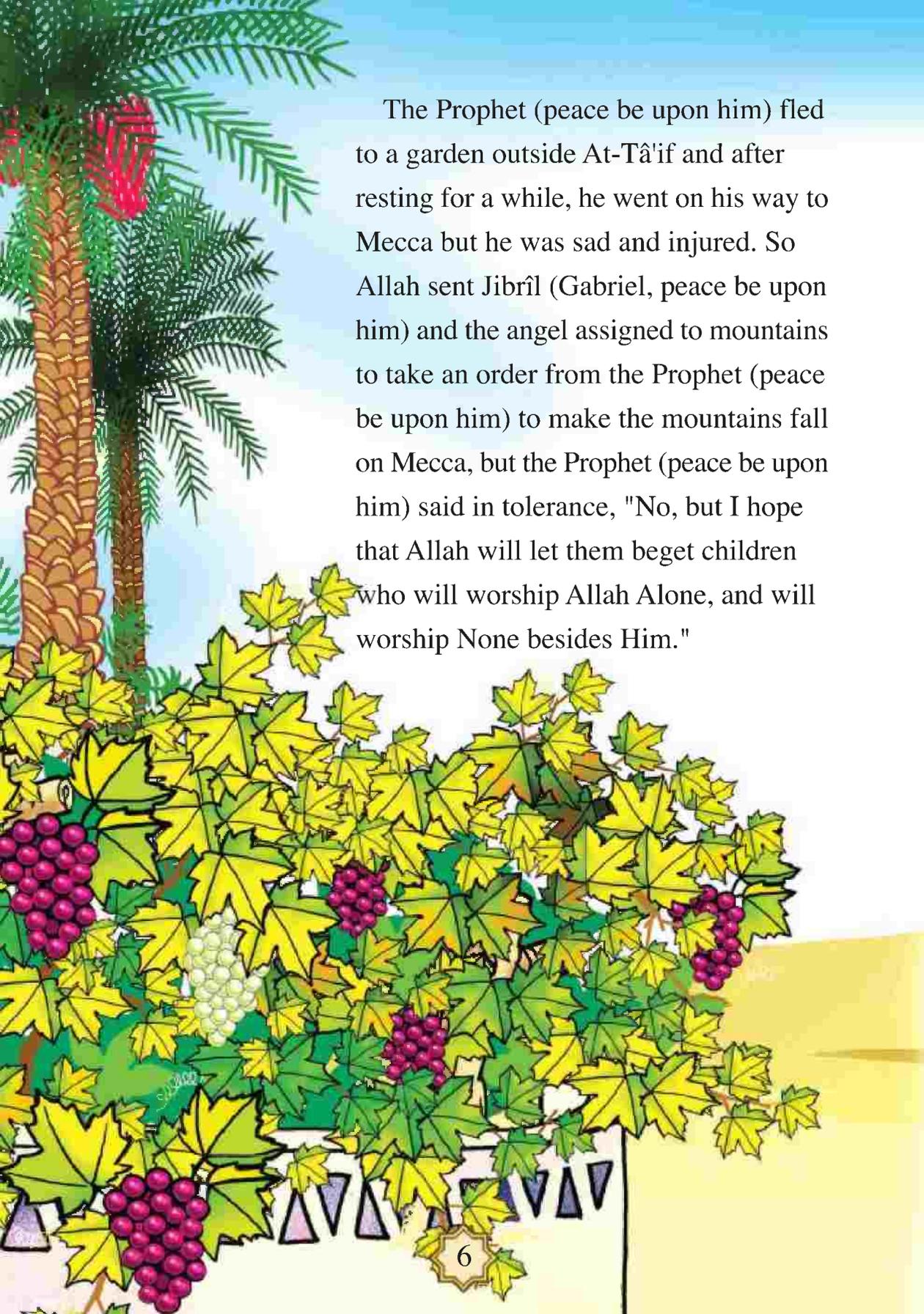


A little while after the death of Abu Tâlib, the mother of believers Khadîjah bint Khuwailid, the first one to embrace Islam and believe in the call of the Prophet (peace be upon him), died. The Prophet (peace be upon him) was very sad and suffered a lot of pain as she (may Allah be pleased with her) was a faithful and devoted wife who cared for her husband with passion, which aided him through much distress and many ordeals. The Prophet (peace be upon him) called this year “The Year of Sadness.”



Going to At-Tâ'if

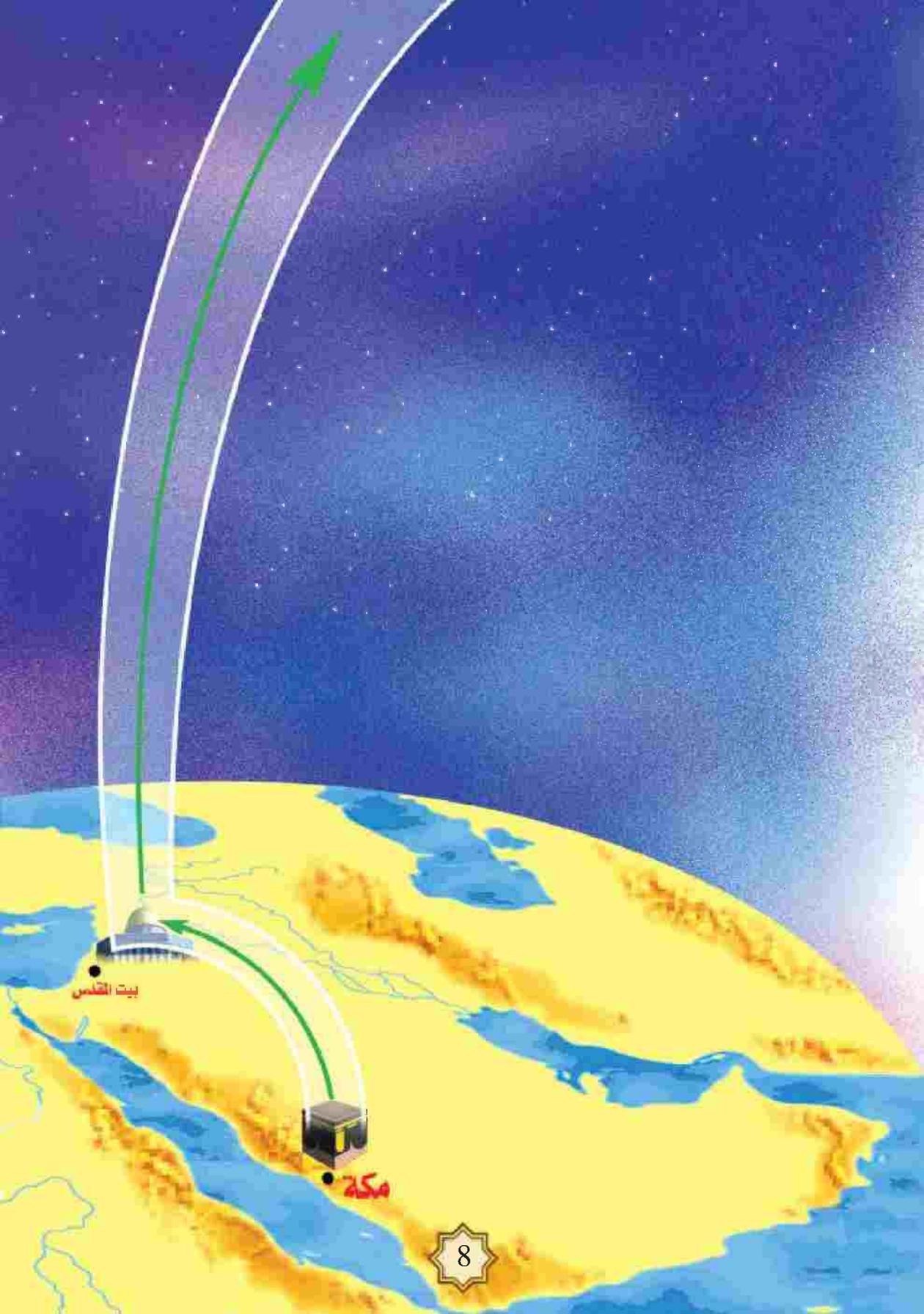
The disbelievers of Quraish harmed the Prophet (peace be upon him) severely after the death of his uncle Abu Tâlib. The Prophet (peace be upon him) with his freed slave Zaid bin Hârithah went to At-Tâ'if hoping that he could find some of their people who believed and supported him. But they did not respond to his call. They laughed at him, harmed him, and sent their boys and slaves after him to insult and throw stones at him until his feet bled and Zaid's head was injured while protecting the Prophet (peace be upon him).



The Prophet (peace be upon him) fled to a garden outside At-Tâ'if and after resting for a while, he went on his way to Mecca but he was sad and injured. So Allah sent Jibrîl (Gabriel, peace be upon him) and the angel assigned to mountains to take an order from the Prophet (peace be upon him) to make the mountains fall on Mecca, but the Prophet (peace be upon him) said in tolerance, "No, but I hope that Allah will let them beget children who will worship Allah Alone, and will worship None besides Him."



When the Prophet (peace be upon him) drew near Mecca, he sent for some leaders of Quraish, asking for their protection while in Mecca but they all refused his request except for Al-Mut'im bin 'Ady. He went out accompanied with his family and nation carrying weapons and declared his protection for the Prophet (peace be upon him). The Prophet (peace be upon him) entered Mecca under his protection, circumambulated the Ka'bah and then he went to his house without being harmed by anyone.



بيت القدس

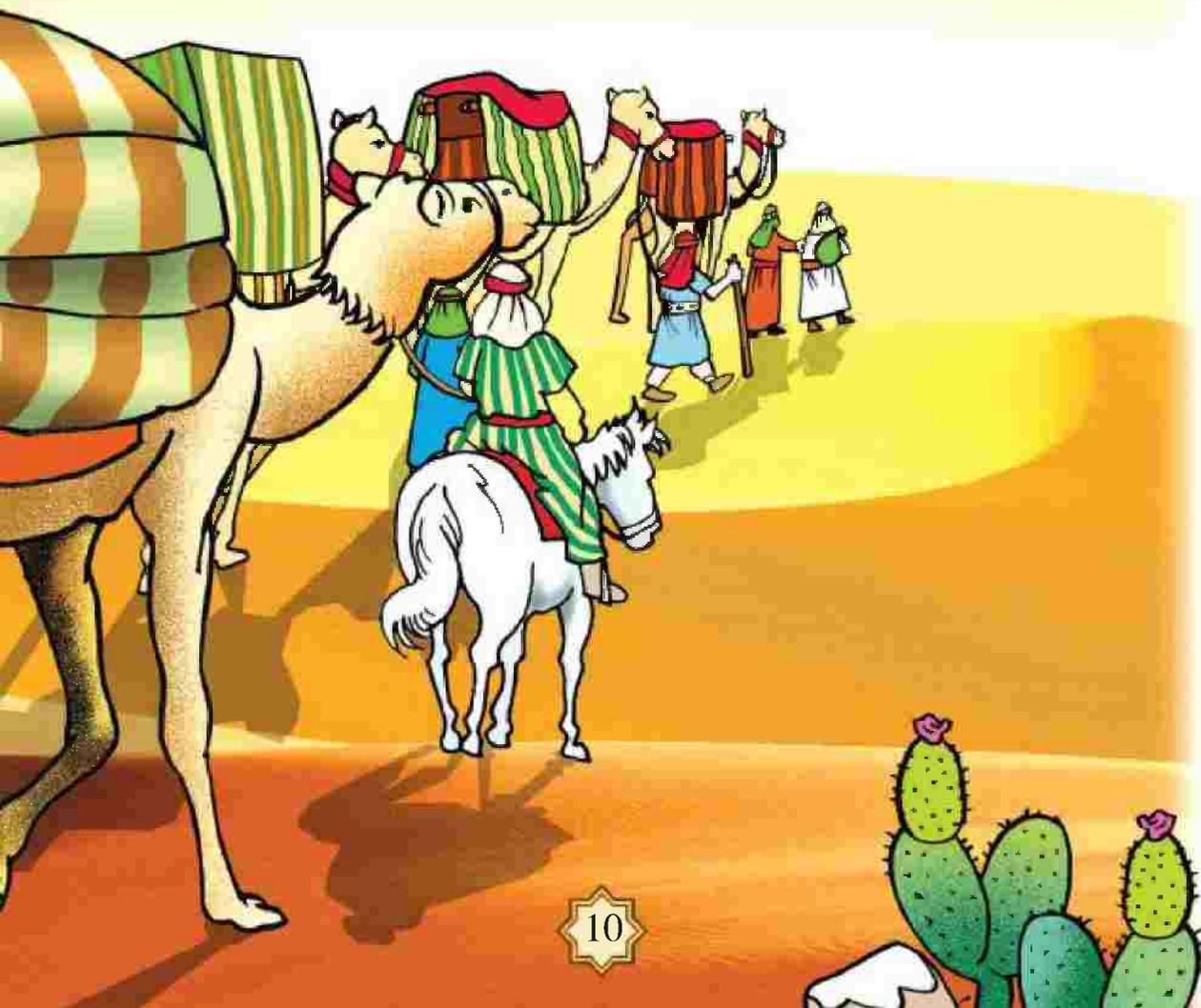
مكة

The Night Journey and Ascension

Allah, the Exalted wanted to soothe His Prophet (peace be upon him) and alleviate his sadness over what he had suffered from the disbelievers of At-Tâ'if and other tribes who refused his call. Allah honored him and took him on a journey at night from the Sacred Mosque to the Aqṣâ Mosque and then he ascended in the company of Jibrîl (Gabriel, peace be upon him) to the heavens.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) saw a great deal during this journey. He visited Paradise and saw Hellfire. He talked with Allah, the Exalted and ever Majestic and met the prophets. The five prayers were imposed during this journey and at the end of this blessed journey, the Prophet (peace be upon him) returned to Mecca on the same night. In the morning, he told Quraish about what he had seen. They accused him of lying, laughed at him and asked him to describe the Aqṣâ Mosque if he were telling the truth. Allah brought its image to him and the Prophet (peace be upon him) described it to the disbelievers of Quraish piece by piece.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) told them as well about a commercial caravan that they were waiting for and the exact time of its arrival. It arrived at the exact time which the Prophet (peace be upon him) had predicted. In spite of all such evidences and miracles they insisted on their stubbornness and went to Abu Bakr and informed him of what the Prophet (peace be upon him) had said. Abu Bakr said to them, 'By Allah, if he said so, he said the truth.' From this day onward, Abu Bakr was called as As-Siddîq (the one who believed).

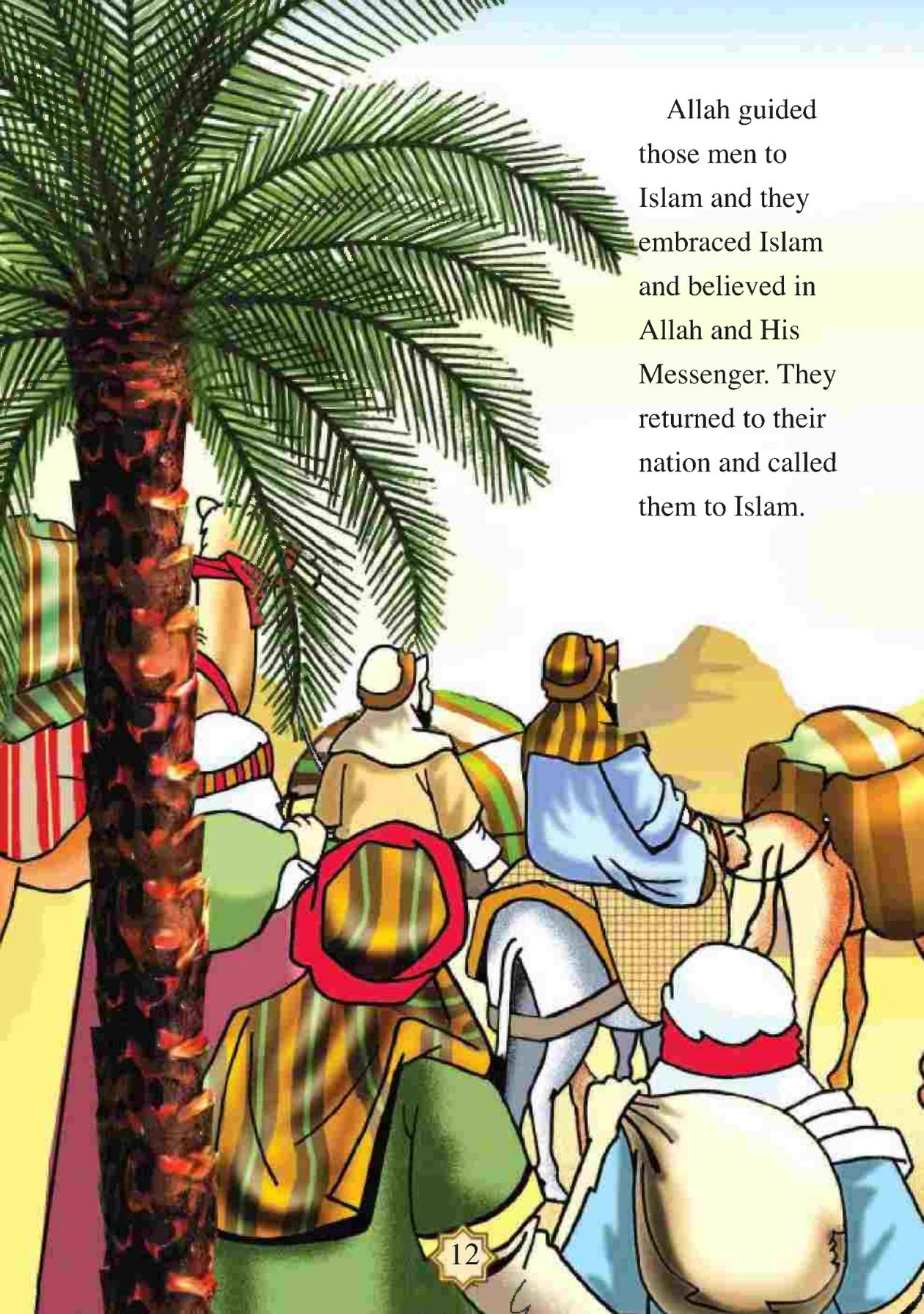


Islam in Yathrib

The Prophet (peace be upon him) went out in the 11th year after the mission during the time of Hajj calling people who arrived at Mecca to Islam. He met six men who came from Yathrib at Minâ near Al-'Aqabah. He (peace be upon him) called them to Islam and recited some verses of the Qur'ân to them. They became sure that he was the Prophet (peace be upon him) that the Jews were talking about.



Allah guided those men to Islam and they embraced Islam and believed in Allah and His Messenger. They returned to their nation and called them to Islam.

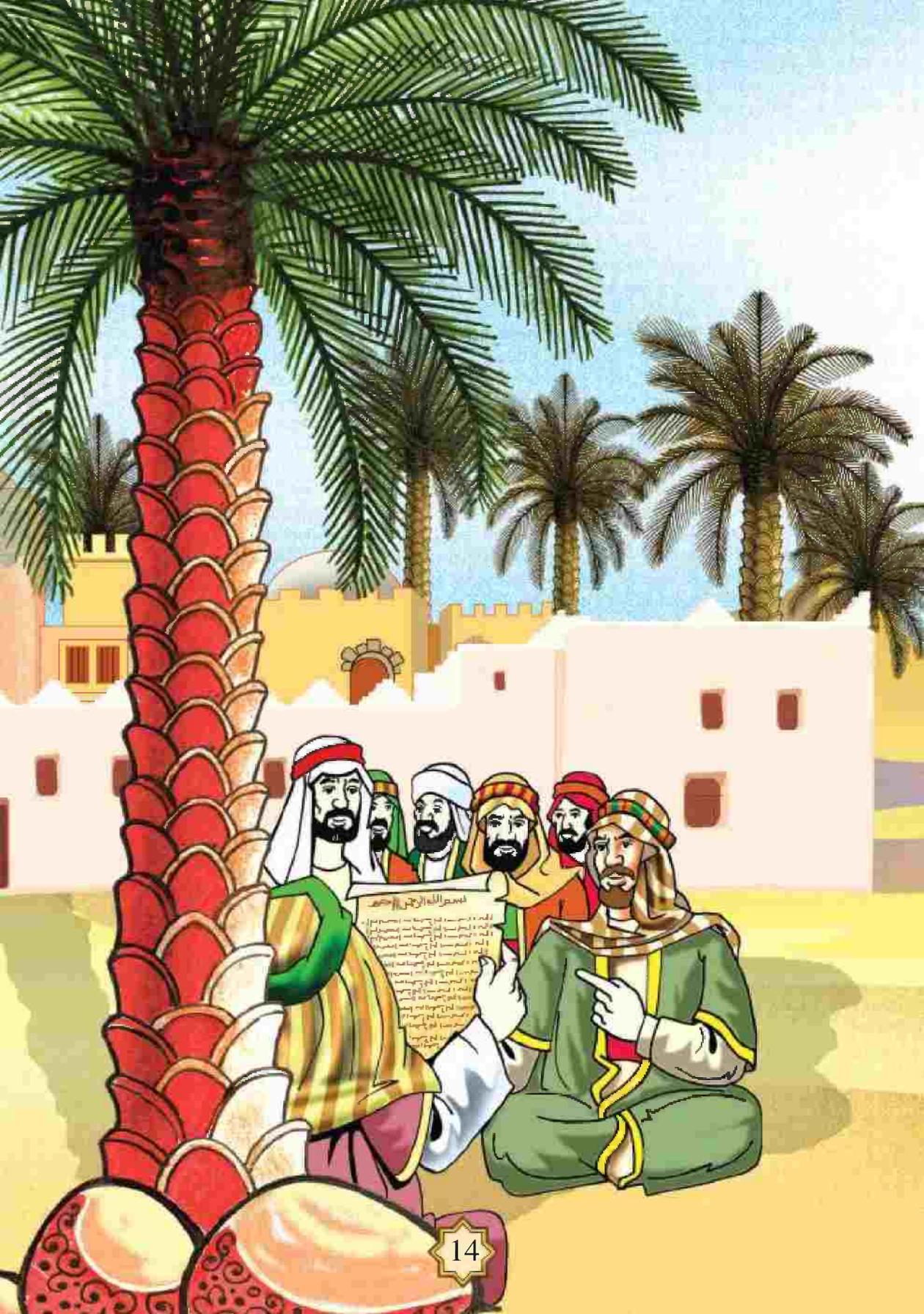


The mission of the Prophet (peace be upon him) spread and there was no house among the houses of Yathrib that was not talking about the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his mission.

The First Pledge of Al-'Aqabah

The next year, during the time of Hajj, 12 men came from among the people of Yathrib. They met the Prophet (peace be upon him) at the first 'Aqabah in Minâ and gave him their pledge that they would obey Allah and His Messenger and support His religion. This pledge was called the first pledge of Al-'Aqabah.





After the end of Hajj, the Prophet (peace be upon him) sent Mus'ab bin 'Umair with the people of Yathrib to recite the Qur'ân for them and teach them the principles of religion. Mus'ab (may Allah be pleased with him) was the best envoy for Islam. Allah guided many people in Medina through him until there was no house in Medina without a Muslim who believed in Allah.

The Second Pledge of Al-'Aqabah

During the time of Hajj of the 13th year after the mission, 73 men and two women from among the Muslims of Medina came to Mecca. They agreed with the Prophet (peace be upon him) to meet him at night in Al-'Aqabah out of the sight of the disbelievers who were persecuting the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him) and anyone with him.



The Prophet (peace be upon him) met the delegation of Yathrib at the agreed upon time and they received him enthusiastically and then pledged that they would protect, support and defend him as they would defend their money, children and wives and to fight against whoever fought him and make peace with whoever left him in peace.

