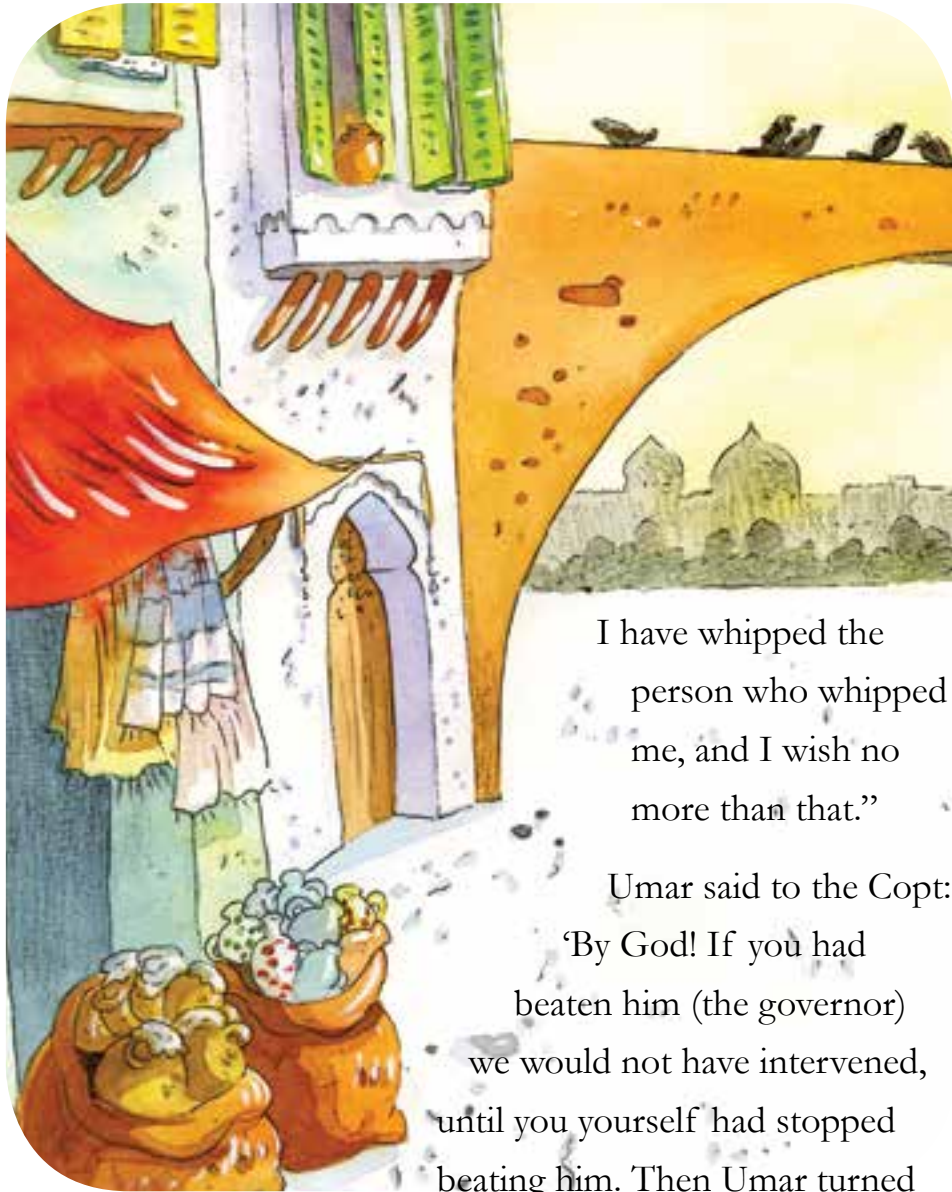




“O people of Palestine, what is for us is for you. What is not for us is not for you either.”

The Mosque of Umar

During this visit he went with the Patriarch to visit various holy places. One day when Umar was sitting in the courtyard of the Church of Qiyama in Jerusalem, the time came for the afternoon prayer. Umar then turned to the Patriarch and asked where he should say his prayers. The priest replied that he could pray right where he was seated. Umar, however, said, “No, it is not proper for Umar to pray inside the Church, because any Muslim who comes here afterwards, will maintain that since Umar has said his prayers here, a mosque should be built on that very spot.” Umar, therefore, moved a stone’s throw away, and said his prayers. Muslims did come to the city later on and, as he had foreseen, built their mosque at the exact point where he had said his prayers. This mosque exists to this day – a short, but discreet distance away from the Church. This discretion shown by Umar is all the more remarkable for his having been the ruler of Palestine at that time and, therefore, in a position to do anything he wished. A man with less foresight would have



I have whipped the person who whipped me, and I wish no more than that.”

Umar said to the Copt: ‘By God! If you had beaten him (the governor) we would not have intervened, until you yourself had stopped beating him. Then Umar turned

to Amr ibn al-As and said: ‘O Amr, since when have you enslaved people who were born free?’

A Common Man

Many times when foreign envoys or messengers came to Madinah, they found him resting under a palm tree or in the mosque amongst the people, and it was difficult to distinguish which man was the Caliph.

Caliph Umar Farooq, ruled over a large part of Asia and Africa, but continued to wear very ordinary clothes which often had patches. He would carry water bags over his shoulders. He would sleep on the ground with a stone as a pillow. He ate simple food and lived in an ordinary house.

Some people from Iraq once came to see Umar. When it was time for food, he brought them a big bowl containing whole wheat bread and olive oil, and asked them to eat. They started eating very slowly, and a little at a time. “I can see what you are doing, people of Iraq,” Umar said to them. “You know, if I wanted, I could have lavish and delicious food such as you have. But we leave over our portion of the world so that we may

the merchants offered to buy it at double the price, which would have given Uthman a huge profit. They were told that he had already made a deal at a much higher price. The merchants were curious to know who had made such an offer. Uthman informed them that it was Allah. After that, he distributed the entire stock amongst the needy.

Uthman was one of the few people who wrote down *ayat* (verses) of the Quran at the time they were revealed. He had also memorized the whole of the Quran. Even after the death of the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, Uthman was held in high esteem by the Companions because of his noble nature and closeness to the Holy Prophet. He served as an advisor during the caliphates of Abu Bakr and Umar.

The Next Caliph

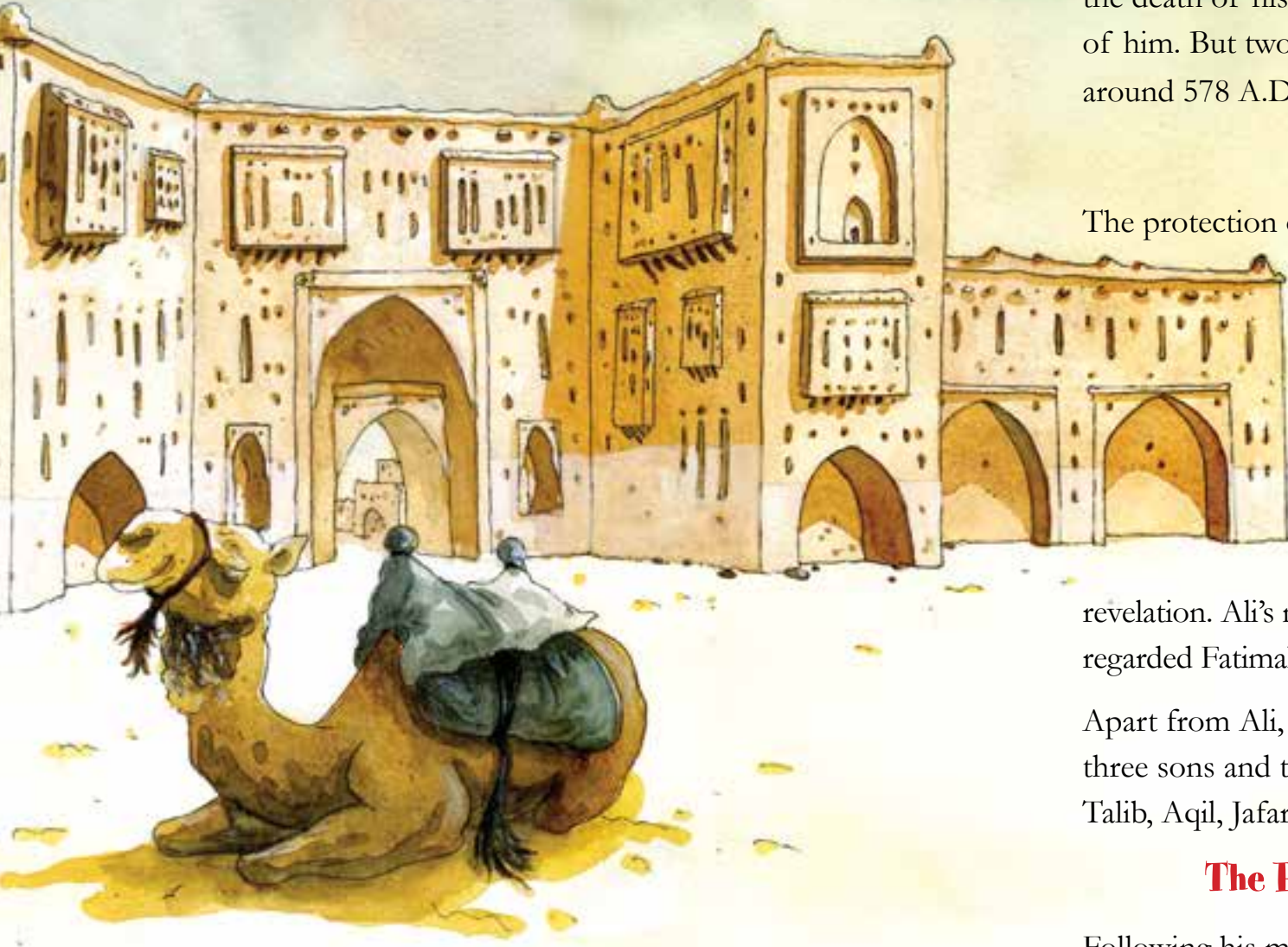
While lying on his deathbed, and after much thought, Umar appointed six of the Prophet's most prominent Companions to



elect the next Caliph. To all of them, the Prophet had given the tidings of Paradise.

This committee of six gave Abdul Rahman bin Auf (one of the committee members) the task of selecting the leader. He interviewed several people, including the Bedouin chiefs who were in Madinah to attend Umar's funeral. He analyzed their answers, took into consideration the views of the public and prayed to Allah for guidance before making up his mind.

Abdul Rahman bin Auf selected Uthman Ibn Affan and told him, "Promise that you will act according to the commandments of the Quran and the example set by the Prophet and his two Caliphs." Uthman pledged, "I promise to



the death of his mother, the Prophet's grandfather took care of him. But two years later Abdul Muttalib also passed away in around 578 A.D.

Abu Talib

The protection of the Prophet now fell to Abu Talib, his uncle. Despite his poverty, Abu Talib was the noblest and the most hospitable and, therefore, the most respected among the Quraysh. No wonder that the protection of young Muhammad ﷺ was left to him.

Ali was born to Abu Talib in 600 A.D., ten years before the Prophet received his first revelation. Ali's mother was Fatimah bint Asad. The Prophet regarded Fatimah as her own mother and held her in high regard.

Apart from Ali, who was the youngest of all, Abu Talib had three sons and two daughters from his wife Fatimah bint Asad—Talib, Aqil, Jafar, Umm Hani and Jumanah.

The Prophet Takes Ali into His Care

Following his marriage to Khadijah, the Prophet moved out of his uncle's house and began to live with Khadijah. Khadijah was