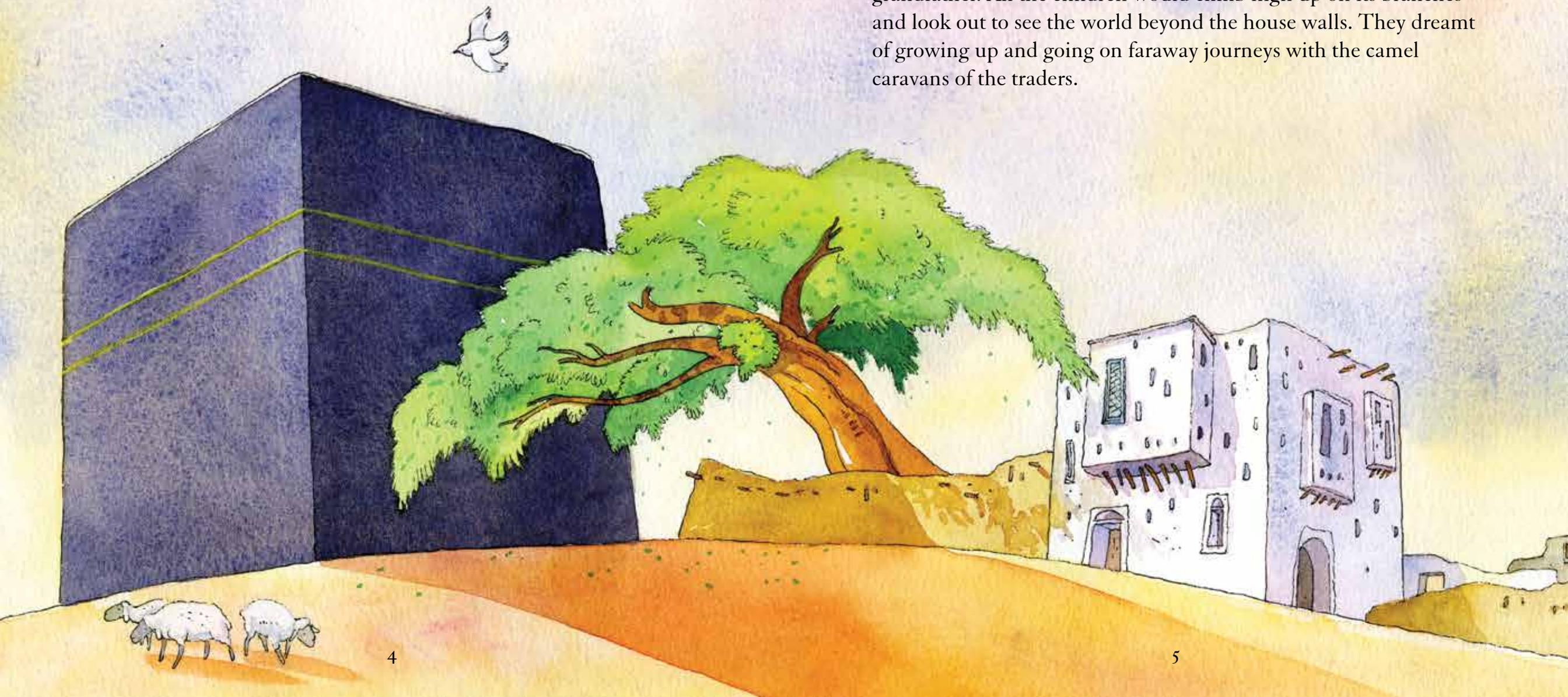


Khadija's Early Life

Khadija was a noble lady of Makkah. She was well known all around for her good nature and wealth. Like the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, she belonged to the tribe of the Quraysh. They had a common great-grandfather who was called Qusayy ibn Kilab. This is how they both were a part of the same big family.

Khadija's grandfather, Asad ibn Abdul Uzza, lived in a house near the Kabah. It was in fact so close to the Sacred House that when the sun was high, the Kabah's shadow used to fall on it. For this reason the house was called "The Sister of the Sacred House." All the children of the family loved to play in the cool courtyard shaded by the Kabah.

There was a huge tree in the courtyard of the house of Khadija's grandfather. All the children would climb high up on its branches and look out to see the world beyond the house walls. They dreamt of growing up and going on faraway journeys with the camel caravans of the traders.





All the caravans traveling through Makkah would halt for a few days there. The camels would be unloaded so that they could rest.

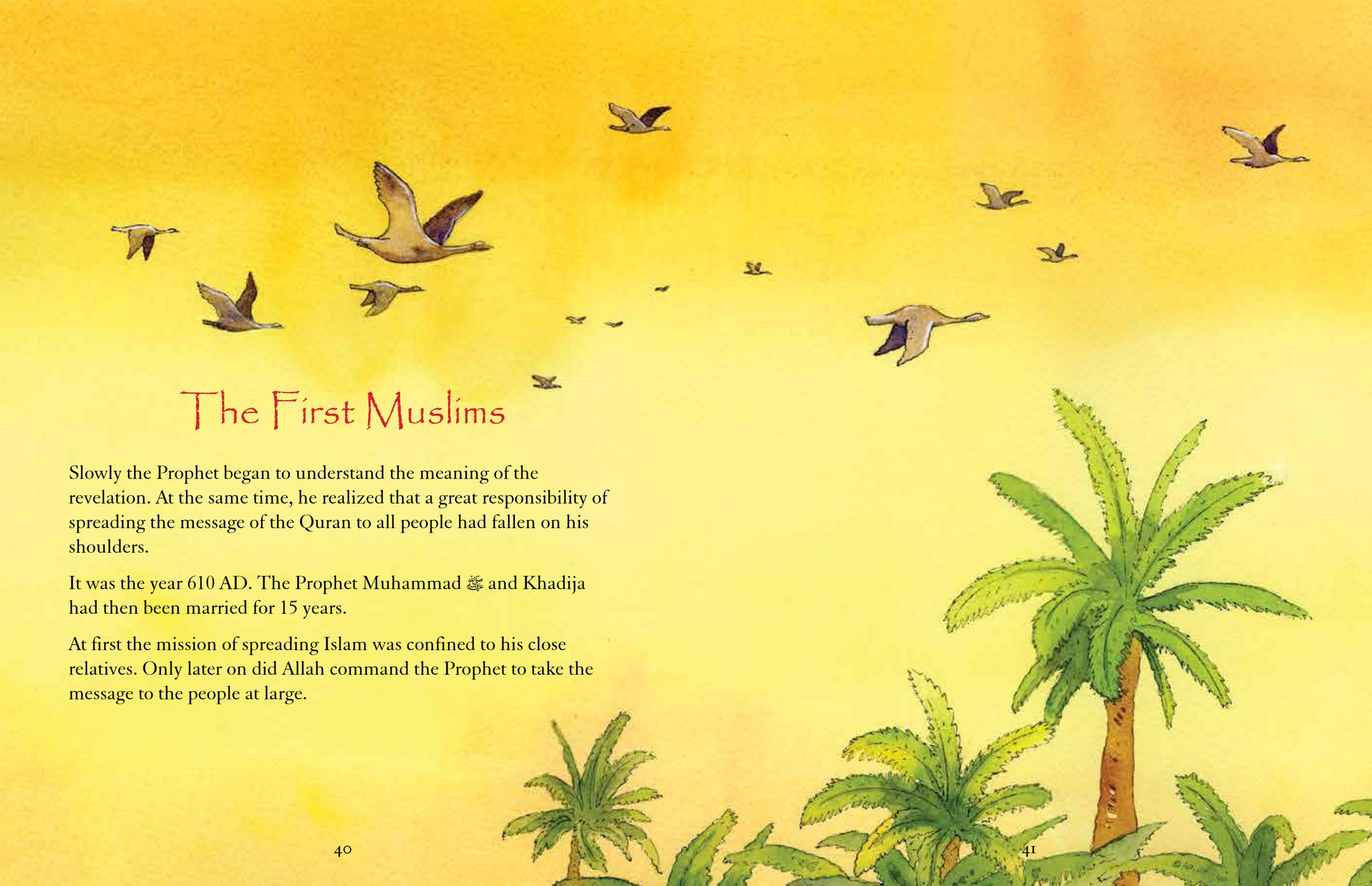
The traders would set up stalls and sell some of the goods, such as cotton and silk fabrics, jewelry, perfume, medicines, incense and household items in the local market.

Life with Khadija

The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Khadija did not live in their new house alone. There were many more people who lived with them. There was Umm Ayman, the old maid of Amina, the Prophet's mother, who brought him up after his mother died. There was Zayd ibn Haritha, a slave. Khadija gave him to her husband to help him with his work but the Prophet immediately freed him and treated him like his own son. Zayd ibn Haritha loved the Prophet so much that when his own family came to take him back home, he refused to be parted from the Prophet and stayed on with him. And later on, when his father died, Zubayr ibn Awwam came to stay with them and became one of the first people to accept Islam.

The Prophet and Khadija had six children, two boys and four girls. Both the boys, Qasim and Abdullah, died when they were still small babies.





The First Muslims

Slowly the Prophet began to understand the meaning of the revelation. At the same time, he realized that a great responsibility of spreading the message of the Quran to all people had fallen on his shoulders.

It was the year 610 AD. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ and Khadija had then been married for 15 years.

At first the mission of spreading Islam was confined to his close relatives. Only later on did Allah command the Prophet to take the message to the people at large.