

The Prophets in Palestine

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

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The Prophets in Palestine is a series of books aimed at providing children with a better understanding of the importance of Jerusalem and Masjid Al Aqsa in Islam. This series of books focuses on several of the Prophets who lived in Palestine and felt a deep connection to the blessed land.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

The story of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ explains the importance of Masjid al-Aqsa. During his lifetime, the Prophet spoke of Jerusalem and Masjid al-Aqsa with love and respect. Allah ﷻ says in the Quran that He has blessed the land of Masjid al-Aqsa.

The Prophet ﷺ visited Jerusalem during the Night Journey, known as al-Isra wa al-Miraj. This was an incredible journey during which the Prophet ﷺ was taken from Makkah to Jerusalem and then to heaven.

This book focuses on the relationship of the blessed Prophet ﷺ with the blessed land of Palestine and seeks to build love for Masjid al-Aqsa in the hearts of young children.

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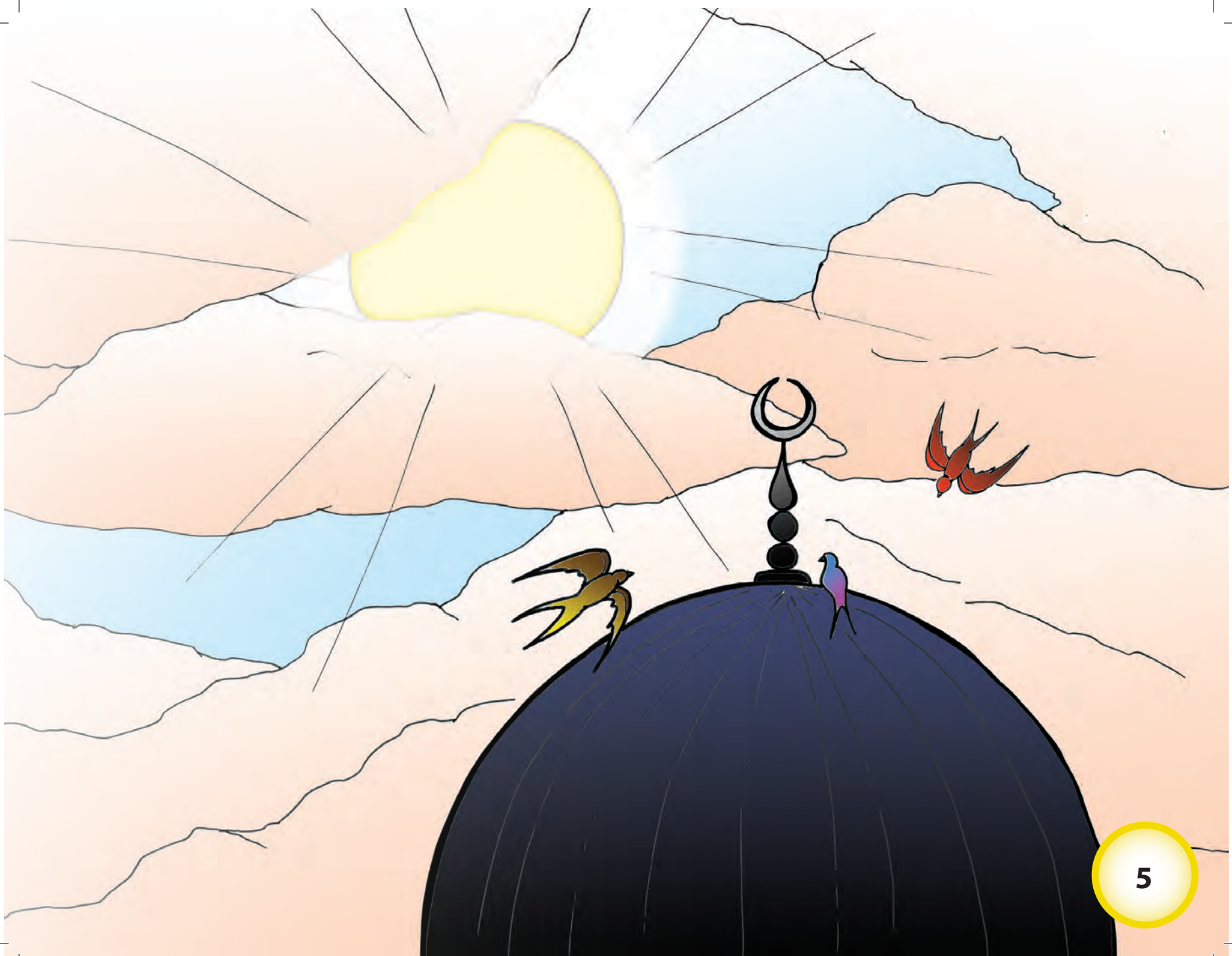
The Prophets in Palestine

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, was the last messenger that Allah ﷻ sent to people, to tell us how to live our lives in the way that God will be happy with. His life is full of exciting stories and many of you may already know about his life story. You might have heard of it being called the seerah.

But did you know that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, like other prophets, also had a special link with Masjid al-Aqsa and the land of Jerusalem?

This is the story about the very important connection between Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Jerusalem.



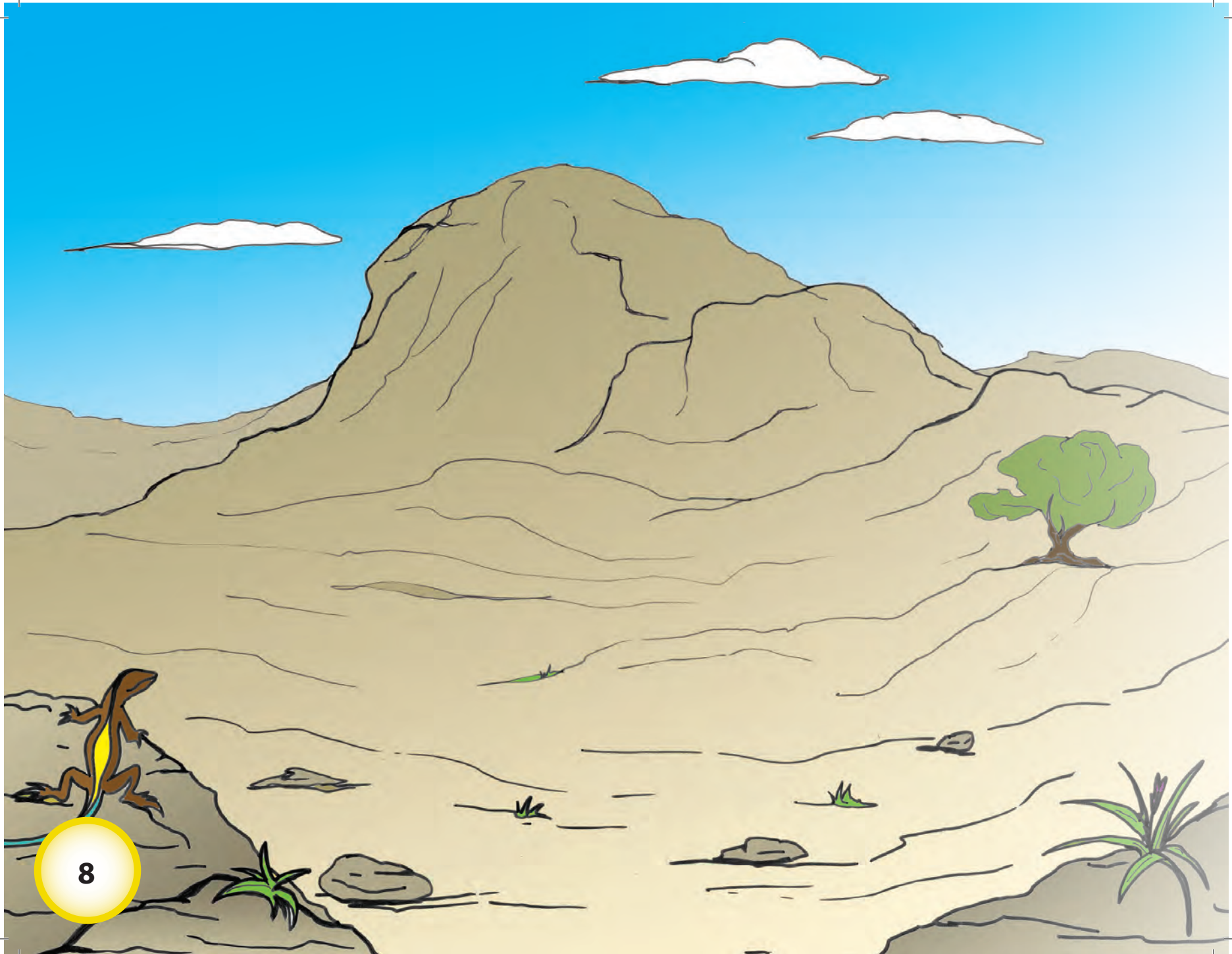
Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born in the warm, dusty lands of Makkah. His father had died before he was born and when he was only six years old, his mother died as well. His grandfather looked after him for a while, but sadly he also passed away. It was at this time that the Prophet's uncle Abu Talib started to look after and protect him.


As he was growing up, he became famous for being fair, honest and very wise. He never fought with anyone and people respected him a great deal.

He became known as al-Amin, which means the trustworthy.



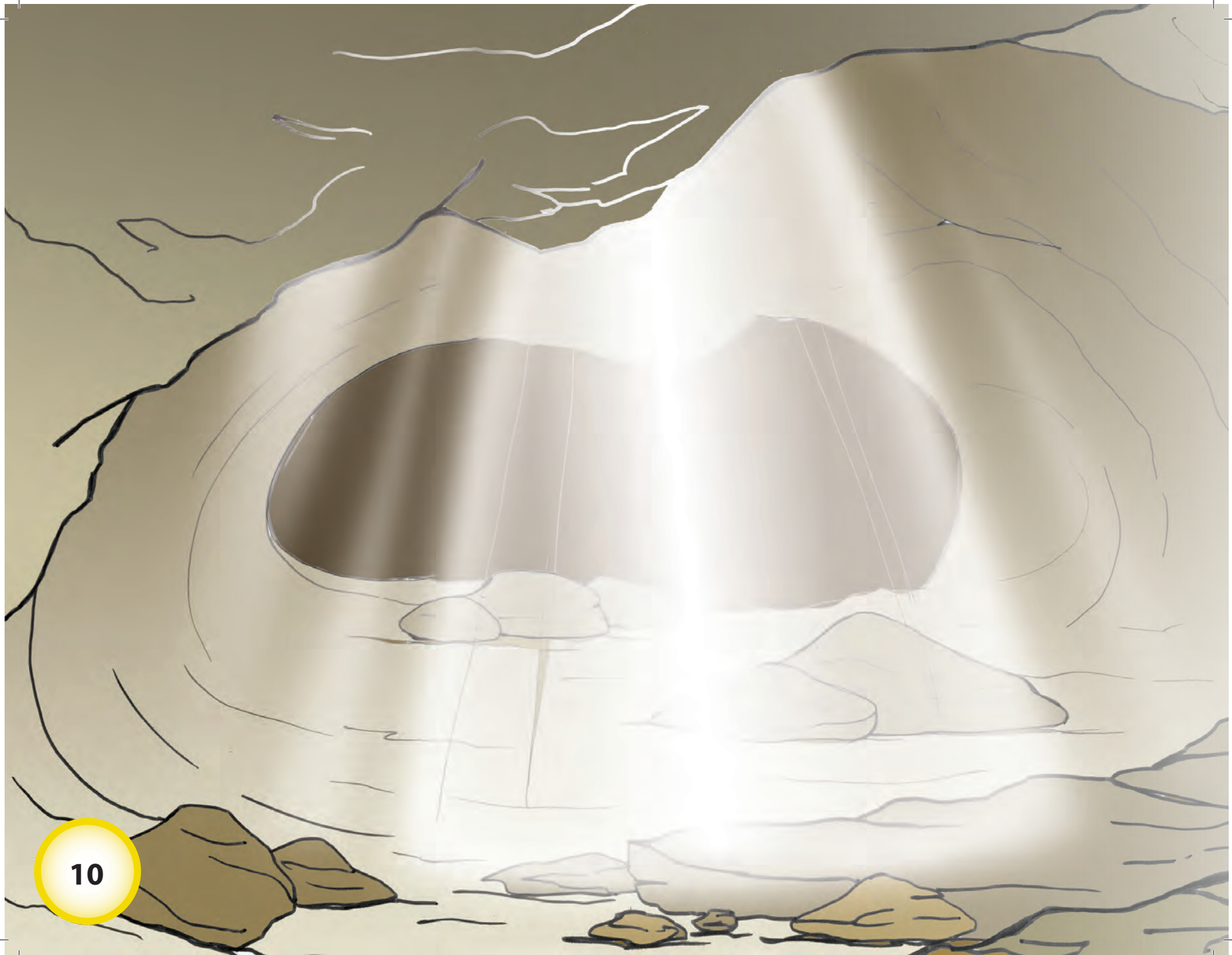






Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to spend a lot of time thinking. He saw people around him doing many horrible things, such as worshipping idols and he knew that it just wasn't right.


He decided that he needed some time away from it all. So, from time to time, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ would climb up one of the mountains in Makkah, and find the small cave called Hira, where he would sit and contemplate. Sometimes, he would be in the cave for days before he went back home!



One day, when he was spending some time in the cave of Hira, something incredible occurred. The angel Jibril appeared in the sky and told Muhammad ﷺ that he was a Messenger of Allah ﷻ. The Prophet was full of fear when he saw the angel and he ran back home to his wife Khadijah saying, "Cover me! Cover me!" He told Khadijah everything that had happened and she comforted him, telling him not to worry.

Through this and with Allah's ﷻ help, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ now had the confidence to begin his mission of teaching people about Allah ﷻ and calling people to Islam.





His mission was small to begin with and only a few people accepted the message that he was trying to pass on.

One of the first things that Allah ﷻ commanded the Prophet to do was to pray the salaah. At that time, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the few Muslims with him didn't face the Ka'ba in Makkah – do you know which direction they faced?

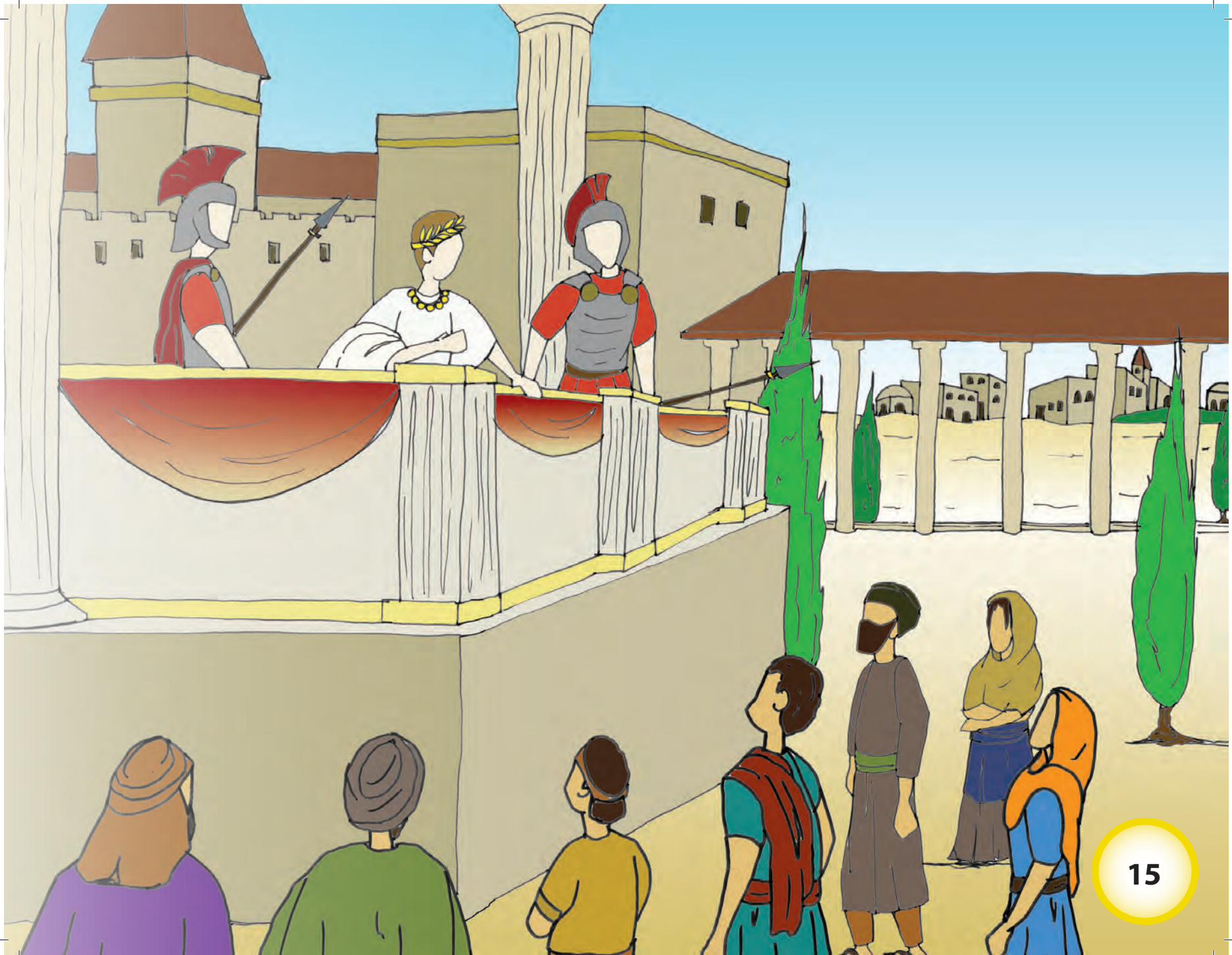
They faced Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem! So Masjid al-Aqsa was the first qibla of the Muslims.

At the time, Jerusalem was being ruled by the Romans, who were Christians. But the Persians, who were fire worshippers soon attacked Jerusalem and took over the city.


This made the non-believers in Makkah very happy because the fire worshipping Persians were their friends.

But Allah ﷻ had informed Prophet Muhammad ﷺ that in just a few years, the Romans would take Jerusalem back from the Persians. When this happened, many people accepted Islam because they knew that only a true Prophet could predict such a thing.





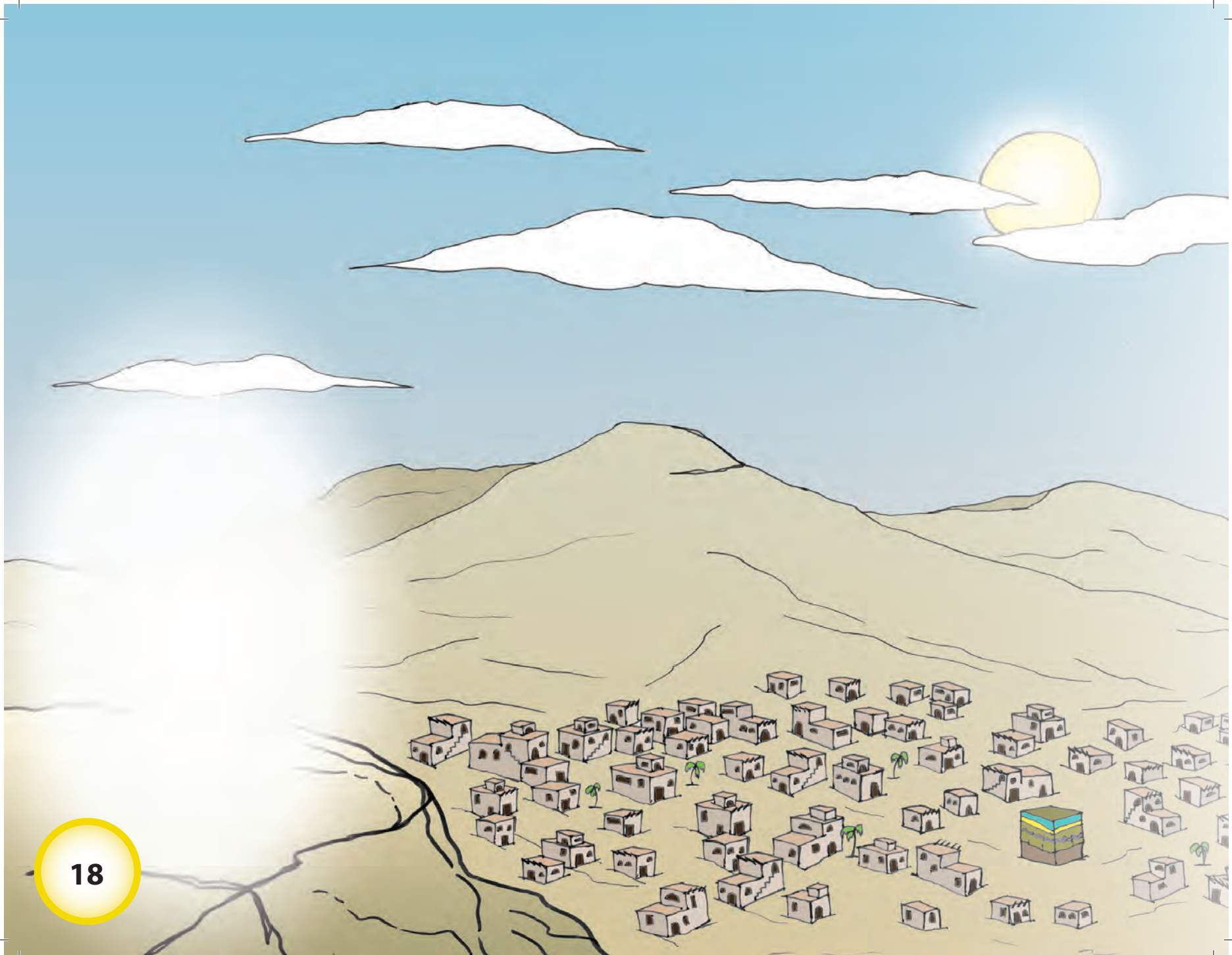





Meanwhile in Makkah, the Quraysh, who were the biggest tribe in Makkah, started to become jealous of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. They were worried that he was taking people away from their own religion which was idol worshipping. They were very cruel to the Prophet ﷺ and all of the Muslims who followed him.

They prevented Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and the Muslims from praying at the Ka'ba. They would throw dirt at the Muslims when they came out of their houses and they even scattered sharp thorns along the path the Prophet ﷺ used to walk on.

Despite their cruelty, the Prophet ﷺ continued to invite people to Islam with love and kindness.





In the eleventh year of his mission, something terrible happened that made life for the Prophet ﷺ very difficult. His uncle, Abu Talib, who protected him against his enemies, passed away.

In this same year his wife Khadijah who comforted and supported Prophet Muhammad ﷺ with so much love, also passed away.

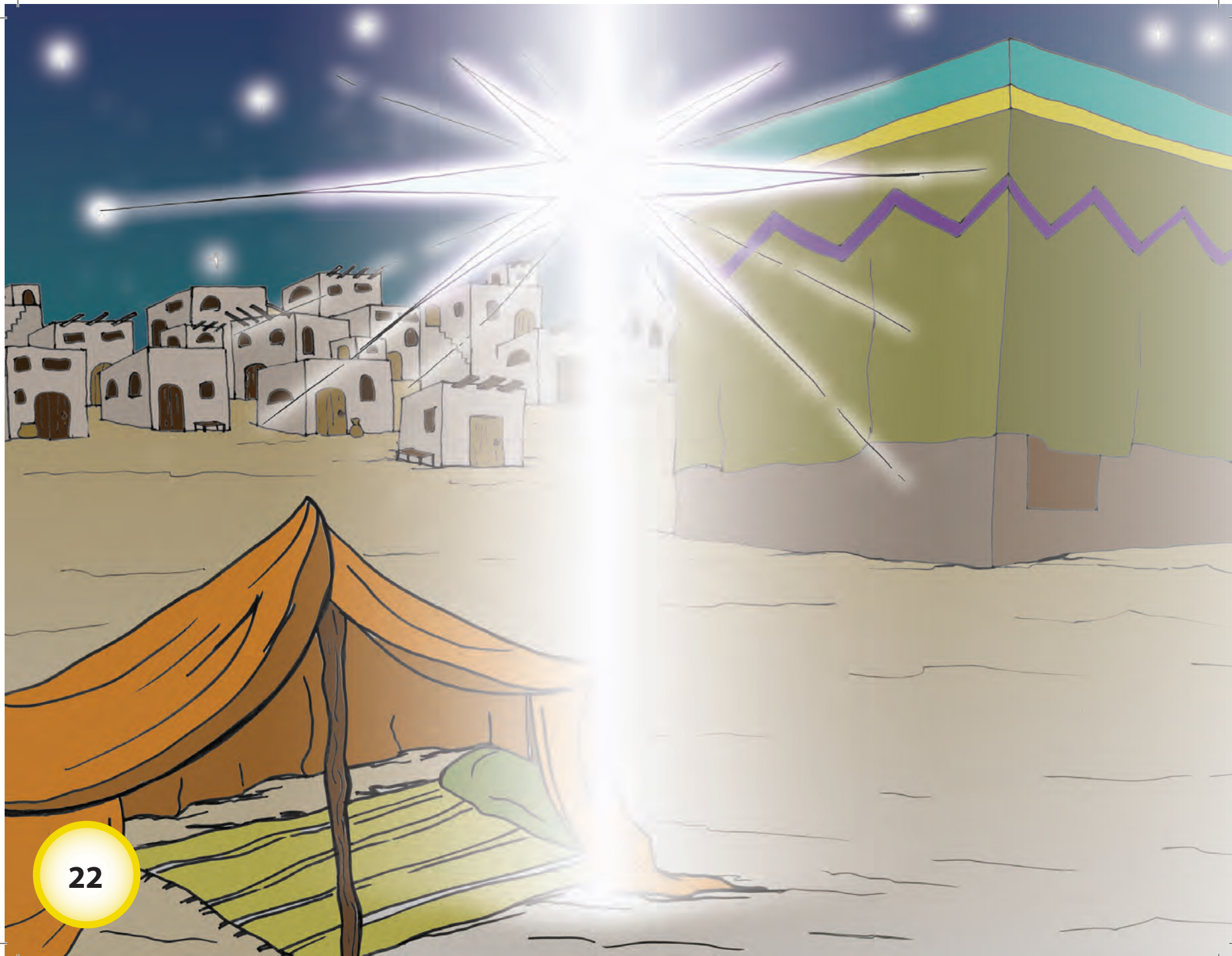
Prophet Muhammad ﷺ decided to visit a town near Makkah called Taif to see if the people there could protect him now that he had lost the support and safety of his uncle and wife. Instead of listening and helping Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, they chased him out of their town!


The Prophet ﷺ felt very sad and lonely and was very worried about how he was going to spread the Message of Allah ﷻ.

But Allah ﷻ was always there to help him. It was at this stage in his life that something truly amazing was about to happen.









One day, while the Prophet ﷺ was sleeping near the Ka'ba, angels came to wake him and asked him to mount an animal. It was smaller than a horse but larger than a donkey and it was called al-Buraq.

The Buraq could travel very very quickly. The Prophet ﷺ climbed carefully onto the Buraq and within seconds he was taken from the Ka'ba in Makkah to Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem – hundreds of kilometres away!

When he arrived at Masjid al-Aqsa, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ found that thousands of men were gathered there ready to pray. He was told that they were all prophets who had come before him.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was the imam of all the prophets ﷺ and he led them all in salaah in Masjid al-Aqsa. This makes Masjid al-Aqsa a very special place.

After this, Allah ﷻ lifted Prophet Muhammad ﷺ up to the heavens! He met a number of prophets on his way such as Adam ﷺ, Ibrahim ﷺ and Musa ﷺ.






Allah ﷻ gave Prophet Muhammad ﷺ a very special gift on this night, to take back to the people. Do you know what that gift was?

It was the gift of the five daily salaah! By praying to Allah ﷻ on a daily basis the Muslims will always remember Him.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ then came down from the heavens and returned to Makkah the same night.






The next morning, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told the people of Makkah that during the night, he had been to al-Aqsa in Jerusalem, up to the heavens and back again.

The non-Muslims began to laugh at him because they did not believe it was possible to travel so far and back, in one night.

But the Muslims believed in him because they knew Allah ﷻ has power over everything and can make anything happen.





As time went on, the non-Muslim Makkans were treating the Muslims with more and more cruelty. They even planned to kill Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, but with the help of Allah ﷻ Prophet Muhammad ﷺ found out about their evil plan.

It was at this time that he made Hijra and left Makkah and went to Medina.

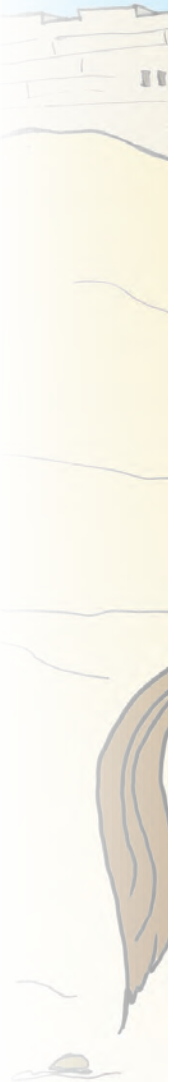
The Prophet ﷺ built many Masajid in Medina – and they were all still facing Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem. After some time though, Allah ﷻ ordered the Prophet ﷺ to change the qiblah direction to the Ka'ba in Makkah.

The Prophet ﷺ carried on teaching people about Islam when he was in Medina. During this time a lot of people accepted Islam.

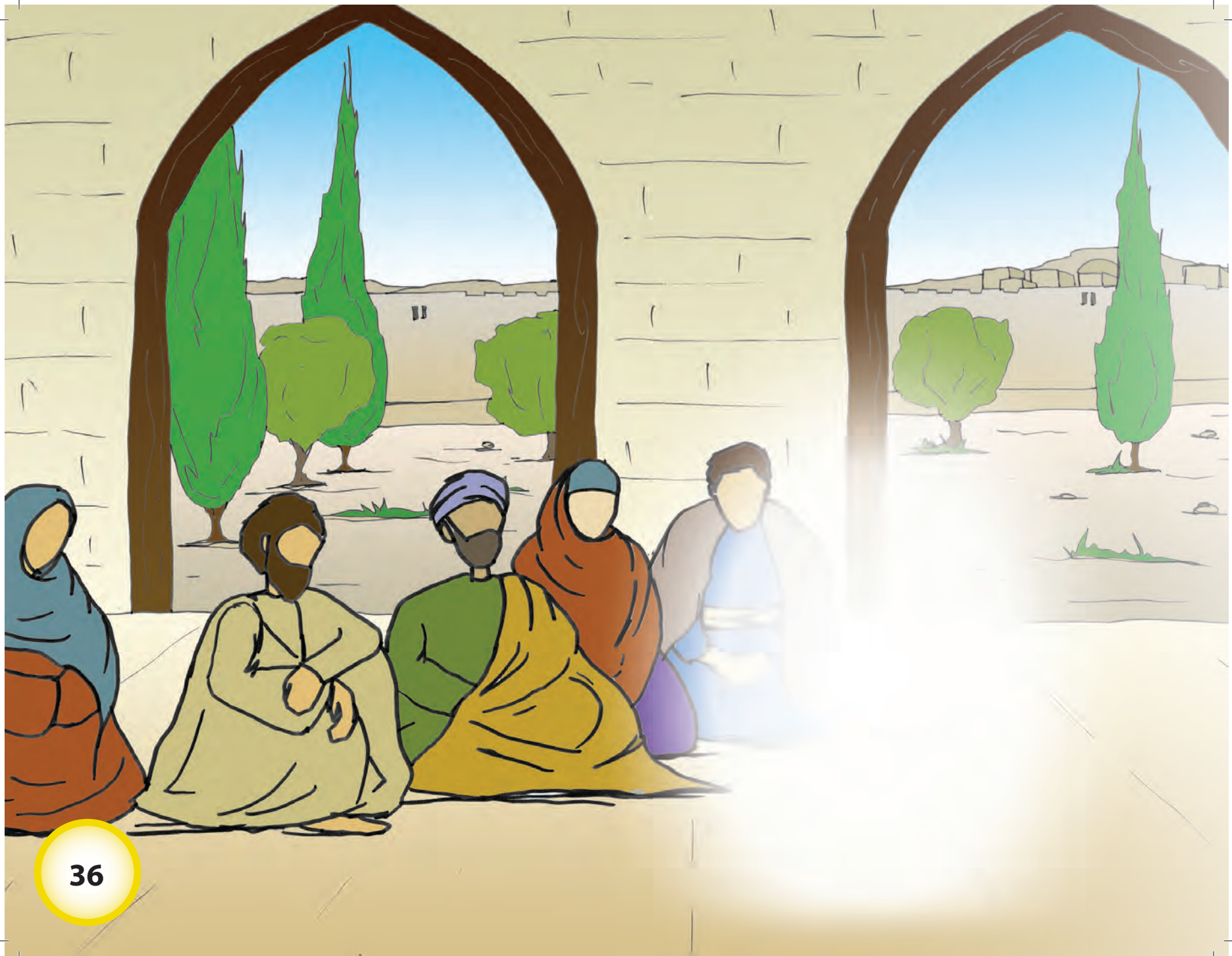
He sent an invitation to a Roman emperor called Heraclius, who was the king of Jerusalem. Heraclius did not accept Islam, but he treated the Prophet's ﷺ representative with a lot of respect.




Many times, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told his companions that one day Jerusalem will be under Muslim rule. Of course, we can see that it wasn't long before this happened. Only six years after the death of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Jerusalem was brought under Muslim rule.







An illustration on the left side of the page shows a large, dark brown tree trunk in the foreground. In the background, there is a light-colored building with a crenelated roofline, possibly a fort or a city wall. The sky is a pale blue.

When the Prophet ﷺ was 63 years old, he became very ill with fever. Despite this, he asked for an army to go towards Jerusalem and check on the Romans who were in charge there.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was becoming more and more ill. He was very weak but still led the salaah until he was very close to passing away.


The last time he appeared in the Masjid, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ spoke to the people and told them to follow the Qur'an and his teachings. He also made dua to Allah ﷻ to help the people who were suffering.

The Prophet ﷺ was never seen at public prayers after this. Not long after, the Prophet ﷺ passed away, his head resting on the lap of his wife Aisha رضي الله عنها. The Prophet ﷺ had completed his mission to bring Islam to the people.









The Muslims were in shock and couldn't believe that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had passed away. His close friend Abu Bakr ؓ who was to be the new leader of the Muslims, comforted the people, and reminded them that Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was just a man and it is Allah ﷻ who we worship, and He is always there.

The Muslims were still very upset and sad but they knew that the best way to show love to the Prophet ﷺ is to follow his example. This means behaving like he did.

Prophet Muhammad ﷺ left us with two very important things – the Qur'an and the Sunnah. The Sunnah is the example of the life of the Prophet ﷺ. Throughout his life, he gave the Muslims advice on how to live their lives. One special reminder that he would give the Muslims was that everything would one day pass away – even the earth!

But before the end of the world, many events will occur around Masjid al-Aqsa.

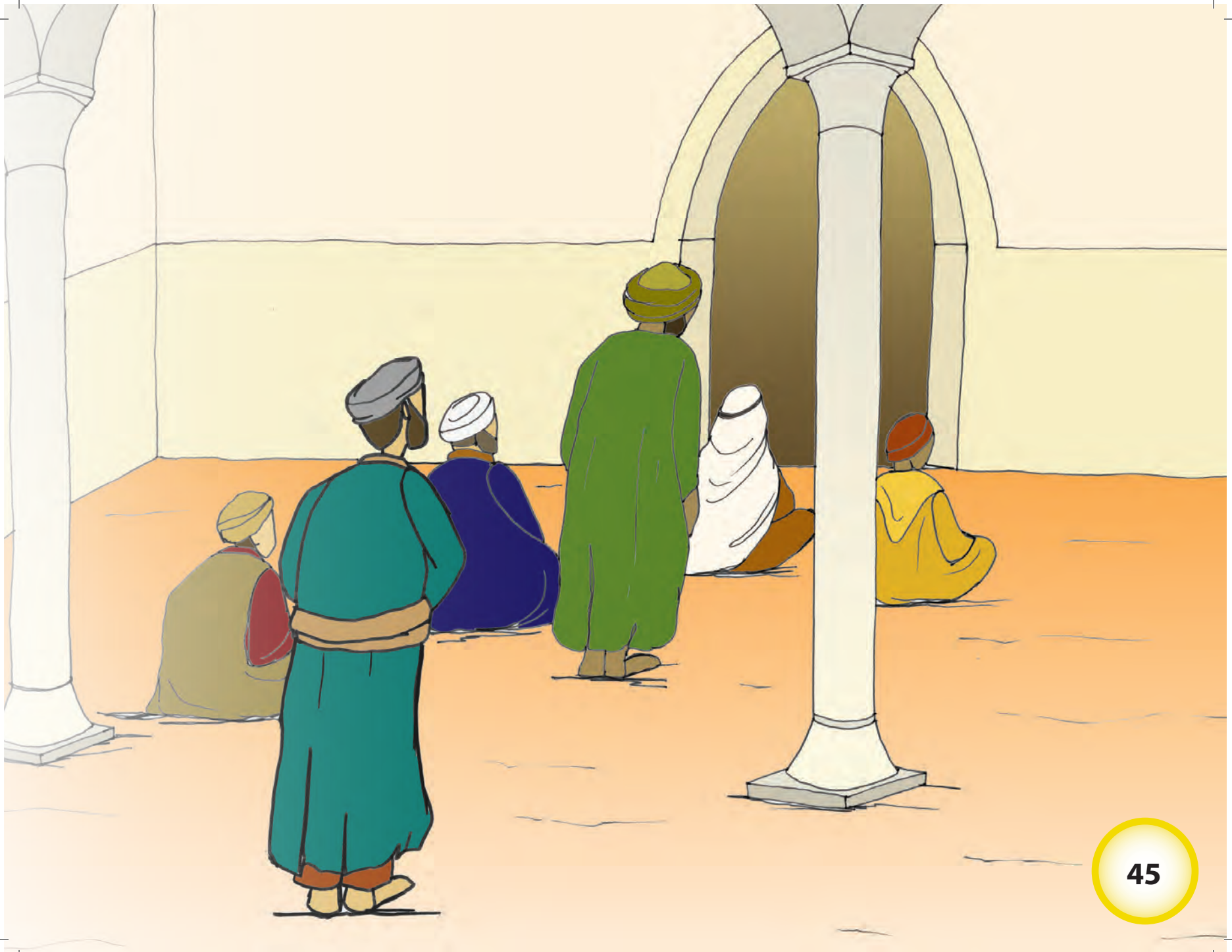




The Prophet ﷺ loved Masjid al-Aqsa a lot and he wanted the believers to care for it too. Many people like to travel to visit Masjid al-Aqsa but if you can't, the Prophet ﷺ also encouraged sending oil to be used in the lamps of the Masjid.

This means that sending money for the Masjid is a great thing to do! The Prophet ﷺ said whoever does this will get a reward which is the same as praying in Masjid al-Aqsa.

This is amazing because the reward for praying a salaah in Masjid al-Aqsa is 500 times more than in any other Masjid, except the Masajid in Makkah and Medina.




Masjid al-Aqsa is special because it is mentioned by name in the Qur'an. For Muslims this is very important because from all the Masajid that exist, Allah ﷻ specially chose to talk about Masjid al-Aqsa.

Muslims should not only donate money to it and visit the Masjid, but we should also try to learn about the Masjid, and especially be concerned about what is happening there today.

You might remember from the story of Ibrahim عليه السلام that he migrated to Jerusalem from his home. Well, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told us that the best migration is towards Jerusalem!







The people of Jerusalem are also considered very special. Ali عليه السلام, the fourth leader of the Muslims after Prophet Muhammad ﷺ passed away, used to say "I wish I were a blade of straw between the bricks of Jerusalem".

Many Muslim scholars believe that not only do you get more reward for praying in Masjid al-Aqsa, but any good deed also has a much higher reward in that area!


Allah ﷻ has blessed the land of Jerusalem in Palestine. In fact, Allah ﷻ says that all the land around Masjid al-Aqsa is full of barakah. Allah ﷻ has blessed the people, land and even the animals of this area.

Whoever goes to Masjid al-Aqsa on their way to Makkah to perform Hajj or Umrah, can get a special reward.



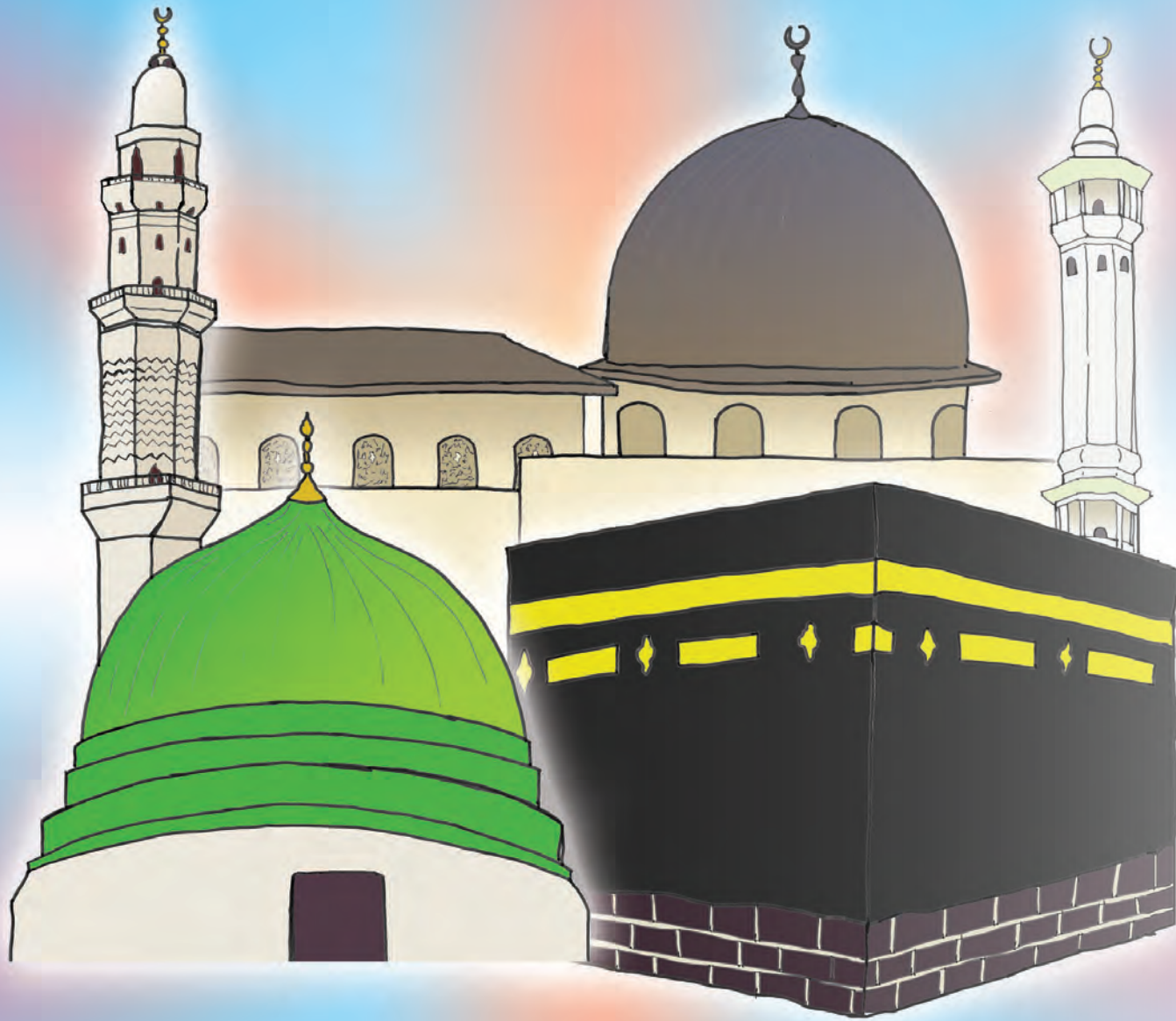






Everyone who goes on Hajj or Umrah needs to wear Ihram, which is special clothing. Anyone who visits Masjid al-Aqsa first and wears their Ihram from there before going to Makkah will have all their past sins forgiven and they will be helped to enter Jannah.

This is a sign of great blessings and is another reason to visit Masjid al-Aqsa before going for Hajj or Umrah.



Did you know that Masjid al-Aqsa is the second oldest Masjid in the world and was built only 40 years after the Ka'ba in Makkah?


Masjid al-Aqsa is one of the three most important Masajid in the world. The first is the Ka'ba, then the Masjid of the Prophet ﷺ in Medina and finally Masjid al-Aqsa in Jerusalem.



From the life of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ we learn the importance of Masjid al-Aqsa. He cared about it and so we should too.

We should try to visit it if we can and remember to make dua that Allah ﷻ protects it and helps the Palestinian people who are taking care of Masjid al-Aqsa.





What did you learn from this story?

Below are some facts that show the importance of Masjid al-Aqsa and Jerusalem in the Seerah of Prophet Muhammad ﷺ:

1. Masjid al-Aqsa was the first qiblah for Muslims
2. Masjid al-Aqsa is where the Prophet ﷺ was taken on the night of al-Isra
3. Masjid al-Aqsa is the second Masjid built on earth
4. The area around Masjid al-Aqsa is blessed by Allah
5. Masjid al-Aqsa is mentioned in the Qur'an
6. The Prophet ﷺ loved and cared for Masjid al-Aqsa and so should we.

Jerusalem and Masjid al-Aqsa are both very important to Muslims. We should always remember this and keep it in our prayers.

