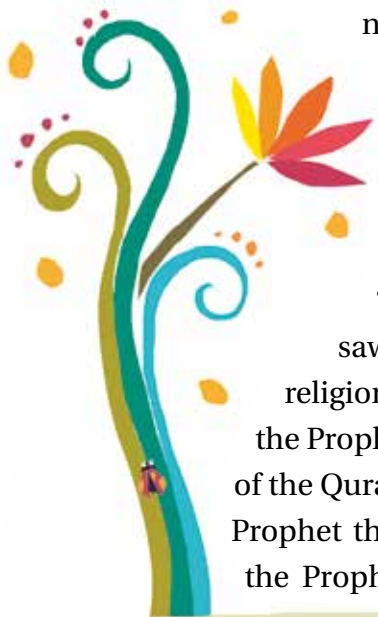




Uthman was swimming in joy. He felt as if he had found a treasure. His mind, his soul and his heart were filled with the love of this new religion and its prophet. He began passing his days in peace and happiness. His uncle, hearing that he had become a Muslim, got very angry. One day he tied Uthman to a pillar at home and told him, "So, you have left our idols, and you worship Allah now! You believe in what Muhammad is preaching, don't you? I am not going to release you until you leave Islam and worship the idols."



Uthman was brave. No one could make him give up what he believed and force him to do something he didn't want to. He immediately answered his uncle, "By Allah, I would never give up Islam." When his uncle saw that there was no way he was going to abandon his religion, he simply released him. Now, Uthman was always with the Prophet. He had made up his mind to memorize all the verses of the Quran. Allah was sending one or a few verses at a time to the Prophet through the angel Jibril. He sent a few at a time, so that the Prophet and his companions could memorize them before receiving any more. Uthman learned each verse

by heart, and the Prophet loved him for his hard work and high morals. He was so shy and well-mannered that he couldn't look at the faces of the people he spoke to. The Prophet married his daughter to this kind and good-natured man. He became a son-in-law to the Prophet of Islam. How great an honor it was! Ruqayyah and Uthman lived a happy life together. He worked hard for everyone to hear the beautiful message of the Quran. The Prophet was not alone any more. Besides Abu Bakr and Ali, he also had Uthman to help and support him.



From that time onwards, this became the title of Abu Bakr, that is, Abu Bakr as-Siddiq. The best and closest friend of the Prophet was called Abu Bakr as-Siddiq. Abu Bakr was always with the Prophet, never diverging from his path.

## 105. Thanking Our Lord

The believers had encircled the Prophet in great excitement. They were experiencing the great joy of his meeting with the Lord. They rejoiced to hear what he was going to say. For them, the gift he had brought had extraordinary meaning. This valuable gift was the *salah*. *Salah* was the time to have an audience with Allah. They would give thanks to Allah for all the beautiful things He had created for them. Until that day, they didn't know how to perform *salah*, but from then on, they would pray in this way five times a day and at the appointed times. On each occasion, they would appear before the Lord and perform their duties of servitude to Allah.

Saying prayers was the source of the greatest happiness. It meant receiving an invitation to Paradise. It was a secret *Mi'raj*. The Prophet ascended and met his Lord. Anyone who wished could do the same by performing *salah*.

His companions listened to him attentively. "All right, but why five times a day?" they asked. The Prophet satisfied their curiosity with a smile on his face, "*Salah* five times is just like a river running in front of your house. If you take a bath in that river five times a day, would any dirt remain on your body?"

The believers, hearing this answer from him, understood that *salah* meant cleansing oneself of all material and spiritual dirt and sins at the same time. They were left with the great joy of receiving this invaluable gift.

## 106. The Prophet who never Gave Up

During the pilgrimage season in Makkah, people used to set up fairs. Many people from outside Makkah would come to these fairs and, at the end of them, visit the Kabah and then finally return to their homes.

Again, the season for the pilgrimage had come. Makkah was filled with travellers from far-off countries. The Messenger of Allah mingled with them, socializing, and explaining the commandments of Islam. What he had to say was interesting to the people, but the pagans were following and observing his every move. They approached those who listened to the Messenger and contradicted all that he talked about.

very crowded. There were many different people displaying goods, entertaining, and trading. Again, the six people from Madinah were there. Along with them, there were some other friends of theirs. They were full of yearning to see the Prophet again. They were getting impatient to see him. They had good news to give him.

But the Prophet was extremely cautious. He had waited for evening to come because he was afraid the pagans overhear them. While the dim light of the moon let up the valley, they met in one corner of it. The Muslims from



Madinah were joyful to see him. They had come with good news. They conveyed to him the love and loyalty of the Muslims in Madinah. They had accepted the Prophet and the religion he taught. They awaited the commandments of this religion.

The Messenger rejoiced at this news. He told them about the orders coming from Allah, one by one, “Do not associate anything with Allah; do not steal; do not murder children; do not slander anyone; do not object to a good deed.” And he continued, “Allah is going to give great rewards to those who obey these orders. Allah’s generosity is limitless, and He has prepared Paradise for them.”

There were twelve people from Madinah who promised the Prophet the following, “We will never worship anything other than Allah. We will not steal. We will not behave unethically. We will follow you in whatever you do. This we promise you.”

On one of the following nights at Aqaba, a beautiful agreement was made. People from Madinah were to propagate the orders of this religion to the people in their city. They requested that the Prophet send someone with them for support and help. The Prophet chose Mus’ab, a companion whom he loved very much and who was suitable for this task. Thus the historic agreement of Aqaba was made.

## 108. Mus’ab the Teacher at Work

**M**us’ab bin Umayr was a handsome pleasant person. He loved the Prophet and cared for him very much and when the Prophet gave him the task of propagating Islam to the people of Madinah, he accepted this task with pleasure. He set off as soon as he was appointed to teach the Quran to the Muslims of Madinah. He was young, knowledgeable, and very polite. He knew very well how to behave. He had more than enough ability to be a teacher...

no solution other than killing him. Let us choose some strong men from each group. Then let us give sharp swords to them; let them all together kill him. This way, we can be saved from him. And this way, the real murderer will never be known. We can pay the blood money and go free.” The old man responded to what Abu Jahl said, “Perhaps this is the best idea, there can be no better solution than this.” Abu Jahl’s suggestion was accepted. There was a mischievous smile on everybody’s face. The final decision had been reached; they were going to kill the Prophet!

The Prophet used to visit his best friend, Abu Bakr, either in the morning or in the evening, never skipping a day. One day, he was at the door at noon. Abu Bakr said to himself silently, “By Allah, the Prophet would not come to my house at this time. There must be something serious about this.” Then he welcomed him inside, looked at him lovingly and said, “May my mother and father be sacrificed for the sake of the Messenger of Allah.” In that community, this was the way of taking an oath in order to show the greatest compassion for another. He added, “Is there any news?” The Prophet was full of good news, “Allah, the Almighty, has given me the permission to leave Makkah and migrate to Madinah!”



At that moment, Abu Bakr was plunged in sorrow. He could not even imagine leaving the Prophet. He asked him, “Will I be able to keep company with you on this journey?” “Yes, of course.” said the Prophet. Everything then changed for Abu Bakr. Tears of joy started running down his cheeks.

## 115. Muhammad the Trustworthy

**T**he Prophet went back home after giving this good news to Abu Bakr. At home, the angel of revelation, Jibril, appeared in front of him. He greeted the most valuable creation of Allah and then informed him of the trap that the pagans had prepared for him. The angel added, “Tonight don’t sleep in the place you usually sleep.”

Hearing this, the Prophet called his cousin Ali, and told him, “Tonight, you shall sleep in my bed; cover yourself with this green sheet of mine and don’t be afraid. No one will be able to harm you.” His name in Makkah was Muhammad the Trustworthy, Muhammad Al-Amin ﷺ. Until that day, everyone, believer or unbeliever, had left their possessions in his trust. Even the most valuable goods of those who wanted to kill him were with the Prophet. He handed over every item he had to Ali. He told him what belonged to whom. He told him to give everything to their proper owners.



people and could see them people standing at the opening of the cave. Abu Bakr was so afraid that large drops of sweat started running down his forehead. In a low voice he said, “O Messenger of Allah! I am not afraid of being killed. But if they do any harm to you, the Muslims would be ruined.” The Prophet said with confidence, “Don’t fear Abu Bakr. Allah is with us.” Abu Bakr said, “If one of them bends down and looks inside, he could see us.” Even then, the Prophet was full of courage, “Do you think that when Allah is one of three people, they could catch us?” And then, he prayed for Abu Bakr to feel comfortable and not feel afraid. Suddenly, Abu Bakr’s worries disappeared. Just like the Prophet, he was now full of hope and courage and had in the help of Allah.

## 120. Farewell to Makkah

Everything was calm now. There was no one outside. It was a Monday. The Prophet and his fellow traveller, Abu Bakr, quietly came out of the cave. The Prophet opened his hands and gave thanks to Allah, and then he prayed for their journey to be easy and bring them rewards. Meanwhile, Abu Bakr had prepared the camels. Abu Bakr’s shepherd, Amir, had come to them. He was going to act as a guide along the rest of the route. Abu Bakr gave Qaswa, his powerful and well-kept camel, to the Prophet. “May my father and mother be sacrificed for you, O Messenger of Allah!” he said, “Here it is, take it and ride it.” The Prophet was in the habit of not accepting anything that did not belong to him, “I would not like to ride a camel which does not belong to me,” he said. Abu Bakr said, “Then it is yours. Please ride it.” The Prophet repeated his refusal saying, “Until I pay for it I wouldn’t like to ride it.” Seeing no way out, Abu Bakr told him the price of the camel. The Prophet then bought it from him. They mounted their camels and set out with Amir.

The hills of Makkah were now far behind. The Prophet for the last time wanted to view the places where he was born and raised throughout the city of Makkah. He stopped



his camel. Looking back at the Kabah and the hills of Makkah for a long time, he murmured, “By Allah, you are the best and most beautiful of all places Allah ever created. If I were not forced to leave, I would never leave you. I would never settle in any other land.”

## 130. Ali Returning to the Prophet

**A**li was the most beloved of the Prophet's cousins. Ali also loved the Prophet very much. The night the Prophet secretly left Makkah, Ali had laid his life down for him. When the idol worshippers lay in ambush in front of the Prophet's house and then found Ali in his bed, they could have killed him. But Allah, the Almighty, protected Ali who had never failed to follow in the Prophet's footsteps. The pagans did not have the courage to kill him.

In Makkah, only Ali and several other Muslims had stayed back. It was time for them also to migrate to Madinah. Ali took care of the tasks the Prophet had ordered him to finish one by one. He took all the things left in trust with the Prophet back to their owners. Later, he secretly set out for Madinah. He had nothing to ride on. He had to walk all the way to Madinah. During the day, he went on foot, and hid somewhere at night. Although the trip was long and difficult, he pushed on. He patiently endured all these hardships because he hoped that he would soon be with his beloved Prophet again.

When he reached the village of Quba, he was so tired that he felt like fainting. He had been walking for many days and because of this long walk, his feet were swollen with pain.

People went to the Prophet and told him that Ali had come. He welcomed him with great joy! This was his beloved cousin. When he learned that he had undertaken this difficult journey walking all the way from Makkah, his joy suddenly vanished. Now he felt very sad. In fact, he wept. He caressed Ali's feet with affection and prayed for him to get well soon!

Ali felt that the pain was suddenly gone. He looked at the face of the Prophet once again with love and respect. If he had had one thousand lives, he would have been ready to sacrifice all of them for the sake of the Prophet.

## 131. The Story of Suhayb

**S**uhayb was one of the Muslims who still remained in Makkah and just because he was Muslim, the pagans tortured him. He too wanted to migrate to Madinah. He had missed the Prophet very much! He made the preparations and left with his family. The pagans immediately set out in search of him, and caught up with him. They said, "Stop, Suhayb! When you came to Makkah, you were very poor. You

other in amazement, “How do you know this?” The man said, “He is a prophet. All of his signs are mentioned in the Torah. He is the last prophet. It is so clear. I imagine in the days to come, very soon, you people on the backs of camels leaving this place.” They said, “All right then, what do you suggest we do?” “Accept Islam,” the man said. Join the companions of Muhammad ﷺ. That way you can save yourselves and your children.” “No,” they said, “We would never leave our ways.”



The Prophet then gave the Bani Nadir ten days to renew the agreement between them. But they did not want to even consider it. After this, the Prophet encircled their castles with his soldiers. Seeing themselves helpless, the Jews surrendered.

The Prophet did not touch any one of them. He only demanded that they leave their place and go somewhere else. This way they could not do any more harm to the Muslims. The Bani Nadir loaded all their belongings on to their camels and started out towards Khaybar where other Jews were living.

## 224. Last Signs

**Z**ayd bin Sunah was a rather knowledgeable rabbi. He had read about the signs of the coming prophet in books. He had seen that the signs mentioned in those books were to be found in Muhammad ﷺ. There were two more signs that he wanted to see before he believed in his prophethood. One was that in that prophet gentleness should overcome his passion and anger. The other was, if rude and ignorant behavior were displayed towards him, he should be able to respond calmly and gracefully.

Carefully, he started to observe the Prophet from afar. One day, when the Prophet was walking with Ali, a man stopped them. With a begging tone in his voice, he said, “O Messenger of Allah! There is famine and drought in our village. People are hungry. Could you help us please?” The Prophet turned to Ali and said, “O Ali! What do we have to give him?” Ali’s voice was quivering. He said, “O Allah’s Messenger! We have nothing to give them.” Rabbi Zayd, who was watching them from afar, thought that this was a good opportunity, and he immediately participated in the conversation, “I have some stuff that I can lend you,” he said. But, he had a condition and said, “You have to give it back at a certain time.” The Prophet accepted Zayd’s condition. They made an agreement. Zayd went away and returned with the goods. The Prophet took them and sent them with the man to the village where there was famine and drought.



Another time he had told a boy who came to him while he was eating, “My son! Come to the table. Say ‘*bismillah*’, eat with your right hand, and always take what is in front of you.”

There were many benefits in his words of wisdom. The companions followed his advice closely. Throughout their lives, they followed the rules of etiquette they learned from him.

## 231. Kindness to Relatives

**T**he Prophet used to value his relatives. He used to visit them often and ask how they were doing. He used to help them with everything. He used to say to those who never visited their relatives, “Visit your relatives and parents. Taking care of relatives will increase your livelihood and make your lives longer.”



One day someone came to him and said, “O Messenger of Allah! I am fond of my relatives. I usually go and visit them, but they never do the same. I show kindness and goodness towards them, but in return they hurt me and my feelings. They are rude and harsh with me.” The Prophet told him, “As long as you behave in this way and treat them nicely, Allah will help you in all of your affairs.”

## 232. He did not Like Lies Even in Jokes

**T**he prophet was not pleased with hearing lies, even if they were told as jokes. One day he had gone to a friend’s home as a guest. The lady of the house called her son, “My son, come here! Look I am going to give you something you love.” The Prophet asked her, “What are you thinking of giving him?” The young lady answered, “I will give him a date.” The Prophet said in response, “If you called him and did not give him anything, you would have merited punishment for the sin of lying.”



When Bujayr learned that he had appeared, he remembered his father's words and went to Madinah. He met the Prophet and became a Muslim. But Ka'b resisted believing in the Prophet: he denied his cause. With the poems he wrote, he used to mock the Prophet and the Muslims.

One day, one of those poems came into the hands of the Prophet. When he heard it read, the Prophet became very upset.

His sadness did not escape the eyes of Bujayr.

He immediately wrote a letter to Ka'b who, at that time, was living in another country. Ka'b received the letter from his brother. In his letter,

Bujayr spoke of the greatness of Islam, the justice

and fairness of the Prophet, his kindness and generosity. He spoke

of how wrong the things Ka'b was doing were. He asked him to accept Islam.

Ka'b was influenced by what he read from the pen of his brother. He regretted that he had said gross things about the Prophet. He decided to do everything to win back the heart of the Prophet. He hurried to make preparations to go to him.

The Prophet had never seen Ka'b before. He didn't know the man coming to

him was Ka'b. Ka'b knelt down in front of the

Prophet just like a guilty child. He held the

Prophet's hand and said, "They say that Ka'b, the brother of Bujayr, regretted all that he did.

They say that he repented. He would like to come to you as a Muslim. Would you accept him?"

The Prophet used to open his arms for anyone who regretted what he had done and wanted to be forgiven. Smiling at him, he said,

"Of course, we would accept him." Ka'b's eyes brightened with joy. He took the

Shahadah right there and became a Muslim. The Prophet asked him, "Who are

you?" He answered, "I am Ka'b, the brother of Bujayr." The Prophet was happy to

see him repenting. He looked at him lovingly. Ka'b regretted that he had not known him up until that day. He just sat down and wrote a poem,

If an elephant had seen what I have seen

He would surely tremble from fear;

Now, the word is only his word

He is a light, guiding to the true path

He is the Messenger of Allah, no other is so near.

The Prophet loved the poem so much that he took off his *burda*, that is, his own robe, and gave it to Ka'b as a gift. Since then this poem has been known as 'the poem of the mantle.'