

The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions

Talhah bin 'Ubaidullah رضي الله عنه

The
Living Martyr

By: Abdul Basit Ahmad

The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions

طلحة بن عبيد الله رضي الله عنه - الشهيد الحي

Talhah bin 'Ubaidullah رضي الله عنه

The Alive Martyr



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Talhah bin 'Ubaidullah ﷺ

The Alive Martyr

By
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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the Name of Allâh,
the Most Gracious, the Most Merciful

“Among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with Allâh [i.e., they have gone out for *Jihâd* (holy fighting), and showed not their backs to the disbelievers]; of them some have fulfilled their obligations (i.e., have been martyred); and some of them are still waiting, but they have never changed (i.e., they never proved treacherous to their covenant which they concluded with Allâh) in the least.” (33:23)

Publishers Note

All praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists. May Allâh's peace and blessings be upon His final Prophet and Messenger, Muhammad, his family and his Companions.

Darussalam is pleased to present this valuable series, '*The Golden Series of the Prophet's Companions*', to the Muslim youth. The purpose of these books is to enlighten our youth about the lives of the greatest heroes of Islam, the Prophet's Companions. Also, we wish to increase the enthusiasm of the Muslim youth for following and adhering to their religion. In this way, these books achieve two very important tasks: educating our youth and encouraging them to be good Muslims.

In this book, '*Talhah bin 'Ubaidullah* ﷺ – *The Alive Martyr*', is the life story of one of the greatest heroes of Islam, He was an example of high morals and spiritual integrity. Most historians confirmed that he was a believer even before the advent of Islam as the names of

his sons: Muhammad, Imran, Jesus, Moses, Ishmail and Isaac denote.

We hope that these books are beneficial to our Muslim youth, as they are the future of Islam. We, at Darussalam realize the importance of good Islamic literature for Muslim youth, especially in the West where non-Islamic influences are so strong. For this reason, we feel that the availability of this series will be a valuable aid in instilling a genuine love for Islam in our youth. We would like to thank the author, Mr. Abdul Basit Ahmad, the editors, Mr. Aqeel Walker and Mr. Muhammad Ayub Sapra for their diligent work in preparing this series. As Allâh says:

“Is there any reward for good other than good?” (55:60)

And our final invocation is that all praises are due to Allâh, the Lord of all that exists.

Abdul Malik Mujahid
General Manager

Foreword

Before the advent of Islam, Makkah was the capital of Arabia. On certain days of the year, poets from all Arab tribes used to come to the city to recite their best poems. The city was also the place to where Arabs used to make pilgrimage every year. Therefore, the city was privileged with good resources. It provided its inhabitants with a relatively easy life.

The youth of the high class Makkan families had all means to enjoy different types of wicked pleasures, especially in the absence of any heavenly guidance, or belief in a day when everyone would account for his deeds. It was also very easy for them to get the resources they wanted to satisfy their worldly desires.

Amidst this corrupted environment, our hero, Talhah bin 'Ubaidullah, was brought up in a rich family. He did not have to worry about any obstacles that might prevent him from enjoying himself. However, unlike other wealthy youth, he took an opposite direction.

Instead of following the corrupted ways that the other youths followed, he led a chaste and pious life. He greatly objected to harassing the poor and humiliating the slaves. He treated all human beings of all classes alike and felt kindness and sympathy toward the poor. He always had a pleasant smile that made the flowers of love flourish wherever he went. He was a promising shield that provided protection to so many weak and oppressed families to the extent that he was called by the Prophet ﷺ – the example of benevolence.

Within a society that did not care much for essential morals, Talhah was an example of high morals and spiritual integrity. All tribes inside and outside of Makkah knew how much he was chaste and pious.

On the other hand, Talhah never relied on the wealth that his family provided him. Instead, from the early days of his youth, he started struggling to earn his living by himself. He felt the real meaning of work.

This was the man whom the Prophet ﷺ said that all his sins would be forgiven by Allâh and foretold that he would be one of the martyrs and the Prophet's neighbours in Paradise.

This was the man who spent his whole life devoted to the message of Islam. He fought several battles and fulfilled the mission to the best of his ability.

So, let us together read through the journey that took this truthful believer through stages of struggle until he attained the good tidings of martyrdom and joined the eternal life of happiness.

Abdul Basit Ahmad

Introduction

Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah from two parents from the noblest families of the Quraish tribe. His father is Abdullah bin Abdul Muttalib. Abdul Muttalib was the chief of Bani Hashim clan. His mother is Aminah bint Wahb from Bani Zuhrah clan.

Abdul Muttalib saw a dream telling him to uncover the well of Zamzam (a blessed well which sprung from under the feet of Ishma‘il عليه السلام when his father Ibrahim عليه السلام left him with his mother, Hajar, in the valley of Makkah). The location of the well was lost until Abdul Muttalib saw this dream. The man who came to him in the dream showed him the location. Abdul Muttalib uncovered the well. The other chiefs of the Quraish wanted to have their share of honour of providing water to pilgrims. They were stronger than Abdul Muttalib because he had no sons to support him. Abdul Muttalib made an oath that if he was given ten sons by Allâh, he would give one of them as a sacrifice. Abdul

Muttalib got ten sons as he wished. He wanted to fulfill his promise. He took his sons to the Ka'bah and cast the lot on them. For ten times, the lot fell on Abdullah. Abdul Muttalib took Abdullah to sacrifice him. All the chiefs of the Quraish objected to Abdul Muttalib sacrificing his son. They asked him to have another option. Abdul Muttalib elected to exchange a number of camels for the life of his son. The lot was cast on Abdullah and the camels. Every lot was cast on ten camels in exchange of Abdullah's life until the number of camels reached one hundred.

Abdul Muttalib sacrificed one hundred camels for his son's life. All the people of Makkah and neighbouring tribes shared in the ceremony.

Abdullah became a young man. His father loved him dearly because he was the youngest among his brothers. He wanted to find him a wife of a noble origin. He selected Aminah as a wife for his son. The couple led a happy life, but unfortunately for a short period of time.

The Arabs used to trade with Syria in the summer and Yemen in winter. Abdullah was ordered by his father to accompany the trade caravan bound to Syria. Abdullah traveled with the caravan. He exchanged his goods for other goods that were not available in Makkah. On the way back to Makkah, he fell ill near Yathrib and died. His companions buried him there.

Aminah felt very sad for the loss of her husband. She also felt that she got pregnant. After a few months, she gave birth to a blessed child. His grandfather Abdul Muttalib named him Muhammad (ﷺ).

The orphan boy lived under the care of his mother and grandfather. Arabs used to send their sons to the desert to be brought up in a healthy environment. Some women from among the bedouins used to come to Makkah to take babies for suckling them for some money. Halimah As-Sa‘adiyah from Bani Sa‘d clan came with other women to Makkah in the year when Muhammad ﷺ was born. All

women found babies to suckle except Halimah. As Muhammad ﷺ was an orphan and his family was poor, no one of the women accepted to take him. Halimah took Muhammad ﷺ because she did not like to go back to her place with empty hands. The boy lived with Halimah for three years. During this period, Halimah felt how blessed the boy was. She wanted to keep the child for a longer period but his mother wanted her child back.

When Muhammad ﷺ was six years old, his mother wanted to visit Yathrib. She took Muhammad ﷺ with her. Upon arriving in Yathrib, she fell ill and died on the way back to Makkah. Muhammad ﷺ was very sad to lose his mother.

Muhammad ﷺ came back to Makkah with his grandfather and his father's female-servant. His grandfather took much care of him and preferred him to his sons. Two years later, his grandfather died. Abu Tâlib, Muhammad's uncle, took the boy to live with

his family. He provided the boy with needed affection and care. Muhammad ﷺ and his cousins used to graze sheep in the desert.

When Muhammad ﷺ was twelve years old, his uncle wanted to visit Damascus. Muhammad ﷺ insisted on leaving with his uncle to Damascus. As Abu Tâlib loved Muhammad ﷺ dearly, he did not like to disappoint him.

At a place called Busrah, a monk named Bahirah was living in isolation. The trade caravan passed by his place several times during past years but he did not care for them. This time, he welcomed them warmly and invited them to take food. When they came to the feast, they left Muhammad ﷺ with others with their camels to care for the caravan. Bahirah found that the boy was not with them. He asked them to bring him to take food with them. He asked Abu Tâlib about Muhammad's father. Abu Tâlib told him that Muhammad's father had died before he was born. Bahirah

saw signs of Prophethood in the boy. He told his uncle to keep a close eye on his nephew for he would be of a great status.

The Ka‘bah was destroyed by a fire. The chiefs of the Quraish wanted to rebuild it. They all shared in building the House of Allâh. The building was one meter high. It was time to place the *Hajar Aswad* (Black Stone) in the corner of the building. Every chief wanted to have the honour of placing the stone. They were about to quarrel. One of them advised them to wait for the first one who comes to them to settle the dispute.

Muhammad ﷺ was the first one to appear on the spot. They all agreed to have Muhammad ﷺ to settle the dispute. They all knew that he was a trustworthy man. Muhammad ﷺ put down his cloak, placed the stone in the middle of the cloak and asked the chiefs to hold the corners of the cloak until they reached the place where to fix the stone. They were all satisfied and praised Muhammad’s wise judgment.

Muhammad ﷺ kept away from all the pleasures that his people were indulging themselves in. He also abhorred standing before idols asking for help. He knew that these stones would not be able to help or harm him. He never shared his peers in drinking wine or spending nights in fun.

A wealthy woman knew about the honesty of Muhammad ﷺ. She asked him to trade for her. Muhammad ﷺ visited Damascus again. He sold his goods there and realized good profits.

Muhammad ﷺ was now twenty-five years old. Khadijah proposed to him to get married to her. She preferred him to the chiefs of the Quraish.

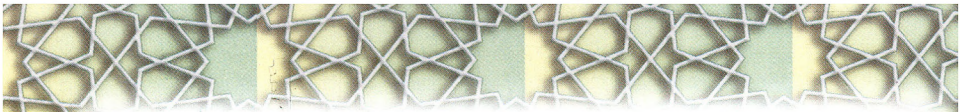


On The Way to Truth

The sun was about to set behind the high mountains of Makkah and the whole universe was shrouded with serenity. Darkness soon covered the city and no more sounds were heard on those high mountains surrounding the city.

A group of young men walked along the side of the road outside of Makkah and began chatting. Their voices sometimes became louder and with every word, they were warning each other of the spies of the Board of Governors of Makkah. They were sure that any word heard by those chiefs would mean a harsh punishment.

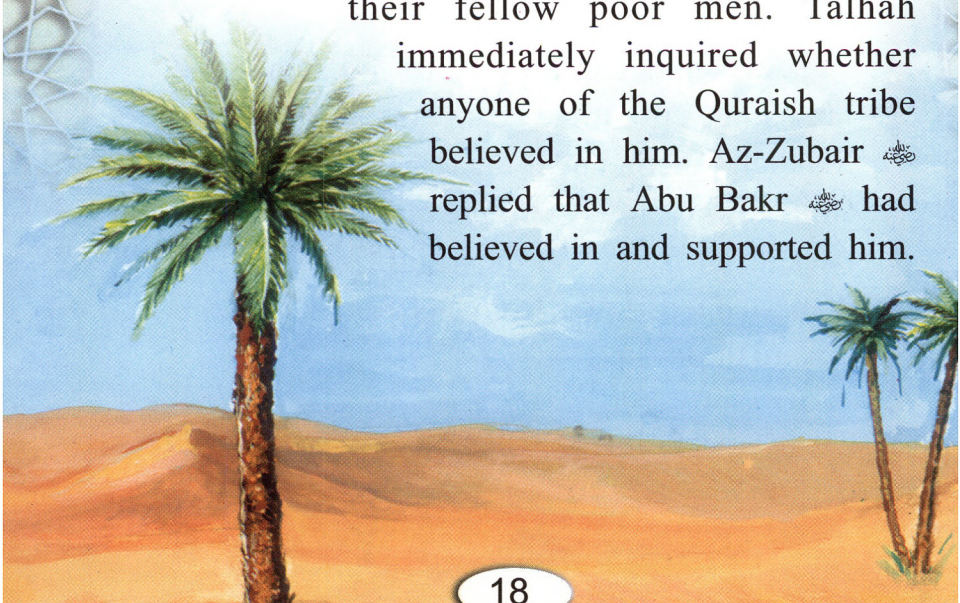
They kept silent for a while to listen to the far songs of trade caravans heading to Makkah. There, under the scarf of darkness, a caravan was slowly coming closer on the way back from Syria. To their surprise, a young man stepped down from his camel and ran toward the group.



The young men looked at each other, and to their surprise, they saw Talhah bin ‘Ubaidullah coming to greet them. He hastily asked whether they had any news from Makkah.

Az-Zubair bin Al-Awwam ﷺ told the young man that the city was in turmoil. He added that the trustworthy Muhammad ﷺ had been sent by Allâh to preach a new religion, calling people to abandon worship of stone idols and to direct their faces and prayers to the One Allâh, Who created them and everything around them. Muhammad ﷺ told them to be kind to their slaves and to stop fighting each other. These words touched the sense of charity which Talhah felt better than many others. Az-Zubair ﷺ told him that

the new Prophet ﷺ urged the rich to be kind to their fellow poor men. Talhah immediately inquired whether anyone of the Quraish tribe believed in him. Az-Zubair ﷺ replied that Abu Bakr ﷺ had believed in and supported him.



The young man asked with zeal:

“What about you?”

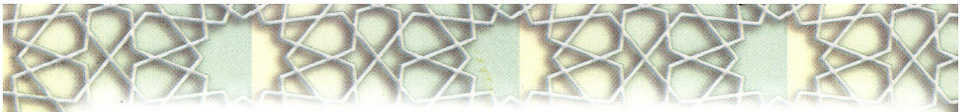
Az-Zubair رضي الله عنه replied:

“We all believe in him and follow him.”

Talhah looked at the faces of the young men. From the first instance, he discovered that they were the best young men he knew in Makkah. He directly vowed that he would follow Muhammad صلى الله عليه وسلم and defend the Message he brought from Allâh. He told the group that the man was a true Messenger from Allâh.

The group of young men was surprised how Talhah knew this fact. Talhah felt the effect of that strange question on their faces and immediately asked them to meet him at Abu Bakr’s house to give them full account of his journey to Syria.

The young men hurried to Abu Bakr’s house. Az-Zubair



ﷺ told Abu Bakr ﷺ about the events and asked him to allow Talhah in to hear news from him. The young men were very anxious to listen to Talhah.

As soon as Talhah arrived home, he left his camels with loads still on and hurried to Abu Bakr's house. There he found the men waiting to hear his story. Talhah did not like to keep them waiting long. So, he immediately started telling them what he saw and heard while in Syria. He said:

“While I was at Busra market, I heard a monk inquiring whether there were any traders from Makkah. I hurried to him and said, ‘Yes, I am from Makkah.’ The monk then asked me: ‘Had

Ahmad (another name of the Prophet ﷺ) appeared?’ I inquired who could be Ahmad? He said:

‘Son of Abdullah son of Abdul Muttalib. He should appear this month. He is the last Prophet and he will appear

in Makkah and migrate to a land full of palm trees. Be the first to believe in him if you can.’

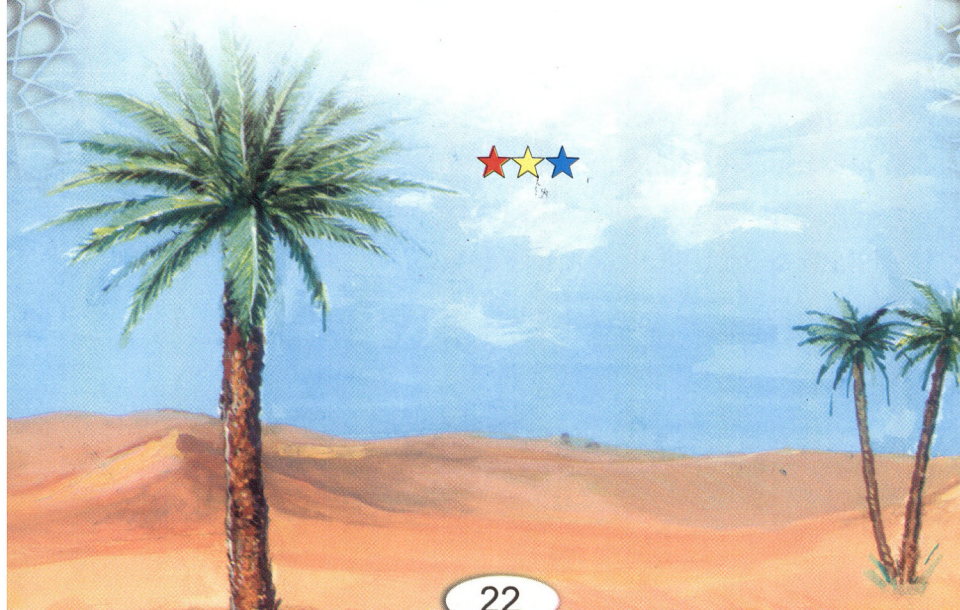
Now you see why I stopped my journey and came back. Would you please take me to the Prophet ﷺ!”

Abu Bakr ﷺ and the other young men felt very happy to hear this news. This was the second young man from Taim clan to accept Islam. Abu Bakr ﷺ took Talhah to the Prophet ﷺ and there Talhah embraced Islam and told the Prophet ﷺ of the monk’s glad tidings.

However, Talhah ﷺ was told to keep his belief in Islam secret, or he would face heavy oppression by the chiefs of Makkah. Abu Bakr ﷺ told him how much pressure the new Muslims had been subjected to because they believed in the new message. Hence, the man kept the story of embracing Islam secret. He continued his

life unhindered by the chiefs of Makkah. He went on trading and helping the Muslims and providing them with financial resources.

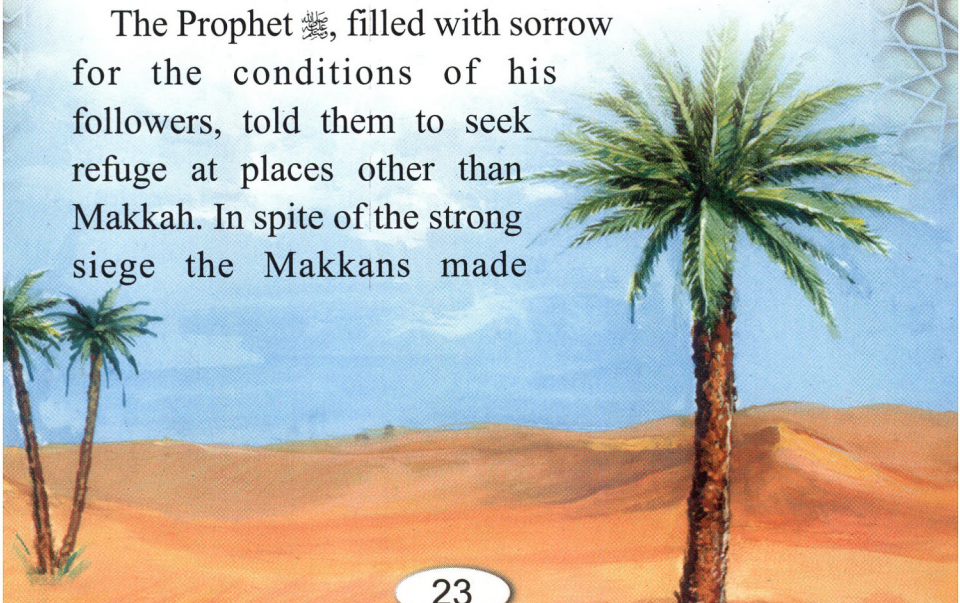
Even after it had been known that Talhah ﷺ embraced Islam, the chiefs of Makkah could not cause him any harm due to his financial strength. As usual, they were respecting money more than anything else. Because of his free trading movement, Talhah ﷺ came in contact with many Jews and Christians. Most of the people of the Bible knew that it was the time for a new Prophet to appear. Most historians confirmed that Talhah was a believer even before the advent of Islam as the names of his sons: Muhammad, Imran, Jesus, Moses, Ishmael and Isaac denote.



The Emigrant

All Arabs and even other nations knew that a new Prophet ﷺ had been sent to call people to abandon idols and worship the only true Allâh. However, the situation in Makkah was very hard for the Prophet ﷺ and other Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ spent thirteen years calling to Islam but few people, mostly weak men and slaves, believed in the message he proclaimed. The Quraish chiefs did their best to prevent any contact between the Prophet ﷺ and members of tribes who visited Makkah for pilgrimage or trading. They kept him under strict control and assigned several men to follow his steps. The Muslims, on the other hand, were constantly subjected to cruelties and oppression to make them abstain from spreading the call of Islam.

The Prophet ﷺ, filled with sorrow for the conditions of his followers, told them to seek refuge at places other than Makkah. In spite of the strong siege the Makkans made



around him, he secretly concluded a pledge of protection with some chiefs of Yathrib.

The pledge gave the Prophet ﷺ and his Companions the chance to escape the torture of the Quraish and to freely preach Islam. Hence, the Prophet ﷺ instructed his Companions to migrate to that town where they would find help and safety.

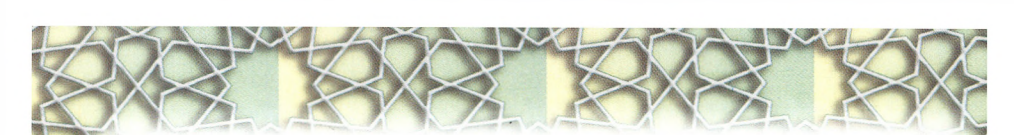
The Muslims left Makkah to Yathrib (later named by the Prophet ﷺ as Al-Madinah) where their brothers in Islam *Al-Ansar* (the supporters) were waiting to welcome every emigrant. They left the land where they had suffered much humiliation and agonies. None of them, including the Prophet ﷺ, wanted to depart but there was no other way out to avoid oppression.

They left to a society where love and brotherhood ruled. It was the society within which they were going to build their new state of truth and pure belief in Allâh. The Noble Qur'ân tells us

about the emigrants:

“And those who, before them, had homes (in Al-Madinah) and had adopted the Faith, love those who emigrate to them, and have no jealousy in their breasts for that which they have been given (from the booty of Banû An-Nadîr), and give them (emigrants) preference over themselves even though they were in need of that. And whosoever is saved from his own covetousness such are they who will be the successful.” (59:9)

All the Muslims, individuals and groups, secretly left Makkah, but the Prophet ﷺ, Abu Bakr and Ali رضي الله عنهما remained there to be sure that no other Muslims would be left behind. On a very dark night, the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ left to Al-Madinah to join their companions and start a new stage of struggle for the proclamation of the Word of Allâh.



The Prophet ﷺ stood with his Companion, Abu Bakr ؓ, outside of Makkah, looked back in sorrow with tears going down his cheeks and said addressing Makkah:

“Allâh knows that you are the dearest city to my heart. Had your people not expelled me, I would not have left you.”

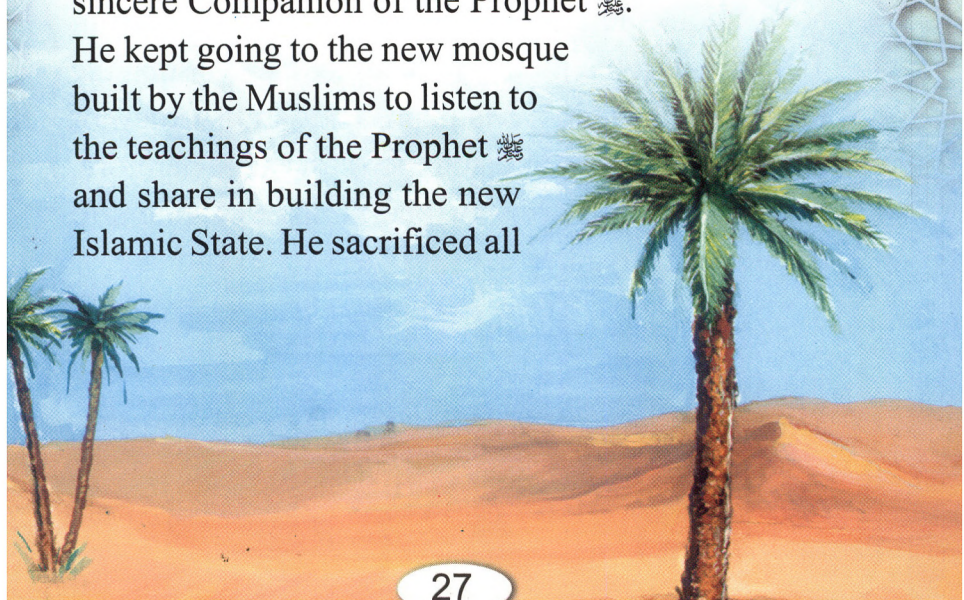
Talhah ؓ was always traveling outside of Makkah. He was outside of Makkah when the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ emigrated to Al-Madinah. He was passing near Al-Madinah on his way back from Syria with a trade caravan. He saw all the inhabitants of the town camping outside of Al-Madinah. He knew that it was not a festival time. He inquired about the event and was told that the inhabitants of the town were waiting for the arrival of the Prophet ﷺ.

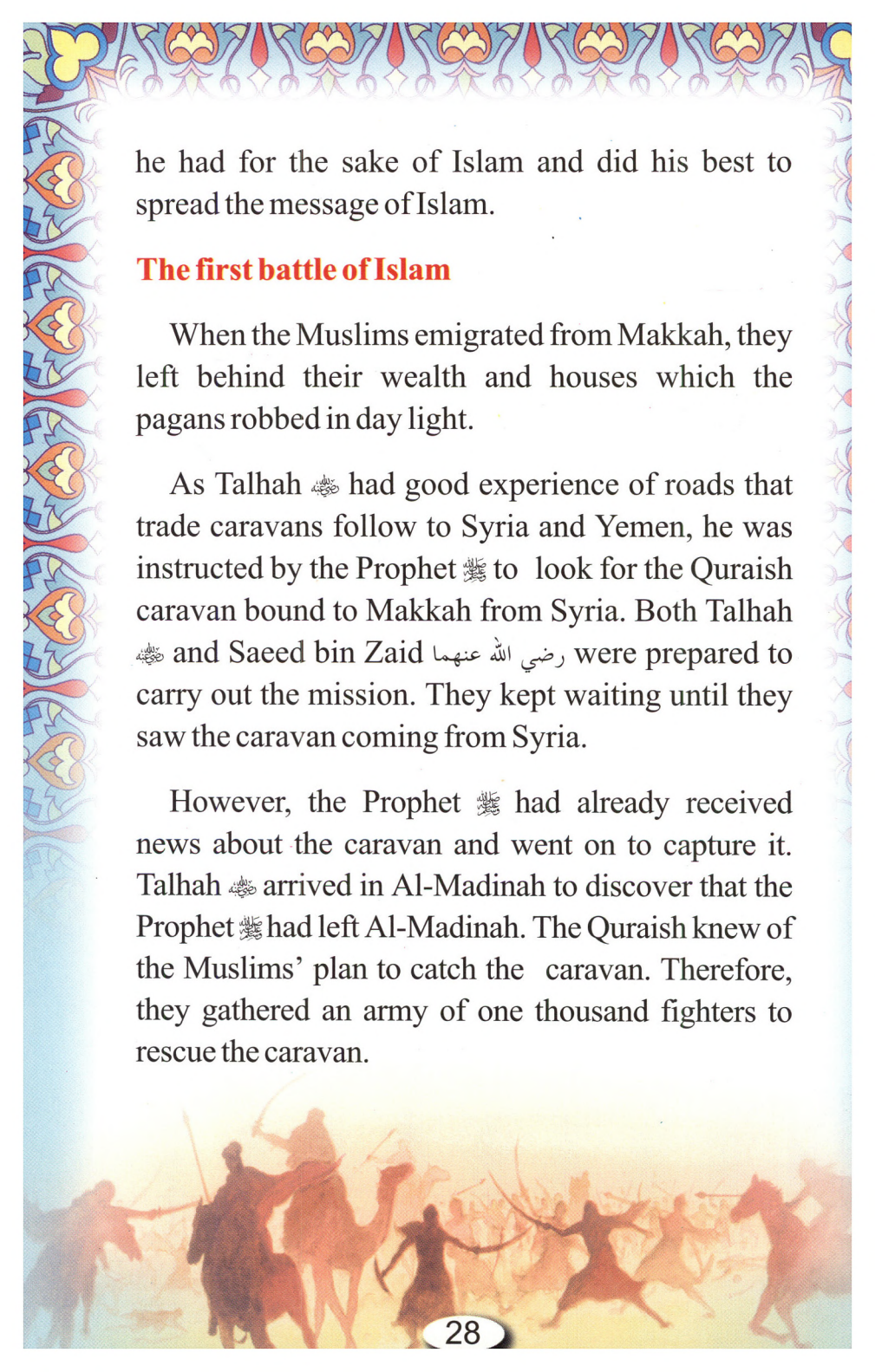
Talhah ؓ immediately left to Makkah to meet the Prophet ﷺ on the way before his arrival to

Al-Madinah. At a place near Al-Madinah, he met them. He told the Prophet ﷺ how anxious the people of Al-Madinah were to meet him. He gave the Prophet ﷺ and Abu Bakr ؓ new clothes for their entry to Al-Madinah and continued his trip to Makkah. Talhah ؓ resumed his voyage to Makkah because he brought with him goods from Syria for some merchants in Makkah. Upon arriving in Makkah, Talhah ؓ delivered all the goods in his custody to the people for whom he brought them and left the city with his family under the cover of darkness to Al-Madinah.

Upon arriving in Al-Madinah, Talhah ؓ went to the Prophet ﷺ in the newly-built mosque and offered to help in any way possible. He was a sincere Companion of the Prophet ﷺ.

He kept going to the new mosque built by the Muslims to listen to the teachings of the Prophet ﷺ and share in building the new Islamic State. He sacrificed all





he had for the sake of Islam and did his best to spread the message of Islam.

The first battle of Islam

When the Muslims emigrated from Makkah, they left behind their wealth and houses which the pagans robbed in day light.

As Talhah ؓ had good experience of roads that trade caravans follow to Syria and Yemen, he was instructed by the Prophet ﷺ to look for the Quraish caravan bound to Makkah from Syria. Both Talhah ؓ and Saeed bin Zaid رضي الله عنهما were prepared to carry out the mission. They kept waiting until they saw the caravan coming from Syria.

However, the Prophet ﷺ had already received news about the caravan and went on to capture it. Talhah ؓ arrived in Al-Madinah to discover that the Prophet ﷺ had left Al-Madinah. The Quraish knew of the Muslims' plan to catch the caravan. Therefore, they gathered an army of one thousand fighters to rescue the caravan.



In spite of the fact that Abu Sufyan, the caravan leader, changed his way and escaped the capture of the Muslims, the Quraish army insisted on fighting the Muslims to eradicate the message of Islam and the threat of Muslims forever. They marched with arrogance to Badr to meet the Muslim army.

Both armies fought a big battle. Although the Muslim army was only one third of the pagan army, they, by the Help of Allâh and their sincere devotion, defeated the pagan army. Seventy pagan soldiers, including several chiefs, were killed and another seventy soldiers were taken as prisoners of war by the Muslims.

Talhah رضي الله عنه felt very sad to lose the chance of fighting the powers of evil. He could not share in this battle. Even though he kept waiting at Al-Madinah, the Prophet صلى الله عليه وسلم, after coming back victorious, gave him a share of the booty and considered him as if he had participated in the battle.



Uhud Battle – Talhah's Day

In the third year after migration to Al-Madinah, the Quraish gathered a huge army to avenge the loss they had at Badr Battle. They had lost the first major battle against the Muslims. They did not accept the result of battle. The chiefs of Makkah asked Abu Sufyan to allocate the funds he had from the caravan that escaped the capture of the Muslims for the coming battle.

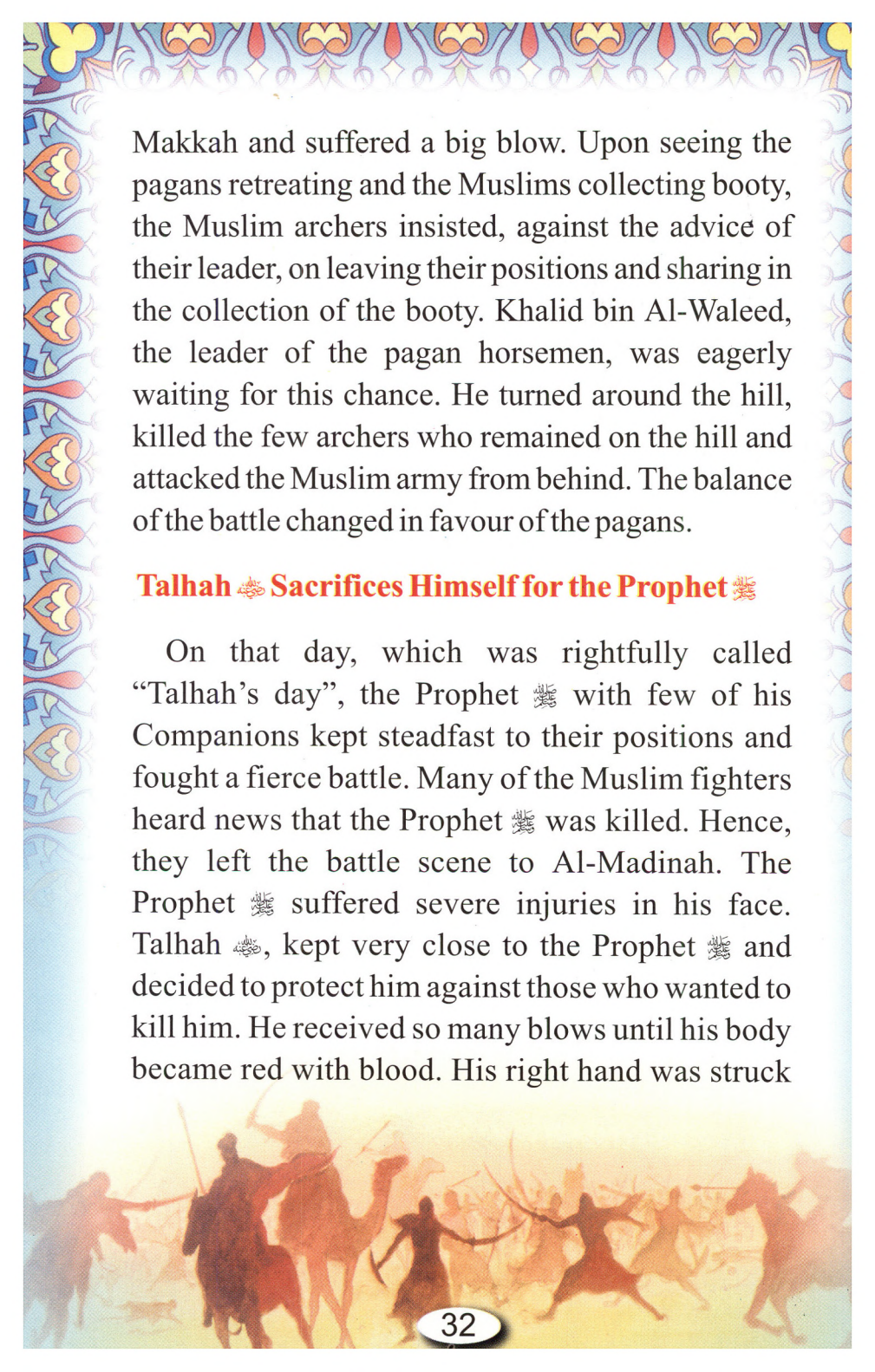
Three thousand fighters with their allies marched toward Al-Madinah to revenge themselves on the Muslims. Some women also marched with the army to support and encourage the fighters.

The Prophet ﷺ received news of the army gathered by the Quraish to undermine the call of Islam. He discussed with his Companions about the best plan to face the huge Quraish army. Most of them, with the support of the Prophet ﷺ agreed to stay inside the borders of Al-Madinah to defend the city against the attacking army. However, some zealous young men asked the Prophet ﷺ to meet the



Quraish army outside of Al-Madinah. They thought that the Quraish would think that the Muslims feared to meet their army in an open battle. The Prophet ﷺ positively responded to their wish. The Muslim army marched toward Uhud Mount to meet the pagan army. On the way there, some Hypocrites objected to the plan to fight an open battle and cowardly left back to Al-Madinah before meeting the Quraish army. Hence, the Muslim army lost a third of its number, but the devoted Muslims continued their march to the battlefield.

Shortly after reaching the site of the battle, the Prophet ﷺ deployed his men in their positions. He selected fifty archers and positioned them on a small hill to protect the backs of the Muslim army. He urged them to stick to their positions whatever the result of the battle might be. Fighting started fiercely and from the very beginning it was clear that the Muslims were winning the battle. The pagan army began retreating in spite of all the encouragement they received from their women behind them. They left the battle scene toward



Makkah and suffered a big blow. Upon seeing the pagans retreating and the Muslims collecting booty, the Muslim archers insisted, against the advice of their leader, on leaving their positions and sharing in the collection of the booty. Khalid bin Al-Waleed, the leader of the pagan horsemen, was eagerly waiting for this chance. He turned around the hill, killed the few archers who remained on the hill and attacked the Muslim army from behind. The balance of the battle changed in favour of the pagans.

Talhah ؓ Sacrifices Himself for the Prophet ﷺ

On that day, which was rightfully called “Talhah’s day”, the Prophet ﷺ with few of his Companions kept steadfast to their positions and fought a fierce battle. Many of the Muslim fighters heard news that the Prophet ﷺ was killed. Hence, they left the battle scene to Al-Madinah. The Prophet ﷺ suffered severe injuries in his face. Talhah ؓ, kept very close to the Prophet ﷺ and decided to protect him against those who wanted to kill him. He received so many blows until his body became red with blood. His right hand was struck

by so many arrows that it was paralyzed by the injuries it received. However, the brave and sincere soldier saved the life of the Prophet ﷺ. He carried the Prophet ﷺ on his back and hid him behind a huge rock. He sacrificed his soul for the sake of the Prophet ﷺ.

The battle ended, but Talhah's body was profusely bleeding. The Prophet ﷺ saw the condition of Talhah ؓ and told his Companions:

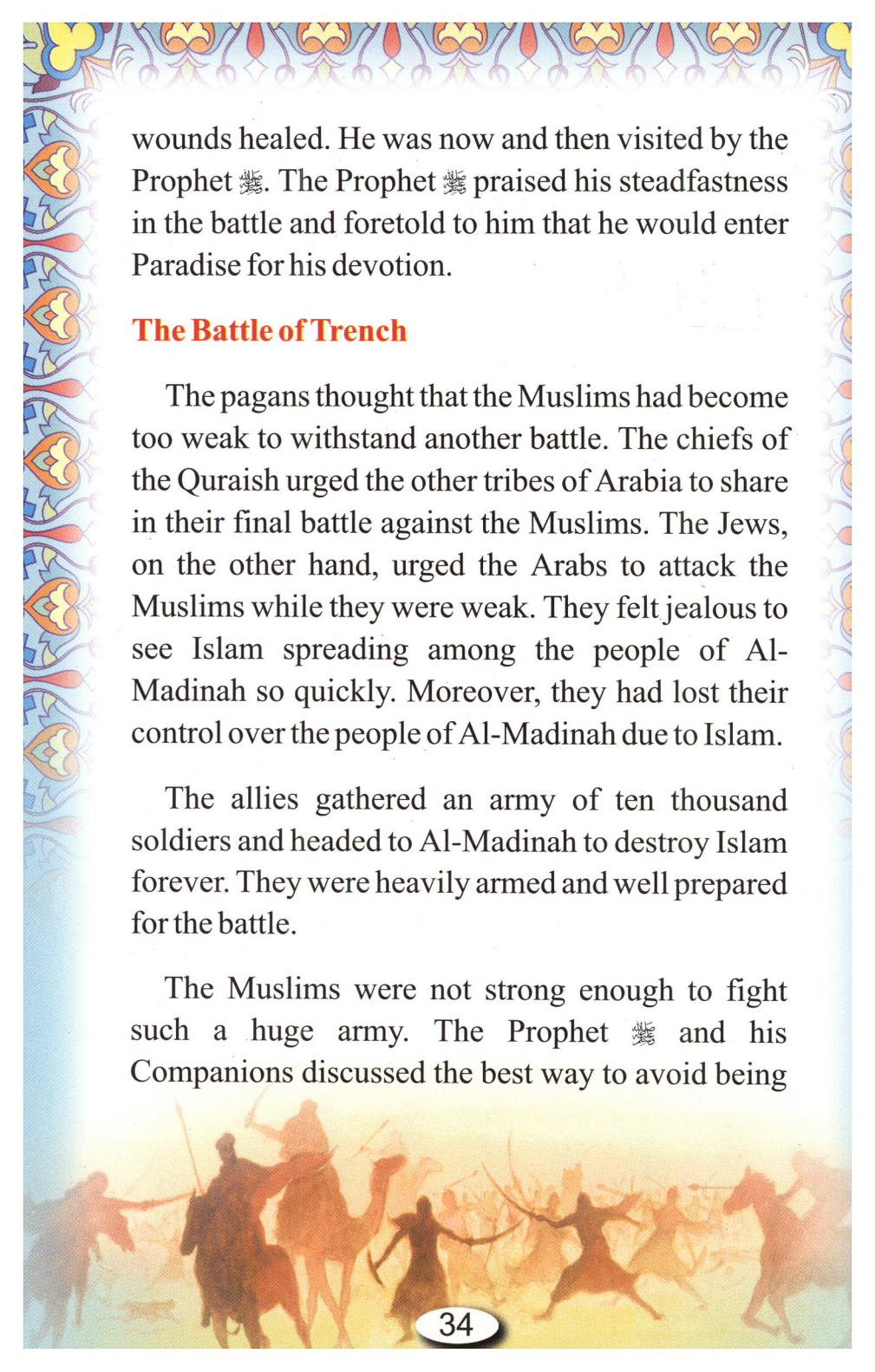
“If you wish to see a martyr walking among you, look at Talhah.” (*At-Tirmidhi*)

Abu Bakr, ؓ recalling that day, said:

“It was really Talhah's day. He did his best to protect the Prophet ﷺ when other Muslim soldiers escaped the battlefield.”

On that day, the Prophet ﷺ told his followers that Talhah ؓ deserved Paradise for his faithfulness and sincerity to his faith.

Talhah ؓ kept at home for several days until his



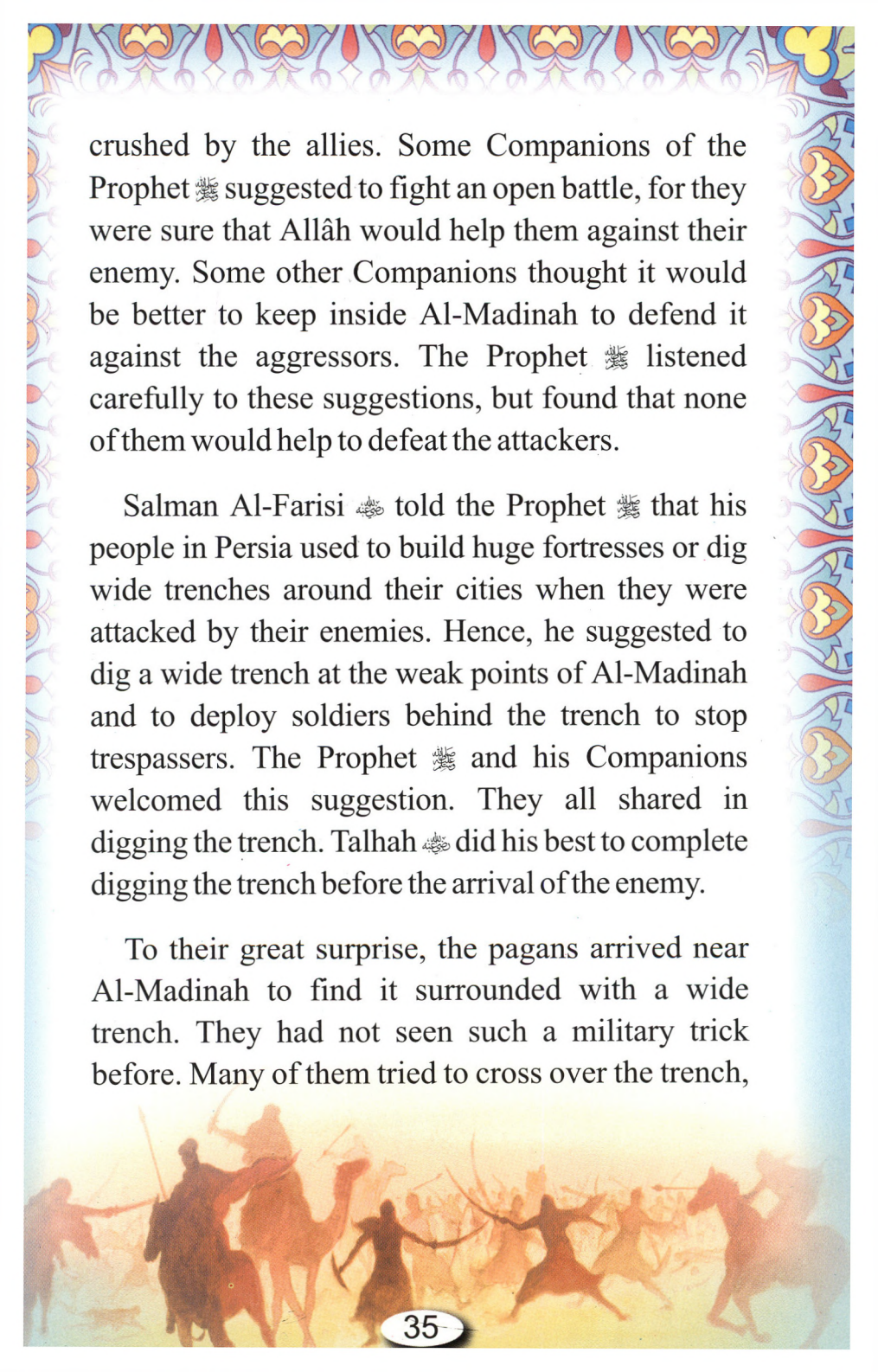
wounds healed. He was now and then visited by the Prophet ﷺ. The Prophet ﷺ praised his steadfastness in the battle and foretold to him that he would enter Paradise for his devotion.

The Battle of Trench

The pagans thought that the Muslims had become too weak to withstand another battle. The chiefs of the Quraish urged the other tribes of Arabia to share in their final battle against the Muslims. The Jews, on the other hand, urged the Arabs to attack the Muslims while they were weak. They felt jealous to see Islam spreading among the people of Al-Madinah so quickly. Moreover, they had lost their control over the people of Al-Madinah due to Islam.

The allies gathered an army of ten thousand soldiers and headed to Al-Madinah to destroy Islam forever. They were heavily armed and well prepared for the battle.

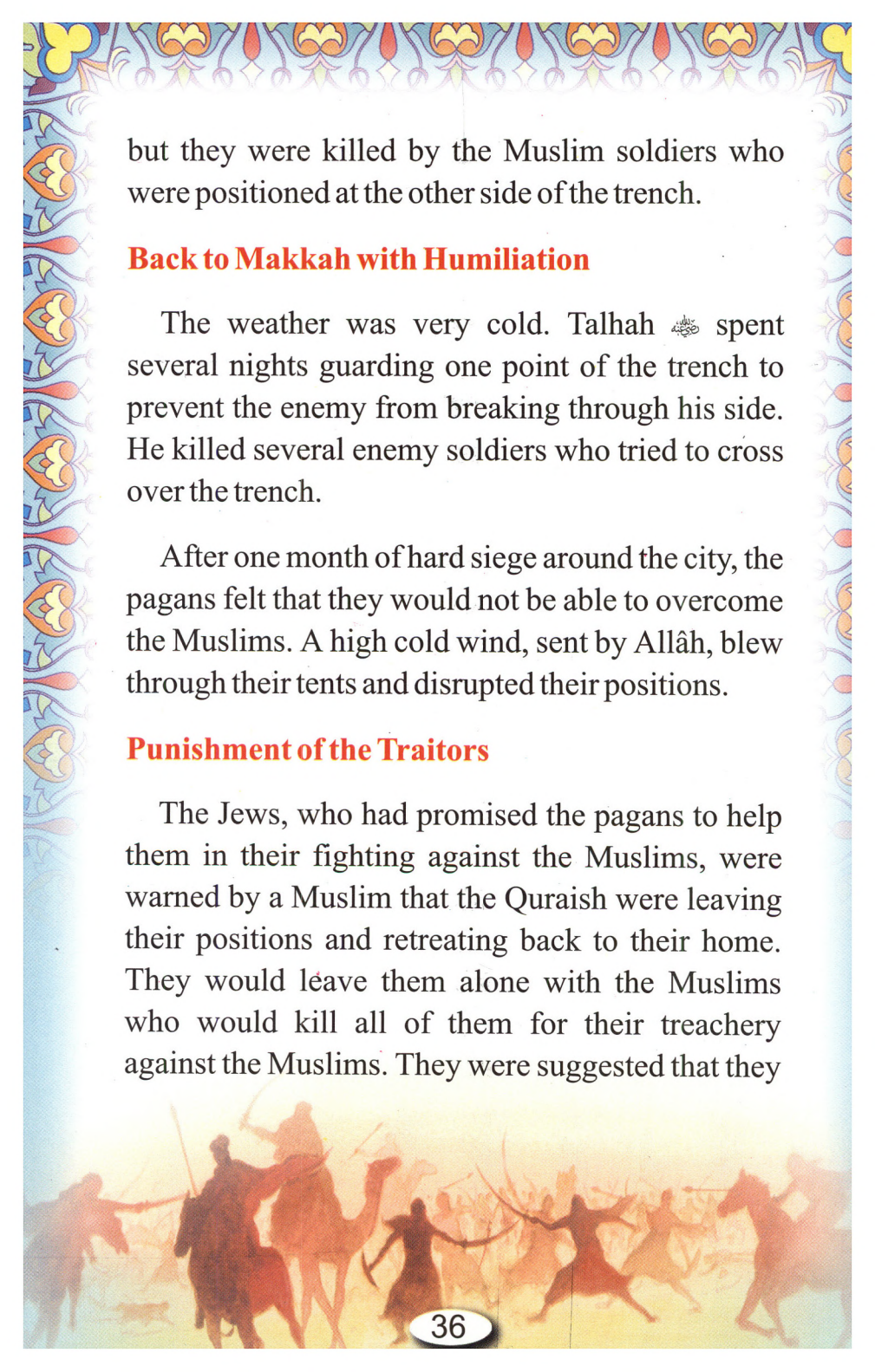
The Muslims were not strong enough to fight such a huge army. The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions discussed the best way to avoid being



crushed by the allies. Some Companions of the Prophet ﷺ suggested to fight an open battle, for they were sure that Allâh would help them against their enemy. Some other Companions thought it would be better to keep inside Al-Madinah to defend it against the aggressors. The Prophet ﷺ listened carefully to these suggestions, but found that none of them would help to defeat the attackers.

Salman Al-Farisi ؓ told the Prophet ﷺ that his people in Persia used to build huge fortresses or dig wide trenches around their cities when they were attacked by their enemies. Hence, he suggested to dig a wide trench at the weak points of Al-Madinah and to deploy soldiers behind the trench to stop trespassers. The Prophet ﷺ and his Companions welcomed this suggestion. They all shared in digging the trench. Talhah ؓ did his best to complete digging the trench before the arrival of the enemy.

To their great surprise, the pagans arrived near Al-Madinah to find it surrounded with a wide trench. They had not seen such a military trick before. Many of them tried to cross over the trench,



but they were killed by the Muslim soldiers who were positioned at the other side of the trench.

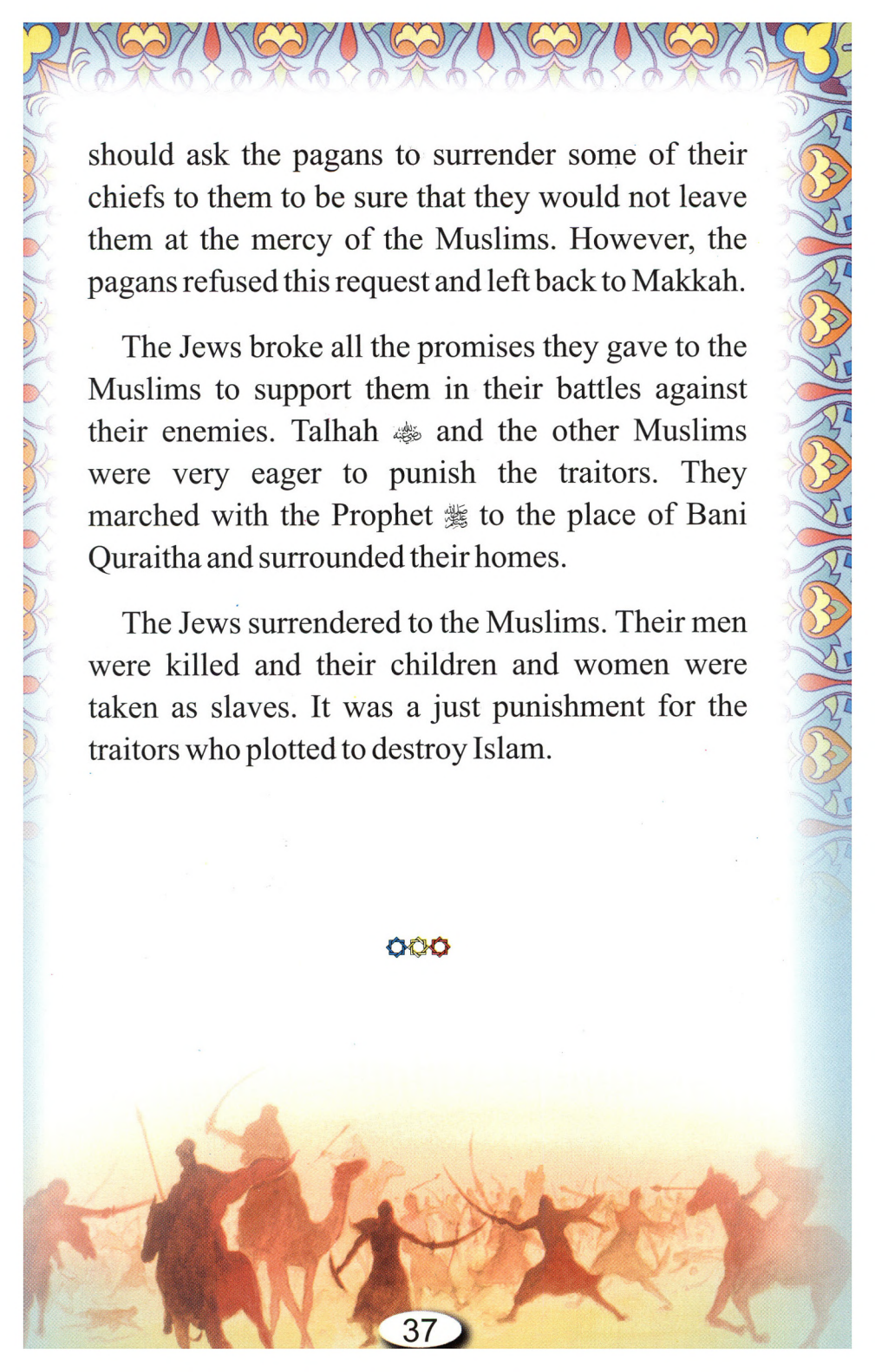
Back to Makkah with Humiliation

The weather was very cold. Talhah رضي الله عنه spent several nights guarding one point of the trench to prevent the enemy from breaking through his side. He killed several enemy soldiers who tried to cross over the trench.

After one month of hard siege around the city, the pagans felt that they would not be able to overcome the Muslims. A high cold wind, sent by Allâh, blew through their tents and disrupted their positions.

Punishment of the Traitors

The Jews, who had promised the pagans to help them in their fighting against the Muslims, were warned by a Muslim that the Quraish were leaving their positions and retreating back to their home. They would leave them alone with the Muslims who would kill all of them for their treachery against the Muslims. They were suggested that they



should ask the pagans to surrender some of their chiefs to them to be sure that they would not leave them at the mercy of the Muslims. However, the pagans refused this request and left back to Makkah.

The Jews broke all the promises they gave to the Muslims to support them in their battles against their enemies. Talhah رضي الله عنه and the other Muslims were very eager to punish the traitors. They marched with the Prophet ﷺ to the place of Bani Quraitha and surrounded their homes.

The Jews surrendered to the Muslims. Their men were killed and their children and women were taken as slaves. It was a just punishment for the traitors who plotted to destroy Islam.



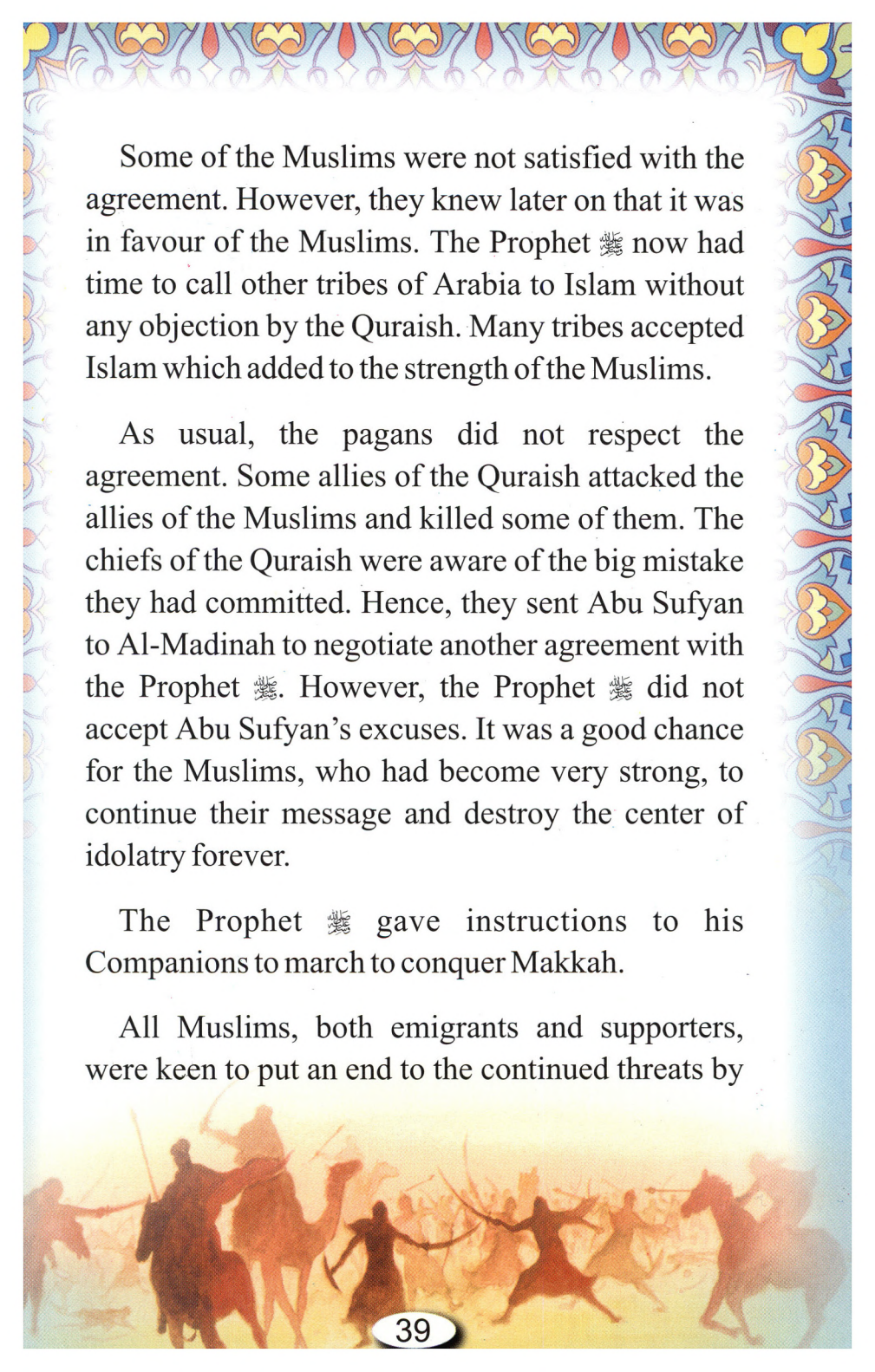
The Conquest of Makkah

The Muslims' Attempt to Perform 'Umrah

The Prophet ﷺ instructed his Companions that he wished to visit Makkah to perform a 'Umrah. He asked them to prepare for the trip. He also told them that they should march unarmed, for the trip was peaceful. He did not like any confrontation with the pagans.

Upon arriving at a place called Hudaibiyah, the Muslims found that the pagans had sent some horsemen to prevent the Muslims from entering Makkah. The horsemen tried several times to provoke the Muslims; however, the Muslims did not react.

The chiefs of the Quraish requested the Prophet ﷺ to enter into negotiations to settle the differences between the two parties. The Prophet ﷺ responded positively. Hence, both parties agreed to have a truce for ten years and the Muslims to go back to Al-Madinah and to come back to visit the Ka'bah the following year.

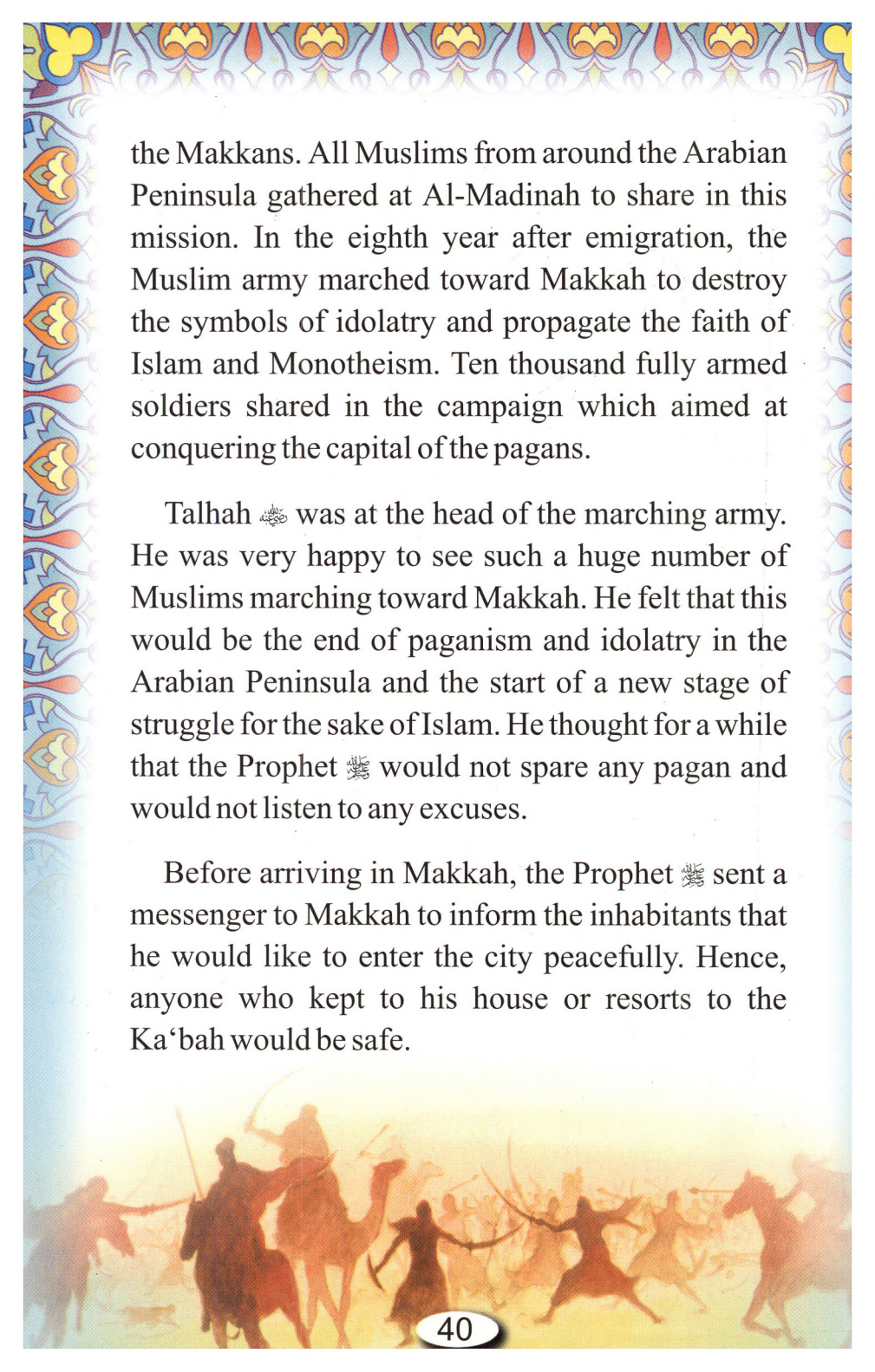


Some of the Muslims were not satisfied with the agreement. However, they knew later on that it was in favour of the Muslims. The Prophet ﷺ now had time to call other tribes of Arabia to Islam without any objection by the Quraish. Many tribes accepted Islam which added to the strength of the Muslims.

As usual, the pagans did not respect the agreement. Some allies of the Quraish attacked the allies of the Muslims and killed some of them. The chiefs of the Quraish were aware of the big mistake they had committed. Hence, they sent Abu Sufyan to Al-Madinah to negotiate another agreement with the Prophet ﷺ. However, the Prophet ﷺ did not accept Abu Sufyan's excuses. It was a good chance for the Muslims, who had become very strong, to continue their message and destroy the center of idolatry forever.

The Prophet ﷺ gave instructions to his Companions to march to conquer Makkah.

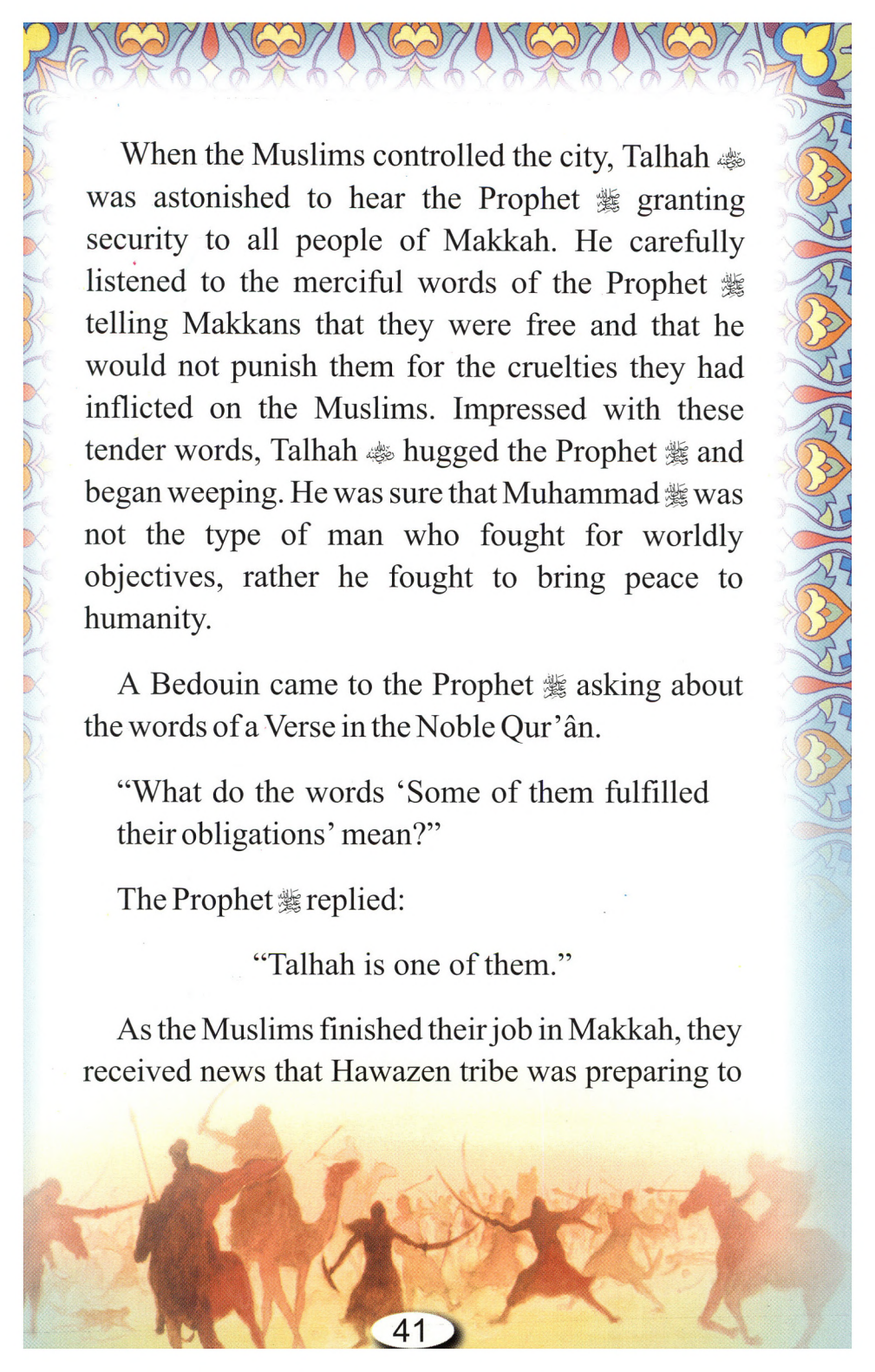
All Muslims, both emigrants and supporters, were keen to put an end to the continued threats by



the Makkans. All Muslims from around the Arabian Peninsula gathered at Al-Madinah to share in this mission. In the eighth year after emigration, the Muslim army marched toward Makkah to destroy the symbols of idolatry and propagate the faith of Islam and Monotheism. Ten thousand fully armed soldiers shared in the campaign which aimed at conquering the capital of the pagans.

Talhah ؓ was at the head of the marching army. He was very happy to see such a huge number of Muslims marching toward Makkah. He felt that this would be the end of paganism and idolatry in the Arabian Peninsula and the start of a new stage of struggle for the sake of Islam. He thought for a while that the Prophet ﷺ would not spare any pagan and would not listen to any excuses.

Before arriving in Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ sent a messenger to Makkah to inform the inhabitants that he would like to enter the city peacefully. Hence, anyone who kept to his house or resorts to the Ka'bah would be safe.



When the Muslims controlled the city, Talhah ؓ was astonished to hear the Prophet ﷺ granting security to all people of Makkah. He carefully listened to the merciful words of the Prophet ﷺ telling Makkans that they were free and that he would not punish them for the cruelties they had inflicted on the Muslims. Impressed with these tender words, Talhah ؓ hugged the Prophet ﷺ and began weeping. He was sure that Muhammad ﷺ was not the type of man who fought for worldly objectives, rather he fought to bring peace to humanity.

A Bedouin came to the Prophet ﷺ asking about the words of a Verse in the Noble Qur'ân.

“What do the words ‘Some of them fulfilled their obligations’ mean?”

The Prophet ﷺ replied:

“Talhah is one of them.”

As the Muslims finished their job in Makkah, they received news that Hawazen tribe was preparing to

fight them. The Prophet ﷺ marched with a huge army to the place of Hawazen. Although the number of the Muslims was three times the number of the Hawazen tribe, they fled the battlefield. Only few devoted Companions of the Prophet ﷺ stood firm in the battlefield. Talhah ؓ was there to loudly shout for the Muslims to come back and fight as believers. The Prophet ﷺ said to him:

“Your cry is better than one hundred soldiers.”

On that day, Talhah ؓ showed rare bravery. The Prophet ﷺ looked at him and said:

“You are the abundantly generous Talhah.”



The Prophet ﷺ Passes Away

Shortly after the conquest of Makkah, the Prophet ﷺ returned to Al-Madinah to prepare for pilgrimage. One hundred thousand Muslims gathered in Al-Madinah to accompany the Prophet ﷺ to Makkah. Talhah ؓ prepared himself for this sacred journey. After completing pilgrimage rites, the Prophet ﷺ addressed his Companions at Mina. He implicitly foretold them that he might not see them after that year. Talhah ؓ was very happy to listen to the last words by the Prophet ﷺ informing his followers that the religion of Islam had now been completed and that their mission was to spread it to the other parts of the world. However, Talhah ؓ and many other Muslims knew that the Prophet ﷺ would not stay long among them and they all cried bitterly upon hearing the Prophet ﷺ saying:

“Maybe I would not see you after this year.”

Upon returning to Al-Madinah, the Prophet ﷺ fell ill and shortly passed away. Talhah ؓ and

his brother Muslims felt that they were left without a leader and some of them could not believe that the Prophet ﷺ had left them forever.

Although Talhah ؓ felt very sad to lose the Prophet ﷺ, he was fully aware that Allâh had now entrusted the mission of spreading the message of Islam to his followers. So, he continued his struggle for the cause of Islam and did not miss any battle fought for the sake of spreading Islam. He accompanied the Muslim army to Yarmouk to fight the Romans. He spent much of his money to provide the army with weapons and means of transportation. He was the example of a Muslim soldier that undertook the mission of fighting evil everywhere.

Talhah ؓ spent most of his time under the rule of Abu Bakr ؓ sharing in developing the Islamic State which was expanding day after day. He would never rest until he was sure that the faith for which he sacrificed most of his wealth and time would finally prevail.

Under the rule of ‘Umar bin Al-Khattab ؓ,

Talhah ؓ shared in organizing the affairs of the huge Islamic State and used up all his time serving the Muslim community. He always recalled those days when he was beside the Prophet ﷺ offering all he owned to support the well being of the Muslims.

After ‘Umar ؓ passed away, Talhah ؓ continued to be the obedient soldier of Islam under the rule of ‘Uthman bin ‘Affan ؓ. Now he was an old man but was still strong enough to share in spreading the Word of Allâh.

By the end of ‘Uthman’s rule, Talhah ؓ was dedicating most of his time for the worship of Allâh. He longed much to leave this world clean and pious to meet Allâh on the Day of Judgment.

However, ‘Uthman ؓ was killed by some rebels. Talhah ؓ was so concerned to see the Muslim community suffering restless days. He tried his best to bring peace to the Muslim society.



High Morals

Talhah ؓ was looked at by all the Prophet's Companions as the example of high morals and virtue. He proved eminent in all respects.

Abdur-Rahman bin 'Awf ؓ, his partner, once asked him to allow him to irrigate his land from a well that Talhah ؓ had in his land. Talhah ؓ, for one reason or another, refused to do so. Abdur-Rahman ؓ complained against Talhah ؓ to the Prophet ﷺ. He said to Abdur-Rahman:

“How could you complain against a man whom I had told he would be in Paradise?”

Abdur-Rahman ؓ immediately brought this good news to Talhah ؓ. He, in return, said to Abdur-Rahman ؓ:

“Is it worth quarreling over this unimportant property? For this news, you may have all my money, if you wish.”

Talhah ؓ was well known for his

generosity. He put all his money in the service of Islam and the Muslims. One day, his wife saw that he was very upset. She asked:


“Why are you so sad?”

He said to her:

“I am upset to have all this money around me.”

She immediately proposed him to spend it in charity. He, without hesitation, called poor people and gave up all the money he had to the poor and needy.

A friend of Talhah  described him saying:

“I accompanied Talhah  for a long time. I have never seen any like him. He was always spending his money in charity.”



The Martyr

At the end of ‘Uthman’s rule, Talhah ؓ saw a great dilemma among the Muslims. ‘Uthman ؓ was killed by some rebels who wanted to create conflicts in the Islamic community. Talhah ؓ and some other Companions urged Ali ؓ to take the position of the Caliph and to take revenge of ‘Uthman’s murder.

However, he could not accept fighting among the Muslims, especially when he was convinced by Ali ؓ that he was wrong. He withdrew from the battlefield and tried to settle the dispute.

The opposition did not accept such a withdrawal. Some rebels wanted the fire to remain heated. Therefore, one of the rebels shot Talhah ؓ and killed him.

This was the end of the man who spent all his life supporting truth. However, it was his destiny to be always the martyr of truth.

