

Life of the Prophet

(peace be upon him)

Death of the Prophet

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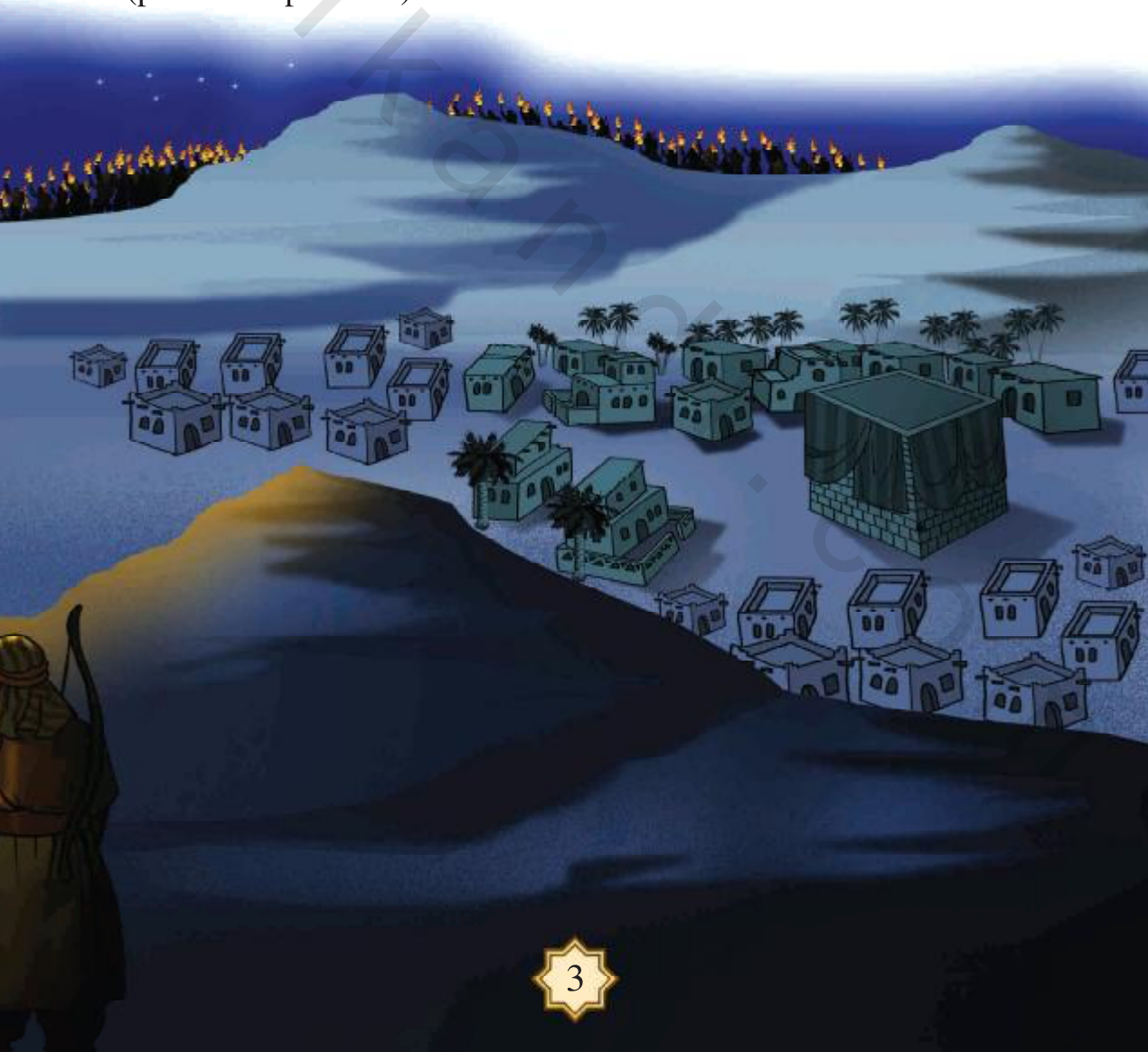
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The Demise of the Prophet (peace be upon him)

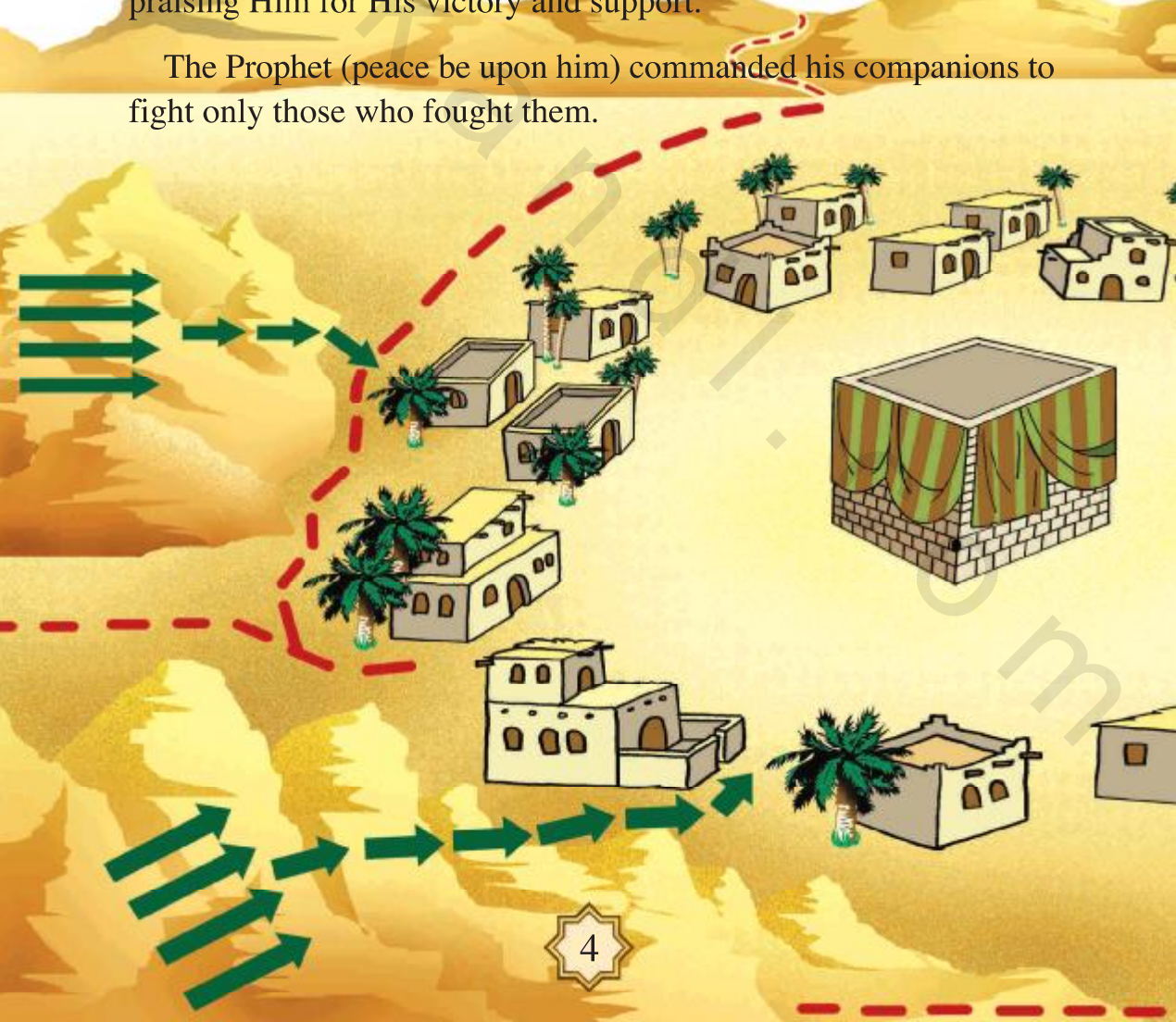
In Sha'bân, in the 8th Hijri year; three months after the Battle of Mu'tah, the Quraish broke their covenant with the Prophet (peace be upon him), by helping Banu Bakr, their allies, murder 20 men of the Banu Khuzâ'ah. Since Banu Khuzâ'ah were allies of the Prophet, they called for his support. The Prophet (peace be upon him) promised to help and commanded the Muslims to prepare for war. Heading an army of 10.000 warriors, the Prophet (peace be upon him) marched towards Mecca.



When the Prophet (peace be upon him) approached Mecca, he ordered his companions to stop and to light fires in order to demonstrate their power to the enemies. The people of Quraish feared for themselves. They sent Abu Sufyân to seek information, but he met Al ‘Abbâs bin ‘Abdul-Muttalib who took him to the Prophet (peace be upon him). Abu Sufyân became certain of the power of the Muslims. When he went back to Mecca, he told them what he had seen and of the Prophet’s assurance of safety for anyone who entered his house, the Mosque or the house of Abu Sufyân.

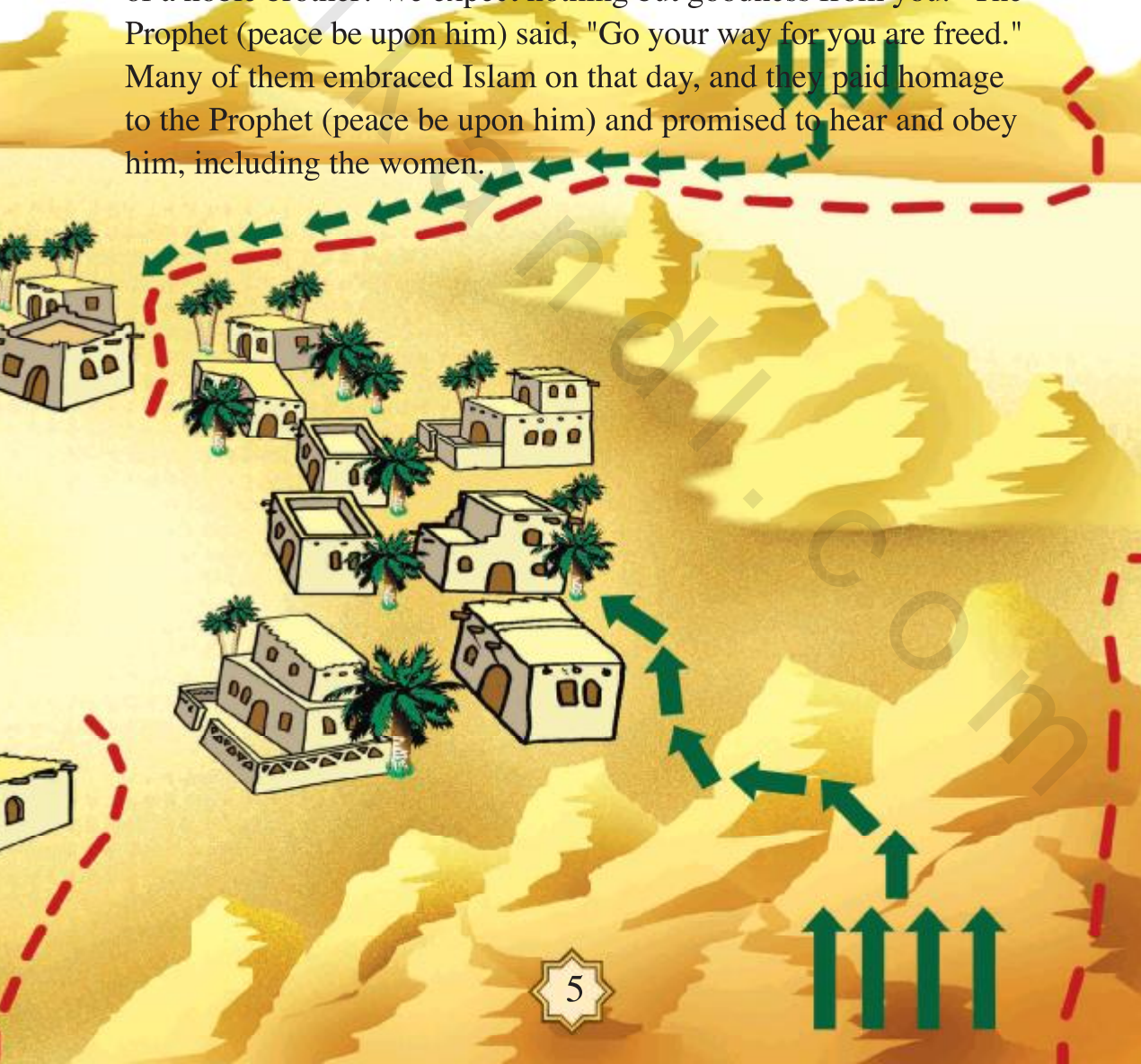
The Prophet (peace be upon him) and his companions entered Mecca bowing their heads; humbling themselves before Allah and praising Him for His victory and support.

The Prophet (peace be upon him) commanded his companions to fight only those who fought them.



The Prophet (peace be upon him) entered Mecca from the higher side and ordered 'Umar to enter Mecca from the lower side, and the Quraish surrendered to the Muslims, and Allah helped the Muslims greatly.

As soon as the Prophet (peace be upon him) entered Mecca he went to the Holy Mosque, circumambulated the K'abah and destroyed the idols. Then the Prophet (peace be upon him) said to the Meccans, "O people of Quraish! What do you think of the treatment that I am about to accord to you?" They answered, "O noble brother and son of a noble brother! We expect nothing but goodness from you." The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Go your way for you are freed." Many of them embraced Islam on that day, and they paid homage to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and promised to hear and obey him, including the women.



Battle of Hunain

The Prophet (peace be upon him) was informed that the two tribes of Hawâzin and Thaqlîf were preparing to fight the Muslims and were gathering many warriors. The Prophet (peace be upon him) prepared an army of 12,000 soldiers of those who had conquered Mecca with Allah's help and those who had embraced Islam. The Muslims were astounded at their powers and numbers.



The enemy army of the Hawâzin and Thaqîf tribes chose to ambush the Muslims in the valley of Hunain. When the Muslims entered the valley at dawn the disbelievers showered them with arrows, and then all the Muslims turned back except the Prophet (peace be upon him) and some of his Companions. The Prophet (peace be upon him) kept saying, "O people, I am indeed the true Prophet, I am the son of 'Abdul-Muttalib."

When the Muslims heard the Prophet (peace be upon him), they turned to fight enthusiastically. Allah turned their defeat into victory and the disbelievers escaped, leaving their women, children and properties.



Battle of Tabûk

The Prophet (peace be upon him) learned that the Byzantines and Arab Christians had prepared to wage a war against Medina. The Prophet (peace be upon him) called his Companions to go to Tabûk in order to take the Byzantines by surprise in their homes before they came to Medina. The Muslim tribes came from everywhere, responding to the Prophet's order, and Muslims such as 'Uthmân, 'Abdul-Rahmân bin 'Awf and Abu Bakr Aş-Siddîq (may Allah be pleased with them all) spared no expense.



The army was ready and the Prophet (peace be upon him) moved in the month of Rajab (9 A.H) towards Tabûk with 30,000 fighters, but they had few provisions (foods, water, weapons, etc.). They didn't have enough mounts (horses and camels), so 18 men alternated riding each horse or camel. Because of this, the army was called "The Army of Adversity." When the Prophet (peace be upon him) reached Tabûk, he found no one, because Allah had cast terror into the hearts of the disbelievers and they had run away.



The Prophet (peace be upon him) stayed in Tabûk for about 20 days, during which he concluded agreements with the princes of the region to pay Jizyah (land tax) in exchange for their security and their religious freedom. Then the Prophet (peace be upon him) returned to Medina triumphantly, - Allah had saved the believers from the evils of war. This was the final battle for the Prophet (peace be upon him), and had a great effect because it extended the influence of Muslims and increased their power in the Arabian Peninsula.



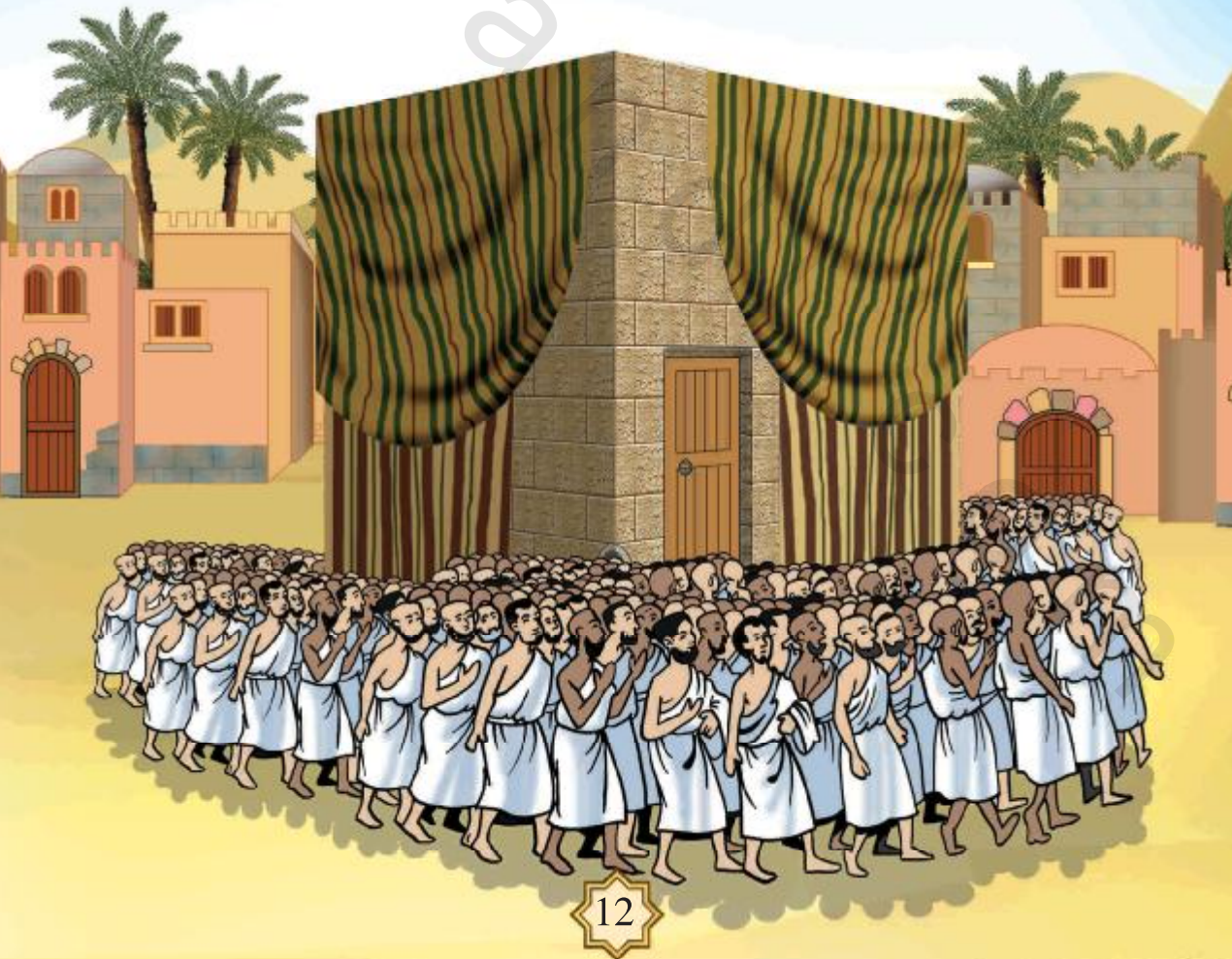
Year of Delegations

After the Prophet (peace be upon him) returned from the Battle of Tabûk, different tribes hurried to send delegations in order to declare that they had embraced Islam, including the tribes of Thaîf, Banu Tamîm, Banu' Âmir and others. The delegations followed in succession from all over the Arabian Peninsula at the end of the 9th Hijri year. Due to the many delegations, this year was called "The Year of Delegations."



The Farewell Pilgrimage

In the 10th Hijri year, the Prophet (peace be upon him) went to perform the pilgrimage with 100,000 believers, raising their voices in the ritual of pilgrimage, "O my Lord, here I am at your service." It was the first and last pilgrimage for the Prophet (peace be upon him), and so it was called the Farewell Pilgrimage. The Prophet (peace be upon him) delivered his famous farewell sermon, in which he enjoined his followers to adhere to the Book of Allah and the traditions of the Prophet (peace be upon him), to distinguish the lawful from the unlawful and enjoined them to care for women, slaves and others.

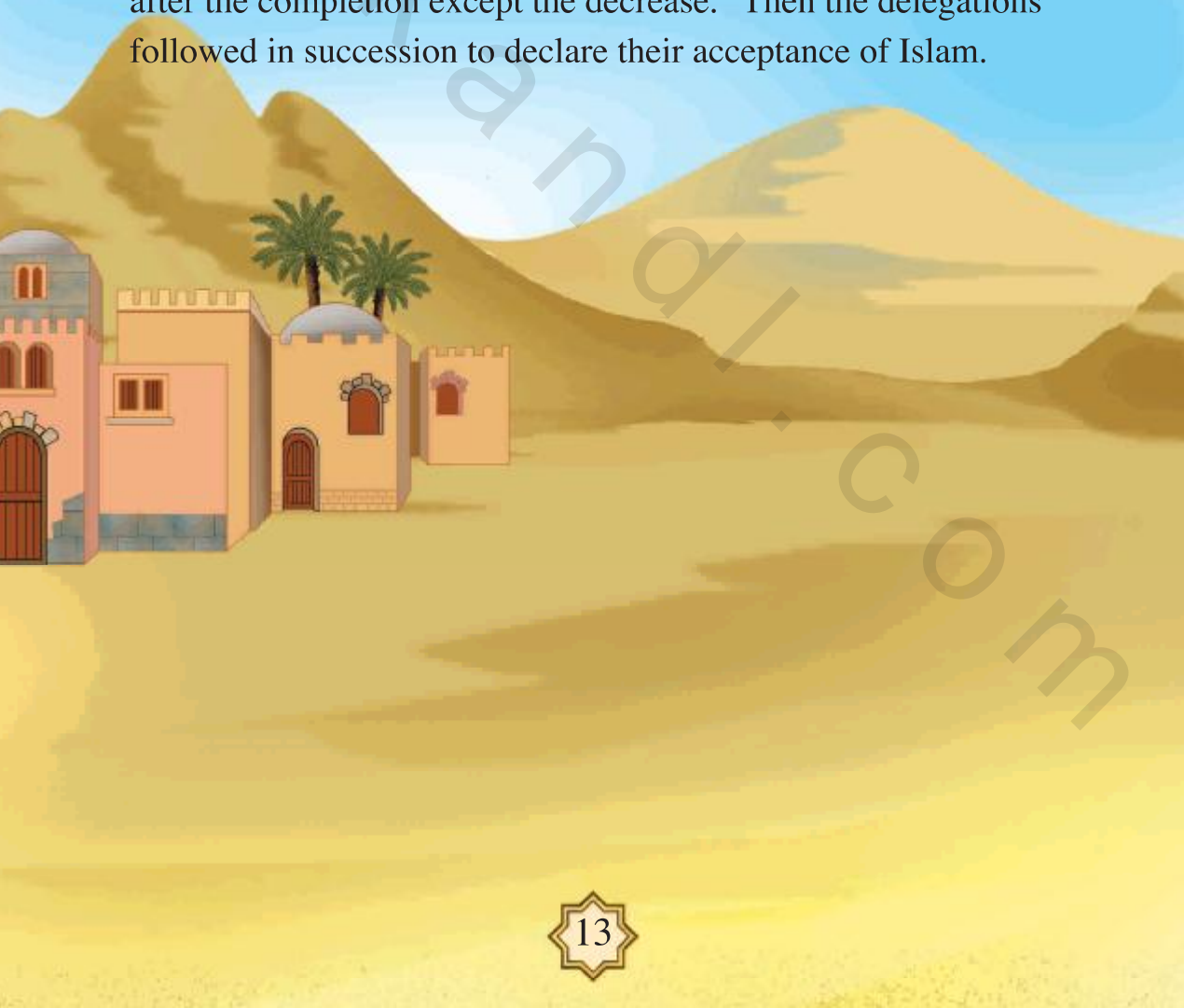


Whenever the Prophet (peace be upon him) concluded a subject, he said, "Did I convey the message? O Allah, may You witness!" On that day, the verse was revealed:

﴿الْيَوْمَ أَكْمَلْتُ لَكُمْ دِينَكُمْ وَأَتِمَمْتُ عَلَيْكُمْ نِعْمَتِي وَرَضِيتُ لَكُمُ الْإِسْلَامَ دِينًا﴾

which means, "This day, I have perfected your religion for you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islam as your religion." (Al-Mâ'idah 5: 3)

When 'Umar bin Al-Khattâb heard that, he wept. He was asked, "Why are you weeping 'Umar?" He answered, "There is nothing after the completion except the decrease." Then the delegations followed in succession to declare their acceptance of Islam.



Death of the Prophet (peace be upon him)

Upon his return to Medina, the Prophet (peace be upon him) accompanied one of his Companions named Muwaihbihah to visit the graveyard of Al-Baqî' in the month of Rabî' I, in the 11th Hijri year. The Prophet (peace be upon him) visited it and asked for the forgiveness of Allah for the dead people buried there. He also visited the graveyard of the martyrs of the Battle of Uhud. It seemed to be a farewell visit. Then he came back to Medina. Later on, he became sick. When the sickness became more severe, he asked the permission of his wives to be nursed in the house of his wife 'Â'ishah. They accepted.

One day before the death of the Prophet (peace be upon him) he went to his Companions while they were praying. They were happy that the Prophet (peace be upon him) had come. They thought that he (peace be upon him) had recovered. Then the Prophet (peace be upon him) returned to the house of 'Â'ishah (may Allah be pleased with her). He put his head in the lap of 'Â'ishah. She felt that the head of the Prophet (peace be upon him) was getting heavier. She looked at his eyes. They were staring at something.



بل الرفيق الأخلاق فلا الجنة

She heard him saying, "No, I choose the superior Companion in Paradise." Then Lady 'Â'ishah realized that the Prophet (peace be upon him) was given the choice and that he chose to be with Allah.

The spirit of the Prophet (peace be upon him) left his body to go to the heavens with his Lord. The last words he (peace be upon him) uttered were, "(Take care of) prayer and your slaves." On Monday, the 12th of the month of Rabi' I, the Prophet (peace be upon him) passed away. He was then 63 years old. May Allah reward him in full for what he did for his nation.