

Life of the Prophet

(peace be upon him)

Public Call

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Public Call

The Prophet (peace be upon him) called people to embrace Islam secretly for three years. The numbers of believers who believed in his call increased day after day. On one day, Jibrîl (Gabriel, peace be upon him) was sent down to the Prophet (peace be upon him) with a glorious verse from his Lord. Allah ordered him in this verse to proclaim the call to Islam publicly. Allah says,

وَأَنْذِرْ عَشِيرَتَكَ الْأَقْرَبِينَ

which means, "And warn your tribe (O Muhammad) of near kindred." (Ash-Shu'arâ', 26:214)

The Prophet (peace be upon him) obeyed the order of his Lord. He climbed the mountain of Safâ near the Holy Ka'bah and began to call the people of Mecca in a loud voice. When the people gathered, he said to them, "Do you see? If I inform you that cavalymen are proceeding up the side of this mountain, will you believe me?" They said, 'We have never heard you tell a lie.'" So the Prophet (peace be upon him) told them that he was the Messenger of Allah and called them to only worship Allah the One and give up the worship of idols. His uncle Abu Lahab interrupted him and said, 'May you perish! You gathered us only for this reason?'





The Delegation of Quraish to Abu Tâlib

The Prophet (peace be upon him) kept on calling people to worship Allah the One and give up the worship of idols that have no power either for good or bad. Numbers of believers increased and the tribe of Quraish became very angry. They sent a delegation of their best men to meet Abu Tâlib, uncle of the Prophet (peace be upon him) and asked him to prevent his nephew from insulting their gods and threatened to harm him.



Abu T̄alib sent for the Prophet (peace be upon him) and informed him of what was said by the delegation of Quraish. The Prophet (peace be upon him) thought that his uncle wanted to abandon him, so he said to him, "O my uncle, if they placed the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left hand in order to renounce my task, verily I would not desist therefrom until Allah made manifest His cause or I perished in the attempt." The Prophet (peace be upon him) then cried and went out in sadness. Abu T̄alib felt that he had made his nephew sad, so he called him and said, 'Go my nephew and say whatever you please, for by the Lord I shall not command you to do something that you hate.' The Prophet (peace be upon him) continued calling to the religion of Allah.

Fighting Against the Call

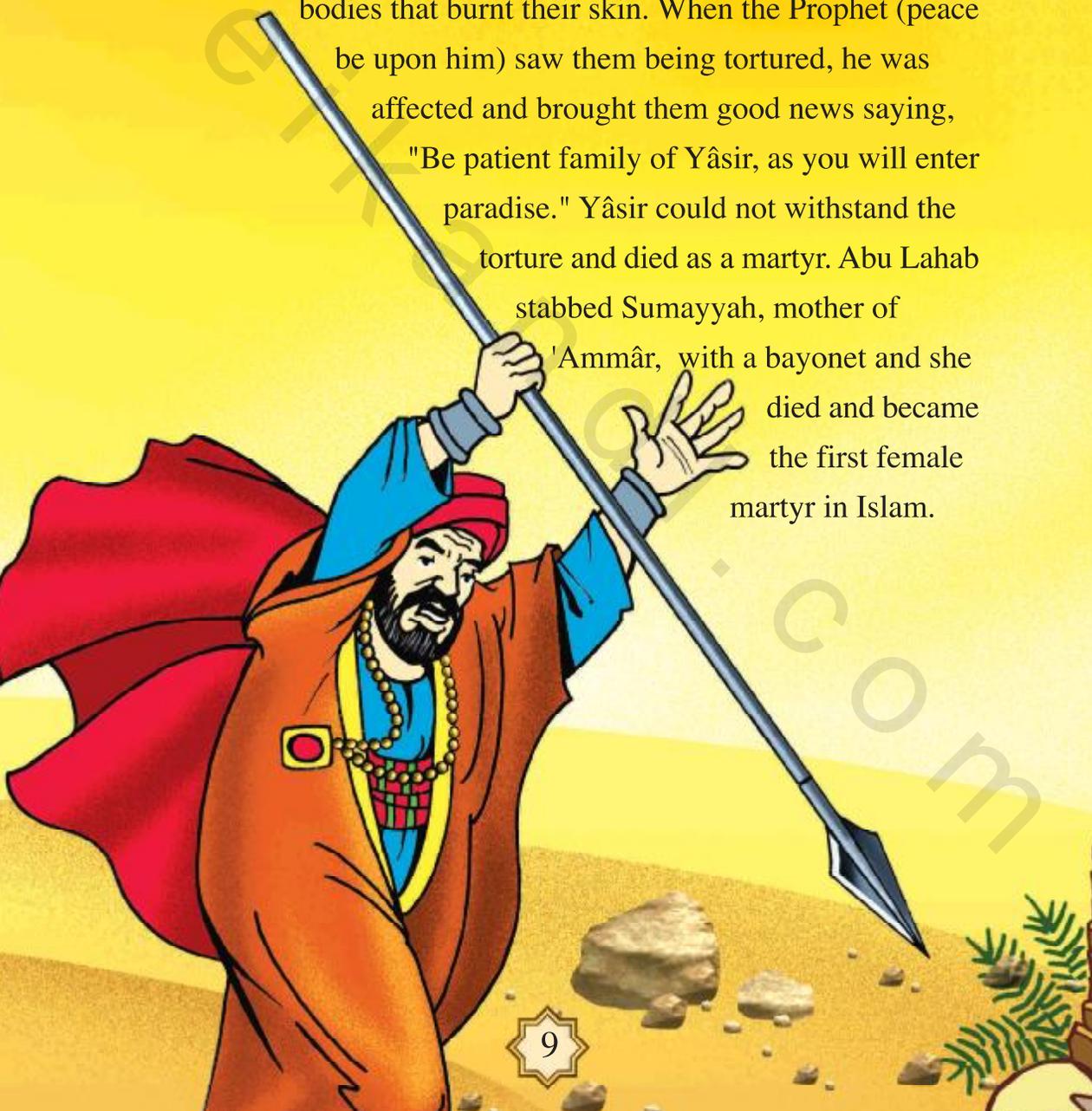
The disbelievers of Quraish joined in fighting against the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his call. They used to laugh at and mock him. They said that he was crazy, a liar and prophet that claimed to know the unseen. Abu Lahab, uncle of the Prophet (peace be upon him) used to warn people against meeting or listening to him. But all of this did not prevent the Prophet (peace be upon him) from continuing his call. The disbelievers increased their attempts to harm him; they used to put thorns in his path, throw dirt on him while performing prayer and insult him using the ugliest insults.

None of the believers in the Message of the Prophet (peace be upon him) escaped harm or torture. Every tribe caught anyone of their people who embraced Islam and began to torture them severely. They burnt and whipped them in order to make them renounce their religion. Umayyah bin Khalaf took his slave Bilâl bin Rabâh to the desert at noontime and threw him on the hot sand, put a huge rock on his chest and left him for many hours.



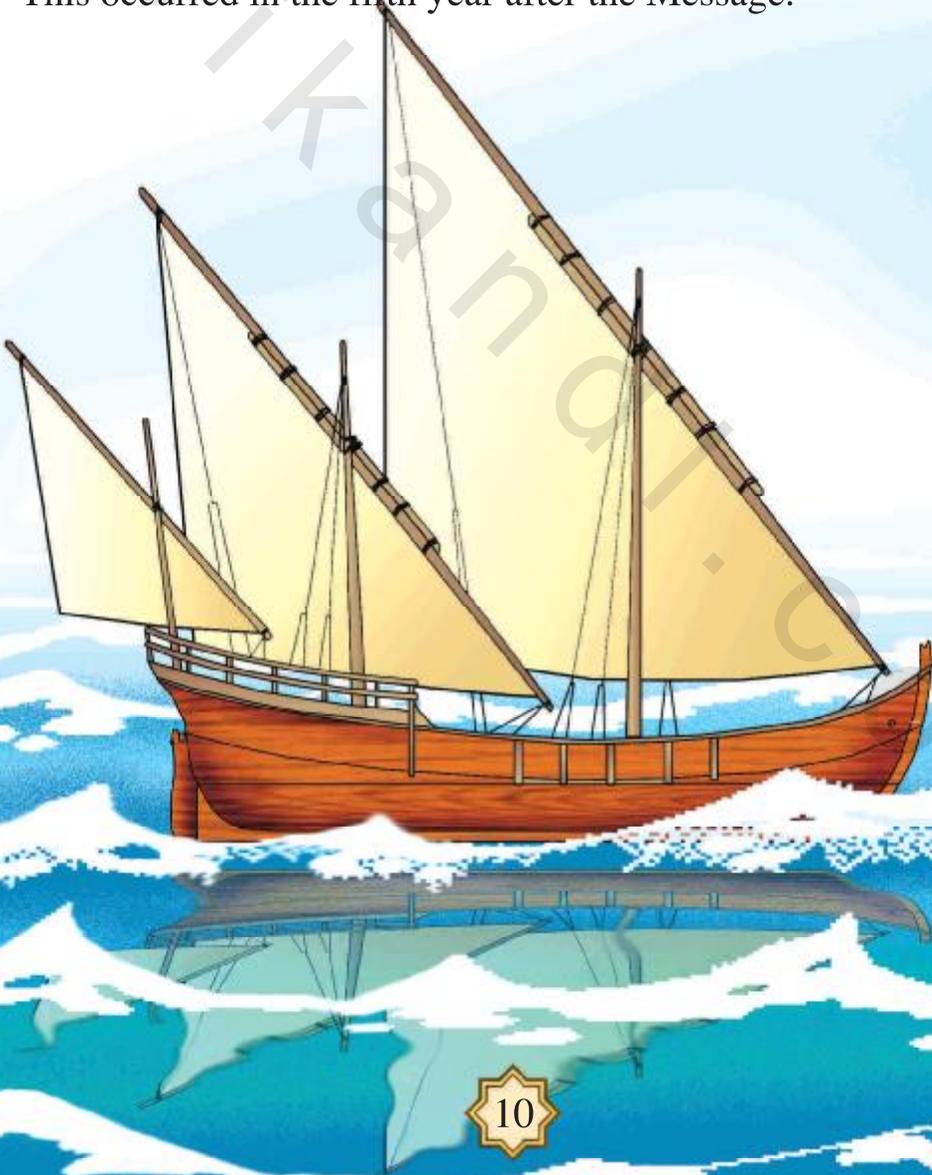
Bilâl used to bear all such torture and say patiently, 'Allah is One, Allah is One.' Bilâl withstood this treatment until Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) bought him and set him free.

When the disbelievers knew that 'Ammâr bin Yâsir, his mother, and his father had embraced Islam, they tortured them severely. They took them into the desert at noontime and threw hot pebbles on their bodies that burnt their skin. When the Prophet (peace be upon him) saw them being tortured, he was affected and brought them good news saying, "Be patient family of Yâsir, as you will enter paradise." Yâsir could not withstand the torture and died as a martyr. Abu Lahab stabbed Sumayyah, mother of 'Ammâr, with a bayonet and she died and became the first female martyr in Islam.



The First Immigration to Abyssinia

The disbelievers tortured Muslims severely, so the Prophet (peace be upon him) advised them to immigrate to Abyssinia saying, "If you go to Abyssinia, there governs a just ruler, in whose realm nobody is oppressed." Twelve men and four women immigrated included 'Uthmân bin 'Affân and his wife Ruqayyah the daughter of the Messenger of Allah (peace be upon him). This occurred in the fifth year after the Message.



The Second Immigration to Abyssinia

When Muslims reached the land of Abyssinia, An-Najâshy welcomed them and they lived under his protection in peace and safety. After many months, another group of approximately 83 men and 18 women Muslims traveled to Abyssinia. They found goodness and safety and worshipped Allah in quiet and peace.



The tribe of Quraish did not leave the Muslims who immigrated to Abyssinia alone to enjoy safety. They sent two of their cleverest men; 'Amr bin Al-'Âs and 'Abdullâh bin Abu Rabî'ah with precious gifts to the king of Abyssinia to convince him to send the Muslims back to Mecca. But An-Najâshy refused their request and sent for Muslims to inquire about their religion.

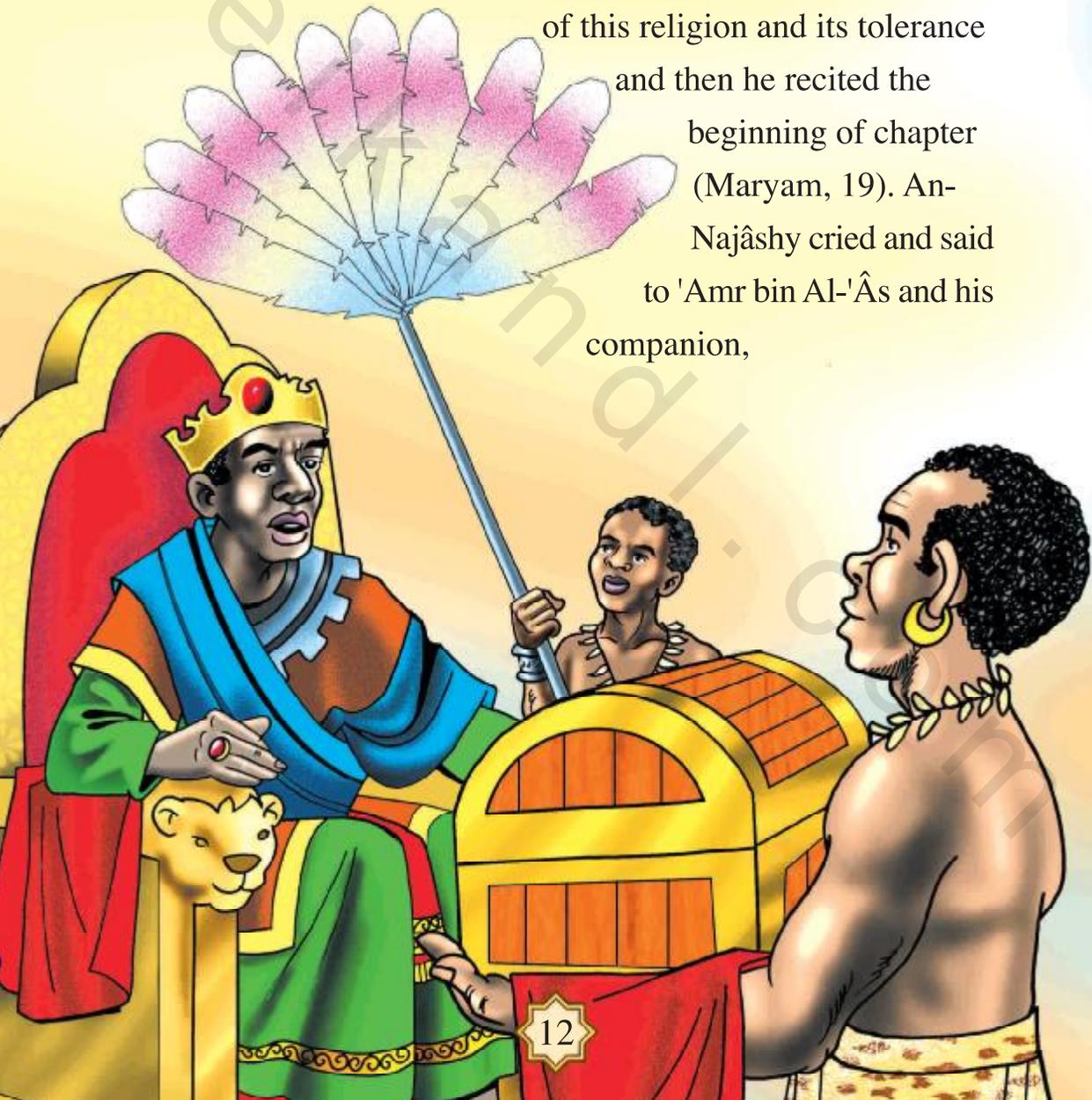
Ja'far bin Abu Tâlib talked to him and explained the greatness of this religion and its tolerance

and then he recited the

beginning of chapter (Maryam, 19). An-

Najâshy cried and said

to 'Amr bin Al-'Âs and his companion,



'Go, by Allah I will never give them to you.' So the delegation from the Quraish returned disappointed and humiliated.

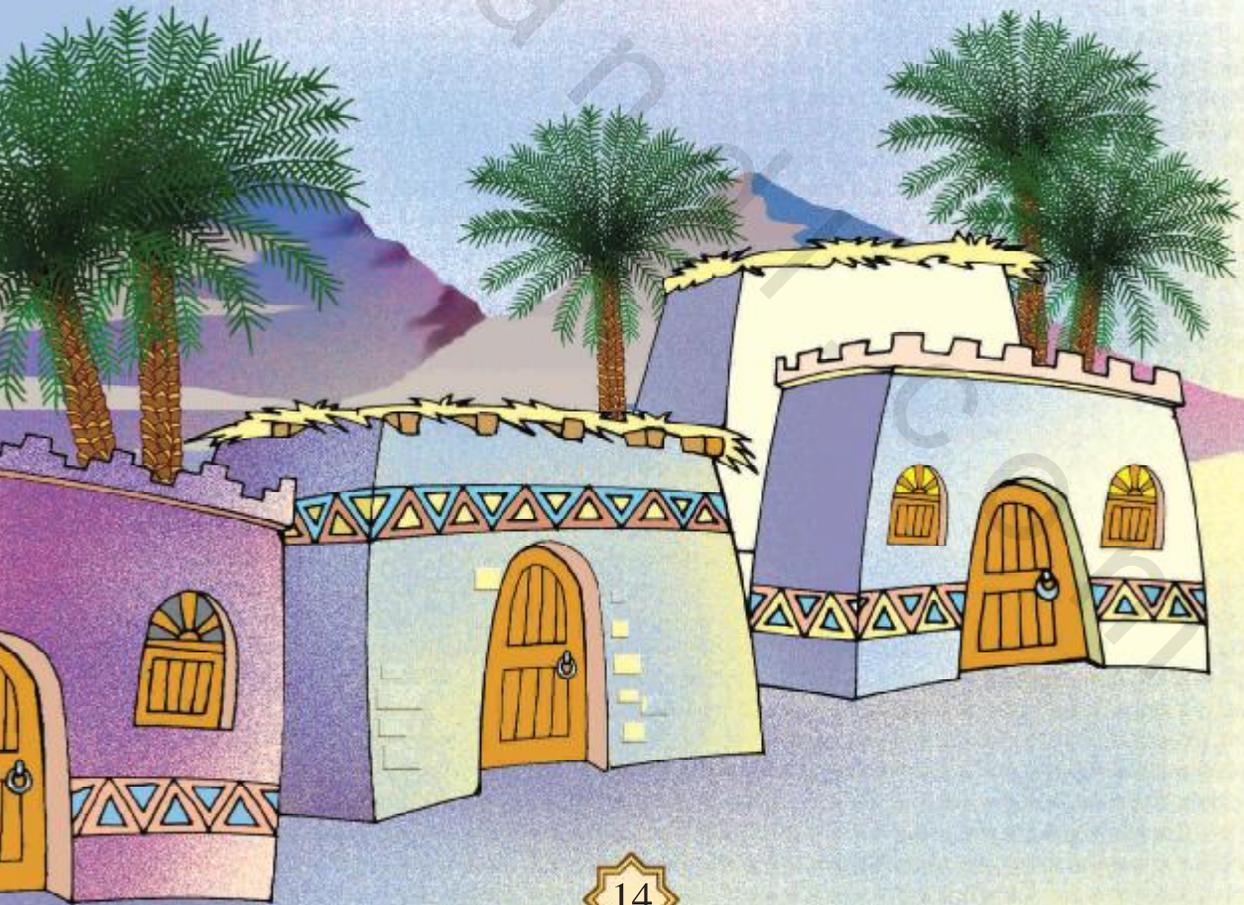
Hamzah Converting to Islam

Three years had passed since the Prophet (peace be upon him) had proclaimed his call to Islam but the disbelievers continued to harm the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his companions.

One day Abu Jahl, enemy of Allah, met the Prophet (peace be upon him) near the mountain of Ṣafâ. Abu Jahl harmed, insulted and beat the Prophet (peace be upon him) with a stone until he bled from a wound to his head. Hamzah bin 'Abdul-Muttalib, uncle of the Prophet, was informed of it and became very angry. Hamzah went to the Ka'bah where Abu Jahl was sitting among his people, proud of what he had done to Muhammad and said to him angrily, 'Do you insult my nephew while I believe in his religion.' Then he beat him with his bow and injured his head. And then he went to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and declared that he had converted to Islam. Muslims were very happy.

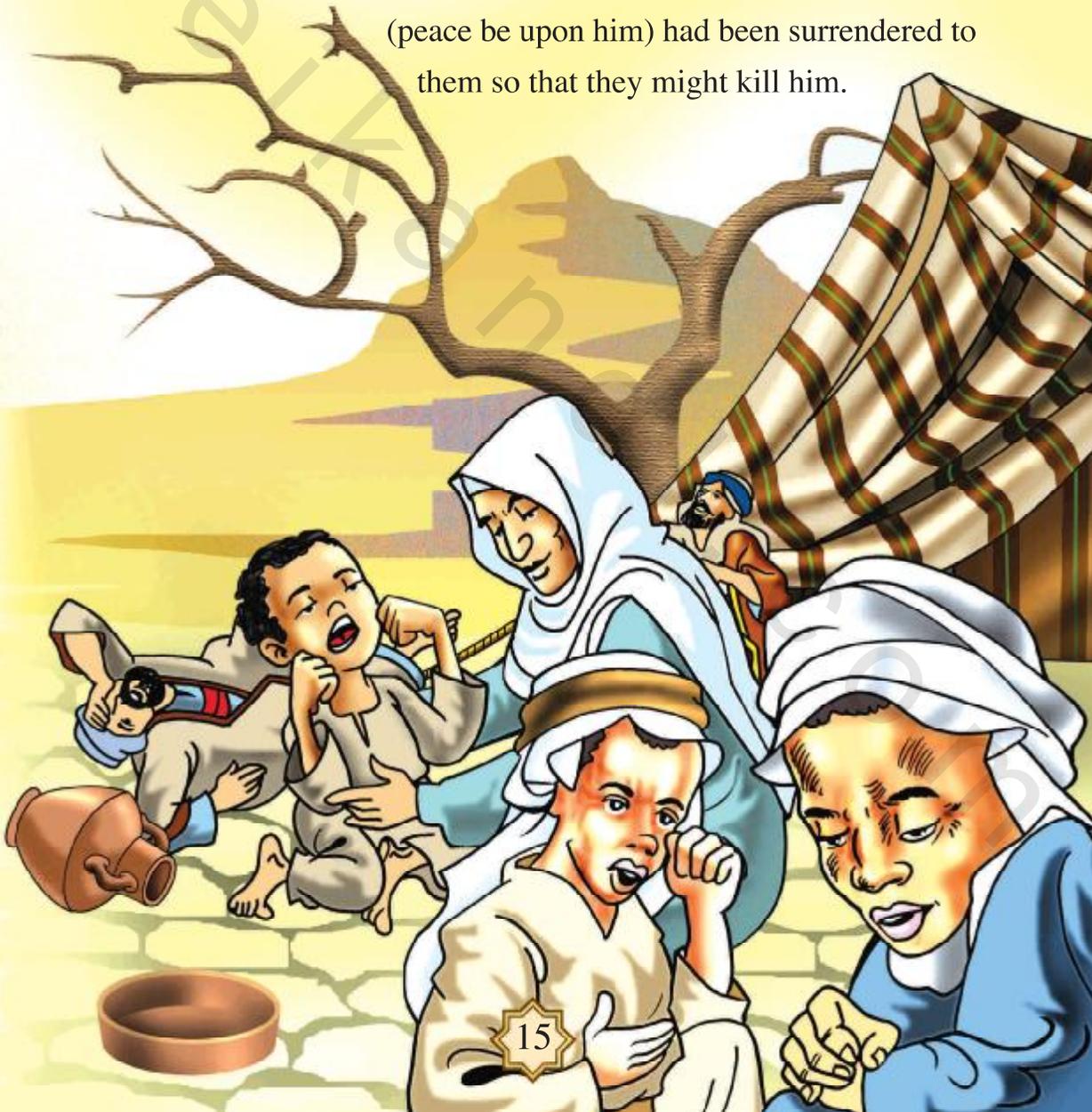
'Umar Converting to Islam

Three days after Hamzah converted to Islam, 'Umar bin Al-Khattâb went out carrying his sword in order to kill the Prophet (peace be upon him). On his way he met a man who informed him that his sister Fâtimah and her husband had converted to Islam. 'Umar became angry and went to his sister's house. When he met her, he slapped her face and made her bleed. But she was patient and told him courageously, 'O 'Umar! It is better that you follow the right.' 'Umar was affected by her strong belief and asked her to let him read the Qur'ân. When he recited it, he was pleased and said, 'These words are good and noble.' He hurried to the Prophet (peace be upon him) and embraced Islam. The Prophet (peace be upon him) said, "Allâh Akbar (Allah is the Greatest)" and the Muslims did the same.



Unjust Boycott

The policy of harm and torture adopted by the Quraish failed to put an end to the call of the Prophet (peace be upon him). So the Quraish boycotted Banu Hâshim and Banu 'Abdul-Muttalib. They wrote down their demands and hung them inside the Ka'bah. They said that they would neither sell to them nor buy from them and they promised to prevent marriages between the clans until the Prophet (peace be upon him) had been surrendered to them so that they might kill him.



Banu Hâshim and Banu 'Abdul-Muttalib suffered from this boycott and kept besieged in the pass of Abu Tâlib for almost three years. They suffered a lot during this period to the extent that they ate tree leaves and skins of animals out of hunger. Some of the noble people of Mecca felt pity when they saw what some of their relatives were suffering. They decided to end this unjust boycott and they succeeded and the Prophet (peace be upon him) and his Companions returned to their houses in peace.

