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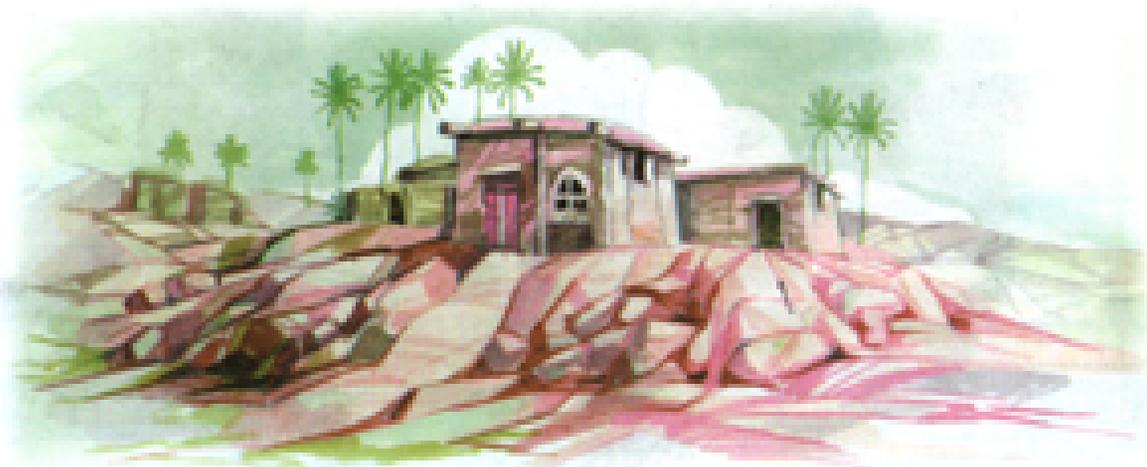
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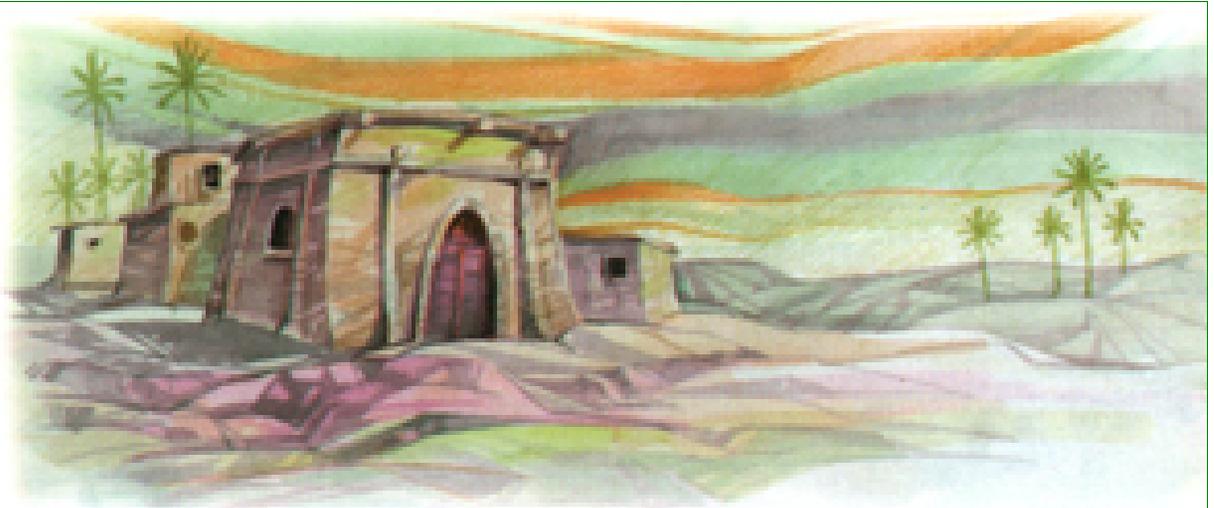
Prophet Mohammad started secretly to talk about Islam to people he trusted. He used to meet his believers at night teaching them the verses of the Holy Quran that Angel Gibril revealed to him. Shortly, one by one many people started to join the prophet and listen to him as he recited the verses of the Holy Quran.



Prophet Mohammad needed a bigger place to meet his believers. One of the Quraish nobles offered his house, "Dar El Arqam", for the Muslims to meet. This house was the first place Muslims used for meetings and for prayers. The news spread in Makkah about the new religion. Most people in Makkah did not like this idea. So, they started to hurt Prophet Mohammad and any one who believed in him.



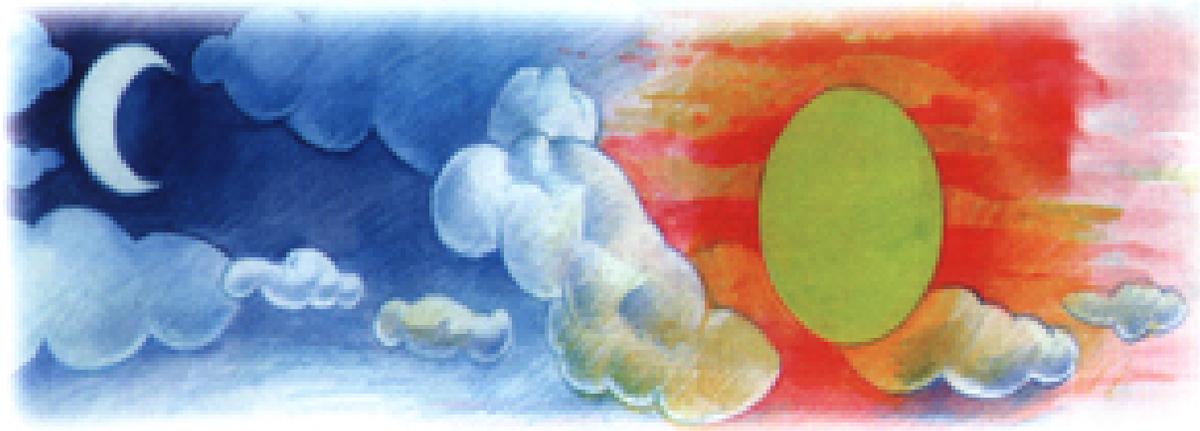
One of the people who hurt the Prophet most was his uncle "Abu Lahab". Two daughters of the Prophet, "Ruqaiya" and "Um-Kulthum" were married to Abu Lahab's sons. Abu Lahab and his wife forced their two sons to divorce the Prophet's daughters.



On one occasion, the Quraish nobles went to the Prophet's uncle, Abu Talib, and asked him to stop Mohammad from inviting people to believe in one god, Allah. Abu Talib called the Prophet and asked him: "Dear nephew, why don't you save us from the trouble of our people and stop spreading your message?"



Prophet Mohammad answered: "Dear uncle, in the name of Allah, if they put the sun in my right hand and the moon in my left hand, to leave this matter, I will not until Allah reveals it, or I shall die defending it". Abu Talib said: "Keep going son, I will try my best to protect you". Mohammad left his uncle while his tears were running down his cheeks.



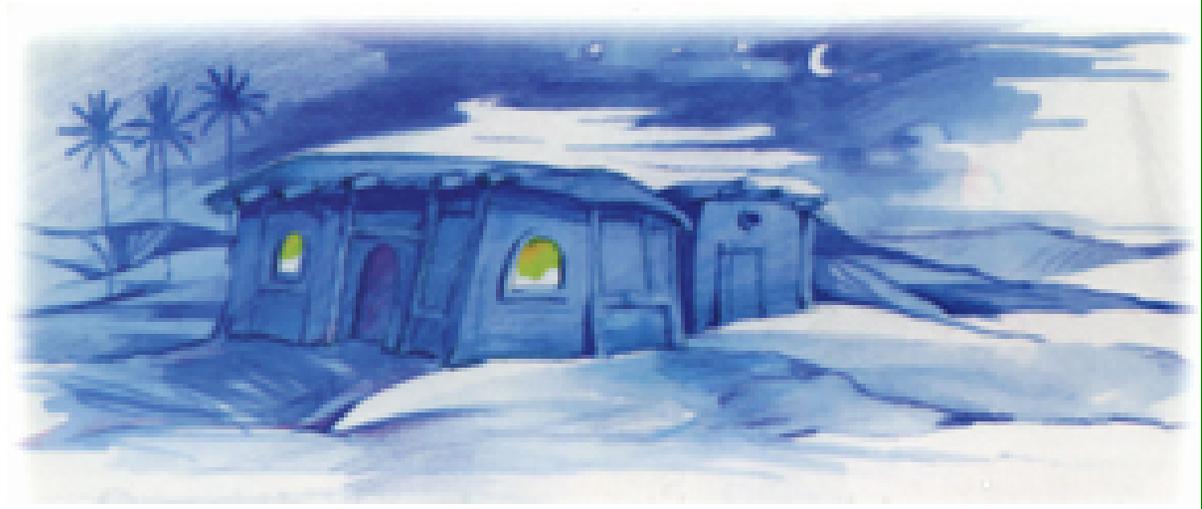
Quraish tried every possible way to harm Mohammad and his believers. They stopped trading with them and they treated the slaves who became Muslims very badly. One day, Abu Bakr was passing by when he saw a man beating his African slave. He had tied down the slave in the hot desert and had placed a big rock on his chest. He was asking him not to believe in Allah.



The slave was shouting " Ahad, Ahad" (The One). ABu Bakr asked the master: "Do you not think you are hurting your slave!" He said: "You can buy him if you want". Abu Bakr paid and freed the slave whose name was "Bilal". There were others who suffered from Quraish, for example, Ammar's parents. Ammar was one of the believers. He used to meet Prophet Mohammad at night to learn the Qur'an, his mother noticed that.



One day, Ammar told his mother about the new religion, Islam. His mother liked the idea. Very soon, she and her husband became Muslims. But Abu Jahl, the employer of Ammar's parents, became angry, he dragged them to the desert, he used extremely hot iron bars to torture them.



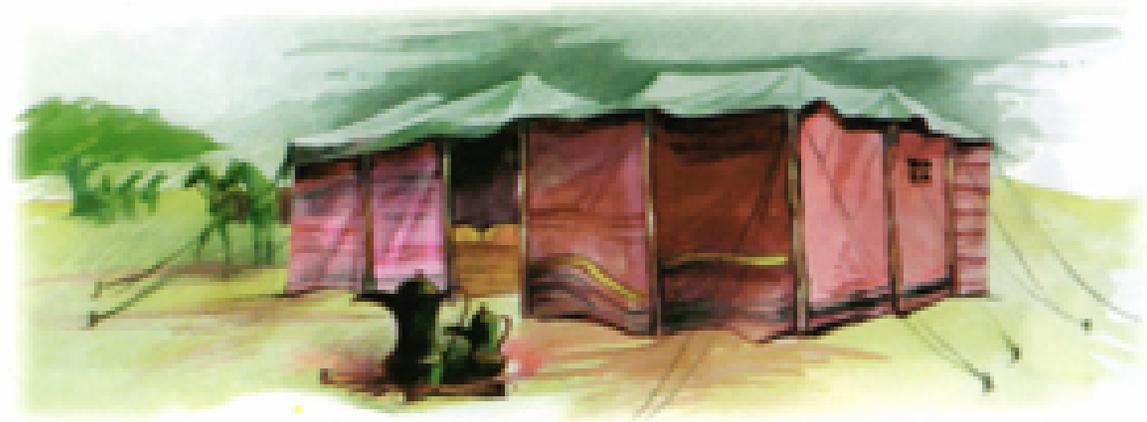
Both of Ammar's parents died because of their new faith. Ammar was forced to deny being a Muslim. When Prophet Mohammad asked Ammar about his faith, Ammar said: "My faith is real". The Prophet said: "Then no matter what they forced you to say".



Hamza was one of the Prophet's nine uncles. He was very strong and powerful. When he heard how the Quraish people were hurting his nephew, he became angry. He went to see Prophet Mohammad. After meeting with the Prophet, he immediately became a Muslim. This made the Muslims very happy. Quraish decided to make a deal with Mohammad.



So, they sent one of their chiefs "Otba" to meet the Prophet. The chief said "Mohammad, you are from the best family of Quraish. We want to make a deal with you. If you want money, we will give you so much money that you become the richest person in Mekkah".



"If you want to be a king, we will obey your command and accept you as our king. If you are sick or the devil has gotten into you, we will bring the best medicine men to cure you". Prophet Mohammad said: "Are you finished?" The chief said: "Yes". The Prophet recited verses from the Holy Quran.



In the name of God. The Merciful the compassionate. "Ha-Meem. A book – a Quran – a Revelation, that has been disclosed by God, the Rahman, the Merciful. A book whose veritable revelation has been Expounded and made plain, a Quran in the Arabic literary form that has been disclosed to a people who comprehend the truth." (surat Fussilat: 1 - 13)



Then Prophet Mohammad finished, Otba returned to Quraish and said: "Oh, Quraish. I heard from this man something I had never heard before, they are verses of the Quran". He continued: "Listen to me! Do not stop Mohammad with his Message. One day you will lead the world". Quraish said: "He put a magic spell on you too. We continued to hurt and pressure the Muslims".

