

Life in Parādisē

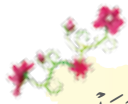
“Dwell you and your wife in Paradise and eat freely from it anywhere you may wish.”

Al-Baqarah
2:35



Allah asked Adam ﷺ and his wife Hawwa to live in the Paradise. Allah said, “O Adam! Dwell you and your wife in Paradise and eat freely from it anywhere you may wish.”

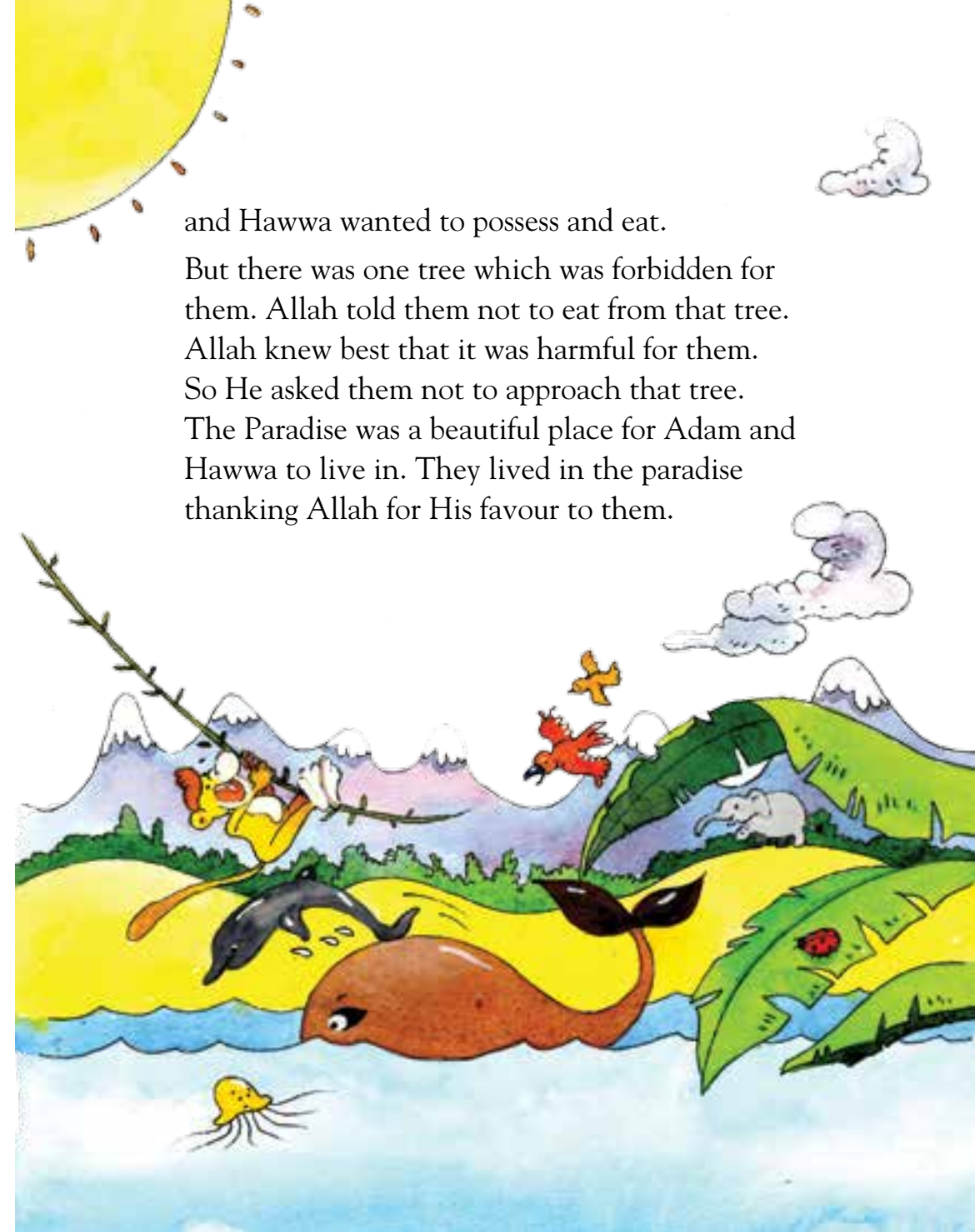
Both Adam and Hawwa lived happily there, eating from the many trees that were provided by Allah for them. Living in paradise was pure bliss. Adam and Hawwa were dear to Allah. Allah loved them a lot. He provided them with all that Adam



رَبَّنَا اغْفِرْ لَنَا وَلِإِخْوَانِنَا الَّذِينَ سَبَقُونَا بِالْإِيمَانِ وَلَا تَجْعَلْ
فِي قُلُوبِنَا غِلًّا لِلَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا رَبَّنَا إِنَّكَ رَءُوفٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿١٠﴾

‘Our Lord, forgive us and our brothers who preceded us in the faith and leave no malice in our hearts towards those who believe. Lord, You are indeed compassionate and merciful.’

Al-Hashr 59:10



and Hawwa wanted to possess and eat.

But there was one tree which was forbidden for them. Allah told them not to eat from that tree. Allah knew best that it was harmful for them. So He asked them not to approach that tree. The Paradise was a beautiful place for Adam and Hawwa to live in. They lived in the paradise thanking Allah for His favour to them.

The Great Ark

Build the Ark under Our eyes and in accordance with Our revelation.

Hud
11:37

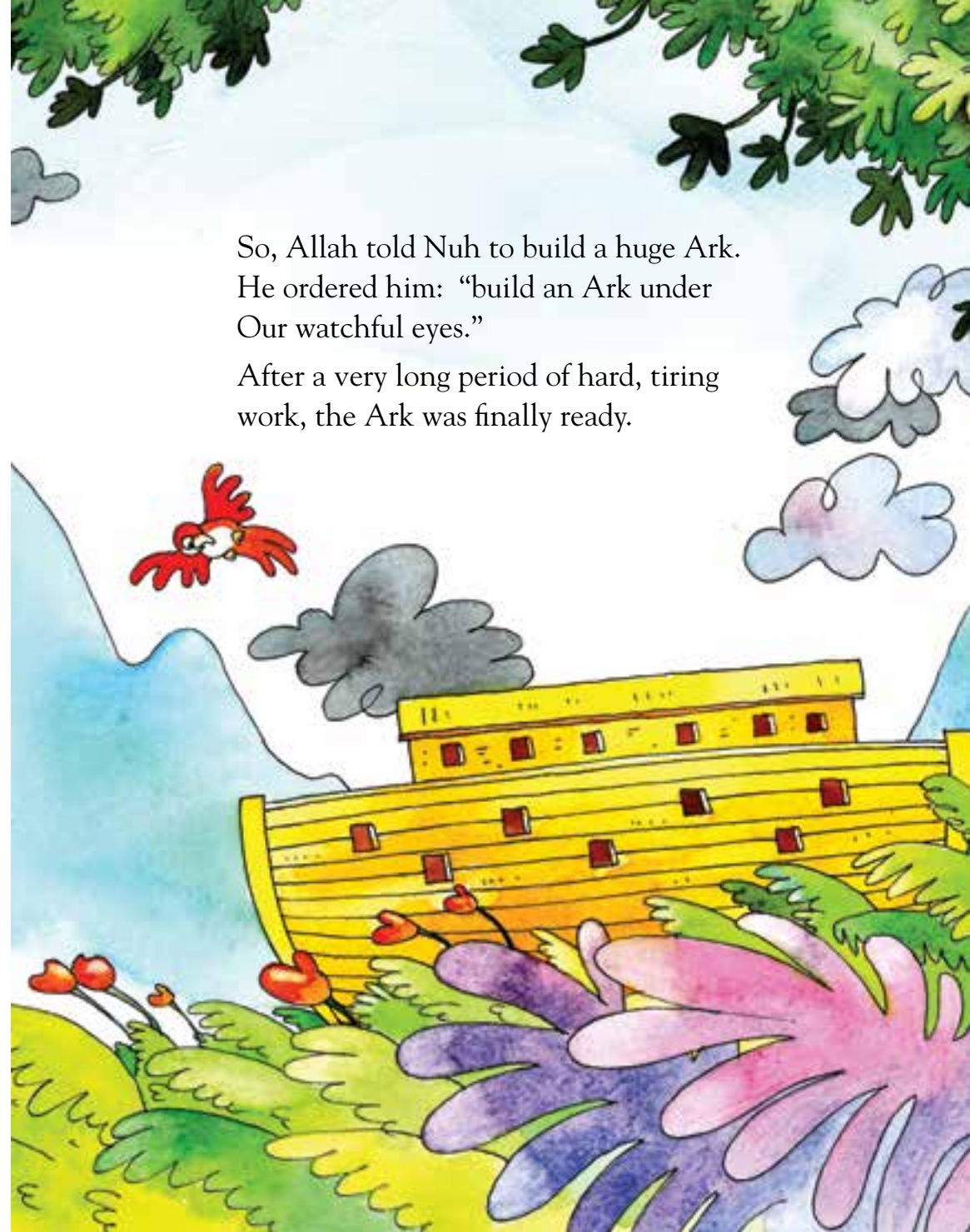
The persistent wickedness of the people of the Prophet Nuh عليه السلام displeased Allah. These people did not listen to the teachings of the Prophet Nuh. They continued to make all the mischiefs and did not obey to Allah. Allah was not happy with them. He wanted to punish wicked people. But He wanted to save Nuh عليه السلام and the people who listened to him.



وَقَالَ أَرْكَبُوا فِيهَا بِسْمِ اللَّهِ جَعَلْنَا
وَمُرْسَهَا إِنَّ رَبِّي لَغَفُورٌ رَحِيمٌ ﴿٤١﴾

Nuh said, 'Embark on it. In the name of Allah, it shall set sail and cast anchor. Truly, my Lord is forgiving and merciful.'

Hud 11:41



So, Allah told Nuh to build a huge Ark. He ordered him: "build an Ark under Our watchful eyes."

After a very long period of hard, tiring work, the Ark was finally ready.

The She-Camel

My people! This she-camel of God is a sign for you.

Hud
11:64

Allah decided to test the people of Tahmud. Allah sent them a beautiful she-camel. The Prophet Salih told the people to be good to the she-camel. He told them to let the she-camel walk around. He also told them to let her drink cool water and eat fresh grass.



رَبَّنَا لَا تُؤَاخِذْنَا إِن نَّسِينَا أَوْ أَخْطَأْنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تَحْمِلْ عَلَيْنَا إَصْرًا كَمَا
حَمَلْتَهُ عَلَى الَّذِينَ مِن قَبْلِنَا رَبَّنَا وَلَا تُحَمِّلْنَا مَا لَا طَاقَةَ لَنَا بِهِ ۗ وَاعْفُ عَنَّا
وَاعْفِرْ لَنَا وَارْحَمْنَا أَنْتَ مَوْلَانَا فَانصُرْنَا عَلَى الْقَوْمِ الْكَافِرِينَ ﴿٢٨٦﴾

Our Lord, do not take us to task if we forget or make a mistake! Our Lord, do not place on us a burden like the one You placed on those before us! Our Lord, do not place on us a burden we have not the strength to bear! Pardon us; and forgive us; and have mercy on us. You are our Lord and Sustainer, so help us against those who deny the truth.

Al-Baqarah 2:286

But the people of Thamud were mean and wicked. They wounded the she-camel of Allah and then killed her. Not only did they do this but were also mean to the Prophet Salih. They wanted the Prophet Salih to leave their country. They even planned to kill him.

Allah was very angry with them. He made the earth shake and rumble. A terrible earthquake came! It destroyed all their houses. The wicked people died under the ruins. Only the good people were saved.

Allah tests all people. He punishes the bad people. And He helps the good people. He saves them from all danger.



Allah's Command

When his Lord tested Ibrahim with certain commands and he fulfilled them.

*Al-Baqarah
2:124*



One day, after the birth of his son Ismail, Allah told the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام to go to Arabia with his wife Hajar and Ismail. Immediately the Prophet Ibrahim along with his family set off for Arabia. They travelled for many days. They climbed high mountains. They crossed deep valleys. In the end they reached a great desert. After a while they reached a little

valley. The Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and Hajar and little Ismail got down from the camels.

The Prophet Ibrahim said to Hajar: “You stay here. Keep Ismail with you. I have to go back.”

His wife protested and said that how she would manage all by herself in this valley. Ismail was only an infant and the valley looked barren without any other human beings present there. But the Prophet Ibrahim turned around and went away saying that this was the order of Allah which he was following. If this is the Will of Allah, so be it, there will be good in this for us, thought Hajar. When the Prophet Ibrahim reached some distance, he turned around and prayed to Allah to keep Hajar and Ismail safe and sound in the valley.



رَبَّنَا إِنِّي أَسْكَنْتُ مِنْ ذُرِّيَّتِي بِوَادٍ غَيْرِ ذِي زَرْعٍ عِنْدَ بَيْتِكَ
الْمُحَرَّمِ رَبَّنَا لِيُقِيمُوا الصَّلَاةَ فَاجْعَلْ أَفْعَدَةً مِنَ النَّاسِ تَهْوِي
إِلَيْهِمْ وَارْزُقْهُمْ مِنَ الثَّمَرَاتِ لَعَلَّهُمْ يَشْكُرُونَ ﴿٣٧﴾

Our Lord! I have settled some of my offspring in an uncultivable valley near Your Sacred House, Lord, so that they might establish their prayers. So, make people's hearts incline towards them and provide them with fruits so that they may be grateful.

Ibrahim 14:37



The Grief of Yaqub عليه السلام and his Patience

His eyes went white with grief, and he was filled with sorrow.



Yusuf
12:84

When the brothers came back home in Canan, they told their ailing father that Binyamin had committed a theft and that the king's minister had kept him as a punishment. The brothers swore to their father that this was the truth, and they even made the people of the caravan bear witness. Yaqub عليه السلام was absolutely stunned by the story.

The Prophet Yaqub knew his little Binyamin too well to believe that he had stolen anything. He flatly refused to believe them, thinking they had plotted to get rid of their youngest brother just as they had plotted against Yusuf. So he cried out, "No! Your souls have tempted you to evil. But I will have sweet patience (*sabr jamil*). Allah may bring them all to me... He alone is All-Knowing and Wise."

The loss of Yusuf and now Binyamin was so hard for Yaqub to bear that he lost his eyesight weeping.

"O my sons! Go and enquire about Yusuf and his brother, and never give up hope of Allah's soothing mercy," Yaqub said. "Truly, no one despairs of Allah's soothing mercy, except those who have no faith."



الَّذِي خَلَقَنِي فَهُوَ يَهْدِينِ ﴿٧٨﴾ وَالَّذِي هُوَ يُطْعِمُنِي وَيَسْقِينِ ﴿٧٩﴾ وَإِذَا
مَرِضْتُ فَهُوَ يَشْفِينِ ﴿٨٠﴾ وَالَّذِي يُمِيتُنِي ثُمَّ يُحْيِينِ ﴿٨١﴾
وَالَّذِي أَطْمَعُ أَنْ يَغْفِرَ لِي خَطِيئَتِي يَوْمَ الدِّينِ ﴿٨٢﴾

It is He who created me. It is He who guides me; He who gives me food and drink; He who cures me when I am ill; He who will cause me to die and bring me back to life; and He who will, I hope, forgive me my faults on the Day of Judgement.

Al-Shu'ara' 26:78-82



Madyan and Ayka

O my people, worship God; you have no other god but Him.

Al-A'raf
7:85

Madyan and Ayka were two cities on the coast of the Red Sea. They were very important cities in those times.

Many ships crossed the sea and came there. In the ships came foreign merchants, who brought beautiful things from other countries to sell in the market.

The people of Madyan and Ayka bought those beautiful things. They loaded them on their camels and they travelled with their



وَيَقُولُونَ سُبْحَانَ رَبِّنَا إِن كَانَ وَعْدُ رَبِّنَا لَمَفْعُولًا ﴿١٠٨﴾ وَيَخْرُونَ
لِلْأَذْقَانِ يَبْكُونَ وَيَزِيدُهُمْ خُشُوعًا ﴿١٠٩﴾

And say, 'Glory to our Lord! Our Lord's promise is bound to be fulfilled.' They fall down upon their faces weeping, and (the Quran) increases their humility.

Al-Isra' 17:108-109

camels across the desert and sold the beautiful foreign goods to people in other cities.

The People of Madyan and Ayka were very clever traders. They had big shops in the markets. The shops were always crowded. They had many camels to carry their goods to other places.



The Most Honourable Woman

He has selected you over [all] the women.

Al 'Imran
3:42



Long, long ago there lived a pious lady called Hannah in Jerusalem. She prayed to Allah for a child and vowed that the child would spend his life serving Allah.

When she gave birth, it was a girl-child. She said, "O my Lord! I have given birth to a female."

Allah graciously accepted the girl-child and caused her to grow up in purity. She was named Maryam by her parents. When



رَبَّنَا ءَامَنَّا بِمَا أَنْزَلْتَ وَاتَّبَعْنَا الرَّسُولَ
فَاكْتُبْنَا مَعَ الشَّاهِدِينَ ﴿٥٣﴾

Our Lord, we believe in what You have sent down and we follow the Messenger, so count us among those who bear witness.

Al-'Imran 3:53

Maryam grew up she began serving Allah, as promised by her mother. The priests admired her deep devotion and love and respect for Allah. Everyone wanted to be her guardian. They drew lots and each time, it was in the favour of her uncle, the Prophet Zakariyya ﷺ. Thus Allah made the Prophet Zakariyya ﷺ her guardian. The Prophet Zakariyya ﷺ was an old man and he used to visit Maryam in her prayer niche. Maryam would spend most of her time in prayer and devotion. And soon, she became known for being good and pure. Allah says in the Quran, "We have set her above all other woman."



Al-Isrā and Al-Mirāj

Holy is He who took His servant by night from the sacred place of worship to the remote house of worship.

*Al-Isrā'
17:1*

When the Makkan persecution of the Prophet and his family seemed about to crush Islam, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had an extraordinary experience, known as al-Isra and al-Miraj, or the Night Journey and the Ascension. One night, as he slept next to the Kabah, the Archangel Jibril woke him and took him on a strange, white winged animal, called Buraq, from Makkah to al-Aqsa mosque in faraway Jerusalem. From there Jibril took the Prophet through

سُبْحَانَ الَّذِي أَسْرَى بِعَبْدِهِ لَيْلًا مِّنَ الْمَسْجِدِ الْحَرَامِ إِلَى الْمَسْجِدِ الْأَقْصَا الَّذِي بَارَكْنَا حَوْلَهُ لِنُرِيَهُ مِن مِّنْ آيَاتِنَا إِنَّهُ هُوَ السَّمِيعُ الْبَصِيرُ

Holy is He who took His servant by night from the sacred place of worship [at Makkah] to the remote house of worship [at Jerusalem]—the precincts of which We have blessed, so that We might show him some of Our signs. Surely, it is He who is All Hearing, and All Seeing.

Al-Isrā' 17:1

Heaven's gates, where he saw countless angels. He was then taken through the Seven Heavens, one by one. Then, the Prophet passed through many veils, until at last he came into the divine Light of Allah's Presence, which brought peace and banished all sense of time. Then, he was brought back to earth where he was amazed to find the spot where he had lain still warm, and the cup he had tipped over still emptying. This had all taken place in less than a moment!

The next morning, the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ told the Quraysh of his experience. But many doubted his word. However, the Prophet's description of Jerusalem, and the caravans he had seen on his return to Makkah, convinced them of his truthfulness.

