



Introduction

As the Prophet carried on with his mission in Makkah, slowly, people began to accept Islam. Some of them were already giving up the worship of idols and other deities, and when they heard the message of the oneness of God (or what in Islam is called *tawheed*), they immediately felt that this was the Truth. And so, they became believers in Islam. The early converts included the wife of the Prophet, Khadija; his childhood friend, Abu Bakr; his cousin, Ali ibn Abi Talib; and Umar Ibn Khattab, who had once been a dire enemy of the Prophet. All these people took up the *dawah* mission of the Prophet seriously and played an important role in spreading the message of Islam.

One day, Uthman visited his aunt Arwah, as she was unwell. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was there, too. Uthman started looking at the Prophet curiously, as people were talking a lot about him. Noticing this, the Prophet asked, “Uthman, what is the matter?”

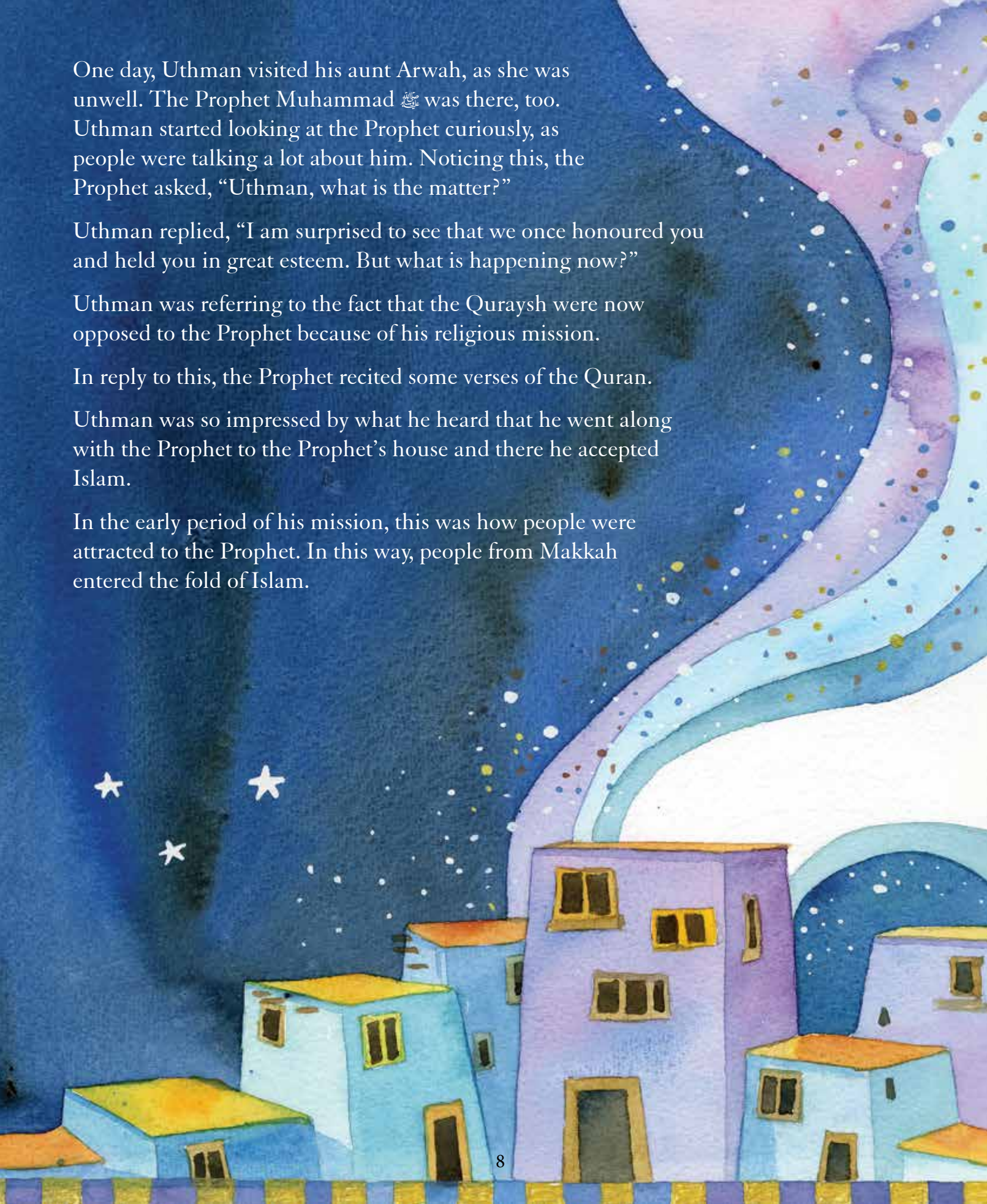
Uthman replied, “I am surprised to see that we once honoured you and held you in great esteem. But what is happening now?”

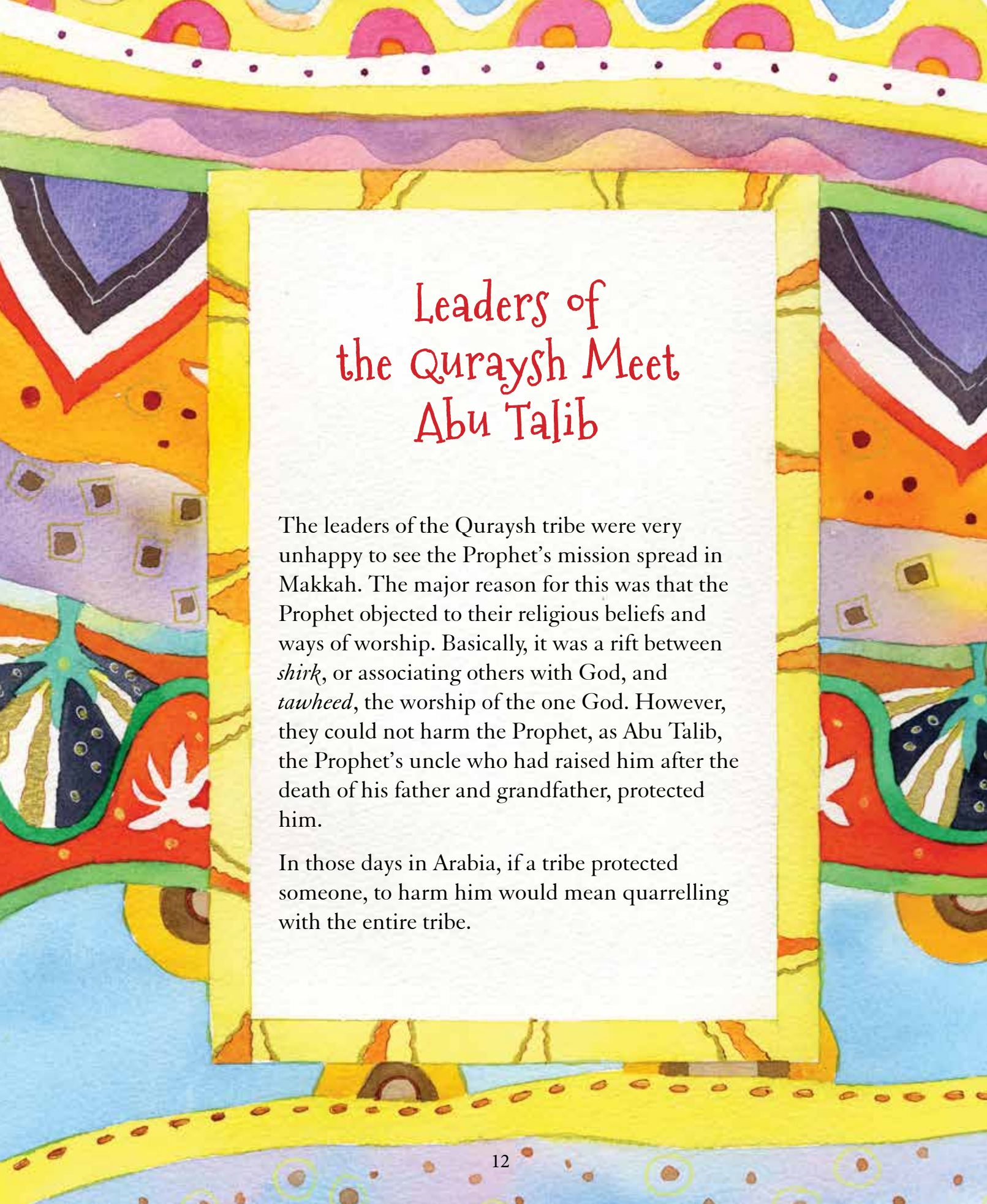
Uthman was referring to the fact that the Quraysh were now opposed to the Prophet because of his religious mission.

In reply to this, the Prophet recited some verses of the Quran.

Uthman was so impressed by what he heard that he went along with the Prophet to the Prophet’s house and there he accepted Islam.

In the early period of his mission, this was how people were attracted to the Prophet. In this way, people from Makkah entered the fold of Islam.





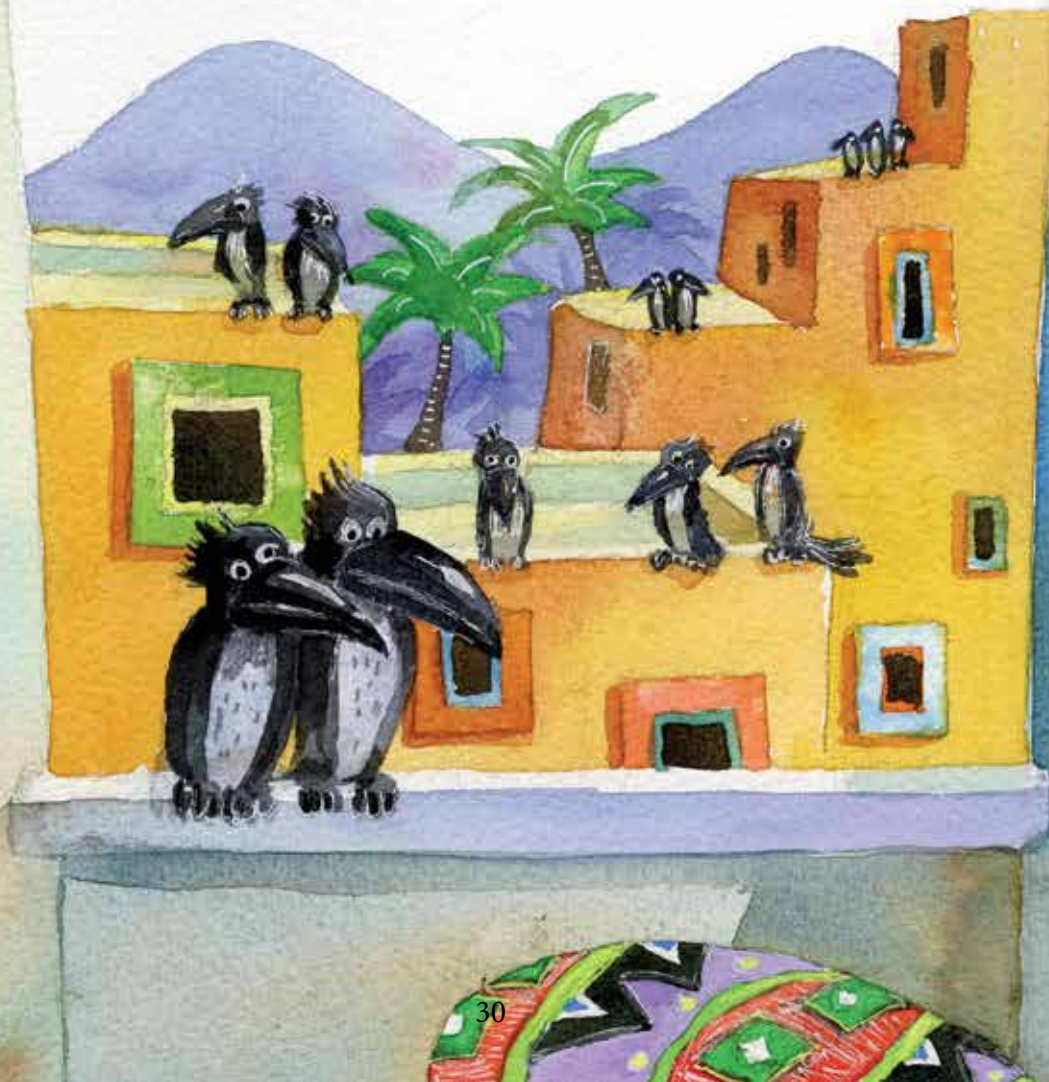
Leaders of the Quraysh Meet Abu Talib

The leaders of the Quraysh tribe were very unhappy to see the Prophet's mission spread in Makkah. The major reason for this was that the Prophet objected to their religious beliefs and ways of worship. Basically, it was a rift between *shirk*, or associating others with God, and *tawheed*, the worship of the one God. However, they could not harm the Prophet, as Abu Talib, the Prophet's uncle who had raised him after the death of his father and grandfather, protected him.

In those days in Arabia, if a tribe protected someone, to harm him would mean quarrelling with the entire tribe.

Utbah's Cruelty

One day, when the Prophet was praying in front of the Kabah, a man named Utbah slowly entered the Kabah. He had some sheets of cloth in his hand. He was barefoot, and so he did not make any sound. He slowly tiptoed to where the Prophet was praying. The moment the Prophet touched his head to the ground in prostration, Utbah flung the sheets over his head. Then, he started hitting the Prophet so hard that blood started oozing out from his face and nose.



The Migration to Ethiopia

Despite the hatred of the leaders of Makkah for the Prophet, Islam was spreading rapidly in Makkah. Every day, someone or the other entered the fold of Islam. Seeing this, the leaders of Makkah were enraged. They began tormenting the Prophet's Companions.

At this point, the Prophet told his Companions to leave Makkah and shift elsewhere.

They asked him, "Where should we go, O Prophet of Allah?"

