

The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions

Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas رضي الله عنه

The Lion in the Den

By: **Abdul Basit Ahmad**

Edited by: **Aqeel Walker & Muhammad Ayub Sapra**

The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions

سعد بن أبي وقاص ؓ — الأسد في عرينه

Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas ﷺ

The Lion in the Den



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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

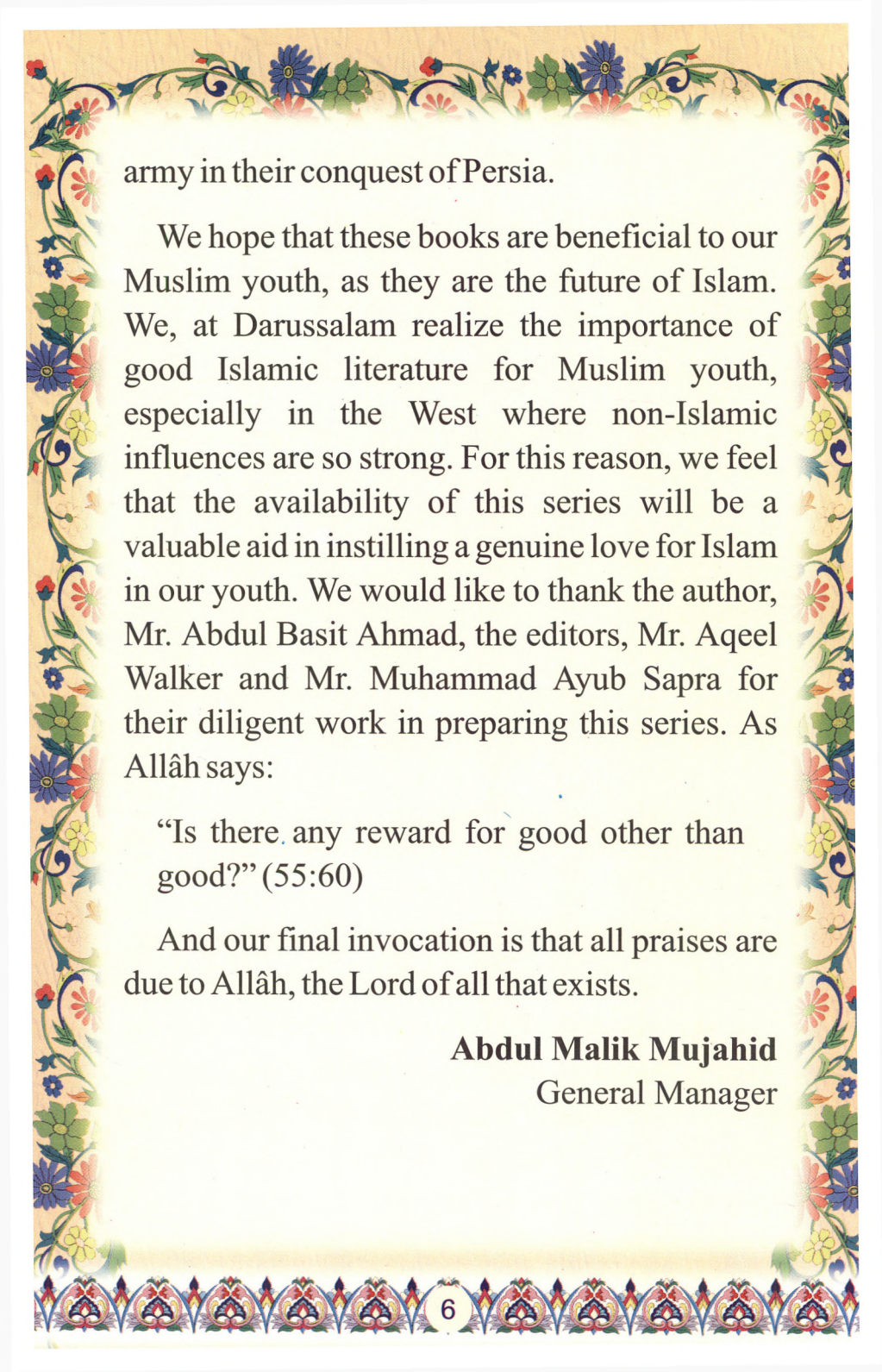
“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e., they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e., have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e., they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least.” (33:23)

Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*', to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our younger and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

In the following story, '*Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas* ﷺ – *The Lion in the Den*', the life of one of the greatest heroes of Islam is reviewed. He was among the great warriors of Islam and one of the ten people whom the Prophet ﷺ promised their entry into Paradise. He was the Prophet's uncle and the great commander who led the Muslim



army in their conquest of Persia.

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We, at Darussalam realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim youth, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our youth. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (55:60)

And our final invocation is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

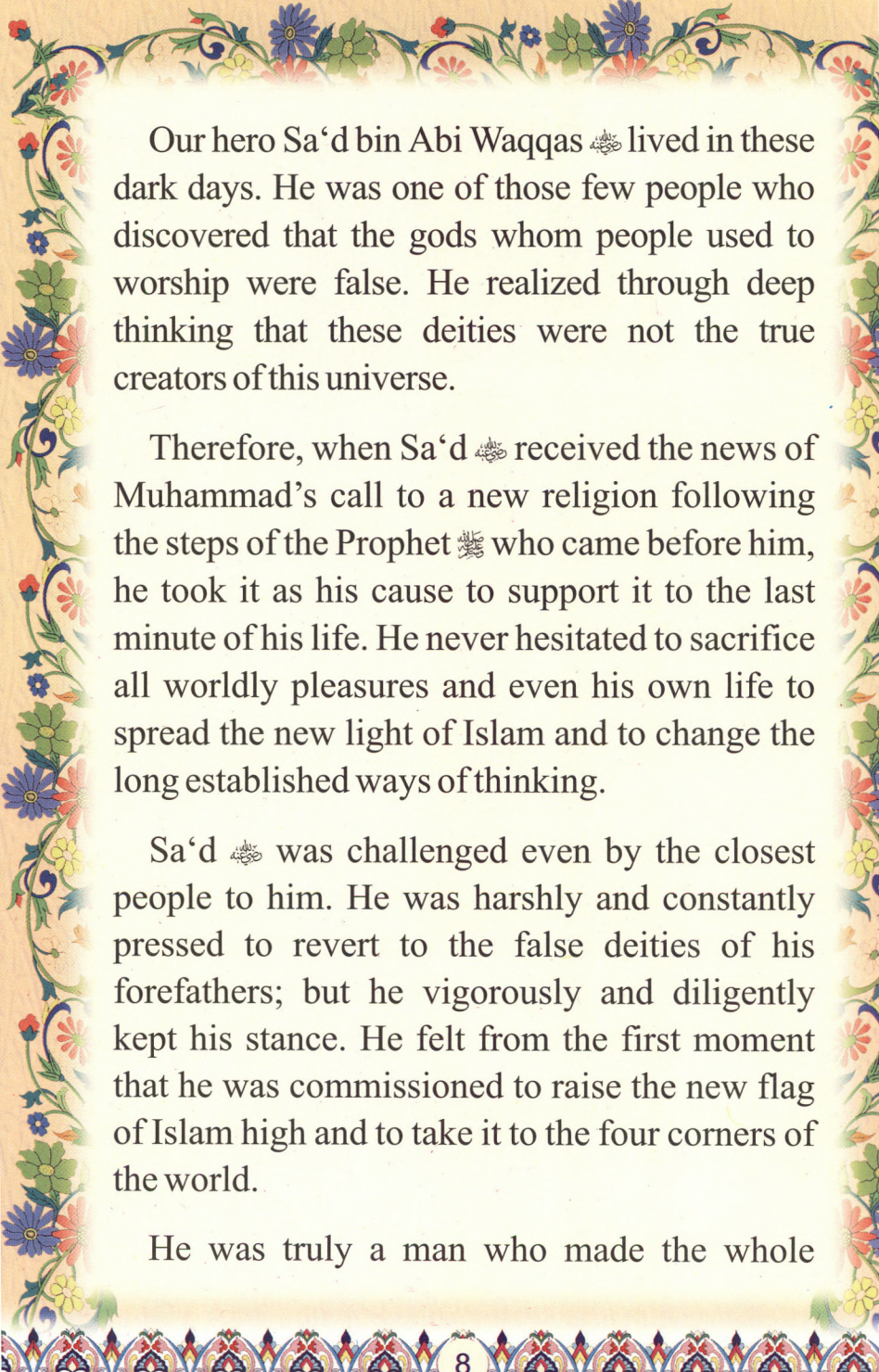


Foreword

Most Arabs, if not all, were directly or indirectly devoted to protecting their long established customs and traditions. They were mostly idol worshippers. Some of them thought of a different way of life that kept them away from doing the evils, which had spread in their societies. Nevertheless, these people did not have the courage to change any of the misguided traditions that they were adopting. Therefore, they kept themselves to a limited measure, away from the practices of their societies.

There were no pure heavenly teachings to direct the communities that were dispersed over the Arabian desert. Tribes were upholding traditions that no one dared to change. The Bibles of the Jews and Christians were mostly corrupted by priests who claimed to have received them from the original source.

Gloom and ignorance spread over the entire globe. Therefore, it was time to reveal a new light of guidance to bring back those who lost the way to true faith.

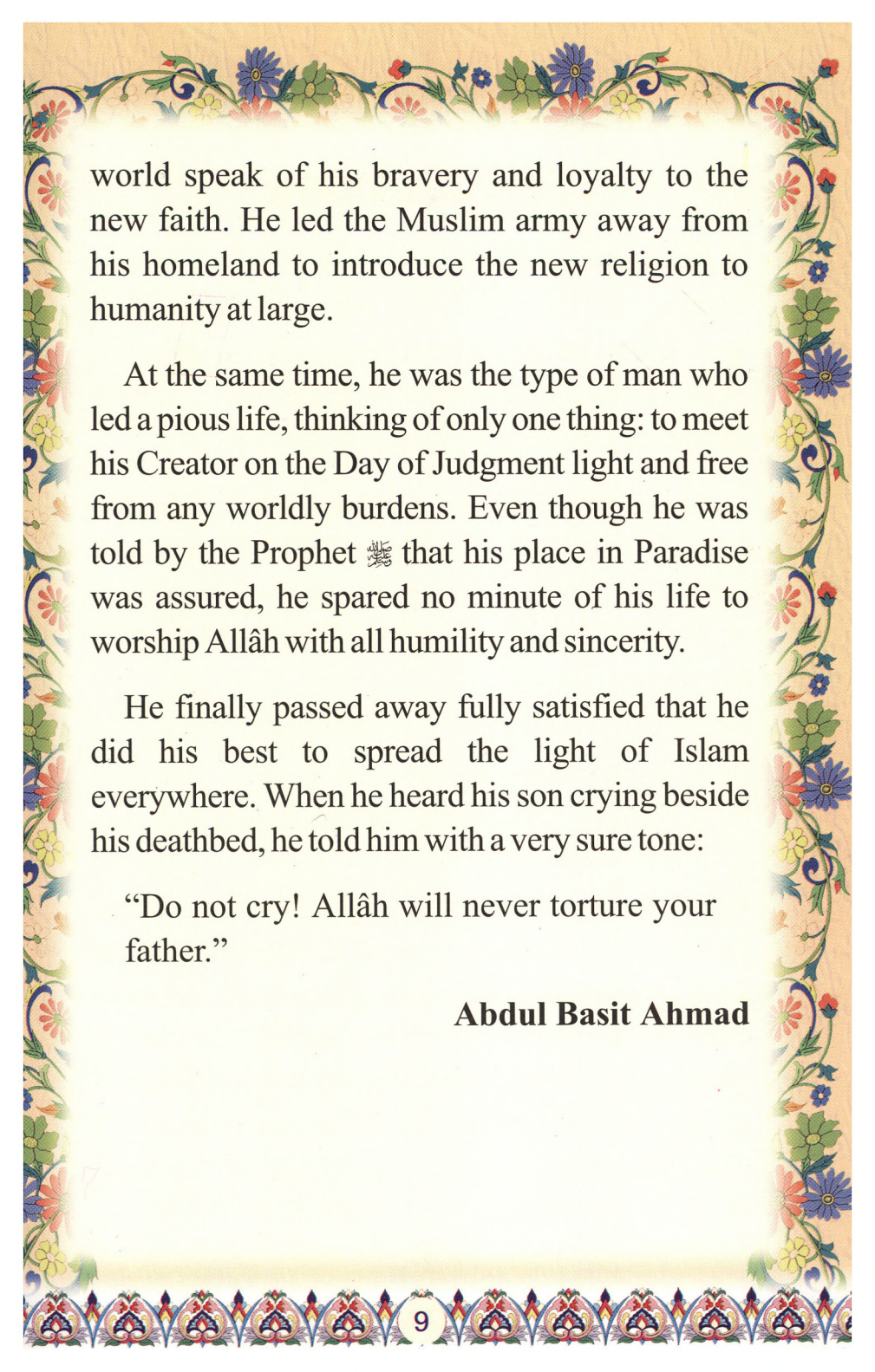


Our hero Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas ؓ lived in these dark days. He was one of those few people who discovered that the gods whom people used to worship were false. He realized through deep thinking that these deities were not the true creators of this universe.

Therefore, when Sa'd ؓ received the news of Muhammad's call to a new religion following the steps of the Prophet ﷺ who came before him, he took it as his cause to support it to the last minute of his life. He never hesitated to sacrifice all worldly pleasures and even his own life to spread the new light of Islam and to change the long established ways of thinking.

Sa'd ؓ was challenged even by the closest people to him. He was harshly and constantly pressed to revert to the false deities of his forefathers; but he vigorously and diligently kept his stance. He felt from the first moment that he was commissioned to raise the new flag of Islam high and to take it to the four corners of the world.

He was truly a man who made the whole



world speak of his bravery and loyalty to the new faith. He led the Muslim army away from his homeland to introduce the new religion to humanity at large.

At the same time, he was the type of man who led a pious life, thinking of only one thing: to meet his Creator on the Day of Judgment light and free from any worldly burdens. Even though he was told by the Prophet ﷺ that his place in Paradise was assured, he spared no minute of his life to worship Allâh with all humility and sincerity.

He finally passed away fully satisfied that he did his best to spread the light of Islam everywhere. When he heard his son crying beside his deathbed, he told him with a very sure tone:

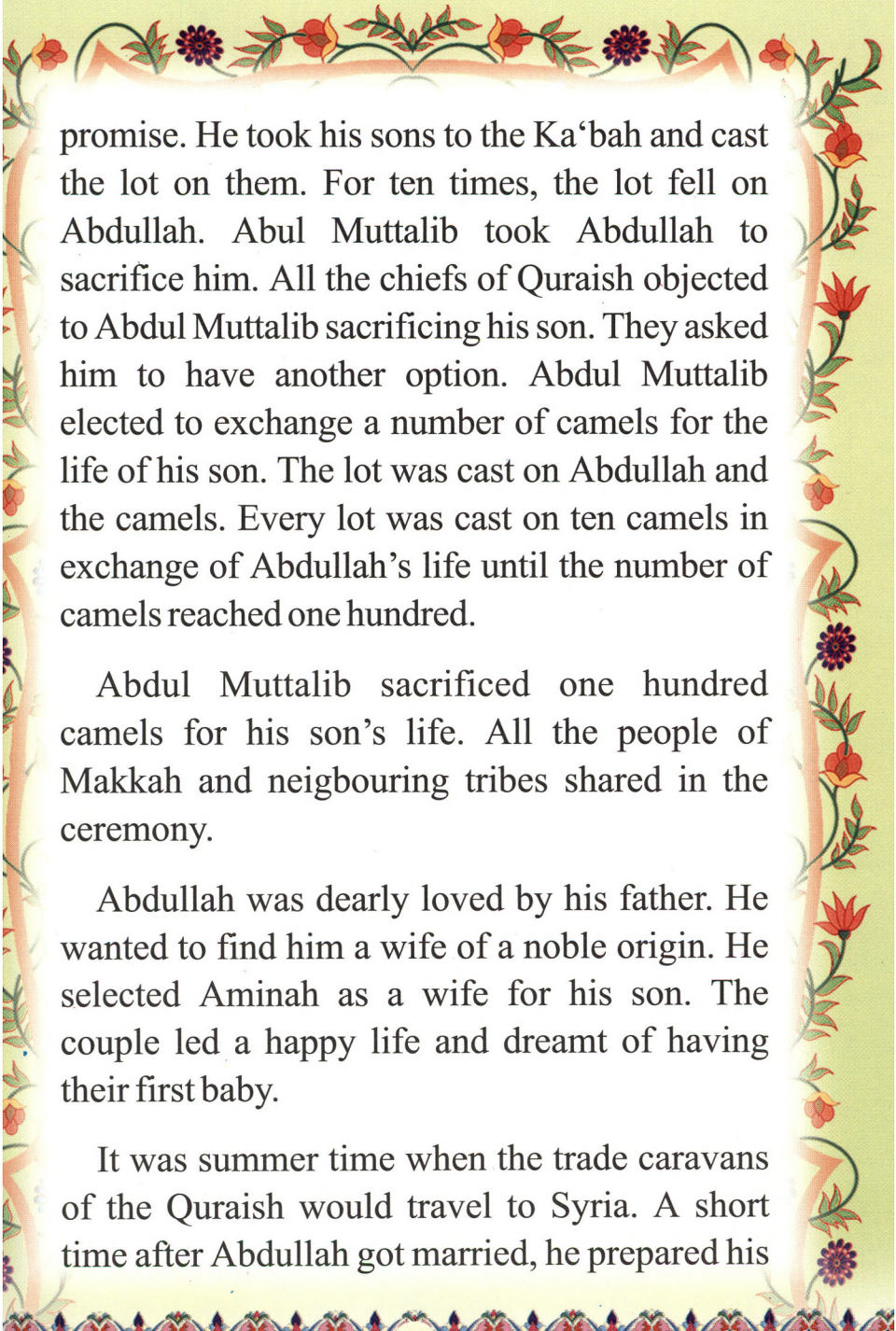
“Do not cry! Allâh will never torture your father.”

Abdul Basit Ahmad

Introduction

Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah in the noblest family of the Quraish tribe. His father was Abdullah bin Abdul Muttalib, the chief of Bani Hashim clan, and his mother was Aminah bint Wahb, from Bani Zuhrah clan.

Abdul Muttalib saw a dream ordering him to uncover the well of Zamzam (a blessed well which sprung from under the feet of Isma‘il عليه السلام when he was left with his mother Hajar by his father Ibrahim عليه السلام in the valley of Makkah). The location of the well was missed until Abdul Mattalib saw this dream. The man who came to him in the dream showed him the location of the well. Abdul Muttalib uncovered the well. The other chiefs of the Quraish wanted to have their share of honour of providing water to pilgrims from the well. They were stronger than Abdul Muttalib because he had no sons to support him. Abdul Muttalib made an oath that if he was given ten sons by Allâh, he would give one of them as a sacrifice. Abdul Muttalib got ten sons as he wished. He wanted to fulfill his

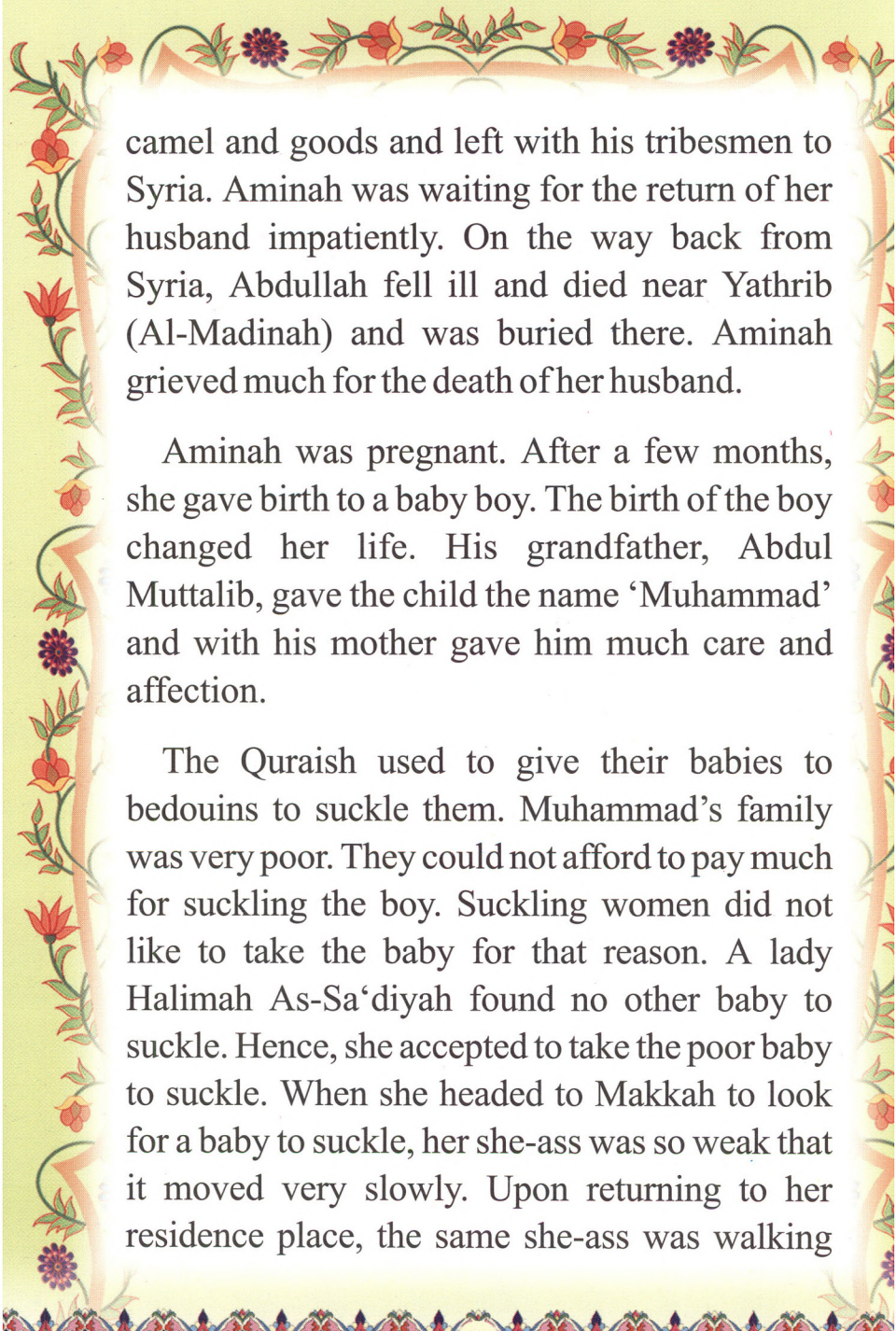


promise. He took his sons to the Ka‘bah and cast the lot on them. For ten times, the lot fell on Abdullah. Abul Muttalib took Abdullah to sacrifice him. All the chiefs of Quraish objected to Abdul Muttalib sacrificing his son. They asked him to have another option. Abdul Muttalib elected to exchange a number of camels for the life of his son. The lot was cast on Abdullah and the camels. Every lot was cast on ten camels in exchange of Abdullah’s life until the number of camels reached one hundred.

Abdul Muttalib sacrificed one hundred camels for his son’s life. All the people of Makkah and neighbouring tribes shared in the ceremony.

Abdullah was dearly loved by his father. He wanted to find him a wife of a noble origin. He selected Aminah as a wife for his son. The couple led a happy life and dreamt of having their first baby.

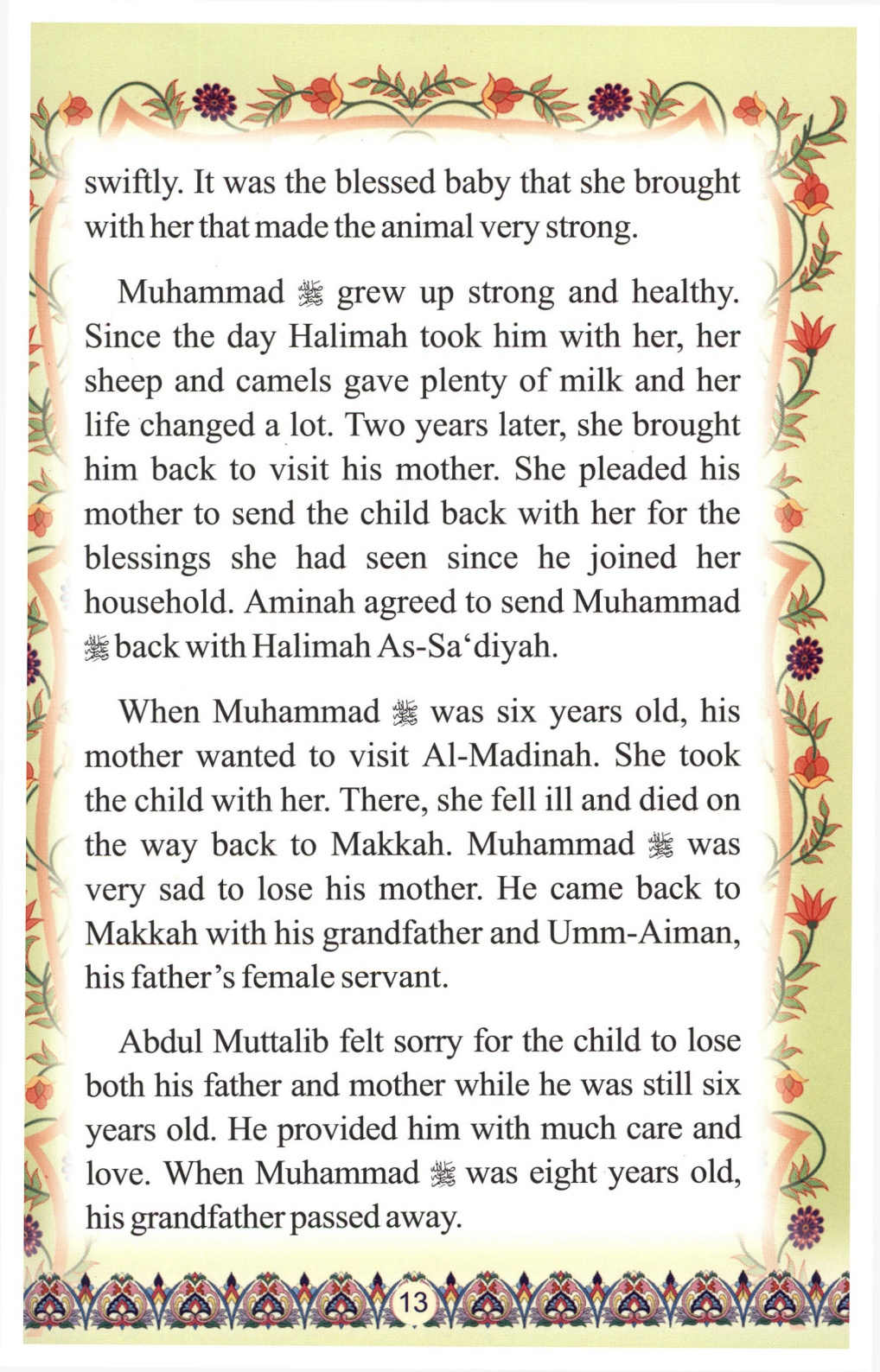
It was summer time when the trade caravans of the Quraish would travel to Syria. A short time after Abdullah got married, he prepared his



camel and goods and left with his tribesmen to Syria. Aminah was waiting for the return of her husband impatiently. On the way back from Syria, Abdullah fell ill and died near Yathrib (Al-Madinah) and was buried there. Aminah grieved much for the death of her husband.

Aminah was pregnant. After a few months, she gave birth to a baby boy. The birth of the boy changed her life. His grandfather, Abdul Muttalib, gave the child the name 'Muhammad' and with his mother gave him much care and affection.

The Quraish used to give their babies to bedouins to suckle them. Muhammad's family was very poor. They could not afford to pay much for suckling the boy. Suckling women did not like to take the baby for that reason. A lady Halimah As-Sa'diyah found no other baby to suckle. Hence, she accepted to take the poor baby to suckle. When she headed to Makkah to look for a baby to suckle, her she-ass was so weak that it moved very slowly. Upon returning to her residence place, the same she-ass was walking

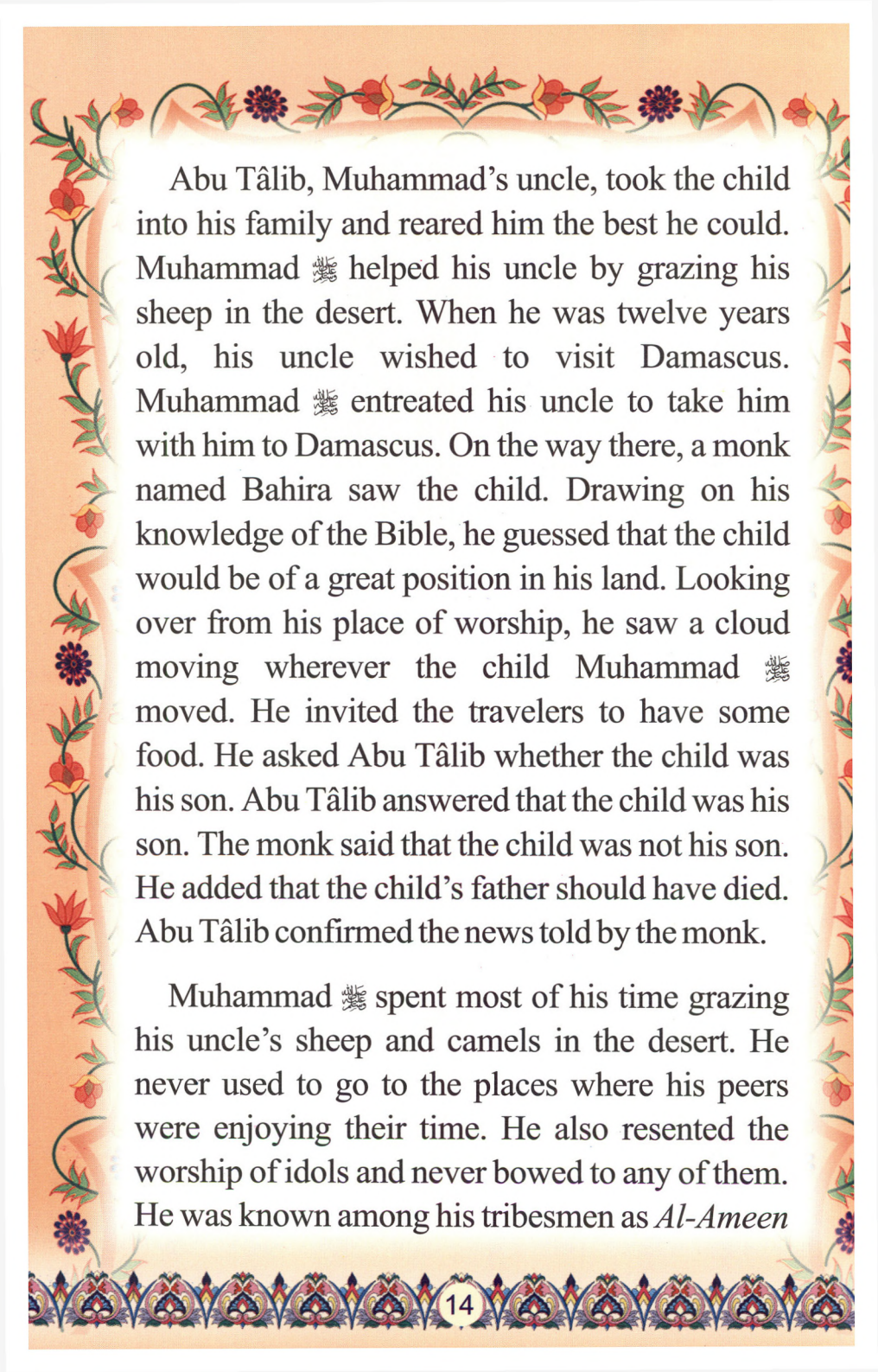


swiftly. It was the blessed baby that she brought with her that made the animal very strong.

Muhammad ﷺ grew up strong and healthy. Since the day Halimah took him with her, her sheep and camels gave plenty of milk and her life changed a lot. Two years later, she brought him back to visit his mother. She pleaded his mother to send the child back with her for the blessings she had seen since he joined her household. Aminah agreed to send Muhammad ﷺ back with Halimah As-Sa‘adiyah.

When Muhammad ﷺ was six years old, his mother wanted to visit Al-Madinah. She took the child with her. There, she fell ill and died on the way back to Makkah. Muhammad ﷺ was very sad to lose his mother. He came back to Makkah with his grandfather and Umm-Aiman, his father’s female servant.

Abdul Muttalib felt sorry for the child to lose both his father and mother while he was still six years old. He provided him with much care and love. When Muhammad ﷺ was eight years old, his grandfather passed away.



Abu Tâlib, Muhammad's uncle, took the child into his family and reared him the best he could. Muhammad ﷺ helped his uncle by grazing his sheep in the desert. When he was twelve years old, his uncle wished to visit Damascus. Muhammad ﷺ entreated his uncle to take him with him to Damascus. On the way there, a monk named Bahira saw the child. Drawing on his knowledge of the Bible, he guessed that the child would be of a great position in his land. Looking over from his place of worship, he saw a cloud moving wherever the child Muhammad ﷺ moved. He invited the travelers to have some food. He asked Abu Tâlib whether the child was his son. Abu Tâlib answered that the child was his son. The monk said that the child was not his son. He added that the child's father should have died. Abu Tâlib confirmed the news told by the monk.

Muhammad ﷺ spent most of his time grazing his uncle's sheep and camels in the desert. He never used to go to the places where his peers were enjoying their time. He also resented the worship of idols and never bowed to any of them. He was known among his tribesmen as *Al-Ameen*

(the Trustworthy).

When he was twenty-five years old, a wealthy woman from Quraish heard about Muhammad ﷺ. She asked him to work for her as a merchant. Muhammad ﷺ traveled again to Damascus and traded for Khadijah. Her servant Maysarah told her about the signs he saw about Muhammad ﷺ during their trip to and from Damascus. Khadijah was forty years old and was a widow. Many chiefs of Quraish asked her hand in marriage but she preferred Muhammad ﷺ to them. She married Muhammad ﷺ and the couple led a happy life.



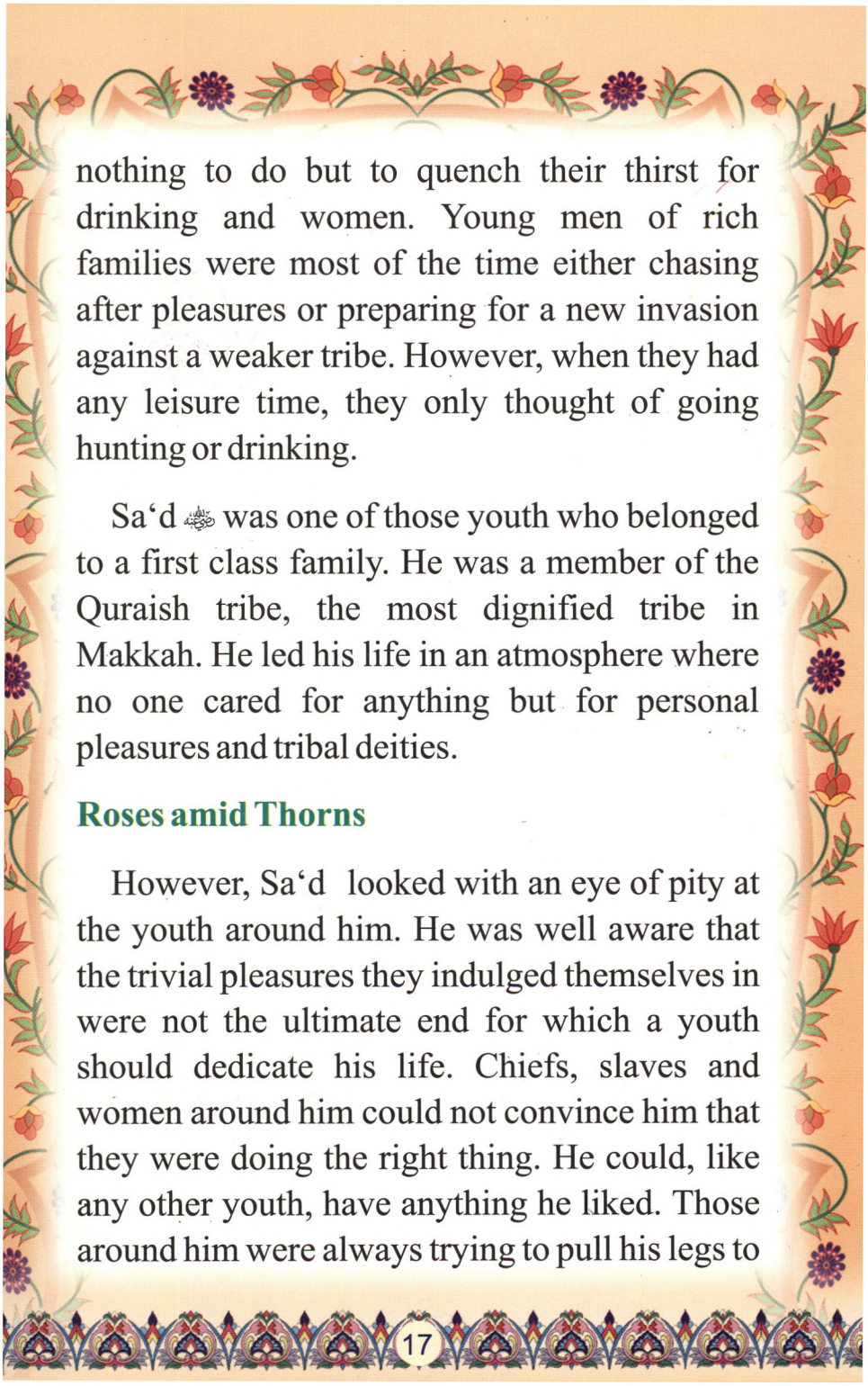
The First Steps on the Way to Truth

Background

A short time before the advent of Islam, Makkans were mainly interested in satisfying their worldly desires and worshipping idols. They adopted deities which they, in the depth of their hearts, knew that they would not hold them accountable for the evils they were doing. They persisted on enjoying all pleasures because they never thought of a day of reckoning. Every member of each tribe could not imagine anything else other than drawing his sword in defense of his tribal customs and traditions.

The chiefs of Makkah found many means to collect as much money as they could. Their orders were taken for granted and their acts were never questioned. They could, by a single war cry, gather hundreds and thousands to defend the dignity of the tribe. They always invented enemies to use the youth to satisfy their whims.

The youth of Makkah, on the other hand, had




nothing to do but to quench their thirst for drinking and women. Young men of rich families were most of the time either chasing after pleasures or preparing for a new invasion against a weaker tribe. However, when they had any leisure time, they only thought of going hunting or drinking.

Sa'd ﷺ was one of those youth who belonged to a first class family. He was a member of the Quraish tribe, the most dignified tribe in Makkah. He led his life in an atmosphere where no one cared for anything but for personal pleasures and tribal deities.

Roses amid Thorns

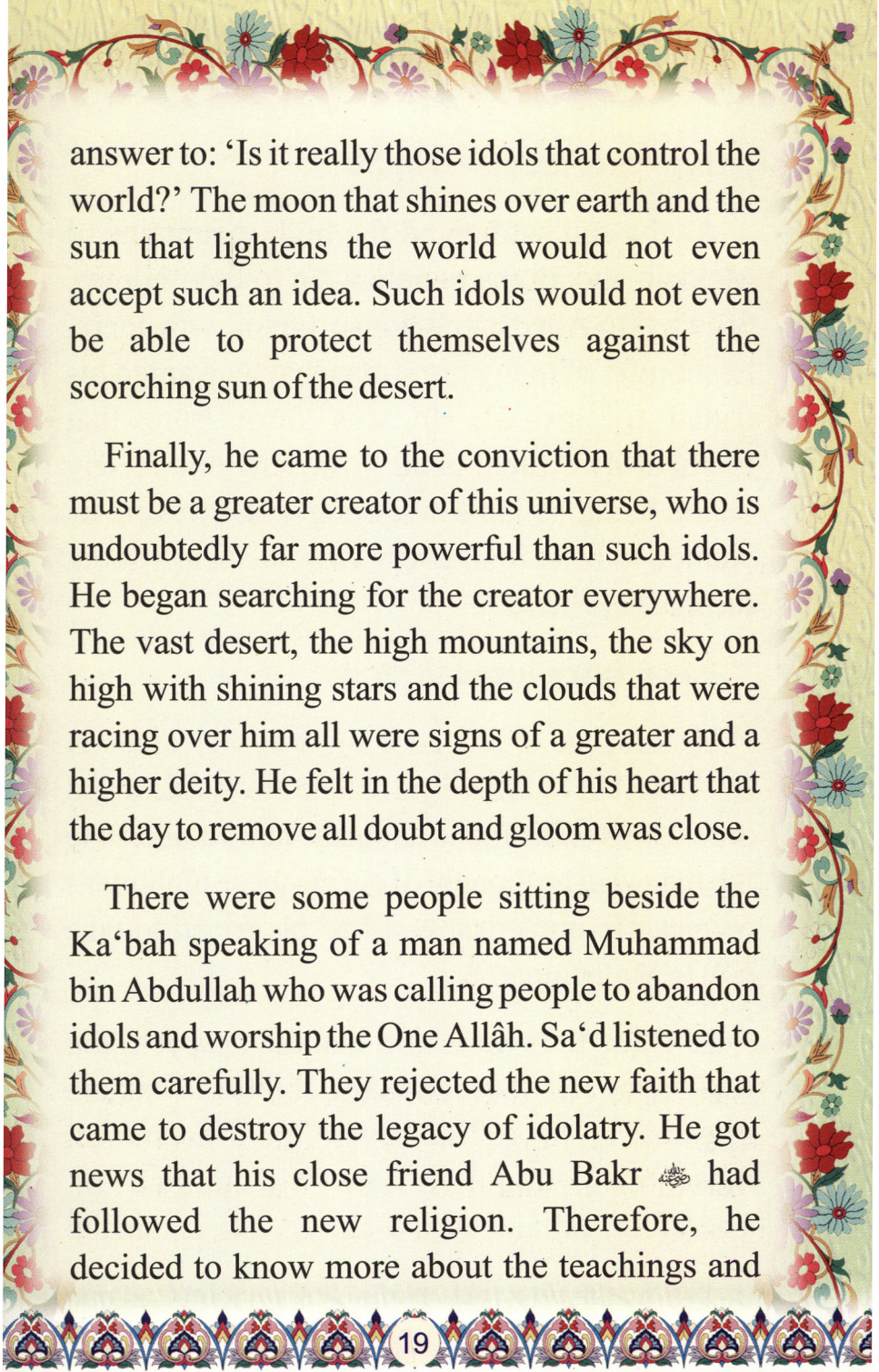
However, Sa'd looked with an eye of pity at the youth around him. He was well aware that the trivial pleasures they indulged themselves in were not the ultimate end for which a youth should dedicate his life. Chiefs, slaves and women around him could not convince him that they were doing the right thing. He could, like any other youth, have anything he liked. Those around him were always trying to pull his legs to



share with them the short moments of pleasure but he did not like to share in such vanities.

Sa'd was a different man in all respects. He disliked all bad tribal customs and traditions that his people defended. Since the days of early youth, he took another direction. He never shared with his friends their drinking habits. He looked at the idols that his people worshipped with much resentment. He always felt that these stones were not the proper deities to ask for help in difficult times.


Sa'd isolated himself from his fellow tribesmen most of the time. He did not like the bad ways they were following. Rather, he spent many days and nights thinking of the universe and Allâh Alone who created it. He used to go alone in the desert with his eyes fixed on the stars hoping to find a way out of the gloom his people were living. He sat by the window at night listening to the sounds of nature that gave him a sense of communion with the Creator of everything around him. He was always asking himself a question that he could not find an



answer to: 'Is it really those idols that control the world?' The moon that shines over earth and the sun that lightens the world would not even accept such an idea. Such idols would not even be able to protect themselves against the scorching sun of the desert.

Finally, he came to the conviction that there must be a greater creator of this universe, who is undoubtedly far more powerful than such idols. He began searching for the creator everywhere. The vast desert, the high mountains, the sky on high with shining stars and the clouds that were racing over him all were signs of a greater and a higher deity. He felt in the depth of his heart that the day to remove all doubt and gloom was close.

There were some people sitting beside the Ka'bah speaking of a man named Muhammad bin Abdullah who was calling people to abandon idols and worship the One Allâh. Sa'd listened to them carefully. They rejected the new faith that came to destroy the legacy of idolatry. He got news that his close friend Abu Bakr ﷺ had followed the new religion. Therefore, he decided to know more about the teachings and




principles of the new religion.

As the sun set behind the high mountains of Makkah and all the people went to their homes, Sa'd left to Abu Bakr's house. On the way there, he thought of many questions that he wanted his friend to answer. He was fairly sure that trustworthy Muhammad ﷺ would not falsely claim being Allâh's Messenger. However, he wanted to be sure of every word he heard about the man and his call.

Islam Introduced to Sa'd

He knocked on the door and was welcomed in by Abu Bakr ؓ. There, he listened to the clear and pure words of his friend about the new religion. He felt that what he thought of during those nights was correct. He immediately asked his friend to take him to Muhammad ﷺ.

Sa'd felt the opposition that the new religion was facing. He listened to the chiefs of Makkah threatening to inflict severe punishment on those who might follow Muhammad ﷺ. Therefore, he and Abu Bakr ؓ left under the



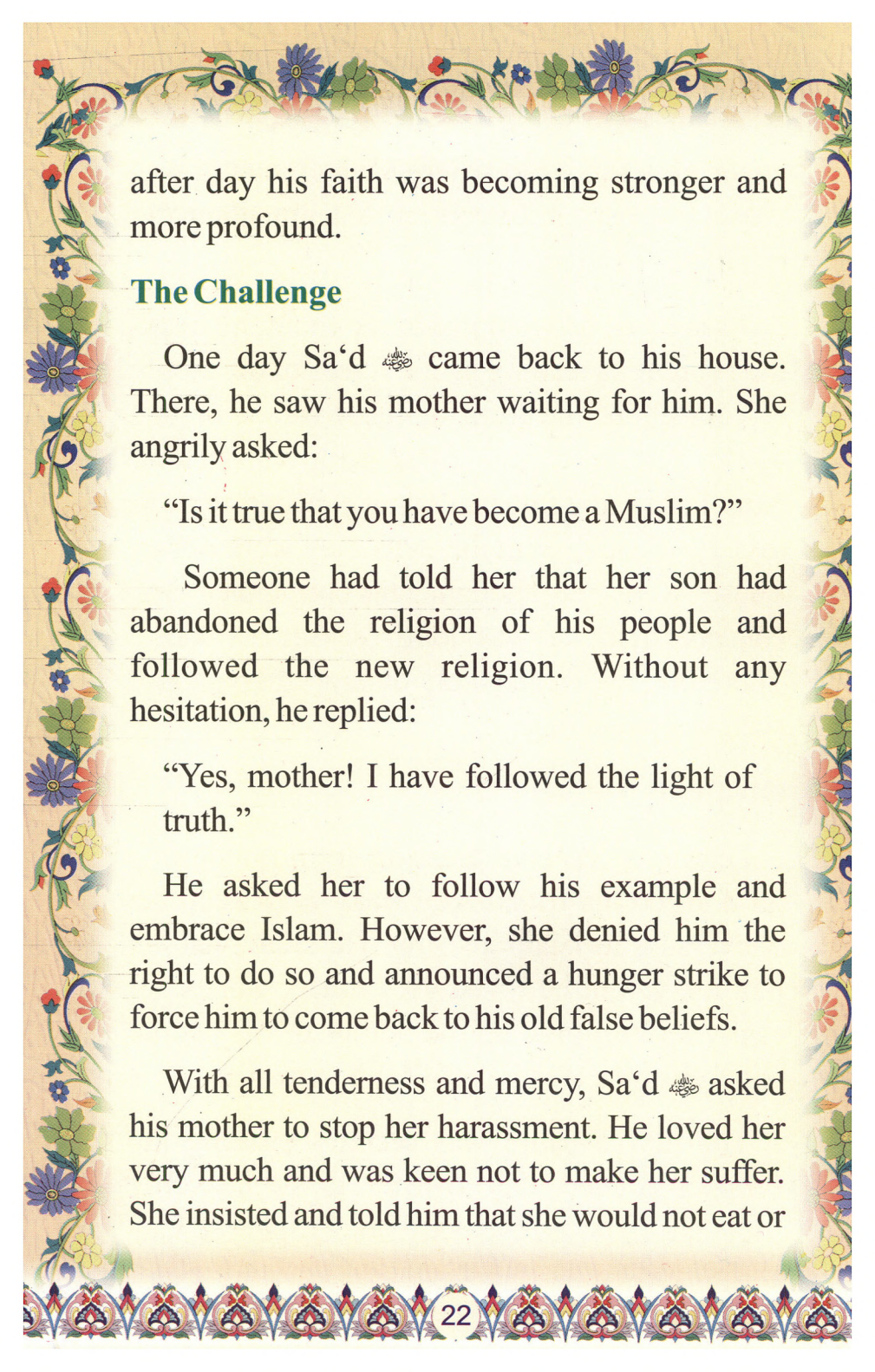
cover of darkness to where Muhammad ﷺ was preaching to his followers and teaching them the principles of Islam.

As soon as he went inside the room, he heard the Prophet ﷺ reading some Verses of the Noble Qur'ân about the truth of the creation of this world. His heart was filled with satisfaction. Now, he became sure that a new light had come to save his people from the evils they were doing. These were, he thought, the principles and concepts that he was long seeking to adopt. Therefore, he immediately embraced Islam and accepted the change.

Obstinate Mother

Fearing to receive pressure from his family, Sa'd asked his friend Abu Bakr ؓ to keep his conversion to Islam a secret. He knew that his mother, whom he loved very much, would not easily let him give up the deities of his people and follow the teachings of Muhammad ﷺ.

The new Muslim was secretly meeting the Prophet ﷺ every day to listen to the heavenly Message that was revealed to the Prophet ﷺ. Day



after day his faith was becoming stronger and more profound.

The Challenge

One day Sa'd رضي الله عنه came back to his house. There, he saw his mother waiting for him. She angrily asked:

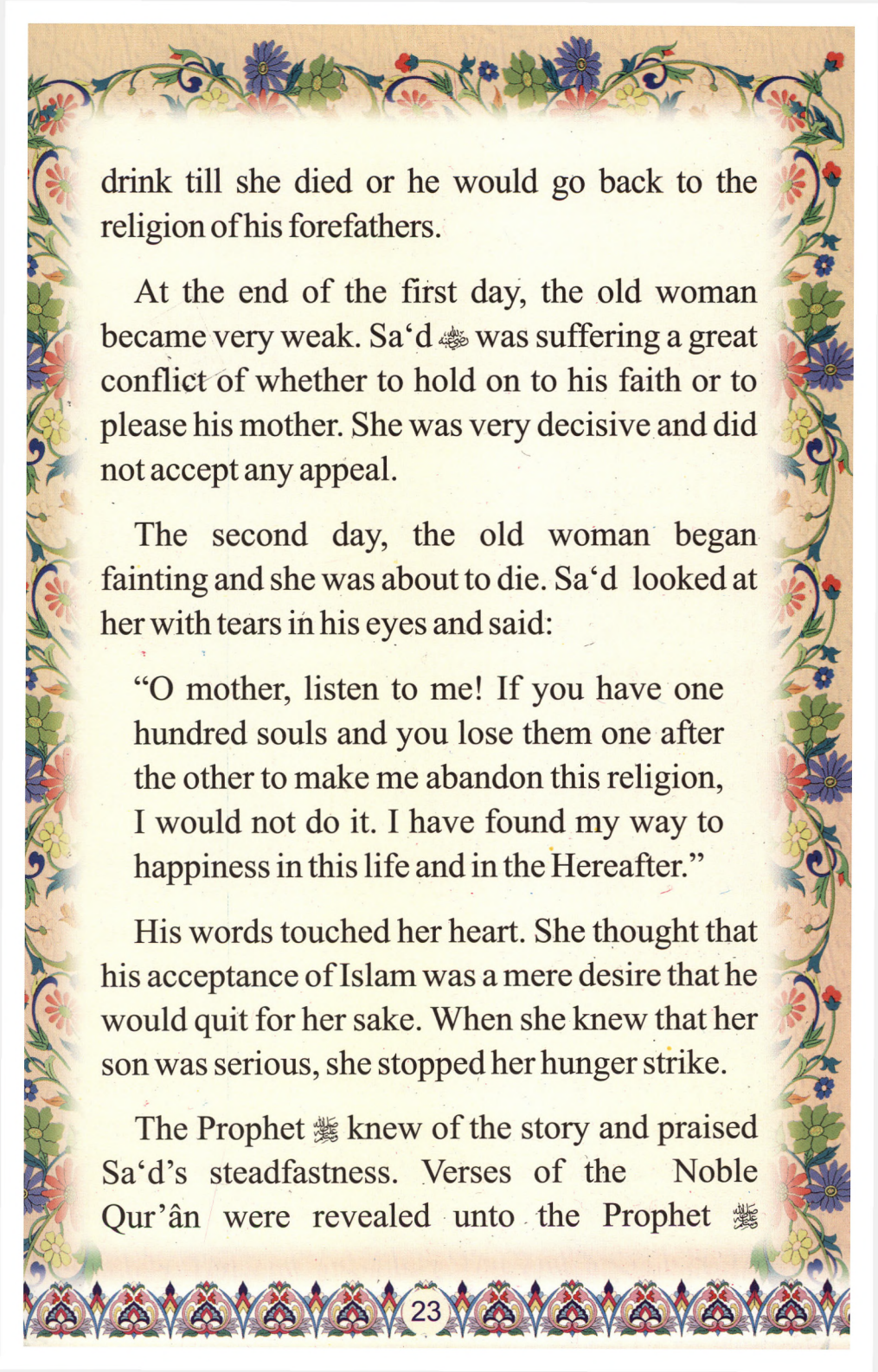
“Is it true that you have become a Muslim?”

Someone had told her that her son had abandoned the religion of his people and followed the new religion. Without any hesitation, he replied:

“Yes, mother! I have followed the light of truth.”

He asked her to follow his example and embrace Islam. However, she denied him the right to do so and announced a hunger strike to force him to come back to his old false beliefs.

With all tenderness and mercy, Sa'd رضي الله عنه asked his mother to stop her harassment. He loved her very much and was keen not to make her suffer. She insisted and told him that she would not eat or



drink till she died or he would go back to the religion of his forefathers.

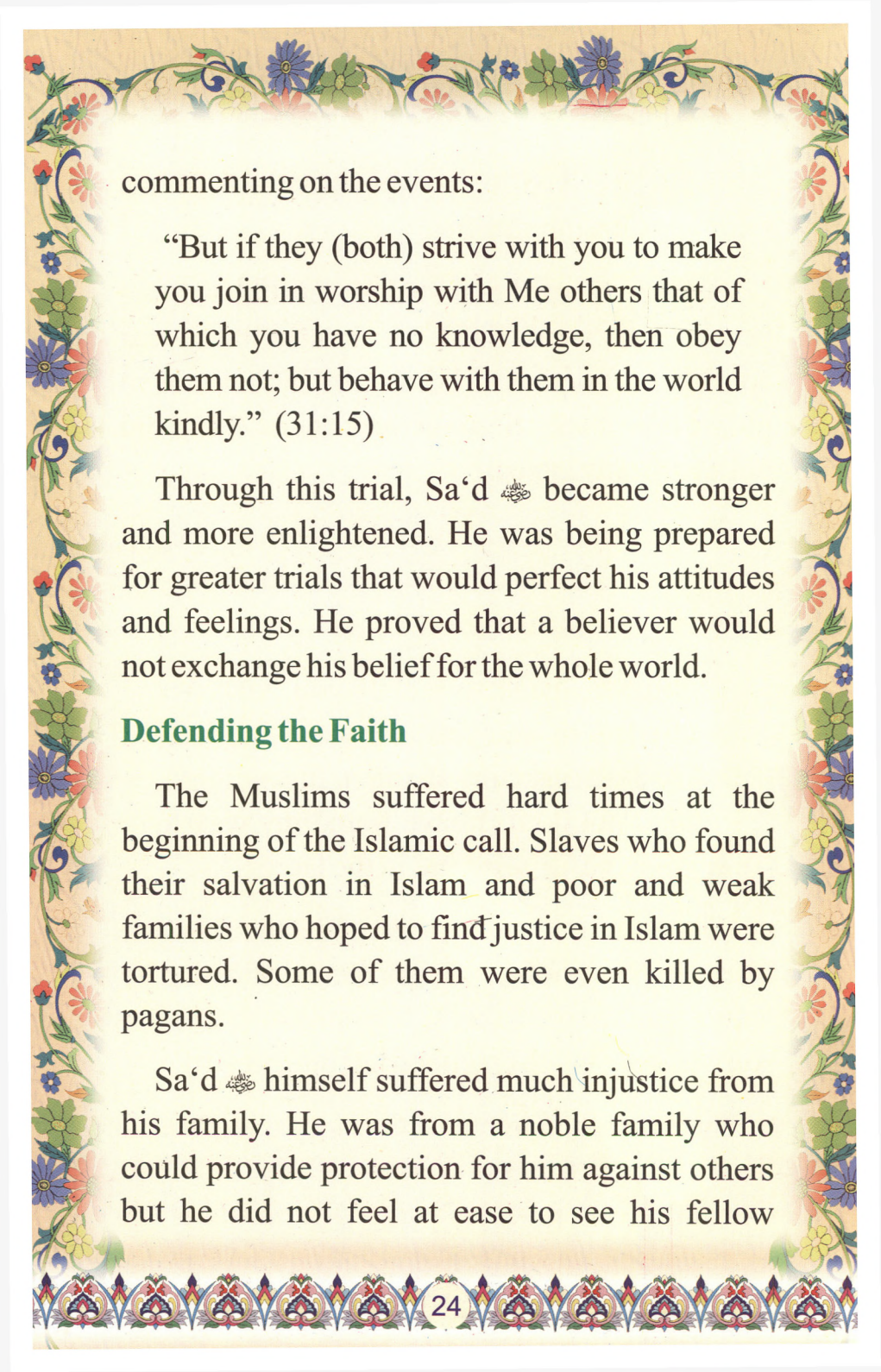
At the end of the first day, the old woman became very weak. Sa'd ﷺ was suffering a great conflict of whether to hold on to his faith or to please his mother. She was very decisive and did not accept any appeal.

The second day, the old woman began fainting and she was about to die. Sa'd looked at her with tears in his eyes and said:

“O mother, listen to me! If you have one hundred souls and you lose them one after the other to make me abandon this religion, I would not do it. I have found my way to happiness in this life and in the Hereafter.”

His words touched her heart. She thought that his acceptance of Islam was a mere desire that he would quit for her sake. When she knew that her son was serious, she stopped her hunger strike.

The Prophet ﷺ knew of the story and praised Sa'd's steadfastness. Verses of the Noble Qur'ân were revealed unto the Prophet ﷺ



commenting on the events:


“But if they (both) strive with you to make you join in worship with Me others that of which you have no knowledge, then obey them not; but behave with them in the world kindly.” (31:15)

Through this trial, Sa‘d ﷺ became stronger and more enlightened. He was being prepared for greater trials that would perfect his attitudes and feelings. He proved that a believer would not exchange his belief for the whole world.

Defending the Faith

The Muslims suffered hard times at the beginning of the Islamic call. Slaves who found their salvation in Islam and poor and weak families who hoped to find justice in Islam were tortured. Some of them were even killed by pagans.

Sa‘d ﷺ himself suffered much injustice from his family. He was from a noble family who could provide protection for him against others but he did not feel at ease to see his fellow



Muslims receive all these types of torture. Therefore, he tried his best to save them from the agonies that the Quraish inflicted on them.

He continued his life in Makkah under such harsh conditions. He spent three years of hunger and suffering with the Prophet ﷺ at Abi Talib's valley where the pagans confined the Muslims under the scorching sun of the desert. In spite of all this, he never showed any signs of weakness or surrender.

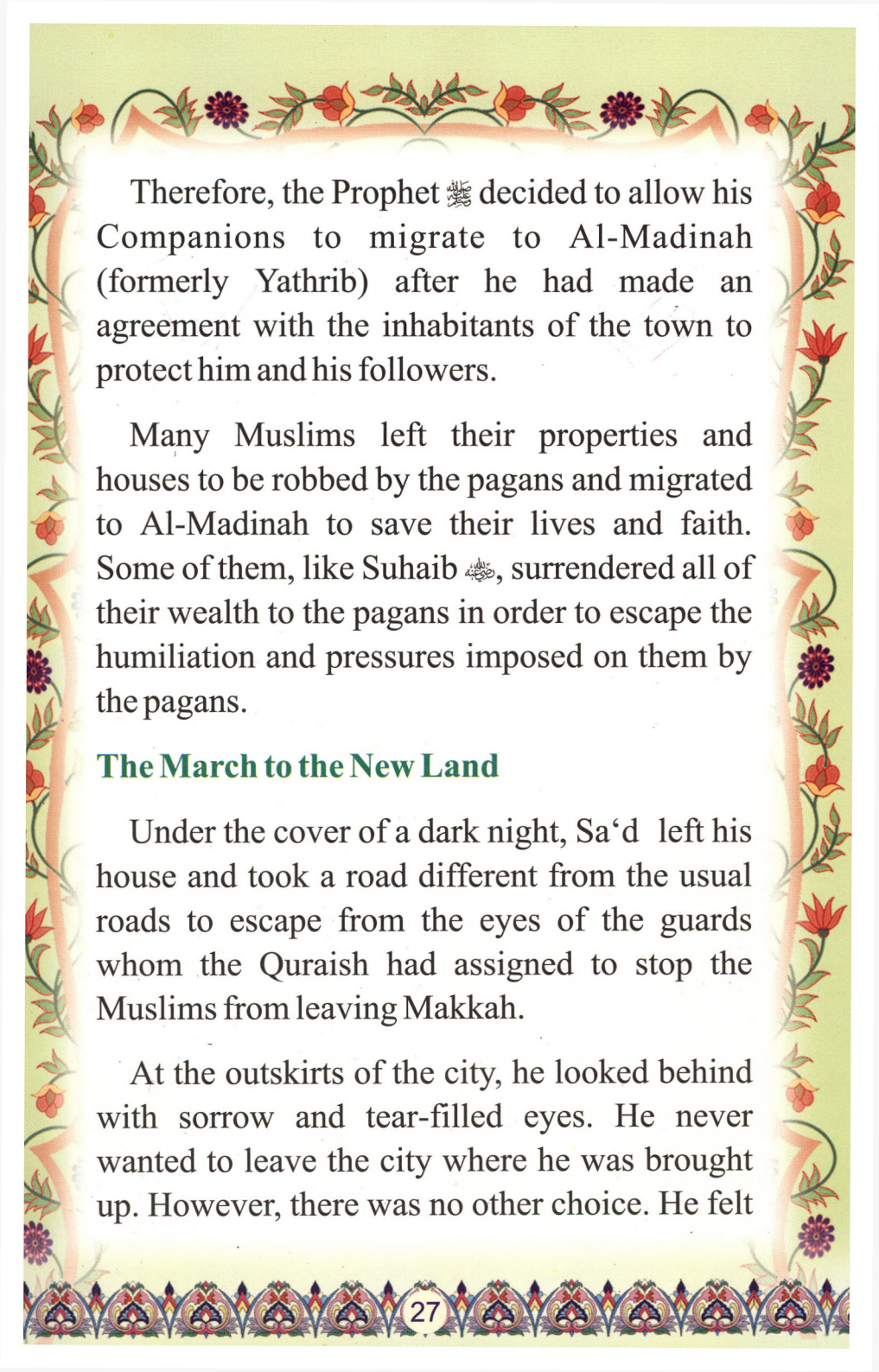


The Migrant

Days were passing very heavy on the new Muslims in Makkah. The chiefs of Makkah were sparing no effort to make them recant. Most of the early Muslims were slaves and weak persons who had no tribes to support them. Even those who belonged to the Quraish tribe received their share of torture and oppression. The pagans did their best to make the few number of Muslims abandon their new faith. The Prophet ﷺ himself was treated very badly by his uncle Abu Lahab, and his uncle's wife Umm Jameel.

Hardships Test for True Believers

The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions felt that if they continued to stay in Makkah, they would not be able to spread or even to maintain their faith. The pagans were plotting day and night to keep the new faith limited to the first few Muslims who embraced Islam during these thirteen years of struggle. They even plotted to kill the Prophet ﷺ on the day he migrated to Al-Madinah.



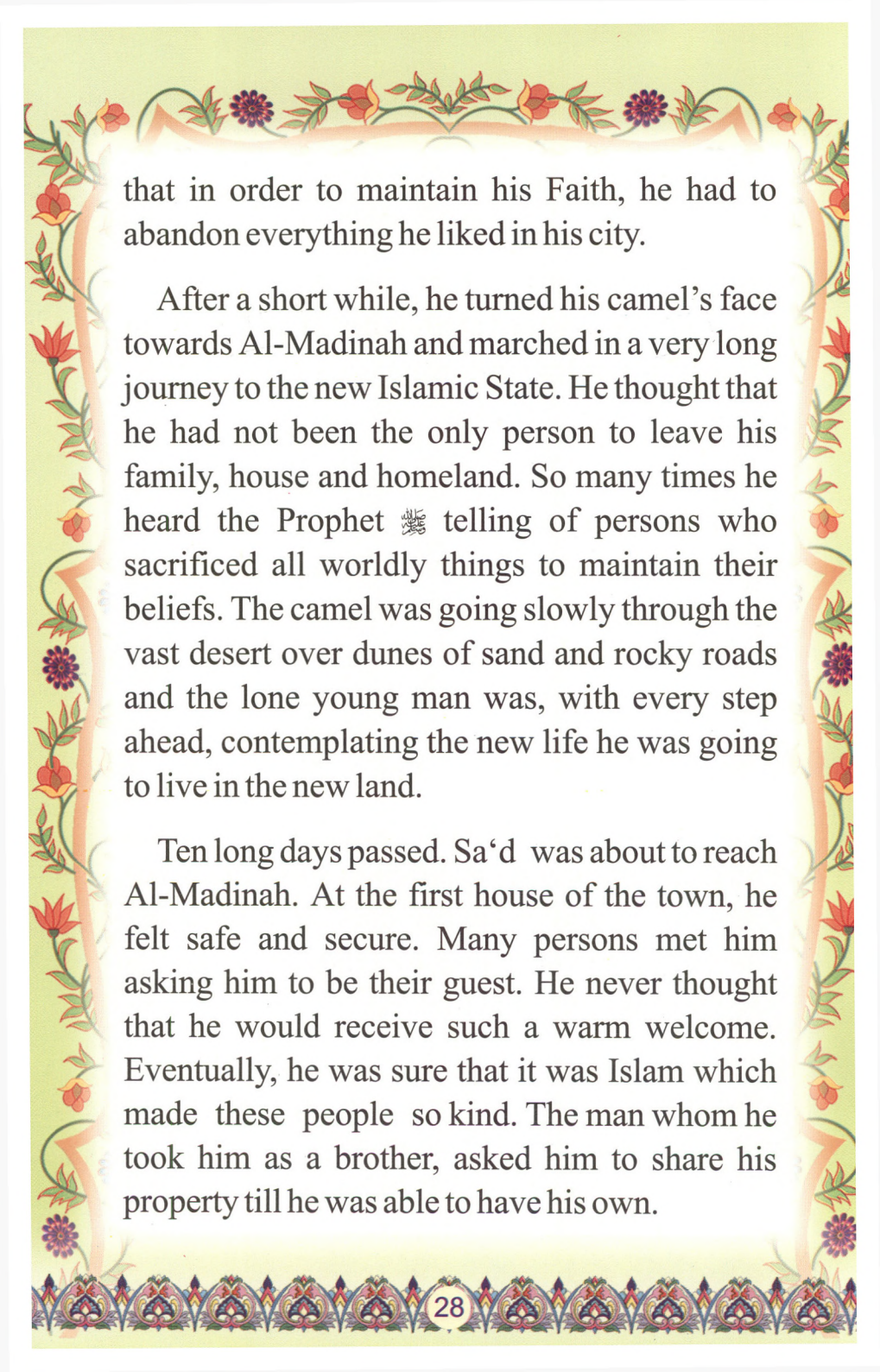
Therefore, the Prophet ﷺ decided to allow his Companions to migrate to Al-Madinah (formerly Yathrib) after he had made an agreement with the inhabitants of the town to protect him and his followers.

Many Muslims left their properties and houses to be robbed by the pagans and migrated to Al-Madinah to save their lives and faith. Some of them, like Suhaib ؓ, surrendered all of their wealth to the pagans in order to escape the humiliation and pressures imposed on them by the pagans.

The March to the New Land

Under the cover of a dark night, Sa'd left his house and took a road different from the usual roads to escape from the eyes of the guards whom the Quraish had assigned to stop the Muslims from leaving Makkah.

At the outskirts of the city, he looked behind with sorrow and tear-filled eyes. He never wanted to leave the city where he was brought up. However, there was no other choice. He felt



that in order to maintain his Faith, he had to abandon everything he liked in his city.

After a short while, he turned his camel's face towards Al-Madinah and marched in a very long journey to the new Islamic State. He thought that he had not been the only person to leave his family, house and homeland. So many times he heard the Prophet ﷺ telling of persons who sacrificed all worldly things to maintain their beliefs. The camel was going slowly through the vast desert over dunes of sand and rocky roads and the lone young man was, with every step ahead, contemplating the new life he was going to live in the new land.

Ten long days passed. Sa'd was about to reach Al-Madinah. At the first house of the town, he felt safe and secure. Many persons met him asking him to be their guest. He never thought that he would receive such a warm welcome. Eventually, he was sure that it was Islam which made these people so kind. The man whom he took him as a brother, asked him to share his property till he was able to have his own.

Islam had already spread in Al-Madinah. Most people there were ready to put everything they had under the disposal of the newcomers. All men and women were impatiently waiting for the arrival of the leader to build the Islamic State under Allâh's Guidance.


Finally, two camels behind the mirage of the desert were moving slowly on the glowing sand. All the people of Al-Madinah went to where the small caravan was approaching. As the people of Al-Madinah were sure that the Prophet ﷺ and his Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ, had arrived, they received them with a very pleasant chant:

“The full moon has risen from behind the hills.



All praise is due to Allâh whenever a preacher calls to the way of Allâh.”

The New Islamic State

Sa'd ؓ was very happy to see the Prophet ﷺ and his best friend Abu Bakr ؓ again. When he hugged the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ, he felt inside that a new stage of struggle had now



begun. All the Muslims started building the first mosque on the earth. For the long time, they were not free to worship Allâh openly. They actively participated in building the symbol of Islam.

Sa'd  and his fellow Muslims began applying the teachings of Islam to all aspects of their lives. The Prophet  and his Companions were now up to a new challenge.



The Sincere Believer

Many times did the Prophet ﷺ tell Sa'd ؓ:

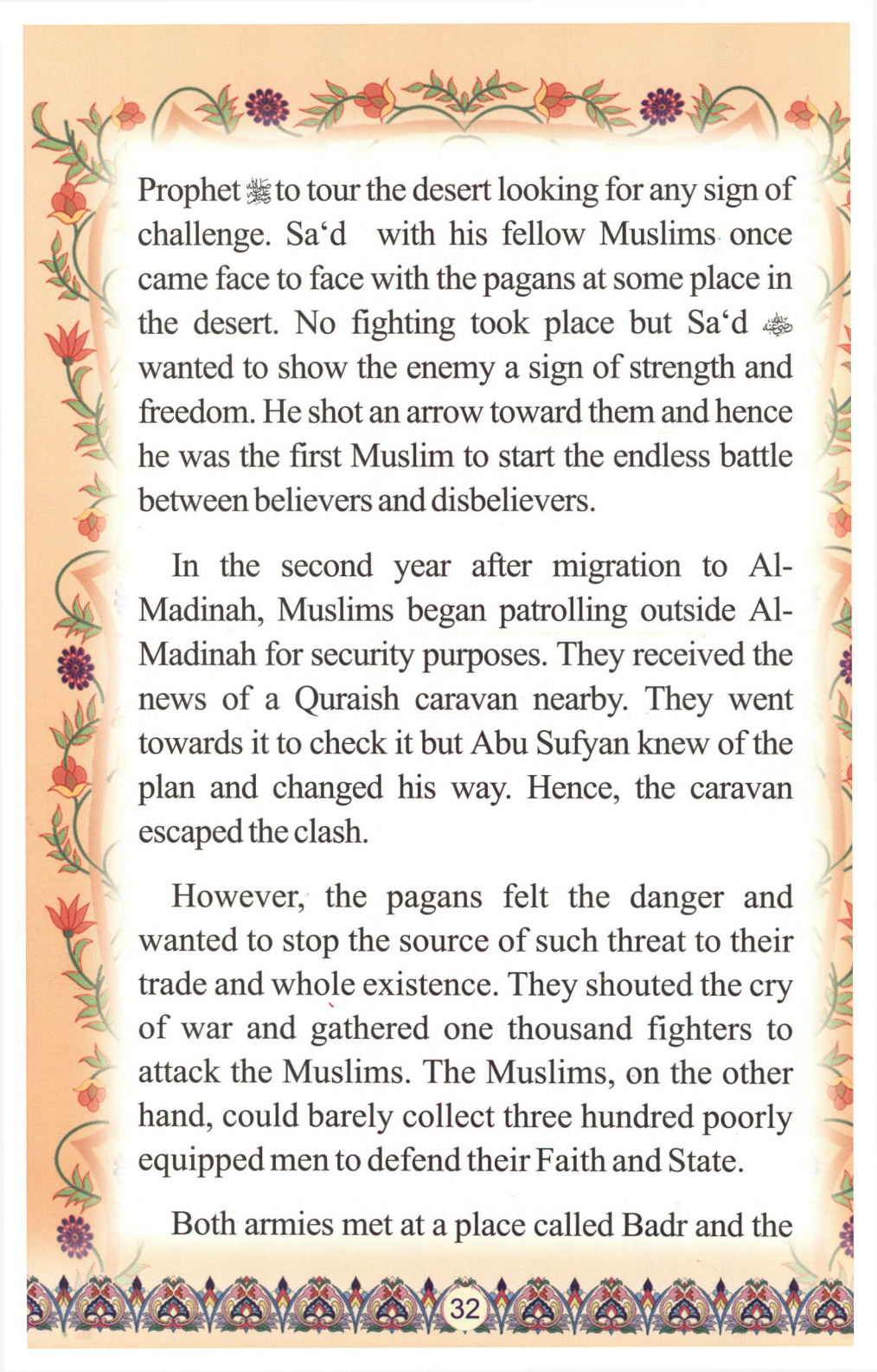
“You are the supporter of Islam wherever you are.”

Thus, Sa'd ؓ took these words as an objective second to none. From then on, he made those words as true as he could.

As soon as the Prophet ﷺ established the pillars of the new state, he began sending groups of the Muslims to the tribes around Al-Madinah to call them to Islam. At the same time, Muslims began preparing themselves to encounter new challenges. Several armed squads were commissioned to control the ways followed by the Quraish caravans on the trade routes to Yemen and Damascus.

The First Battle of Islam

Sa'd ؓ was fully prepared to participate in any effort to spread the light of Islam and to show Makkans the power the Muslims had attained. A squad of sixty men was commissioned by the




Prophet ﷺ to tour the desert looking for any sign of challenge. Sa'd with his fellow Muslims once came face to face with the pagans at some place in the desert. No fighting took place but Sa'd ﷺ wanted to show the enemy a sign of strength and freedom. He shot an arrow toward them and hence he was the first Muslim to start the endless battle between believers and disbelievers.

In the second year after migration to Al-Madinah, Muslims began patrolling outside Al-Madinah for security purposes. They received the news of a Quraish caravan nearby. They went towards it to check it but Abu Sufyan knew of the plan and changed his way. Hence, the caravan escaped the clash.

However, the pagans felt the danger and wanted to stop the source of such threat to their trade and whole existence. They shouted the cry of war and gathered one thousand fighters to attack the Muslims. The Muslims, on the other hand, could barely collect three hundred poorly equipped men to defend their Faith and State.

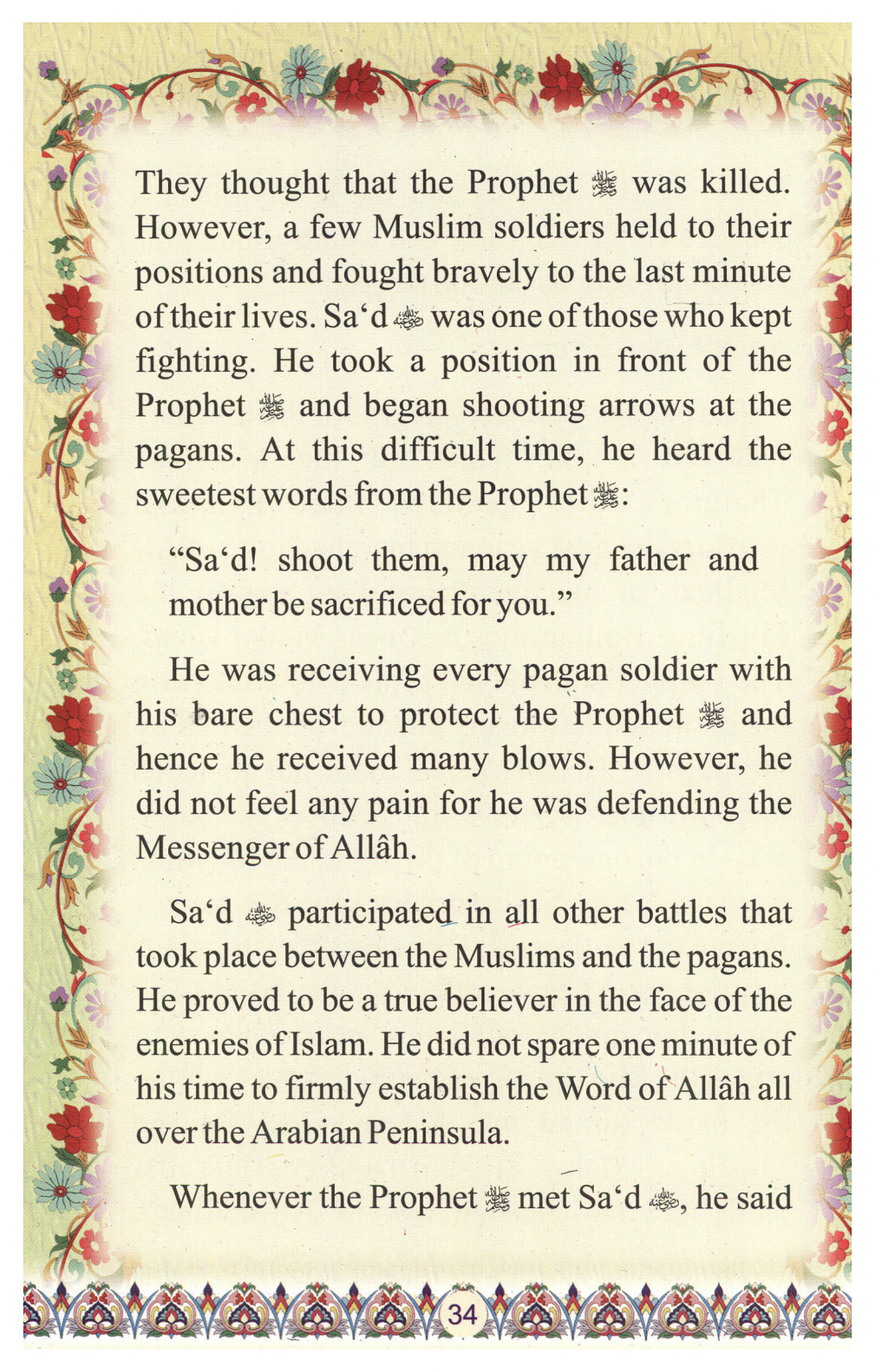
Both armies met at a place called Badr and the



battle started. Sa'd ﷺ and the other Muslims fought a very fierce battle and within a short time gave a very serious blow to the pagans.

Steadfast as Ever

The pagans were very angry for the loss they received at the hands of the Muslims. Therefore, they gathered three thousand warriors the next year and marched toward Al-Madinah to revenge themselves against the Muslims. Both armies met near Mount Uhud. The Prophet ﷺ deployed some fifty archers on the mountain to foil any attack from behind by the pagans. He instructed them not to leave their positions whatever the result of the battle was. In the beginning of the fight, the Muslims won the battle. The archers saw the pagans fleeing the battlefield. Therefore, they left their positions and began collecting war booty. The pagan horsemen found it a good chance to attack the Muslims from behind. After a while, the battle turned into a heavy loss for the Muslims. Many Muslim soldiers left the battlefield and headed toward Al-Madinah.




They thought that the Prophet ﷺ was killed. However, a few Muslim soldiers held to their positions and fought bravely to the last minute of their lives. Sa'd ؓ was one of those who kept fighting. He took a position in front of the Prophet ﷺ and began shooting arrows at the pagans. At this difficult time, he heard the sweetest words from the Prophet ﷺ:

“Sa'd! shoot them, may my father and mother be sacrificed for you.”

He was receiving every pagan soldier with his bare chest to protect the Prophet ﷺ and hence he received many blows. However, he did not feel any pain for he was defending the Messenger of Allâh.

Sa'd ؓ participated in all other battles that took place between the Muslims and the pagans. He proved to be a true believer in the face of the enemies of Islam. He did not spare one minute of his time to firmly establish the Word of Allâh all over the Arabian Peninsula.

Whenever the Prophet ﷺ met Sa'd ؓ, he said



some nice words to him that made him very happy. The words were that he would not exchange for the whole world:

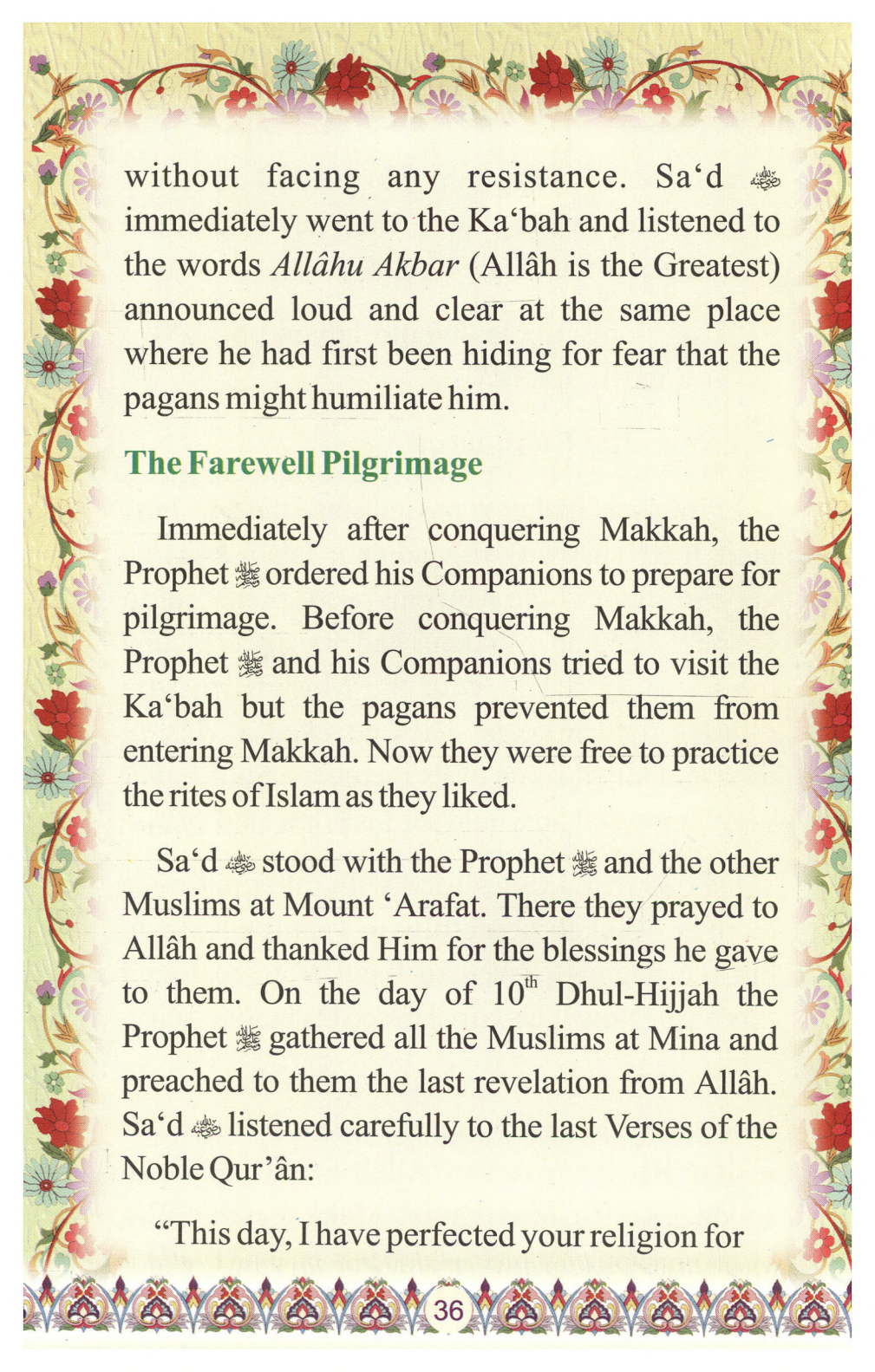
“This is my uncle. Would anyone of you show me his uncle?”

The Merciful Conqueror

Eight years had now passed since the Muslims built their state in Al-Madinah. Islam became very strong and the Muslims were preparing to conquer Makkah. Makkans had already breached the terms agreed to with the Muslims to stop fighting for ten years. They attacked a Muslim tribe and killed some of its members. Sa‘d رضي الله عنه felt very happy that he would see his homeland again.

He had many times tried with other migrants to enter Makkah peacefully to visit the Ka‘bah, but the pagans prevented them from realizing this wish. Now it was time to see his beloved city.

The Muslims marched to Makkah. Sa‘d looked at the marching army behind and felt inside that the Word of Allâh would never be foiled. The Muslims entered Makkah peacefully



without facing any resistance. Sa'd ﷺ immediately went to the Ka'bah and listened to the words *Allâhu Akbar* (Allâh is the Greatest) announced loud and clear at the same place where he had first been hiding for fear that the pagans might humiliate him.

The Farewell Pilgrimage

Immediately after conquering Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ ordered his Companions to prepare for pilgrimage. Before conquering Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions tried to visit the Ka'bah but the pagans prevented them from entering Makkah. Now they were free to practice the rites of Islam as they liked.

Sa'd ﷺ stood with the Prophet ﷺ and the other Muslims at Mount 'Arafat. There they prayed to Allâh and thanked Him for the blessings he gave to them. On the day of 10th Dhul-Hijjah the Prophet ﷺ gathered all the Muslims at Mina and preached to them the last revelation from Allâh. Sa'd ﷺ listened carefully to the last Verses of the Noble Qur'ân:

“This day, I have perfected your religion for

you, completed My Favor upon you, and have chosen for you Islâm as your religion.” (5:3)

Sa‘d and many other Companions of the Prophet ﷺ knew that this Verse meant that the mission of the Prophet ﷺ had been completed and that he would leave them soon.

The Prophet ﷺ Passes Away

A short period after completing the pilgrimage, Sa‘d received a heavy shock which left him heart broken to the end of his life. They said that the Prophet ﷺ had passed away. For a while he did not believe it, but later on, with tears running down his cheeks, he shared in burying the example of tenderness and mercy. Yes! The Prophet ﷺ had passed away.

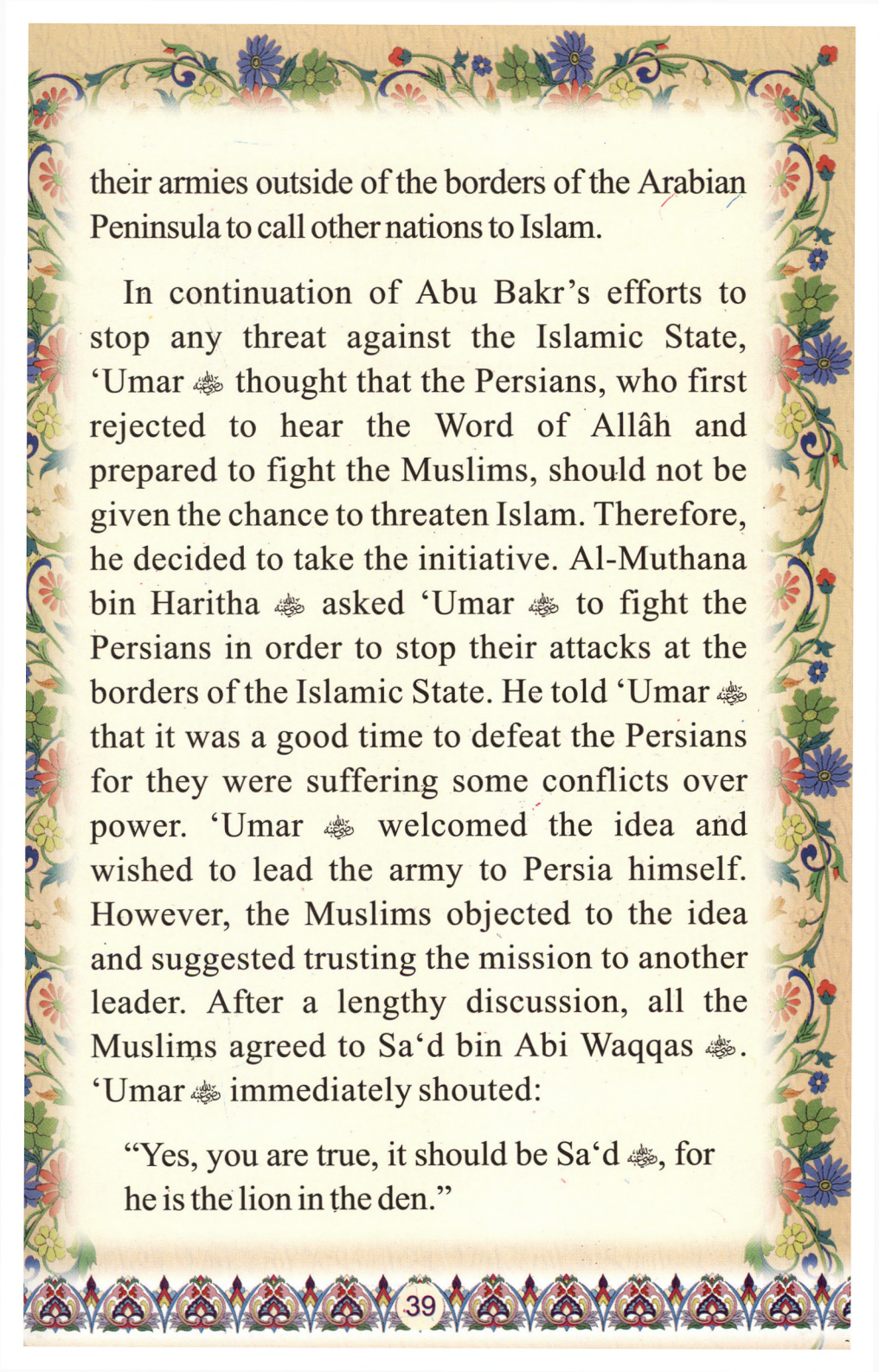


The Conqueror

Sa'd ﷺ had been taught by the Prophet ﷺ that spreading the Word of Allâh should not stop at any time or at any place. It is the Eternal Message that should prevail all over the world.

Abu Bakr ﷺ was selected as the Caliph. As Islam was not deeply rooted in some parts of Arabia, many of the people in these parts reverted to idolatry as soon as they received the news of the death of the Prophet ﷺ. Some Arab chiefs found it a good chance to regain their privileges over others, which they had lost after the advent of Islam. However, Abu Bakr ﷺ supported by Sa'd ﷺ and other true Muslims, vowed to conquer the rebels and restore peace to the Arabian Peninsula. Sa'd ﷺ fought as a sincere soldier against the apostates. He and the other true Muslims finally defeated the powers of evil and undermined any attempts to return to idolatry in the Arabian Peninsula.

Before Abu Bakr ﷺ passed away, he proposed to hand over the trust to 'Umar bin Al-Khattab ﷺ. At that period of time, the Muslims began sending



their armies outside of the borders of the Arabian Peninsula to call other nations to Islam.

In continuation of Abu Bakr's efforts to stop any threat against the Islamic State, 'Umar ؓ thought that the Persians, who first rejected to hear the Word of Allâh and prepared to fight the Muslims, should not be given the chance to threaten Islam. Therefore, he decided to take the initiative. Al-Muthana bin Haritha ؓ asked 'Umar ؓ to fight the Persians in order to stop their attacks at the borders of the Islamic State. He told 'Umar ؓ that it was a good time to defeat the Persians for they were suffering some conflicts over power. 'Umar ؓ welcomed the idea and wished to lead the army to Persia himself. However, the Muslims objected to the idea and suggested trusting the mission to another leader. After a lengthy discussion, all the Muslims agreed to Sa'd bin Abi Waqqas ؓ. 'Umar ؓ immediately shouted:

“Yes, you are true, it should be Sa'd ؓ, for he is the lion in the den.”

A Leader with an Honorable Mission

‘Umar رضي الله عنه called Sa‘d رضي الله عنه and told him that all the Muslims had agreed to appoint him as the commander of the army. Sa‘d رضي الله عنه accepted the mission and began preparing for the march.

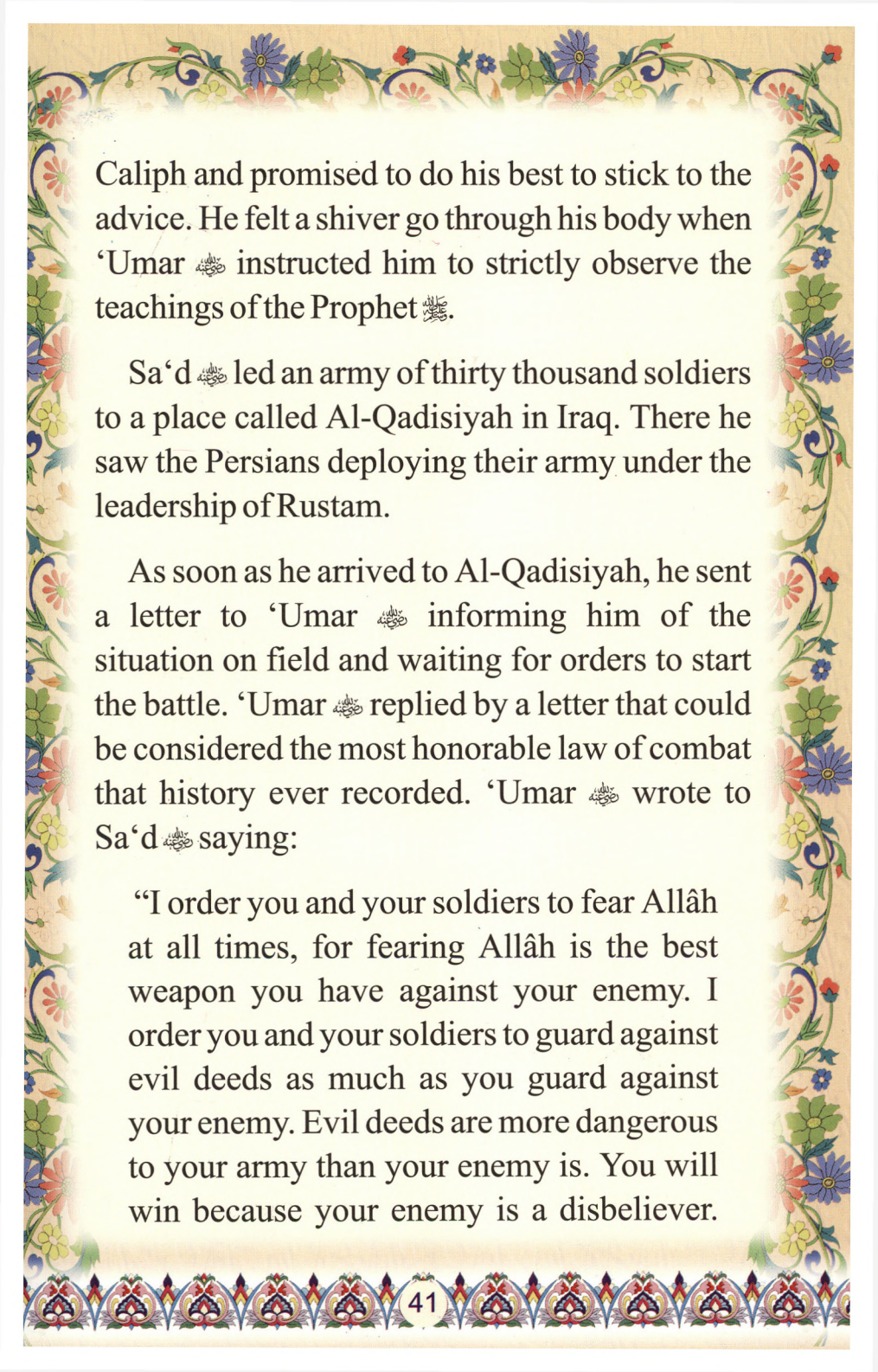
As soon as the army was ready to march to Iraq, ‘Umar رضي الله عنه stood in front of the army and gave the commander the last advice:

“Sa‘d! I order you to fight the Persians. Listen to me and hold fast to my words. You are going to face a very hard obstacle that you cannot overcome unless you observe truth and goodness. You should know that every battle should be prepared for by having good equipment, let your equipment be patience. Do not be deceived by saying to yourself:

“I am the Prophet’s uncle,”

for there is no kinship dear to Allâh except loyalty to his teachings.”

Sa‘d رضي الله عنه listened carefully to the words of the

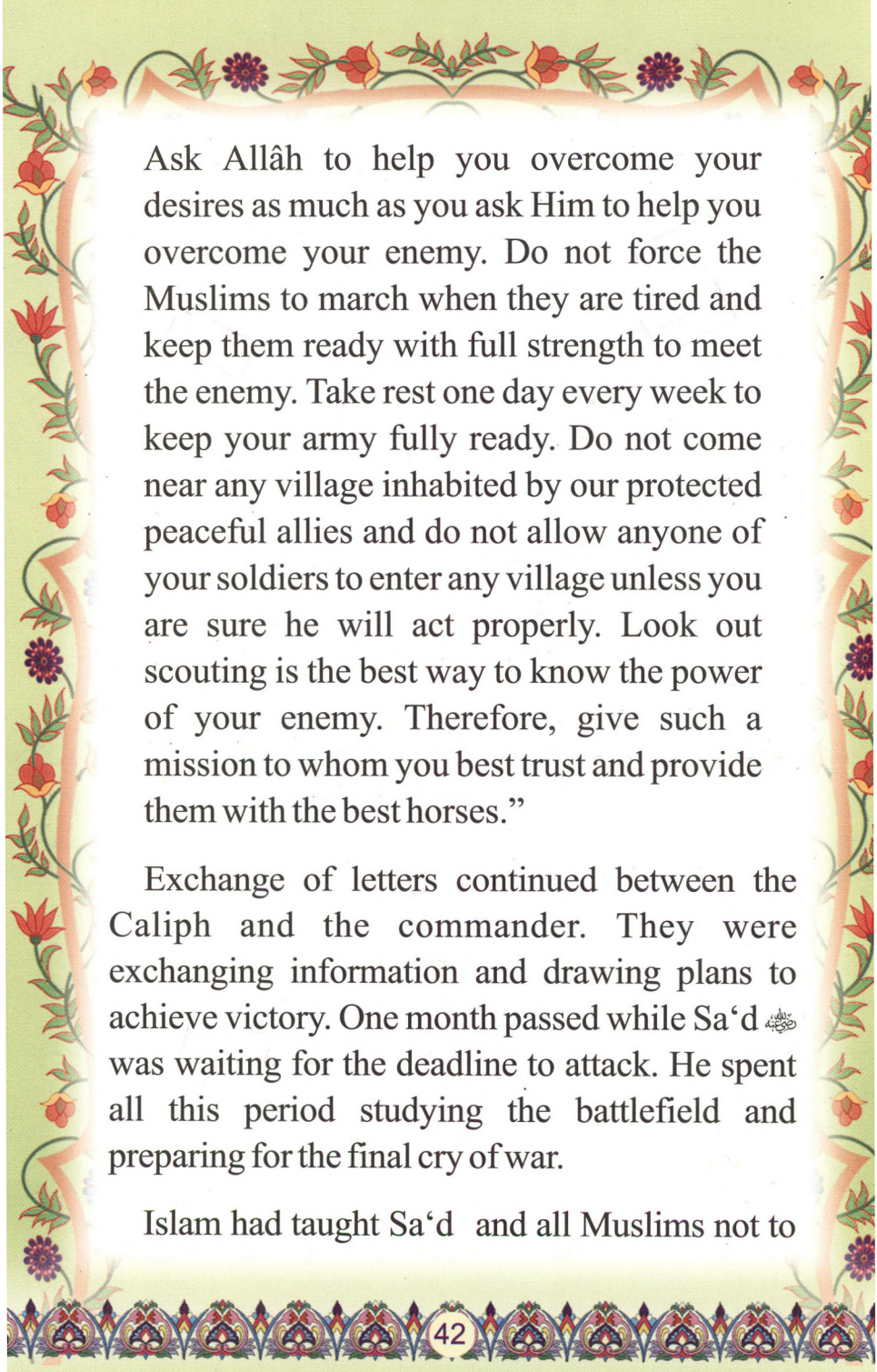


Caliph and promised to do his best to stick to the advice. He felt a shiver go through his body when ‘Umar ﷺ instructed him to strictly observe the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ.

Sa‘d ﷺ led an army of thirty thousand soldiers to a place called Al-Qadisiyah in Iraq. There he saw the Persians deploying their army under the leadership of Rustam.

As soon as he arrived to Al-Qadisiyah, he sent a letter to ‘Umar ﷺ informing him of the situation on field and waiting for orders to start the battle. ‘Umar ﷺ replied by a letter that could be considered the most honorable law of combat that history ever recorded. ‘Umar ﷺ wrote to Sa‘d ﷺ saying:


“I order you and your soldiers to fear Allâh at all times, for fearing Allâh is the best weapon you have against your enemy. I order you and your soldiers to guard against evil deeds as much as you guard against your enemy. Evil deeds are more dangerous to your army than your enemy is. You will win because your enemy is a disbeliever.



Ask Allâh to help you overcome your desires as much as you ask Him to help you overcome your enemy. Do not force the Muslims to march when they are tired and keep them ready with full strength to meet the enemy. Take rest one day every week to keep your army fully ready. Do not come near any village inhabited by our protected peaceful allies and do not allow anyone of your soldiers to enter any village unless you are sure he will act properly. Look out scouting is the best way to know the power of your enemy. Therefore, give such a mission to whom you best trust and provide them with the best horses.”

Exchange of letters continued between the Caliph and the commander. They were exchanging information and drawing plans to achieve victory. One month passed while Sa‘d ﷺ was waiting for the deadline to attack. He spent all this period studying the battlefield and preparing for the final cry of war.

Islam had taught Sa‘d and all Muslims not to



fight any nation before calling them to Islam. Therefore, Sa'd sent messengers to Yazdajurd, the Persian King, calling him to embrace Islam, to pay tribute or, if he rejected both options, to fight.

The first delegation called the King to accept Islam. They explained to him the principles and concepts of Islam. Instead of accepting this kind call, the King began blaming the Muslims for coming to his land and threatened to undermine their religion. The Muslim delegation told him of the evils they were doing before they became Muslims. They finally told him that he was free to choose either to accept the religion of Islam, to pay tribute or to face definite defeat.

The King showed the delegation much humiliation and anger. He asked his soldiers to fill sacks of soil and force the members of the delegation to carry them on their backs till they leave the city. He told them that he would send Rustam to bury their leader and the Muslim army in the Qadisiyah trench.

When Rustam knew how the King acted, he felt very troubled. He foresaw a sign of defeat in




the soil carried by the delegation to the Muslim leader.

Negotiating a Peaceful Solution

Rustam asked Sa'd رضي الله عنه to send him another messenger to negotiate. Al-Mugheerah bin Shu'bah رضي الله عنه came to Rustam. As soon as he arrived, Rustam started negotiating with him in a very gentle manner and asked him to tell Sa'd رضي الله عنه that it was better for them to leave to their homeland. Al-Mugheerah رضي الله عنه told Rustam that it was their mission to spread the light of Islam. He explained to him the principles of Islam. Rustam felt the just teachings of Islam and asked the messenger to give him time to discuss them with the heads of the nation. Rustam told his people that it was better for them to accept Islam, but they refused.

Sa'd رضي الله عنه sent the third messenger, Rab'i bin 'Amer رضي الله عنه to Rustam. Before his arrival to the place of the Persian army, the Persians wanted to show him how rich and powerful they were. The whole palace was furnished with gold and silver. Rab'i رضي الله عنه came inside on his horse with his



humble dress until he stepped on the carpets. The soldiers asked him to leave his horse out and to put down his arms. He refused and stepped ahead on the carpets and ruined them with his spear. He jumped down from the back of his horse and sat beside Rustam. He was not amazed by the vanity they wanted to show him.

Rustam inquired about the Muslims' motives behind coming to his land. Rab'î ﷺ told him that they were ordered by Allâh to spread the true word of Islam over the whole earth. Rustam asked him whether he was a chief. The humble messenger replied that the Muslims were like one body and anyone of them would decide for others.

Rustam told Sa'd ﷺ that he would give the Muslims a bitter defeat if they insisted on fighting.

Both armies began preparing for the battle. The Persians prepared about one hundred thousand fully armed soldiers supported by elephants and other heavy combat equipment. The Muslims on the opposite side gathered with their humble arms to fight against this huge



army. Sa'd ﷺ directed his soldiers saying:

“Obey the orders of Khalid, for he is conveying my orders to you. Be sure that you will win if you favour to die for the sake of Allâh. You are promised by Him to take this land.”

Sa'd ﷺ spent the whole day giving the army a spirit of sacrifice and courage.

The timing of operation was initiated by the words *Allâhu Akbar* (Allâh is the Greatest). The Muslim army faced a sudden shock. Their horses did not move forward for fear of the advancing elephants that the Persians put in the first line. However, some of the Muslim archers began shooting at the elephants. They forced the elephants to turn back in terror and throw off their riders. The whole day, the Muslims fought a very fierce battle but the positions of both armies did not change.

The second day a new round of fighting started. The Muslims received support by an army led by Hashim bin 'Utbah coming from

Damascus.

The battle continued and the Muslims were sacrificing their souls to raise the Islamic banner high. The fighting went on all the night. When the sun rose, it was clear that the Muslims had the upper hand. Rustam tried to escape but he was finally killed.



The Reward

This was the life of our hero who sacrificed all his life for the service of Islam. He faced the pagans in Makkah, migrated to Al-Madinah and fought several battles to spread the light of the Qur'ân.

During his days of old age, he sincerely hoped to meet his Lord light and free from all burdens. He kept praying and exercising strict observance of Allâh's teachings. Although the Prophet ﷺ told him that he would dwell in Paradise, he was spending all his time praying to Allâh to forgive his sins.

One night with a clear sky and shining moon, the hero lied down on a humble bed. His son was sitting at his head crying. The man said:

“Do not cry son. Don't you know that your father was promised Paradise?”

He closed his eyes with a pleasant smile on his face and the small and weak body became cold.

