

Life of the Prophet

(peace be upon him)

Plot of the Confederates

Written by:

Abd Al-Hameed Tawfeeq

Cartoon:

'Abd Al-Murdy Ubaid

Safeer. All Rights Reserved ©

Deposit No. 20072/2003

I.S.B.N.: 977-361-202-3

Linguistic revision:

Al Sayyid Abd Al-Hameed Farghaly

Graphics and Color Separation by:

Assem Sayyid Ahmed



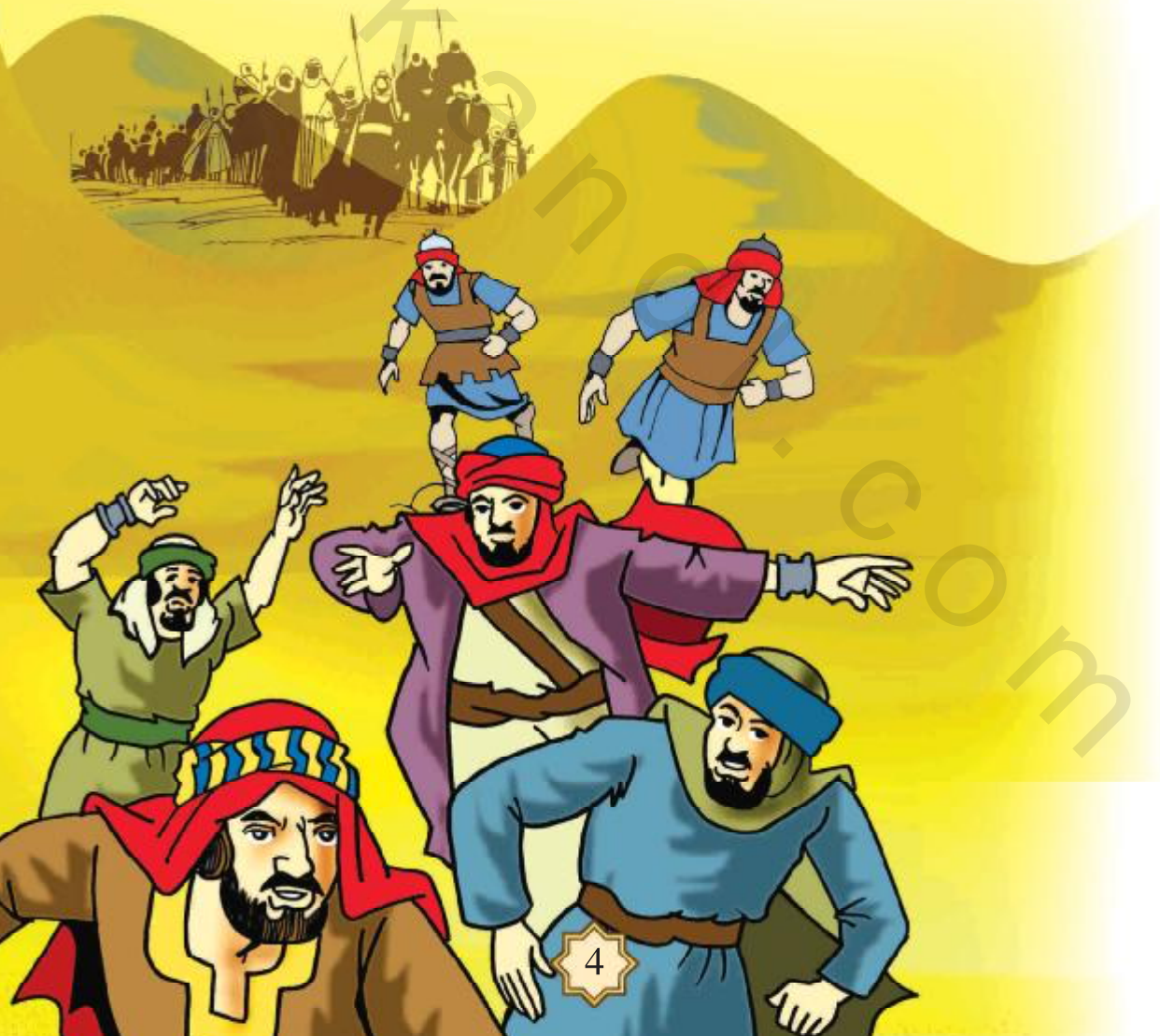
The Battle of Dawmatul-Jandal

The Prophet (peace be upon him) was informed that there were some tribes in a place near Shâm (the region covering Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine) called Dawmatul-Jandal. These tribes used to commit highway robbery and rob those who passed. They also gathered with the purpose of assaulting Medina.

In Rabî' Al-Awwal in the 5th Hijri year, the Prophet (peace be upon him) gathered an army of 1000 warriors to fight them. The Prophet (peace be upon him) would march with the army by night and then hide in the morning so as to surprise the enemy.



When the Prophet (peace be upon him) approached, he found them coming home from work. He attacked them, capturing some while the others ran away. The people of Dawmatul-Jandal escaped. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) went to Dawmatul-Jandal, he did not find anyone. The Prophet (peace be upon him) stayed there for a period of time and then he returned to Medina after Allah had granted him victory over the enemies.



The Battle of the Confederates (Al-‘Ahzâb)

The Quraish wished to destroy the Muslims in Medina. The Jews who had been expelled from Medina by the Prophet (peace be upon him) as a result of their perfidy, cunning and spite were behind this plot. The Jews went to Mecca and instigated the Quraish to fight Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his Companions, promising to supply them with money and weapons.



The Quraish accepted their offers, gathered money, and called other tribes and supporting parties of Arabs or Jews to fight with them. Their army exceeded 10,000 fighters. Abu Sufyân led the force toward Medina in order to fight the Muslims and destroy them. This was in the 5th Hijri year during the month of Shawwâl.



When the Prophet (peace be upon him) learned of the intentions of the Quraish, he consulted his Companions regarding what should be done. All of them agreed that they should stay in Medina to defend it. However, the northern edge of Medina was vulnerable to attack, so Salmân Al-Fârisy (may Allah be pleased with him) suggested digging a trench in order to protect Medina from enemies.

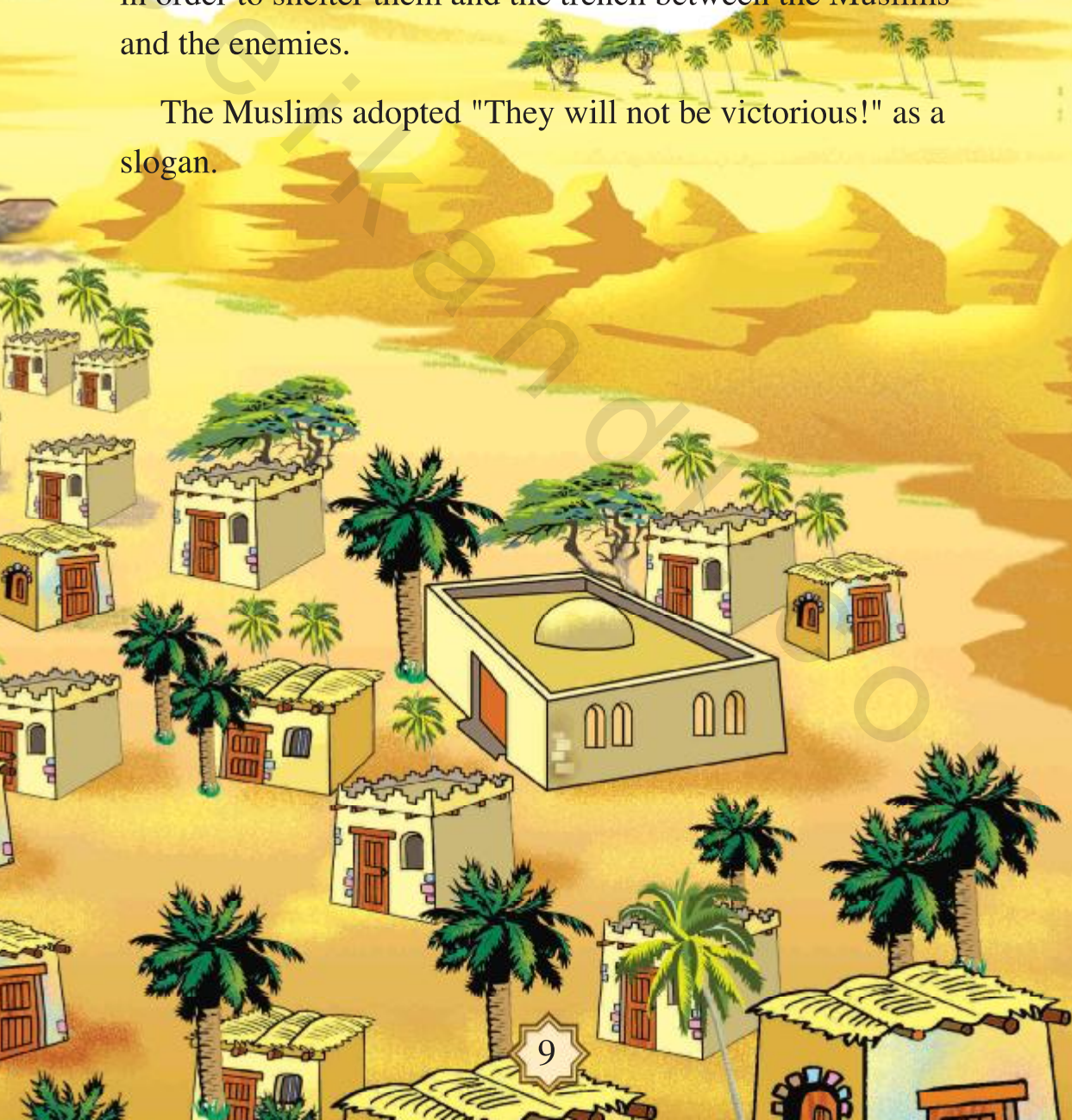


The Prophet (peace be upon him) accepted Salmân's idea and the Muslims began to dig the trench and the Prophet (peace be upon him) dug with them. The Muslims dug the trench vigorously at a time when they suffered from extreme hunger, to such an extent that the Muslims used to put big stones on their bellies and bind them out of extreme hunger. The Prophet (peace be upon him) used to bind two stones on his belly.



The Muslims completed their work after 15 days, before the enemies came to Medina. Then, the Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered that the women and children be kept in forts. The army of Muslims, which exceeded 3000 fighters, gathered to confront the enemies (confederates). The Prophet (peace be upon him) left Medina, keeping the army's back to the mountain in order to shelter them and the trench between the Muslims and the enemies.

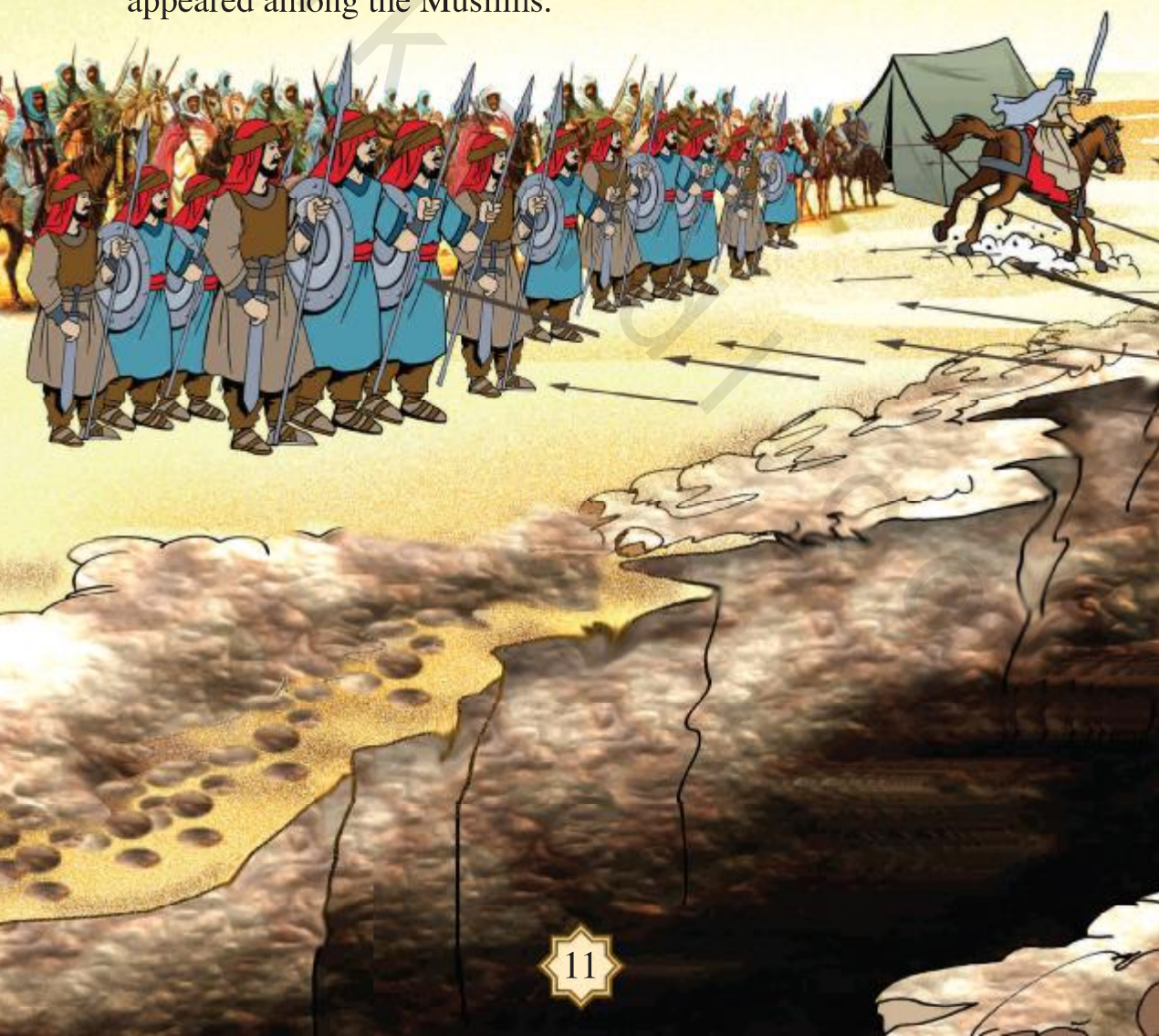
The Muslims adopted "They will not be victorious!" as a slogan.



The army of disbelievers had to camp outside of Medina near the trench, because their horses could not cross it. Some horses tried, but their riders were killed. For a month, Medina was surrounded by enemies who had no course other than to pelt Muslims with arrows.



While the Prophet (peace be upon him) faced these great risks from the confederates, he was informed that Banu Quraizhah had broken their pledge to him and allied with Banu An-Naḍir to fight the Muslims. The Prophet (peace be upon him) sent his companions to investigate this information. When they came back, they testified to the perfidy of Banu Quraizhah. The Prophet (peace be upon him) became very angry. This situation was the most critical one the Muslims had had to face, because their enemies were in front of them and the perfidious Jews were behind them near their women and children. Some Muslims weakened, and hypocrites appeared among the Muslims.



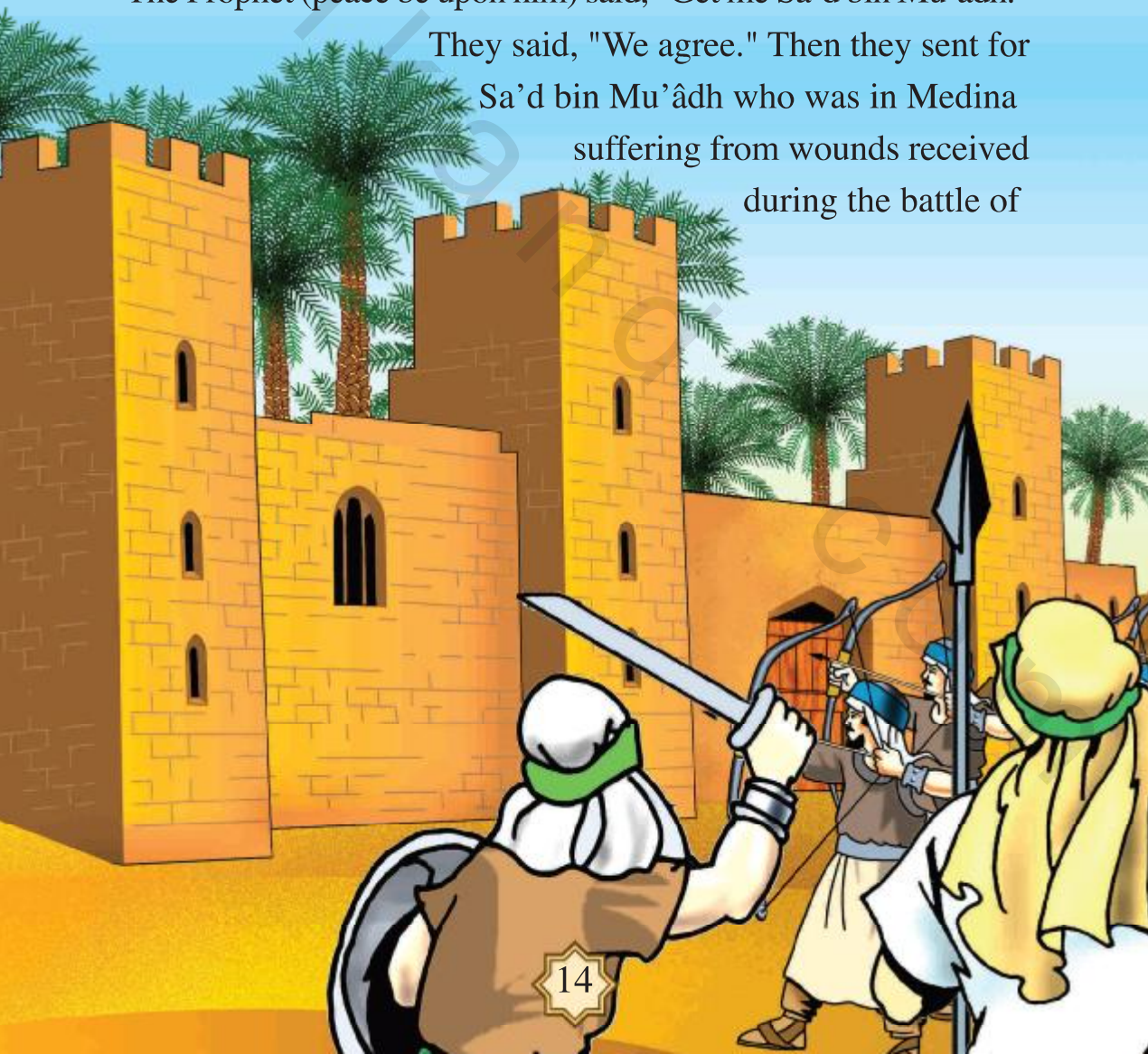
During this critical situation, the Prophet (peace be upon him) invoked Allah against the Confederates saying, “O Allah! Who revealed the Book, Who is swift in calling to account! Defeat the Confederates! O Allah! Defeat and shake them!” Allah answered the invocation of His Prophet (peace be upon him) and provided relief and victory for the Muslims. On one dark winter night, storms raged, plucking up the disbelievers’ tents, scattering their equipment and effects, pelting them with pebbles and sand. It cast terror into their hearts. A man could not even recognize the person sitting beside him. When Abu Sufyân saw that, he got on his camel and escaped to his village and his solders followed him.

On the same day, the Prophet (peace be upon him) returned to Medina. Jibrîl (Gabriel, peace be upon him) came to him at noontime and gave him orders to fight Banu Quraizhah because of their perfidy. The Prophet (peace be upon him) went out with a large army of Muhâjirûn (immigrants) and Ansâr (supporters). When the army reached Banu Quraizhah, the Muslims surrounded them securely. When the blockade became unbearable, the people of Banu Quraizhah consulted and accepted the judgment of the Prophet (peace be upon him) at the end.



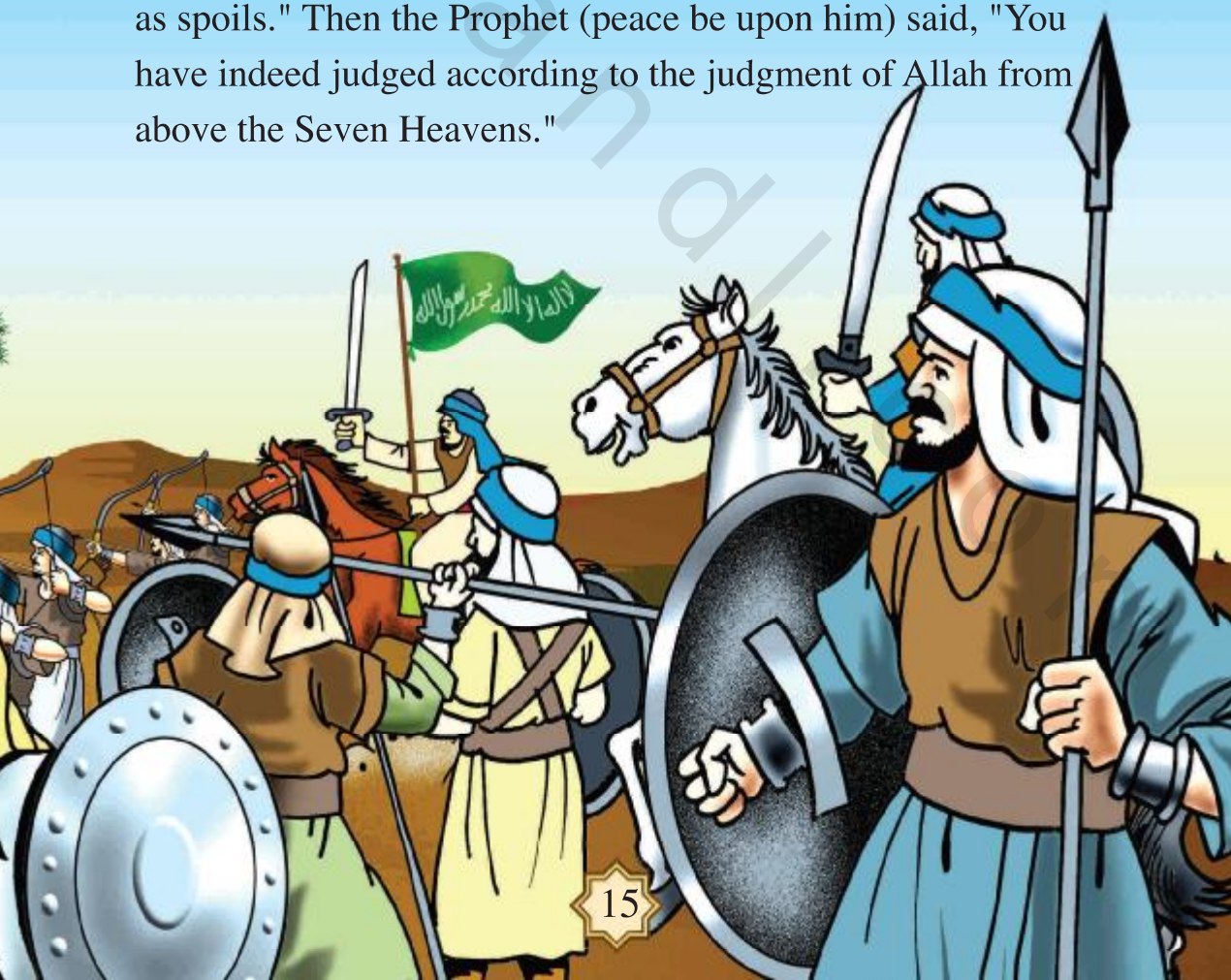
The Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered the men to be bound under the supervision of Muhammad bin Salamah Al-Anṣârî and the women and children to be kept on the other side, far away from the men. The tribe of Aws came to the Prophet (peace be upon him) interceding for Banu Quraizhah, asking the Prophet (peace be upon him) to do as he had done with Banu Qainuqâ'. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said to them, "Will you accept the judgment of someone from you?" They said, "Yes, we will." The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Get me Sa'd bin Mu'âdh."

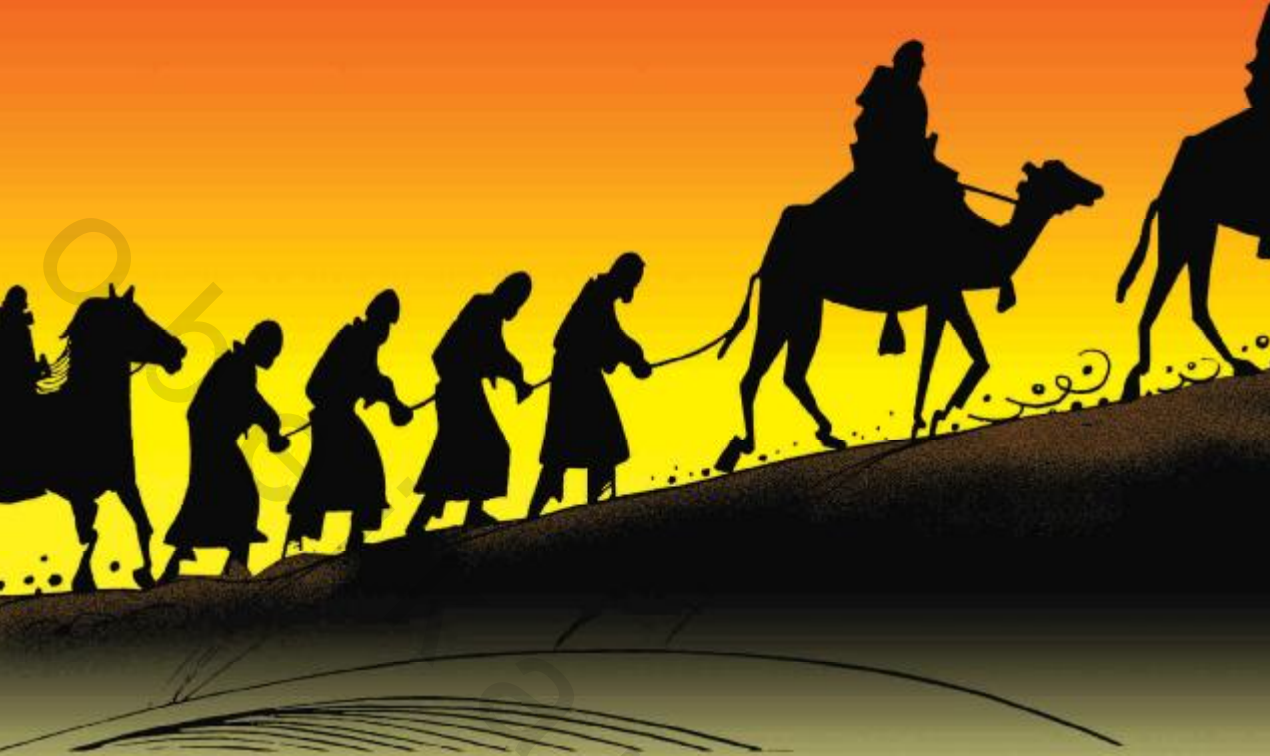
They said, "We agree." Then they sent for Sa'd bin Mu'âdh who was in Medina suffering from wounds received during the battle of



Al-Aḥzâb. He came riding a donkey. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said to the companions, "Stand up for your master (as a kind of respectful act)." The Companions helped him get off the donkey. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "O Sa'd! These people have chosen you as an arbiter." Sa'd said, "Will they accept my judgment?" The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Yes." Sa'd said, "And the Muslims too?" The Muslims said, "Yes." He added, "And everyone here?" The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Yes and I will."

He said, "I judge that their men should be killed, their women should be taken as captives, and their property should be divided as spoils." Then the Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "You have indeed judged according to the judgment of Allah from above the Seven Heavens."





The Prophet (peace be upon him) ordered that Banu Quraizhah be imprisoned in the house of Bint Al-Hâarith. Wide trenches in which to bury them were prepared. The Prophet (peace be upon him) commanded their heads be chopped off. Their numbers ranged from 600 to 700 men. Among them was Huyay bin Akhtab; who was the commander of Banu An-Nadîr and father of Safiyyah (may Allah be pleased with her); the wife of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and he was killed. Then the Prophet (peace be upon him) divided the spoils of Banu Quraizhah among the Muslims. There were no martyrs among the Muslims except Khalâd bin Suwaid who was killed by a quern thrown by a woman of Banu Quraizhah. This woman was the only woman who was killed with the men.