

Abu Hurairah narrates, 'The family of the Prophet (pbuh) used to spend months without lighting a lamp and without cooking any meals as they would hardly ever had any olive oil.'

Aisha (ra) liked whatever her husband liked and disliked whatever he disliked. Once she hung a curtain on her doorway that had a picture of an animal on it. When the Prophet (pbuh) saw it, he got upset. Aisha (ra) was terrified and asked, "Please, Ya Rasool Allah, (Oh Messenger of God) what have I done to offend you?" Pointing to the curtain he said, "Angels do not enter a house that has pictures of men and animals!" She immediately took down the curtain.

She was very devoted to him, followed him closely and noted his every action and word. Aisha had a unique opportunity to spend so much time with the Prophet and to learn his Sunnah. She spent nine years in the companionship of the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and during these nine years she gained a great deal of knowledge. She used to ask the Prophet many questions simply to enhance her own knowledge.

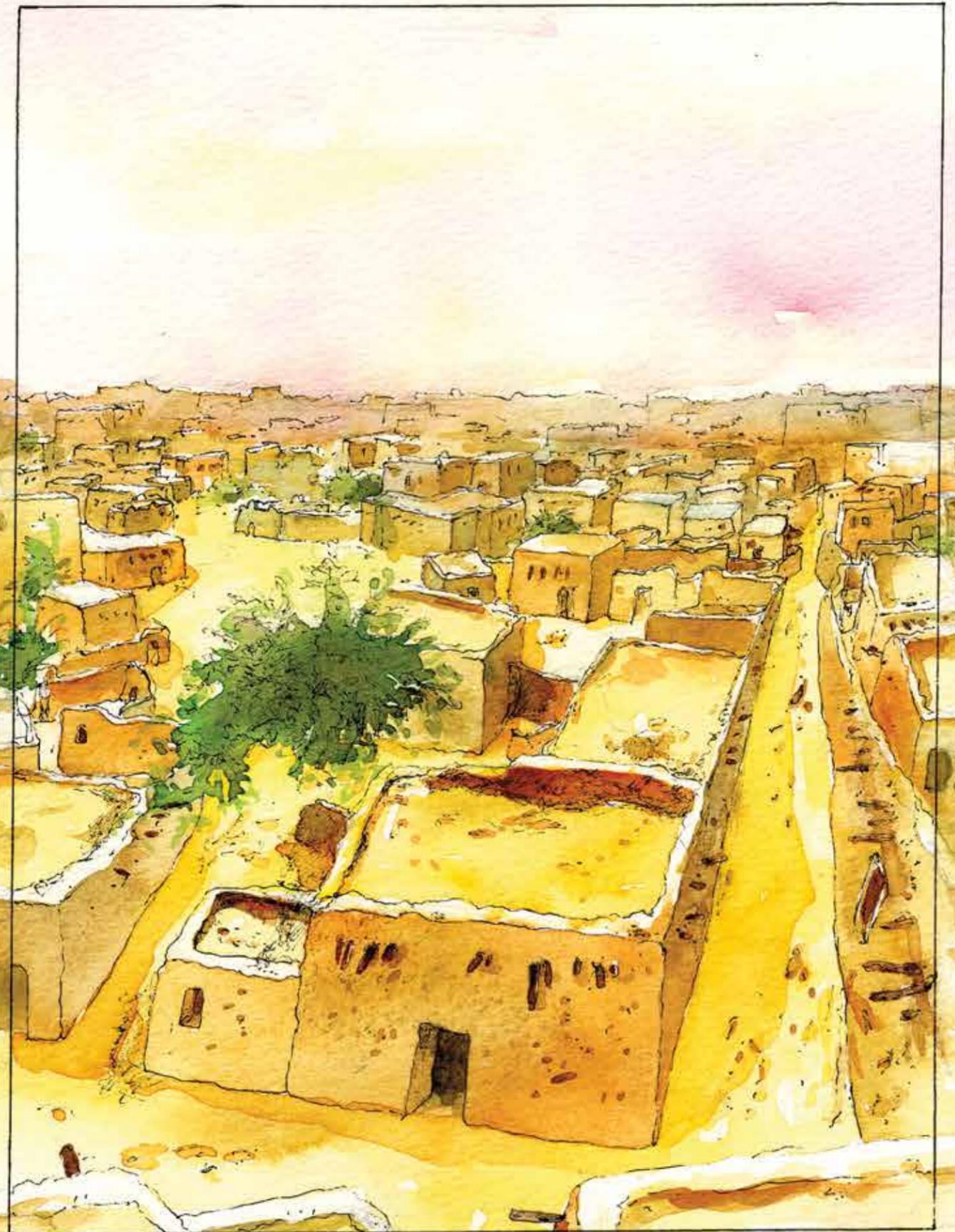
Aisha (ra) would sit inside her room and listen intently while the Prophet (pbuh) was teaching, talking or preaching sermons to his companions in the Masjid. At every opportunity, she would question the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and ask him to make things clear to her. She would persist with her probing until the matter was crystal clear to her. He would respond patiently, with the definite aim of moulding her mind and personality, as she was destined to convey and interpret his teachings to Muslims of all times.



According to a tradition of Aisha (ra), “whenever the Prophet had to choose between the two, he chose the easier option over the harder option.” (Al-Bukhari)

Even the wisest mind cannot understand this, but she did. She explained that the Prophet (pbuh) said that in every situation in life, the human being has two choices in the way he handles that situation, the easier way or the harder. The harder way meant a violent option, while the easier way meant the peaceful option: the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) always chose the easier option. If one chooses the violent (harder) option, it worsens the problem rather than solving it. Choosing the peaceful (easier) option provides an amicable solution. Only someone with her kind of intelligence and insight could understand the importance of this and explain it.

Aisha (ra) was a very intelligent lady and her conversation was full of wisdom. Many companions used to come to her to take her advice on a number of matters. Hazrat Mashrooq, who was the pupil of Aisha (ra), said: ‘I had seen many important companions who were considerably older than Aisha (ra), but they used to come to her to have certain basic points of Islam made clear to them.’



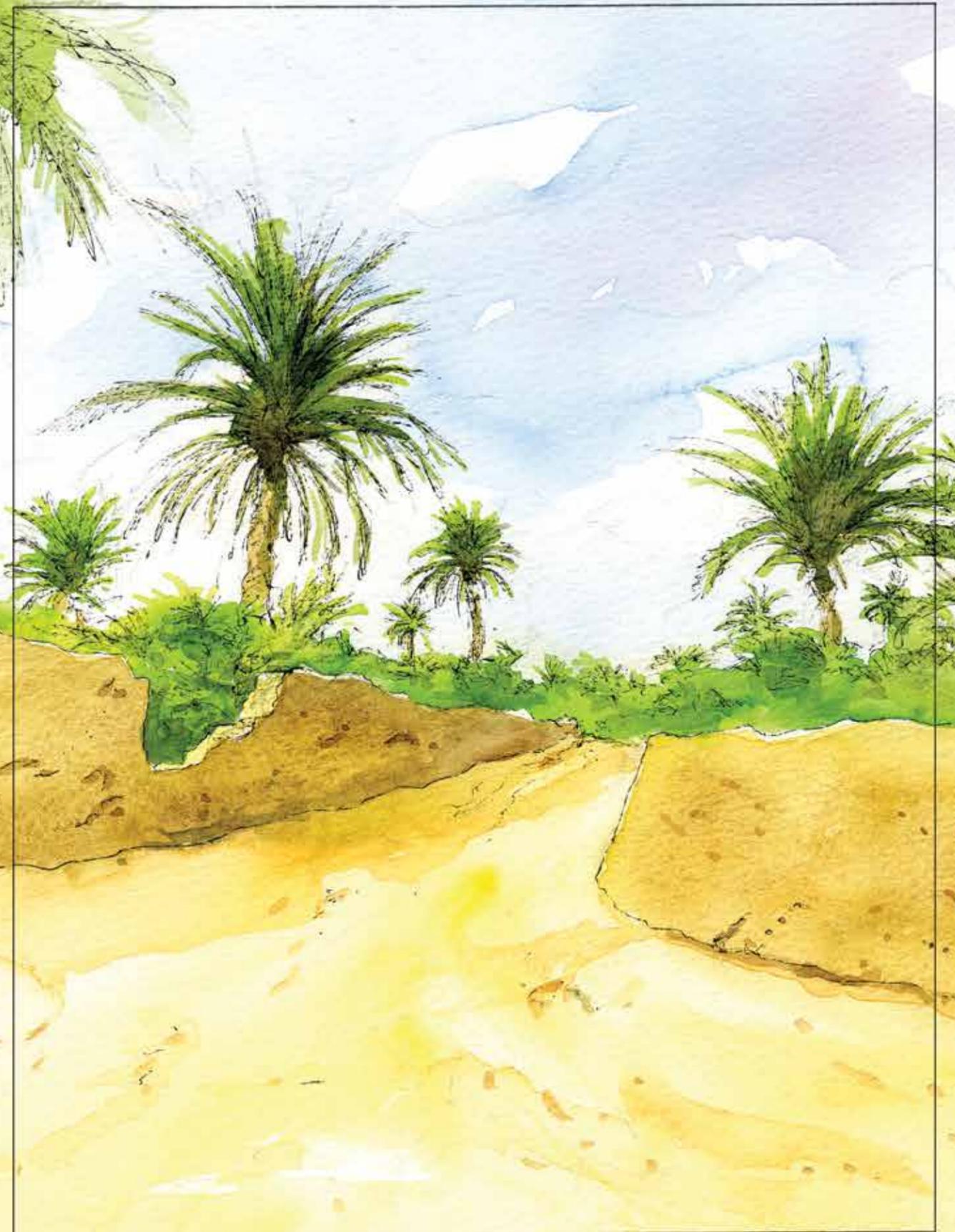
from the great physicians who used to visit the Prophet (pbuh). Every week she would give well worded lectures on Islam to people who gathered near her home for this purpose. Aisha (ra) was an outstanding speaker. Musa bin Talha was of the view that Aisha expressed herself really well.

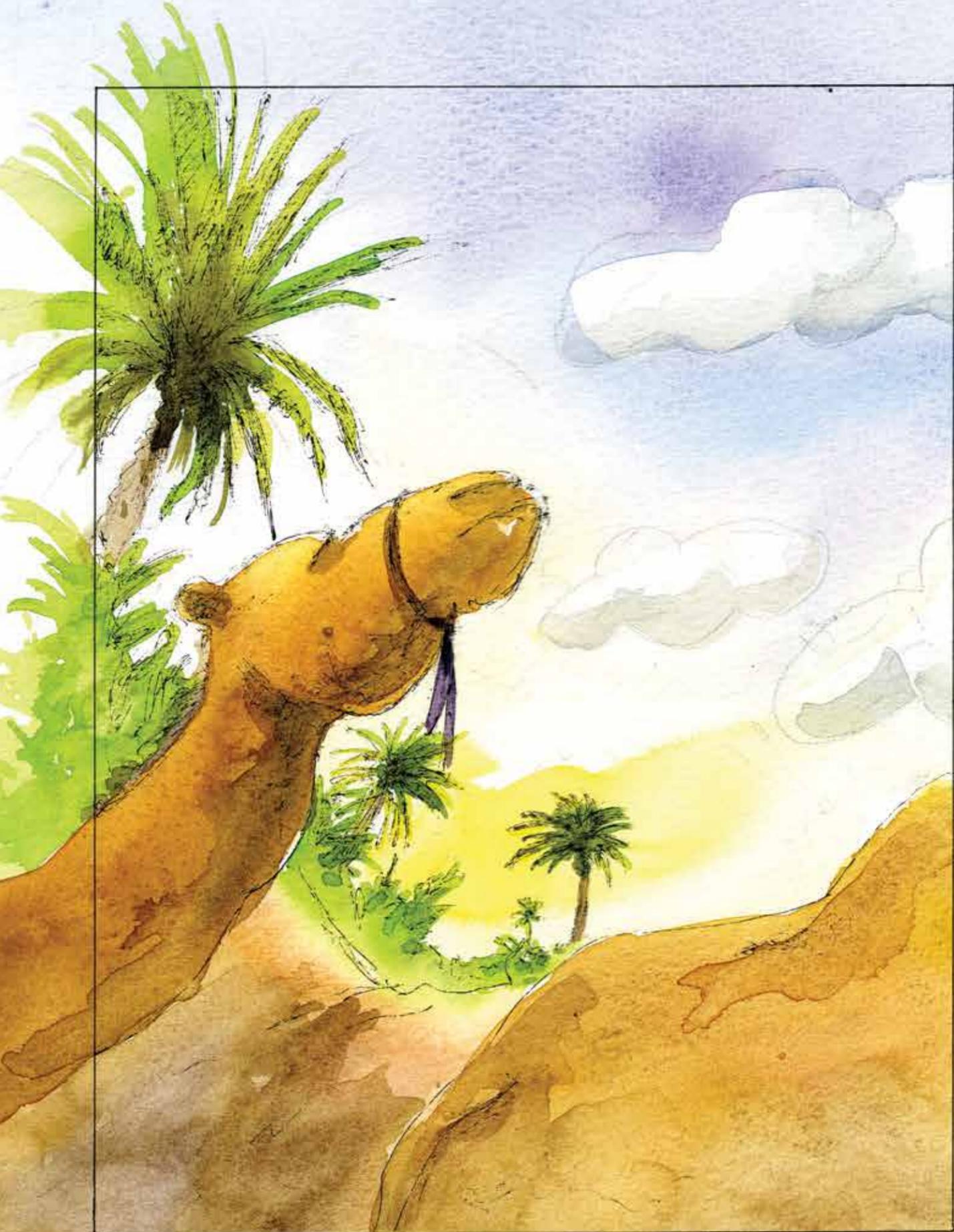
The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) displayed his affection and consideration for Aisha (ra) in many ways. Once during the Eid celebrations, some Africans were showing their skills with spears. She wanted to see their performance. He stood in front of her, while she watched over his shoulder. He kept standing there as long as she was interested in it.

The Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) and Aisha (ra) were once traveling with some of the Companions. At one point the Companions went ahead of them. He asked her to race with him. Aisha (ra) won the race easily. A few years later they raced again. This time the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) won, as Aisha (ra) had put on some weight. Teasingly he commented, “Aisha, now we are even.”

She loved the Prophet (pbuh) dearly, but her love for Allah SWT was much greater. Once, some hypocrites spread a rumour about her chastity. Although it caused great agony and grief to her and her dear ones, she was confident that Allah in His mercy would protect her honour. Eventually, when the Divine revelation (24:11-20) confirmed her innocence, Umm Rumaan (ra) advised her daughter to touch the feet of the Messenger. Aisha (ra) refused, saying, “I do not worship anyone except Allah who has attested to my innocence and shamed the slanderers!”

After this revelation in which Allah SWT testified to her honesty, trustworthiness and purity, she became known as Siddiqah. Siddiqah means





night. His condition continued to worsen. One morning he made several attempts to get up and go to the Masjid un Nabi, but could not do so. In the end he said, “Tell Abu Bakr to lead the prayers!” Aisha (ra) pleaded, “Ya Rasool Allah, he is very soft-hearted, and will not be able to stand in your place and will burst into tears. Please order someone else to do so.” Eventually, Abu Bakr (ra) had to lead the ‘salat’ as the Prophet (pbuh) insisted upon it.

In the 11 Hijri, the Prophet Muhammad (pbuh) breathed his last with Aisha (ra) at his side. He was laid to rest in her room. Thus she was blessed by Allah SWT in that she recorded the final moments of the last and the greatest Prophet.

Earlier, Aisha (ra) had related a dream to her father in which she had seen three moons falling in her room. After the burial of the Prophet (pbuh) he said, “He was the best of the three moons!” Her dream turned out to be true, for later on Abu Bakr (ra) and Umar Farooq (ra) were also buried there.

After the death of the Prophet (pbuh), Aisha (ra) played an important role in carrying on his mission for almost fifty years. She devoted most of her time to the propagation of Islam and also took active part in education and social reform. She made every effort to spread Islam by teaching its tenets.

She used to educate people, and according to one estimate, she had about two hundred pupils, which included companions and the descendants of the companions as well.

Aisha (ra) held regular classes for both the young and the old. Her method of teaching was a combination of talk and discussion. At the end of the