

Hijabah – Maintenance and keeping the keys of the Kabah.

Siqayah – Arranging fresh water for the pilgrims.

Rifadah – Providing food for the pilgrims.





“O people of Quraysh! You live in the neighbourhood of God and His house. The pilgrim is the guest of God and visitor of His house. Of all the guests that you receive during the year, the pilgrim is the most worthy of your hospitality. Provide him with food and drink during the days of pilgrimage.”

In this way Qusayy motivated the people of Makkah to come forward and help the pilgrims wholeheartedly.

Houses around the Kabah

Before the times of Qusayy ibn Kilab, the houses of Makkah were scattered all around. But, when Qusayy became the chief of Makkah and head of the Quraysh tribe, he ordered that houses to be built near the Kabah. And so the people of Makkah built their houses around the



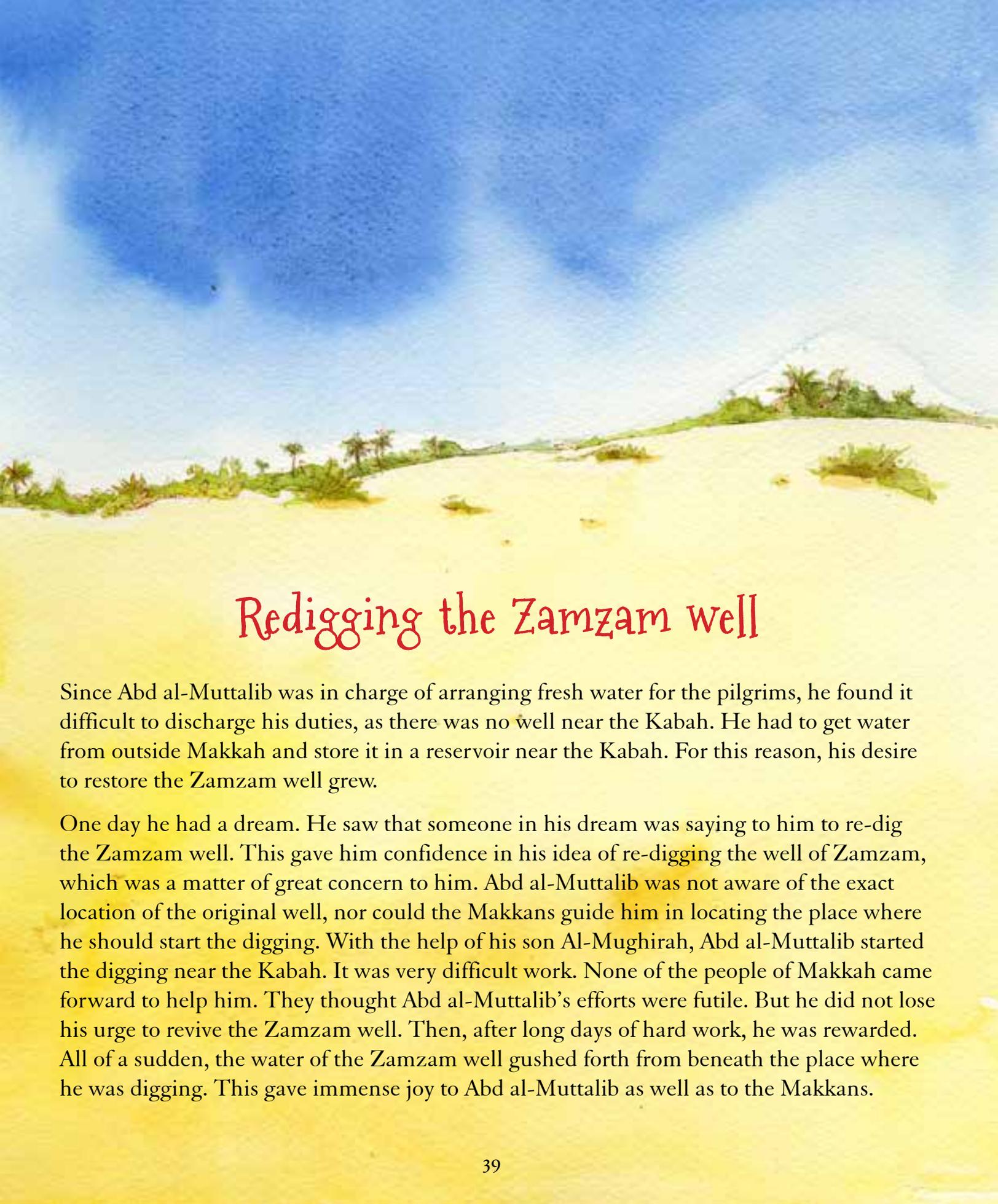


Al-Muttalib Travels to Yathrib

Some years later, Hashim travelled to Syria on a trade trip. On the way back to Makkah, he fell ill at Ghaza and passed away. He was buried in Ghaza.

After the death of Hashim, his brother, Al-Muttalib was appointed as the Chief of the Quraysh tribe and the custodian of the Kabah.

Al-Muttalib was a very kind, noble and generous person. The Quraysh loved him dearly and called him “*al-Fayz*”, or “Mr. Abundance”. During his period of being Chief of Makkah, the city continued to flourish and remained peaceful and prosperous.



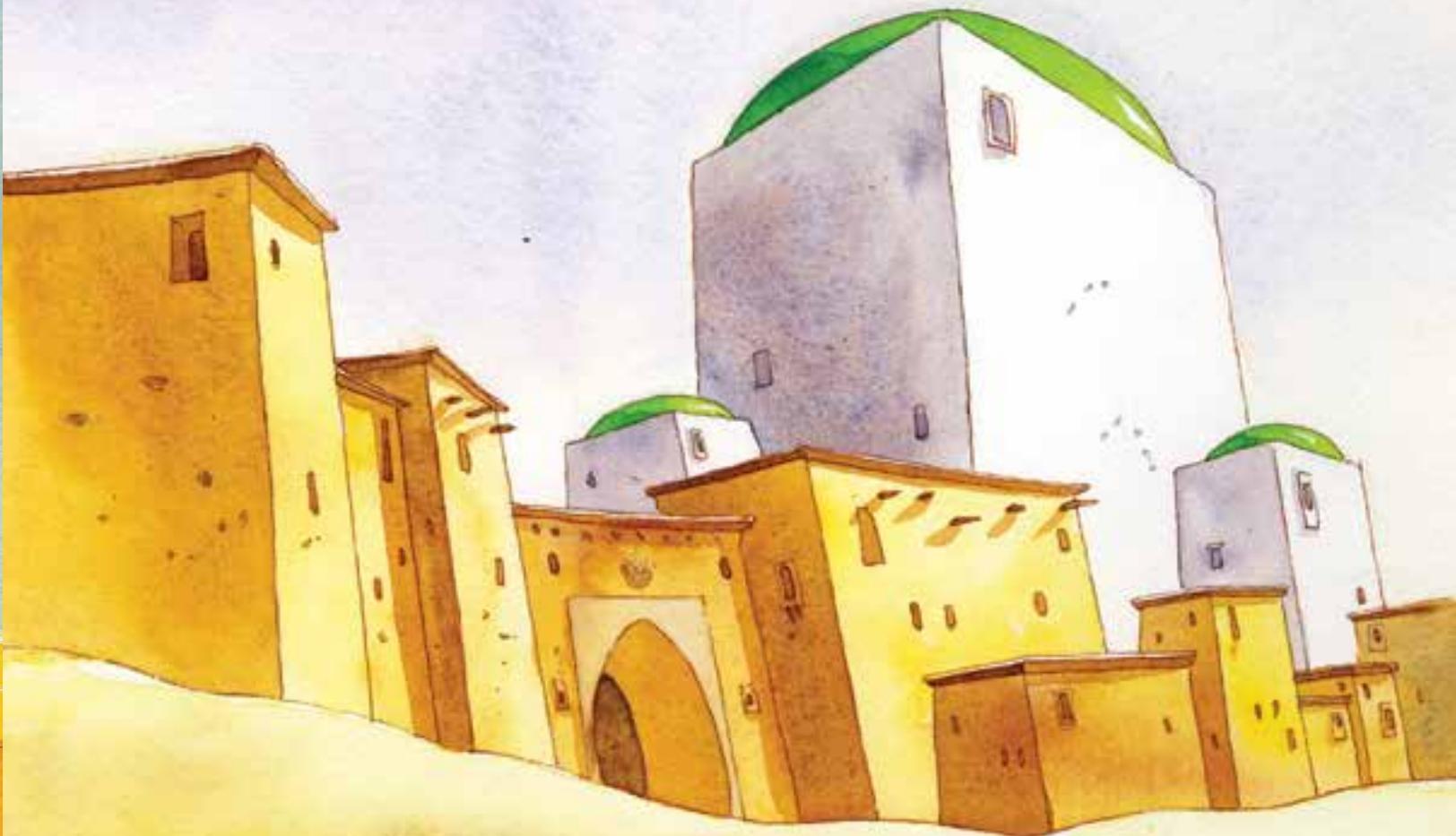
Redigging the Zamzam well

Since Abd al-Muttalib was in charge of arranging fresh water for the pilgrims, he found it difficult to discharge his duties, as there was no well near the Kabah. He had to get water from outside Makkah and store it in a reservoir near the Kabah. For this reason, his desire to restore the Zamzam well grew.

One day he had a dream. He saw that someone in his dream was saying to him to re-dig the Zamzam well. This gave him confidence in his idea of re-digging the well of Zamzam, which was a matter of great concern to him. Abd al-Muttalib was not aware of the exact location of the original well, nor could the Makkans guide him in locating the place where he should start the digging. With the help of his son Al-Mughirah, Abd al-Muttalib started the digging near the Kabah. It was very difficult work. None of the people of Makkah came forward to help him. They thought Abd al-Muttalib's efforts were futile. But he did not lose his urge to revive the Zamzam well. Then, after long days of hard work, he was rewarded. All of a sudden, the water of the Zamzam well gushed forth from beneath the place where he was digging. This gave immense joy to Abd al-Muttalib as well as to the Makkans.

The Year of the Elephant

Due to the presence of the House of God, the Kabah, a number of people from all over Arabia would come there to seek the blessings of the idols placed in the Kabah. The pilgrims would make offerings which resulted in great prosperity for the city. Seeing this, there were others who tried to build similar houses of worship in their regions, hoping to divert people from Makkah to their cities. For example, the Gohassanis built a house at Al-Hira. Abrahah built a similar house at Yemen. But they failed to attract pilgrims, as no one seemed interested in their houses of worship. The Arabs preferred the ancient house built by the Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام.



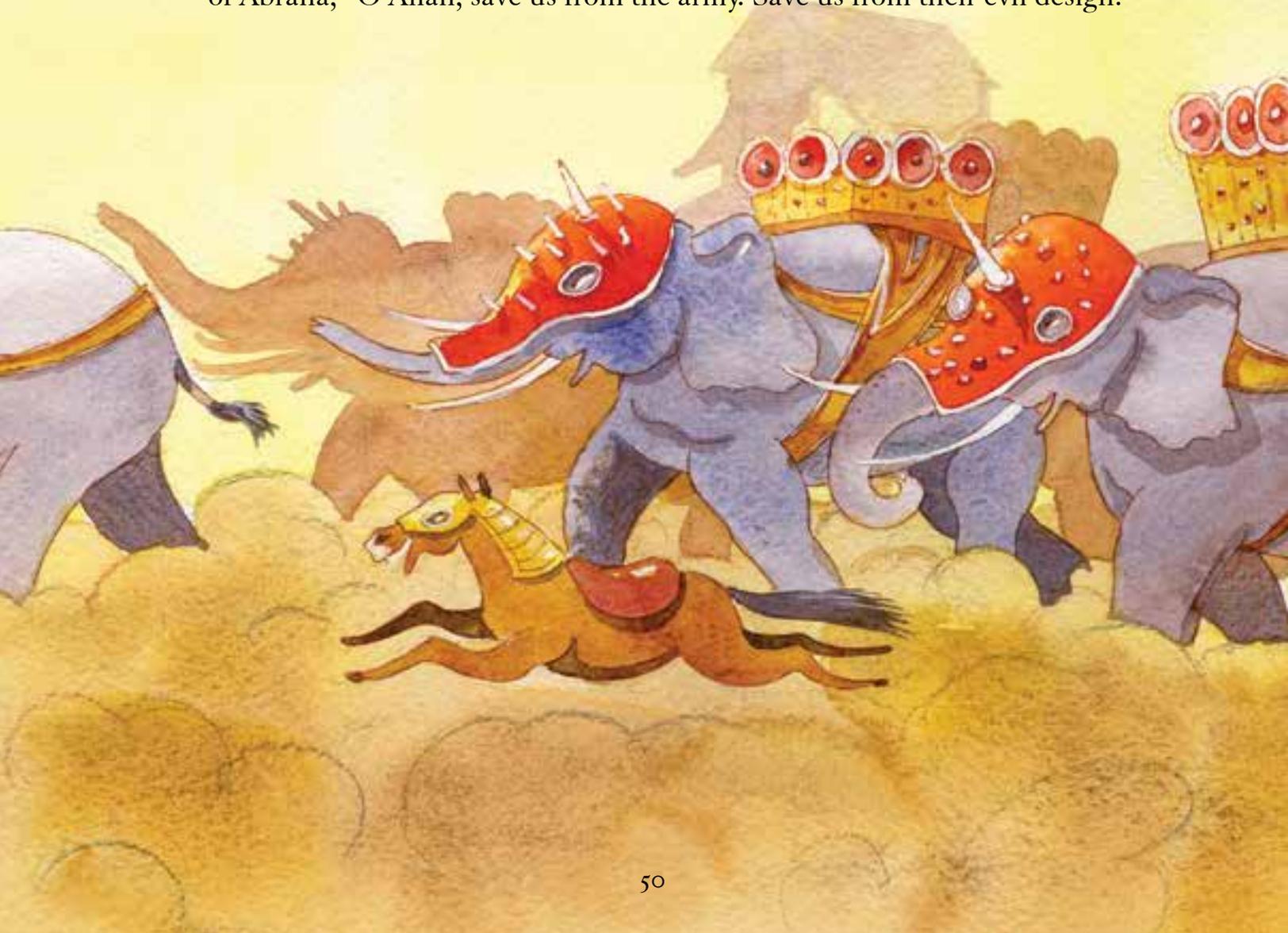
Abraha's Army of Elephants

The next day, Abraha commanded his formidable army to set out towards Makkah at the break of the dawn.

The army slowly marched towards the city of Makkah.

When Abd al-Muttalib saw a huge cloud of dust and sand coming towards him from a distance, he realized that the army of Abraha was now approaching Makkah with the sole intention of destroying the Kabah.

Abd al-Muttalib hastened to the Kabah and took hold of its door handle and prayed vehemently to Allah to save the Kabah from the evil intentions of Abraha, "O Allah, save us from the army. Save us from their evil design.



The First Visit to Syria

When the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was twelve years old, Abu Talib was preparing a trade caravan to Syria. He was about to carry his goods to be sold in Syrian markets.

When the Prophet learnt about his uncle's Syrian visit, he too showed interest in visiting Syria along with him. Though the Prophet was barely twelve years old at that time, seeing his interest and enthusiasm, Abu Talib agreed to take him in the caravan to Syria.

