

Khadija began to pay close attention to the Prophet and realized that all the people in Makkah liked him a lot and he had many friends. He was hard-working, honest and trustworthy. She liked that. She also liked his simple and unaffected ways. She thought to herself:

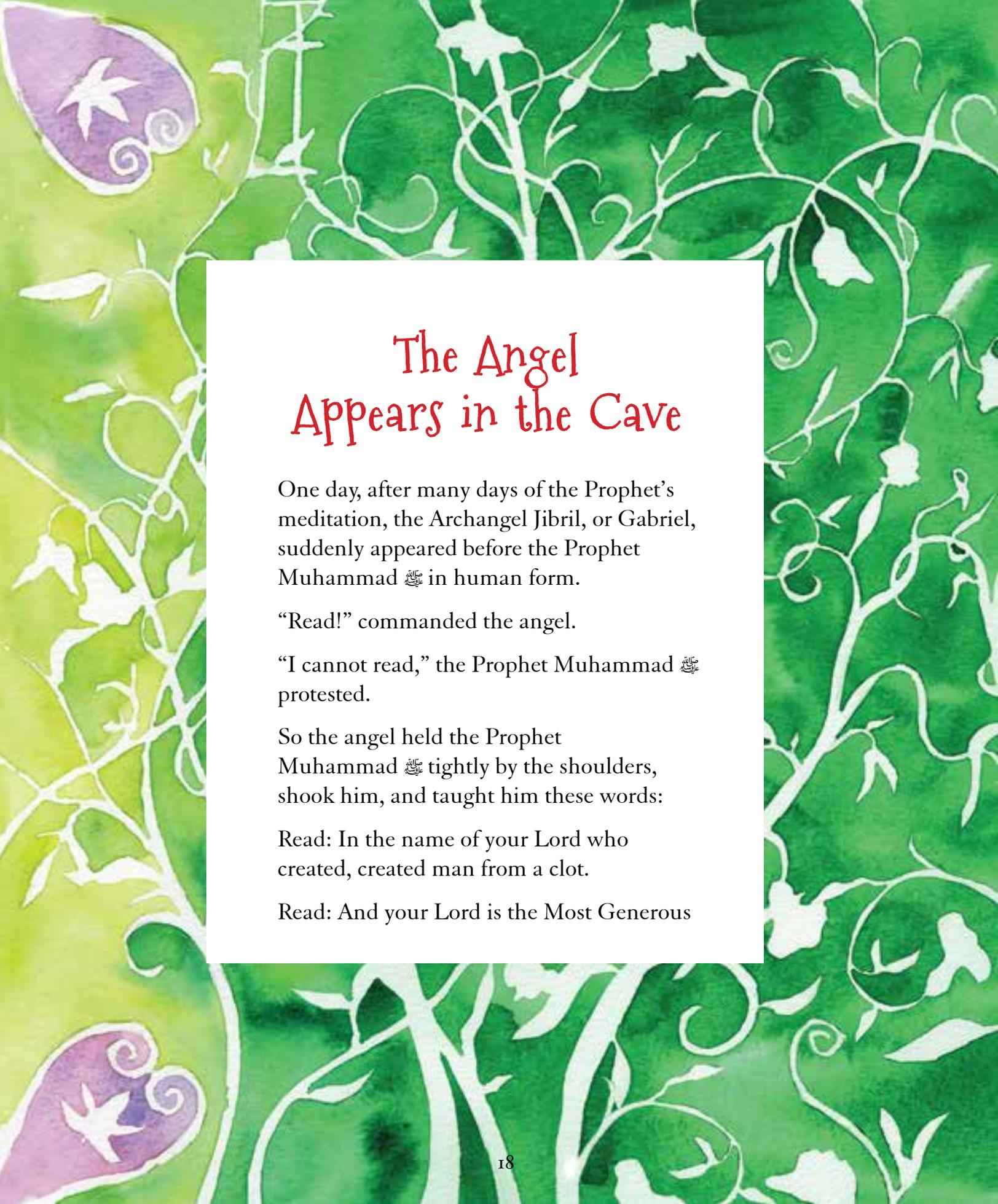
“He is the best man I have ever met in my life.”

# The Prophet's Family

The new house into which the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Khadija moved was very nice, though not very big. But it had enough space for everybody. It even had a little walled courtyard behind the house where they could sit after sunset.

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Khadija did not live by themselves in their new house. There were many more people who lived with them. First of all, there was Umm Ayman, the old maid of Amina, the Prophet's mother, who had brought him up after his mother died. The Prophet was very fond of her because she reminded him of his childhood and his mother.





## The Angel Appears in the Cave

One day, after many days of the Prophet's meditation, the Archangel Jibril, or Gabriel, suddenly appeared before the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in human form.

“Read!” commanded the angel.

“I cannot read,” the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ protested.

So the angel held the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ tightly by the shoulders, shook him, and taught him these words:

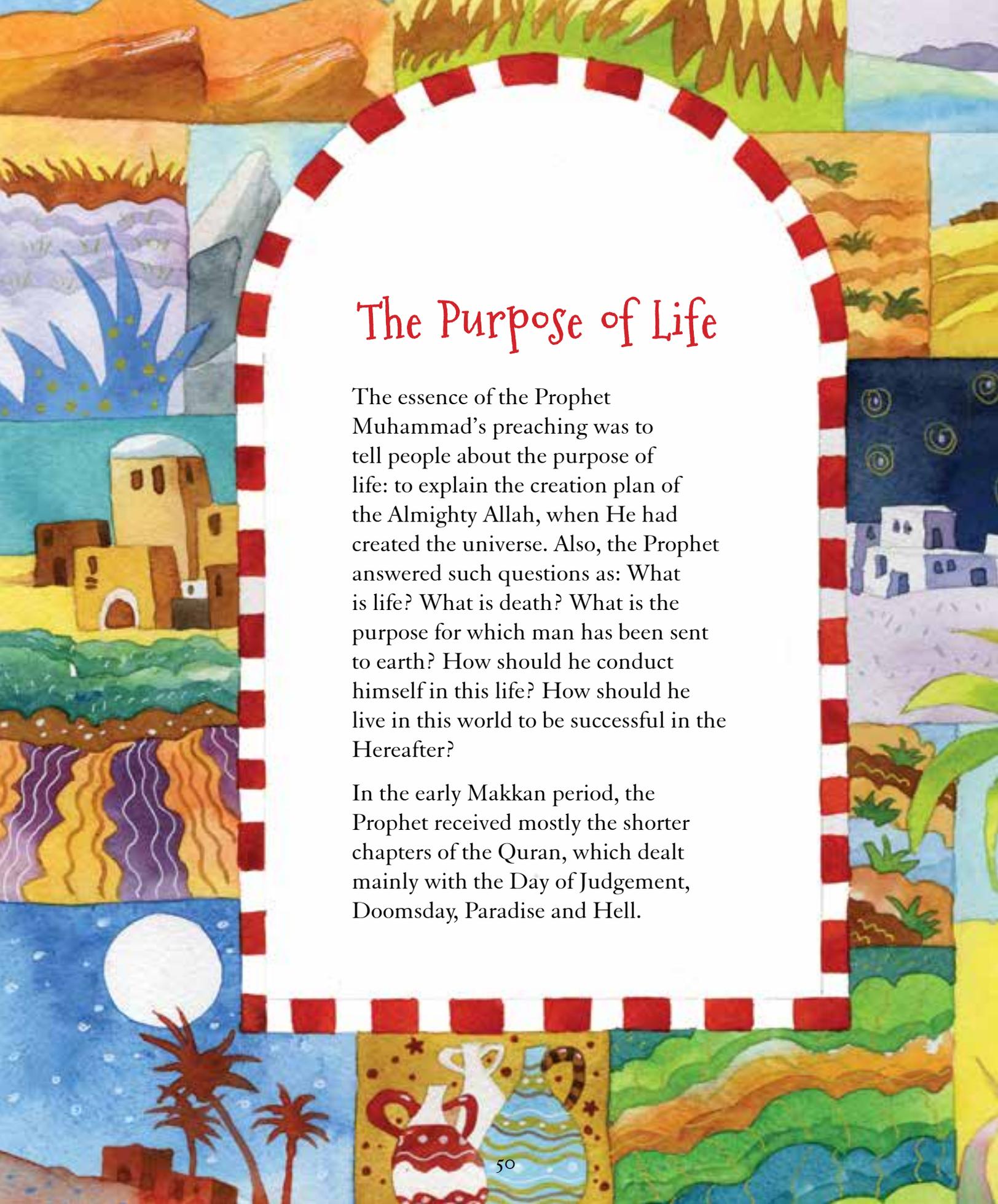
Read: In the name of your Lord who created, created man from a clot.

Read: And your Lord is the Most Generous

# The Prophet Calls from the Hill of Safa

One day, it so happened that the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ decided that the time had come to address the people in an open gathering. He stood atop the little hillock of Safa, near the Kabah, and spoke to the crowd gathered there.





## The Purpose of Life

The essence of the Prophet Muhammad's preaching was to tell people about the purpose of life: to explain the creation plan of the Almighty Allah, when He had created the universe. Also, the Prophet answered such questions as: What is life? What is death? What is the purpose for which man has been sent to earth? How should he conduct himself in this life? How should he live in this world to be successful in the Hereafter?

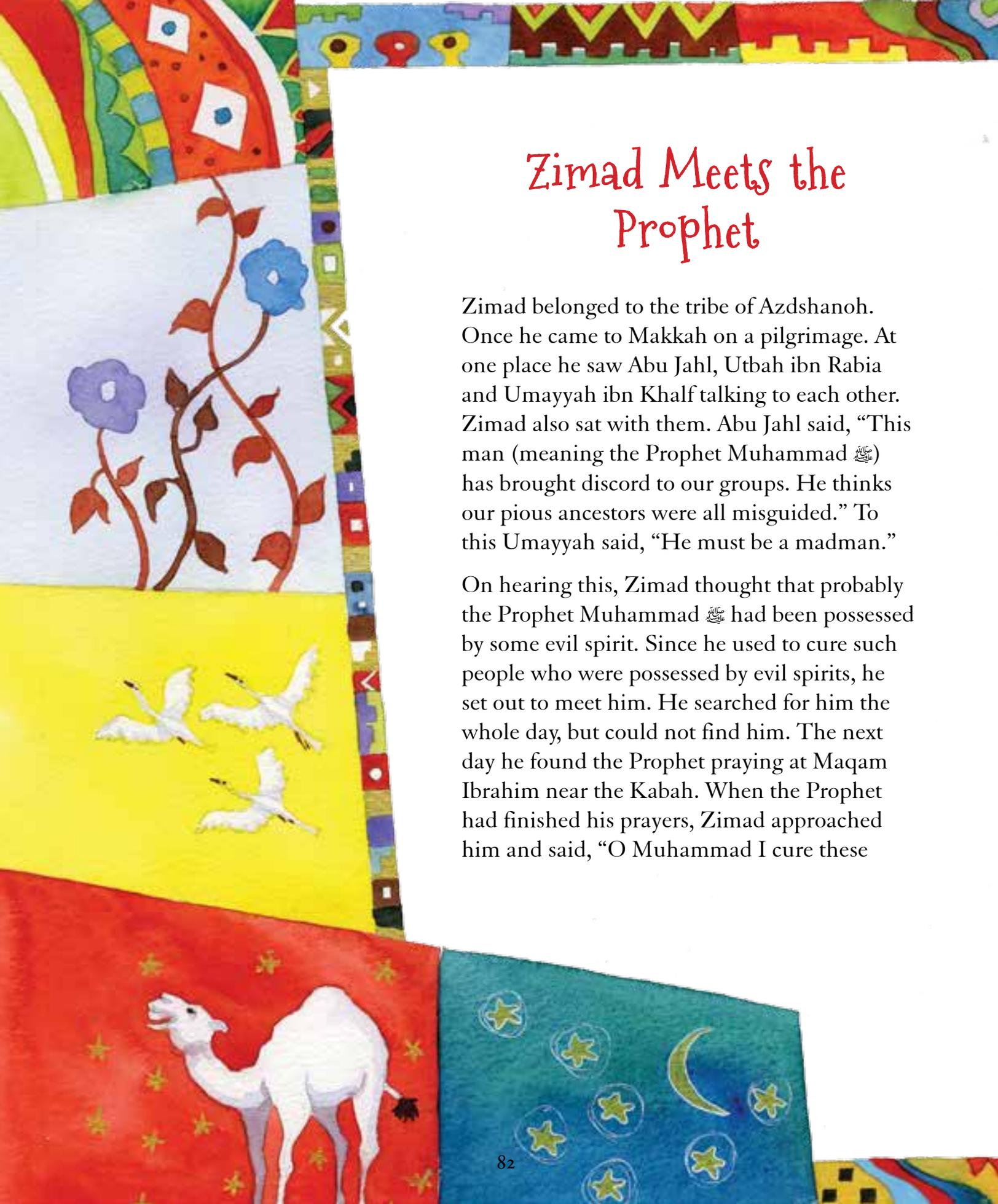
In the early Makkan period, the Prophet received mostly the shorter chapters of the Quran, which dealt mainly with the Day of Judgement, Doomsday, Paradise and Hell.



## The Sun on the One Hand, the Moon on the Other

The Quraysh wanted to stop the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ from spreading his new religion. They attacked him. They abused him. They tortured his Companions. They even killed some of them. But the Prophet did not react and continued his work with patience, as he had been commanded by Allah to convey the message of the Quran to others.





## Zimad Meets the Prophet

Zimad belonged to the tribe of Azdshanoh. Once he came to Makkah on a pilgrimage. At one place he saw Abu Jahl, Utbah ibn Rabiah and Umayyah ibn Khalf talking to each other. Zimad also sat with them. Abu Jahl said, “This man (meaning the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ) has brought discord to our groups. He thinks our pious ancestors were all misguided.” To this Umayyah said, “He must be a madman.”

On hearing this, Zimad thought that probably the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ had been possessed by some evil spirit. Since he used to cure such people who were possessed by evil spirits, he set out to meet him. He searched for him the whole day, but could not find him. The next day he found the Prophet praying at Maqam Ibrahim near the Kabah. When the Prophet had finished his prayers, Zimad approached him and said, “O Muhammad I cure these

# Haseen, the Old Man

Haseen was an old man. He was very respected among the Quraysh tribe. One day some of the members of the Quraysh tribe came to him and said, "Please talk to this man (the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ). He offends our deities."

Haseen agreed to do so and accompanied them to meet the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ.

Haseen said, "I have heard that you offend our deities, though your father was a very good man."

The Prophet asked Haseen, "How many deities do you worship?"

To which Haseen said, "Seven deities on the earth and one in heaven."

The Prophet asked, "When you are in distress, to which deity do you call for help?" "To the one in the heaven," said Haseen.

The Prophet asked him again, "When you suffer some loss in your wealth, to whom do you call for help?" "To the one in the heaven," replied Haseen.

The Prophet said to him that the God who listened to his distress is One. But he associated other gods with him.

Haseen thought that he had never spoken to such a person in his whole life.

