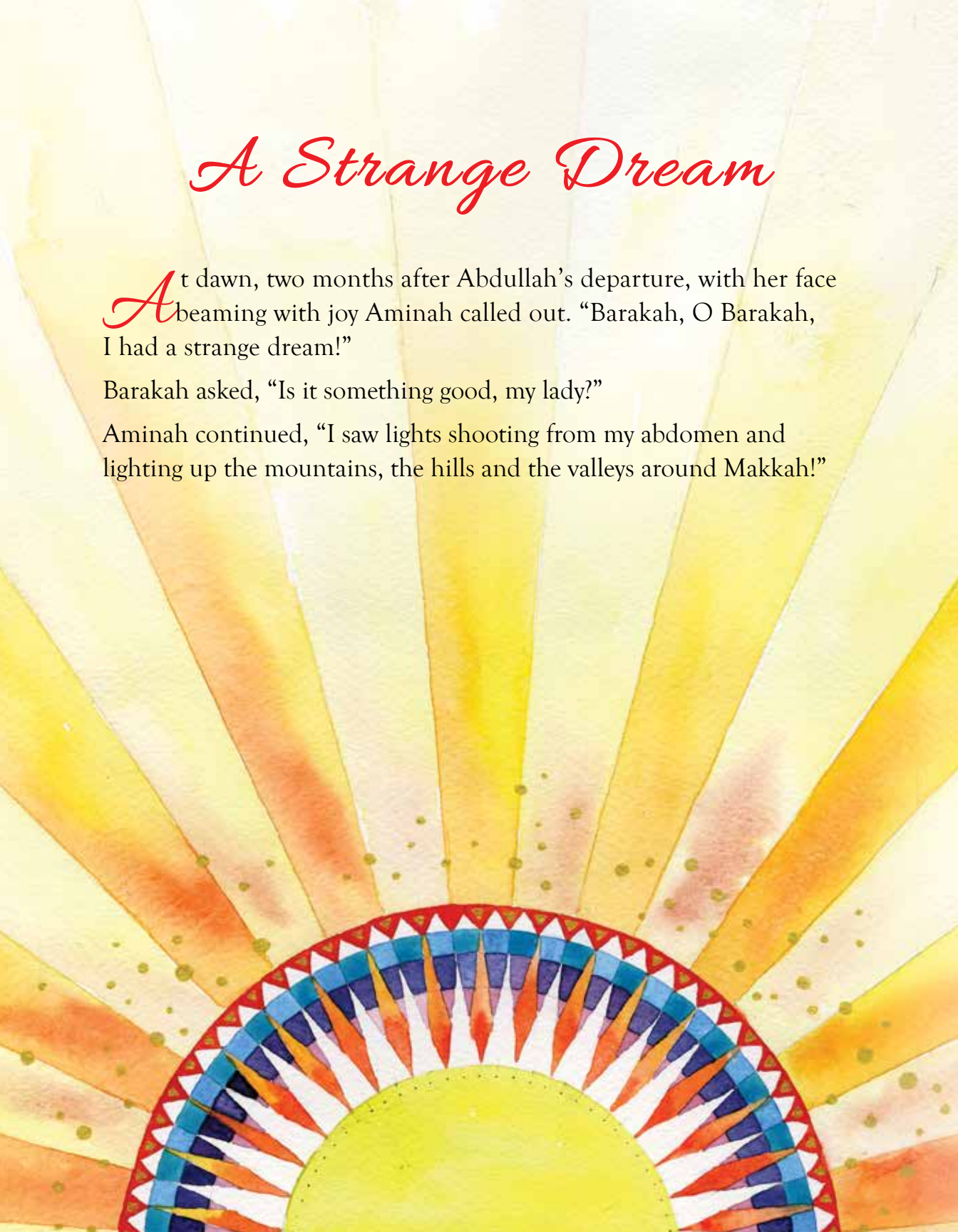


A Strange Dream

*A*t dawn, two months after Abdullah's departure, with her face beaming with joy Aminah called out. "Barakah, O Barakah, I had a strange dream!"

Barakah asked, "Is it something good, my lady?"

Aminah continued, "I saw lights shooting from my abdomen and lighting up the mountains, the hills and the valleys around Makkah!"

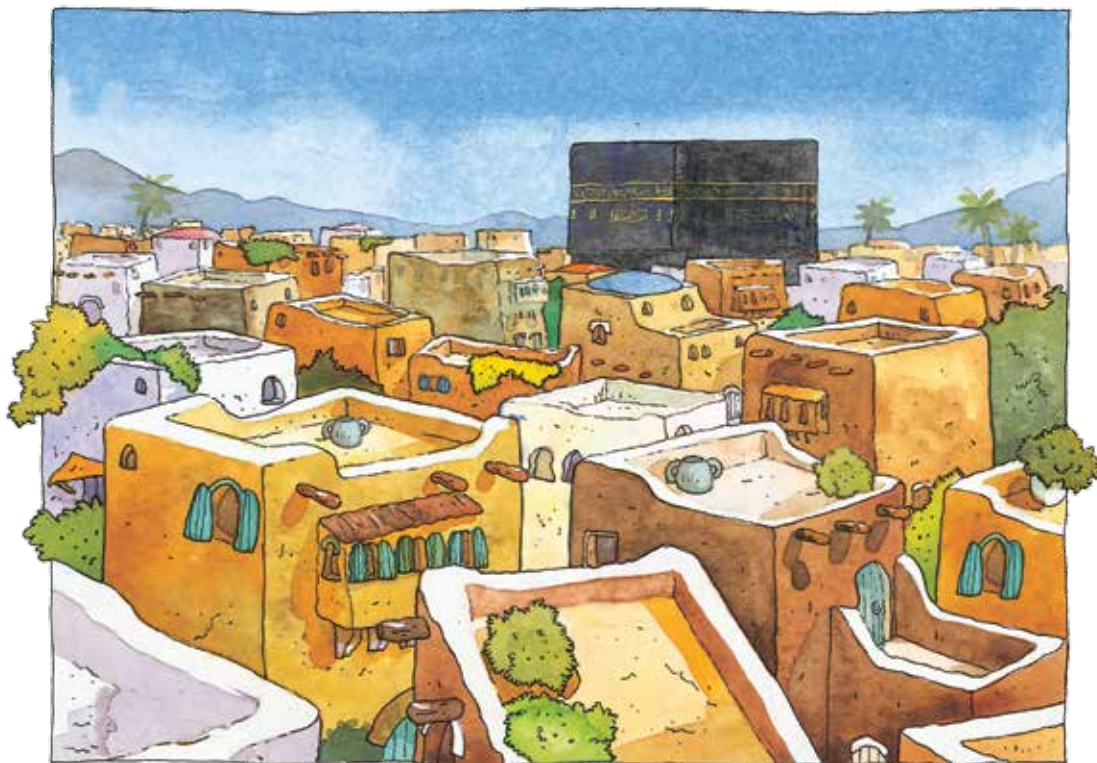


The Birth of the Prophet

As there was no one else in the household, it was Barakah who nursed Aminah day and night until the birth of the baby. According to Barakah that night “the heavens lightened with a brilliant light of the Lord.”

When the baby was born, Barakah was the first person to hold him in her arms.

Abdul Muttalib was thrilled with the birth of his grandchild. He took the baby and carried him straight to the Kabah. He named the baby



With a shattered heart she dug the grave in the sand with her own hands and buried her beloved friend at al-Abwa, a village midway between Madinah and Makkah.

Barakah loaded the camels with sufficient drinking water for the long return journey to Makkah and joined some travellers. This was an astonishing task for a young lady with a small boy. Thus her role as a second mother began!

For the next two years Muhammad and Barakah lived with Abdul Muttalib until his death. Then the two had to start living with his uncle Abu Talib. By this time Barakah was almost twenty years old.

Young Muhammad faced tragedy upon tragedy; Barakah was always there to console him. She continued with her role as a mother figure even into his adult years.



market. His new master, Khadija's nephew gave the boy to her. Khadija being a thoughtful lady treated him well.

Khadija wanted to give a very special wedding gift to her new husband. She gave him Zaid. Muhammad ﷺ loved him very much. When Zaid refused to go with his father who had come to take him back, the Prophet publicly declared, "O Quraish, be my witness, this is my son." Thus freeing Zaid from slavery.

The new couple encouraged Barakah to get married. First she refused saying, "No, I am not going to marry. I promised your mother that I would never leave you." Upon their persistence she asked, "Who is going to marry me?"

Eventually she got married to Ubaid ibn Zaid of Yathrib with whom she had a son Aiman. Henceforth, she was called Umm Aiman... 'the mother of Aiman.' Not long after the marriage, her husband died. She went back to the Prophet and his wife with her son. Soon Aiman became a darling of the household.



Migration to Madinah

*P*rophet migrated to Madinah. Umm Aiman had to stay back to take care of the usual household affairs. Eventually she could not bear to be separated from her beloved 'son' and decided to migrate by herself.

She made the long and difficult journey on foot through deserts, sandstorms, mountainous terrain and blazing sun. Her trust in Allah and her love for the Prophet kept her going. Her face covered with sand and caked in dust, feet sore and swollen, she finally reached her destination.

