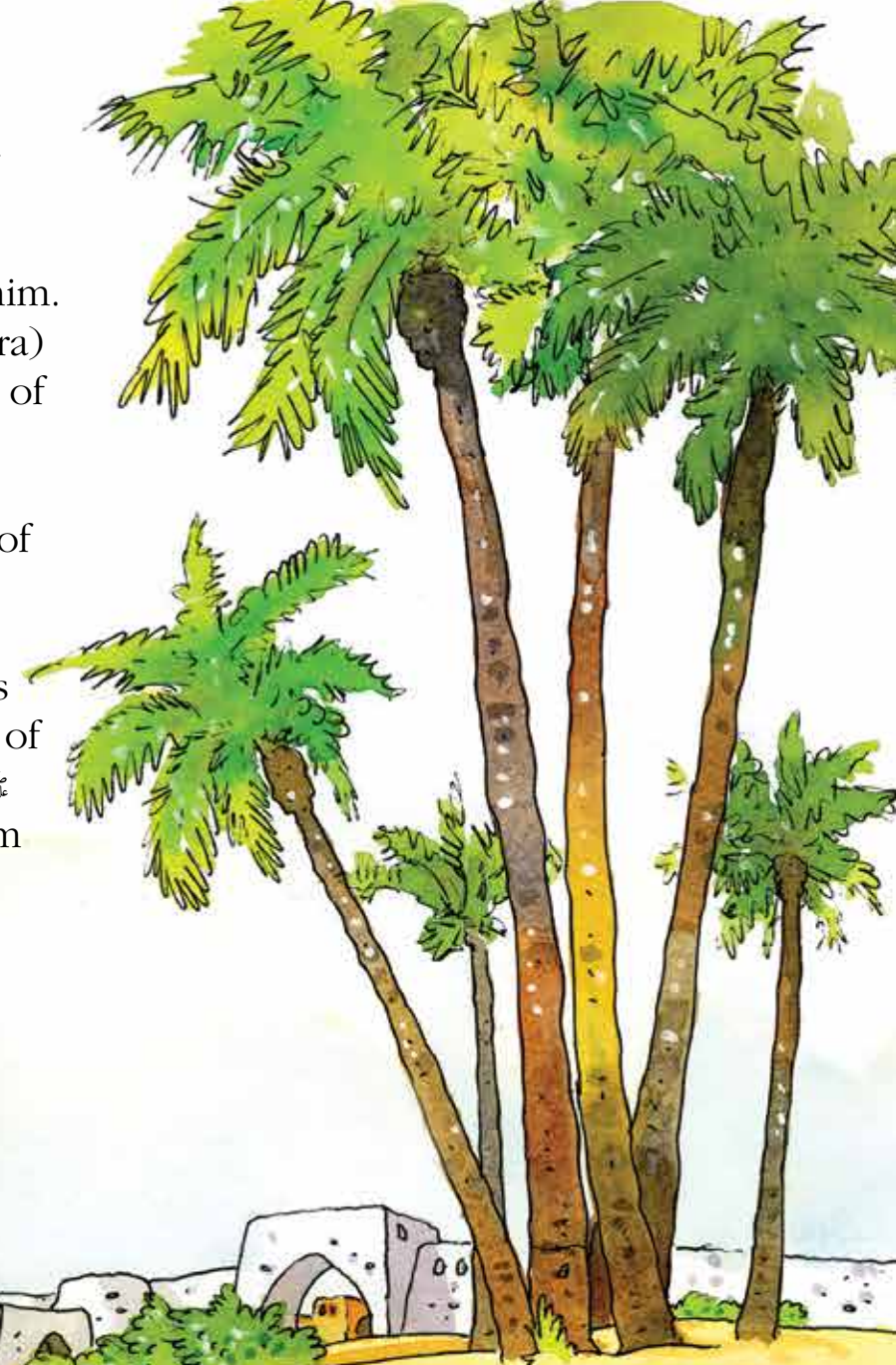


When the Muhajirs first came to Madinah, they had great difficulty in getting drinking water. There was just one well and its owner would not allow Muslims to draw any water unless they paid a high price for it. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ asked, “Who is there who will buy this well for the Muslims? Allah will reward him with a fountain in Paradise.” Uthman (ra) responded immediately. He bought the well for twenty thousand dirhams and donated it to the Muslims.

After the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ migrated to Madinah, he visited Uthman (ra) and Ruqayyah (ra) frequently and enjoyed playing with his grandson, Abdullah. The couple were content and lead a happy life. Alas, their happiness was short-lived. In 624 C.E. after a brief illness, Ruqayyah (ra) passed away. Uthman (ra) was grief-stricken. Realizing that he was no longer a son-in-law of the Prophet made him even sadder. The Prophet Muhammad ﷺ sensed this. About a year later, the Prophet gave his second daughter, Umm Kulthum (ra) in marriage to Uthman (ra). He told his daughter

that he found a resemblance in Uthman to his forefather Ibrahim. Thus Uthman (ra) earned the title of “Dhun Nurain”, which means “the possessor of two lights.” He was called this because he was married to two of the Prophet’s ﷺ daughters. Umm Kulthum (ra) loved Abdullah and took good care of him.



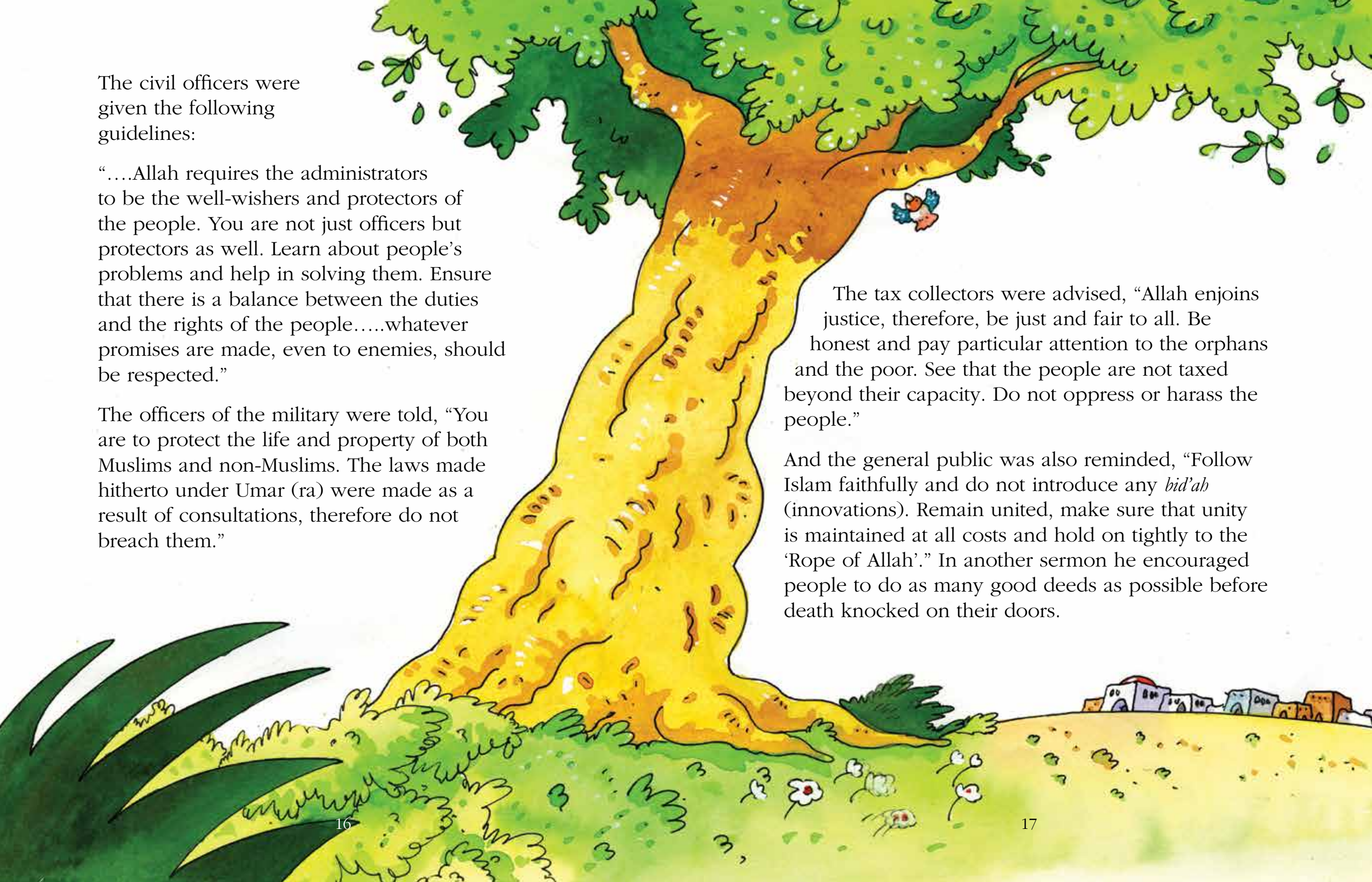
The civil officers were given the following guidelines:

“...Allah requires the administrators to be the well-wishers and protectors of the people. You are not just officers but protectors as well. Learn about people’s problems and help in solving them. Ensure that there is a balance between the duties and the rights of the people.....whatever promises are made, even to enemies, should be respected.”

The officers of the military were told, “You are to protect the life and property of both Muslims and non-Muslims. The laws made hitherto under Umar (ra) were made as a result of consultations, therefore do not breach them.”

The tax collectors were advised, “Allah enjoins justice, therefore, be just and fair to all. Be honest and pay particular attention to the orphans and the poor. See that the people are not taxed beyond their capacity. Do not oppress or harass the people.”

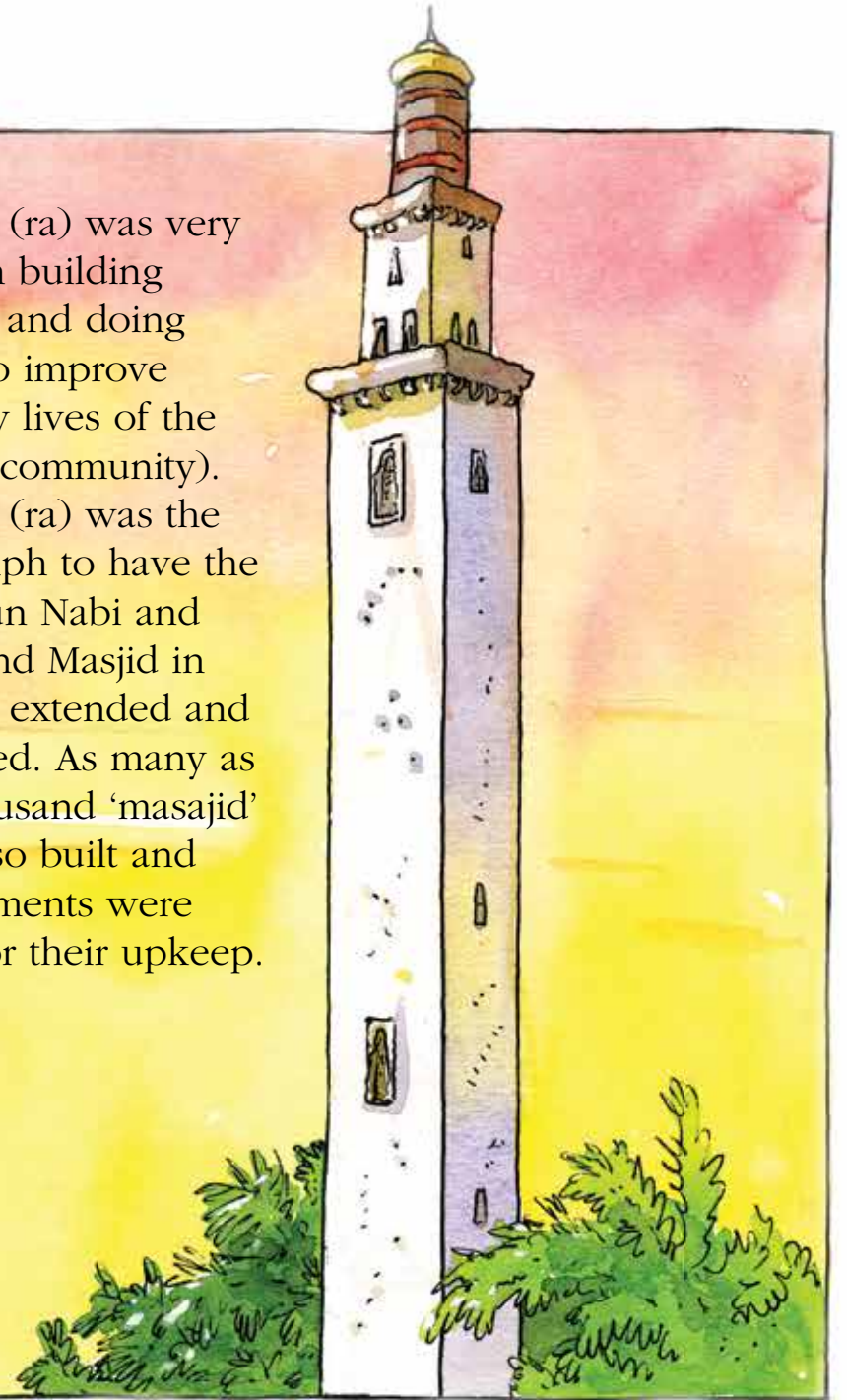
And the general public was also reminded, “Follow Islam faithfully and do not introduce any *bid’ah* (innovations). Remain united, make sure that unity is maintained at all costs and hold on tightly to the ‘Rope of Allah’.” In another sermon he encouraged people to do as many good deeds as possible before death knocked on their doors.



copy and no discrepancies were found. Uthman (ra), being a 'Hafiz' himself, double checked for accuracy and approved it. Copies of this edition were prepared and distributed to all the provinces. Thus, Uthman (ra) had the honour of preserving the original Quran that has remained intact to this day!

It was Uthman (ra) who started the tradition of supplying free meals to everyone during Ramadan at *Iftaar* (breaking of fast) time. The *mu'azzins* (those who called the people to prayers) started receiving salaries. For the convenience of the people, the second call, was introduced for Friday prayers.

Uthman (ra) was very active in building projects and doing things to improve the daily lives of the *Ummah* (community). Uthman (ra) was the first Caliph to have the Masjid un Nabi and the Grand Masjid in Makkah extended and beautified. As many as five thousand 'masajid' were also built and arrangements were made for their upkeep.



had enjoined obedience to its leaders but there were some who even started questioning the authority of the Caliph, while others spread wrong information about him. Uthman (ra) did not take a salary from the state. He supported his needy relatives and kinsmen financially by drawing upon his own wealth. Yet, people quite erroneously believed that he helped his relatives and kinsmen by dipping into the funds of the *Bait ul Maal* (Public Treasury).

Uthman (ra) had continued the policy of Umar (ra), by not distributing the conquered lands amongst the soldiers. The previous owners had the right to keep their own property. The army demanded that Uthman (ra) should change this policy. Discontent quietly spread when he did not give in to the army's demand. Later on, the unhappy soldiers indirectly supported the rebels.

Umar (ra) had ruled with a firm hand, but people took advantage of Uthman (ra), who was very mild-natured and kind-hearted, often overlooking the faults of others. It was the officers, governors and people whom he loved and trusted the most who took advantage of his good nature to lay the blame for their own shortcomings upon him. This created unrest in the provincial capitals and made it easy for those who had grudges against Uthman (ra) to convince people that the Caliph was the root cause of their complaints.

