

# Qur'an City



## Qaswa visits Birr window

Sura Al Baqara  
2 Meemat Place, 8328

4-7  
years





**QASWA'S JOURNEY THROUGH QUR'AN CITY** is a series of books about a camel called Qaswa and his best friend Safiya who want to learn about the Qur'an. Depicting the Qur'an as a city, Qaswa explores each building (Sura) with the help of Hizqeel and Habeeb who are the Qur'an City guides.



### **A little bit about Qur'an City...**

With 114 buildings, Qur'an City is divided into 14 quadrants which circle Muhammad City Centre and has a road network called M14\* that links all the quadrants with each other. The heights of the buildings represent the number of ayaat of the suwer and can be distinguished as Makki or Madani through their roof tops Yellow for Makki and Green for Madani. There are 86 Makki buildings and 28 Madani buildings.

\*Representing the 14 Ma'sumeen who are the necessary guidance to navigate Qur'an City.

**JOIN QASWA AND SAFIYA IN THEIR QUEST TO DISCOVER THE AWESOMENESS OF THE QUR'AN THROUGH QUR'AN CITY.**

## INTRO

This book has to be read in chapters for each aspect of Ayatul Birr to be understood.



## Chapter 1

Qaswa was watching Safiya and her grandma finger painting a blue window on a drawing of a tall building. The window had the number 177 on it.

"What a tall building!" he said.

"That's the Baqara building," said Safiya's grandma.

"It's the tallest building in Qur'an city."

"It's Building No. 2 in Meemat Place in Qur'an City, and we are painting the Birr window on it!" piped Safiya.



"What is the Birr window?" asked Qaswa. "What does Birr mean?"

"Those are excellent questions Qaswa! Let's talk about it," said Safiya's grandma.

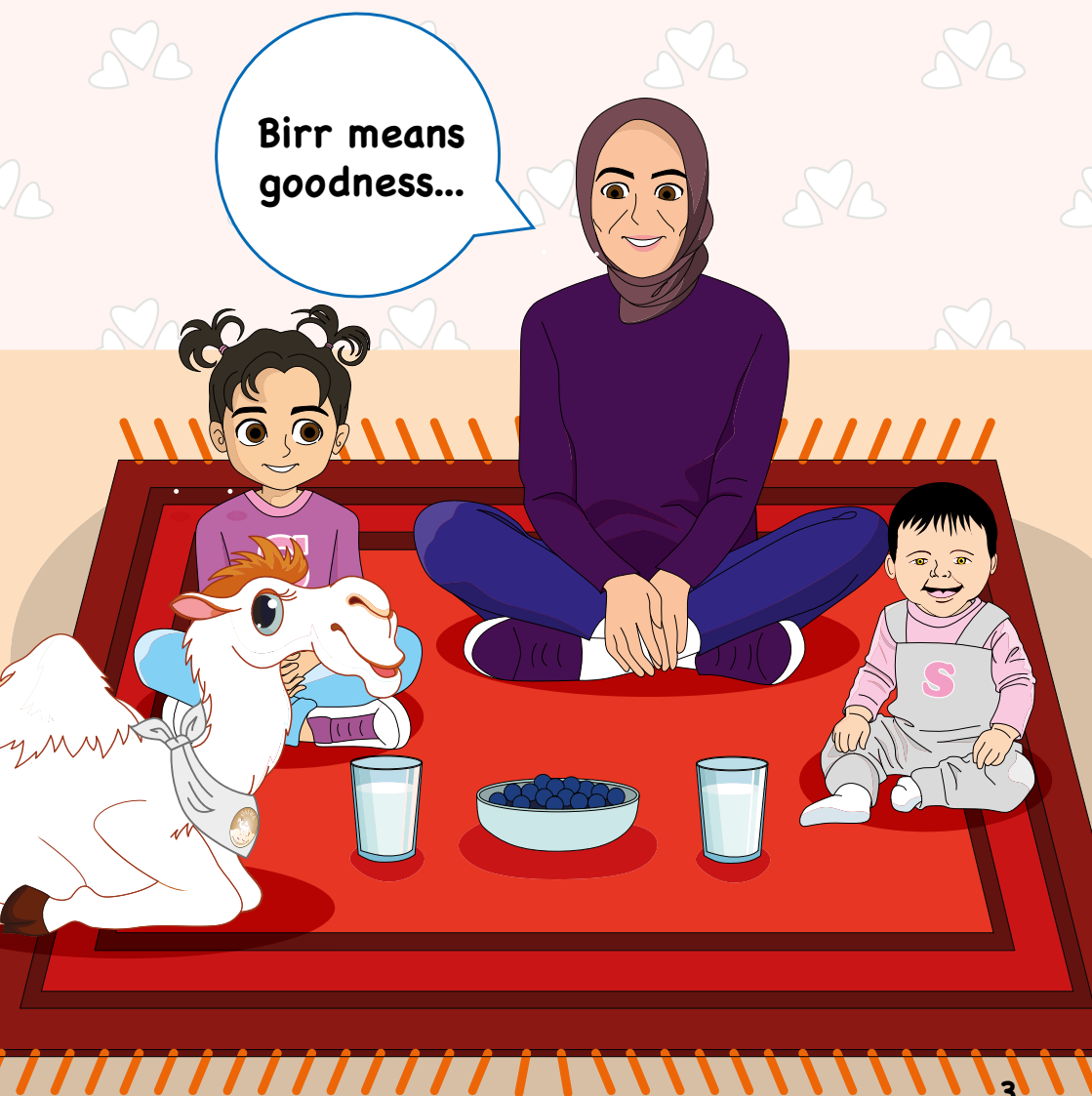
Safiya and her grandma stopped painting and washed their hands.

With some water and blueberries they all sat down in a circle on the carpet. Even baby Salima sat up listening intently.



"Birr means goodness. When we keep promises, we try our best at everything we do. We always tell the truth and know that Allah is always watching. We become one of the Abraar - the good people. And just like the blue sky above us, we can go on and on and on being good. There is no end to it." She said.

**Birr means  
goodness...**



Qaswa was fascinated. "Why is it a window?"

"Because even when there is lots of light outside, if there are no windows in a house, it will always be dark," replied Safiya's grandma.



“Just like there is a whole Qur’an City full of the light that shows the way to be the best, if we don’t open the window of our heart to learn from it, we will never understand how to be good,” she said.



Qaswa, Safiya and even baby Salima were very quiet.

"How do you open the window of the heart?" asked Qaswa.

"By first wanting to be good," said Safiya's grandma.

"We want to be good, we want to be called Abraar!" said Qaswa and Safiya together.

Baby Salima babbled "Ababaaa, raaar!"

We want to  
be good, we  
want to be  
called Abraar!

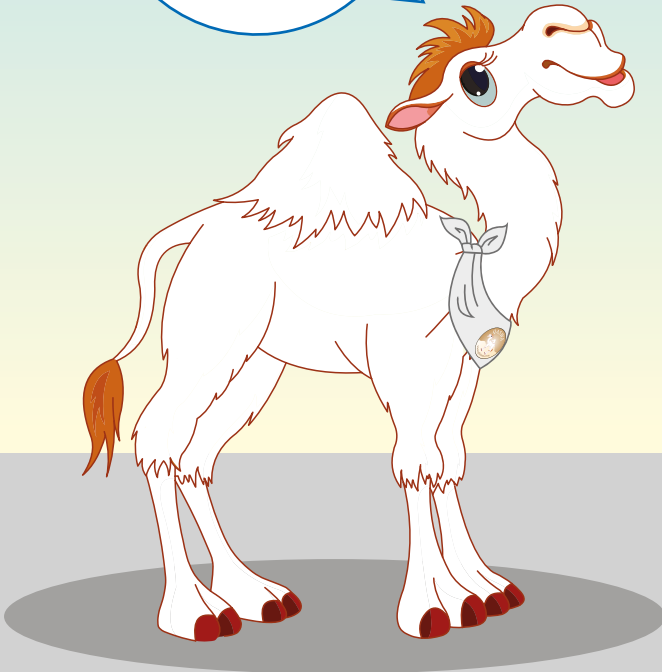
Ababaaa,  
raaar



All the way home, Qaswa looked at the sky and kept on saying اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ

“O Allah make me from those who are good.”

اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَلْنِي مَعَ الْأَبْرَارِ



At night, he brushed his teeth, did wudhoo and got into bed.





As he lay down, he thought of the Birr window in the Baqara building. He was trying to remember the number on the window.

Suddenly it came to him – 177. That must have been the aya number.



With a grin on his face he closed his eyes, and he found himself at the entrance of Qur'an City. He knocked on the big brown doors and waited. Habeeb opened the door and said, "Assalamu 'alaykum Qaswa. It's lovely to see you again." "Wa alaykas Salaam" said Qaswa. Qaswa had already done wudhoo and loudly he said;

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

"Where would you like to go today?" asked Habeeb  
"No 2 Meemat Place in Huruful Muqattiaat Area, please." replied Qaswa.

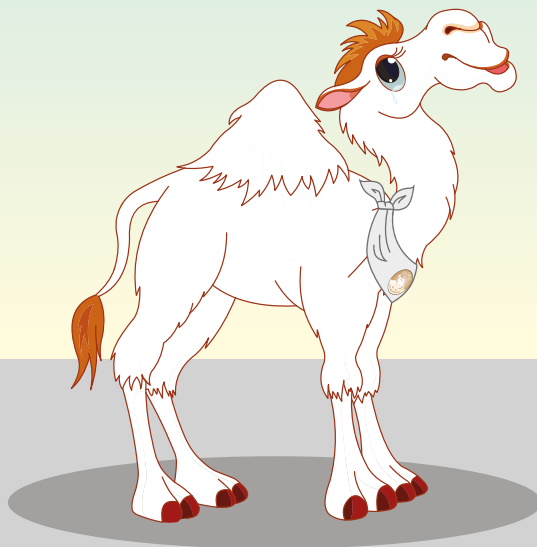
Habeeb smiled and led the way.



Qaswa recognized it immediately. It was the tallest building he had ever seen.

As he looked up, his cap fell off. He was looking for the Birr window but he couldn't see it.

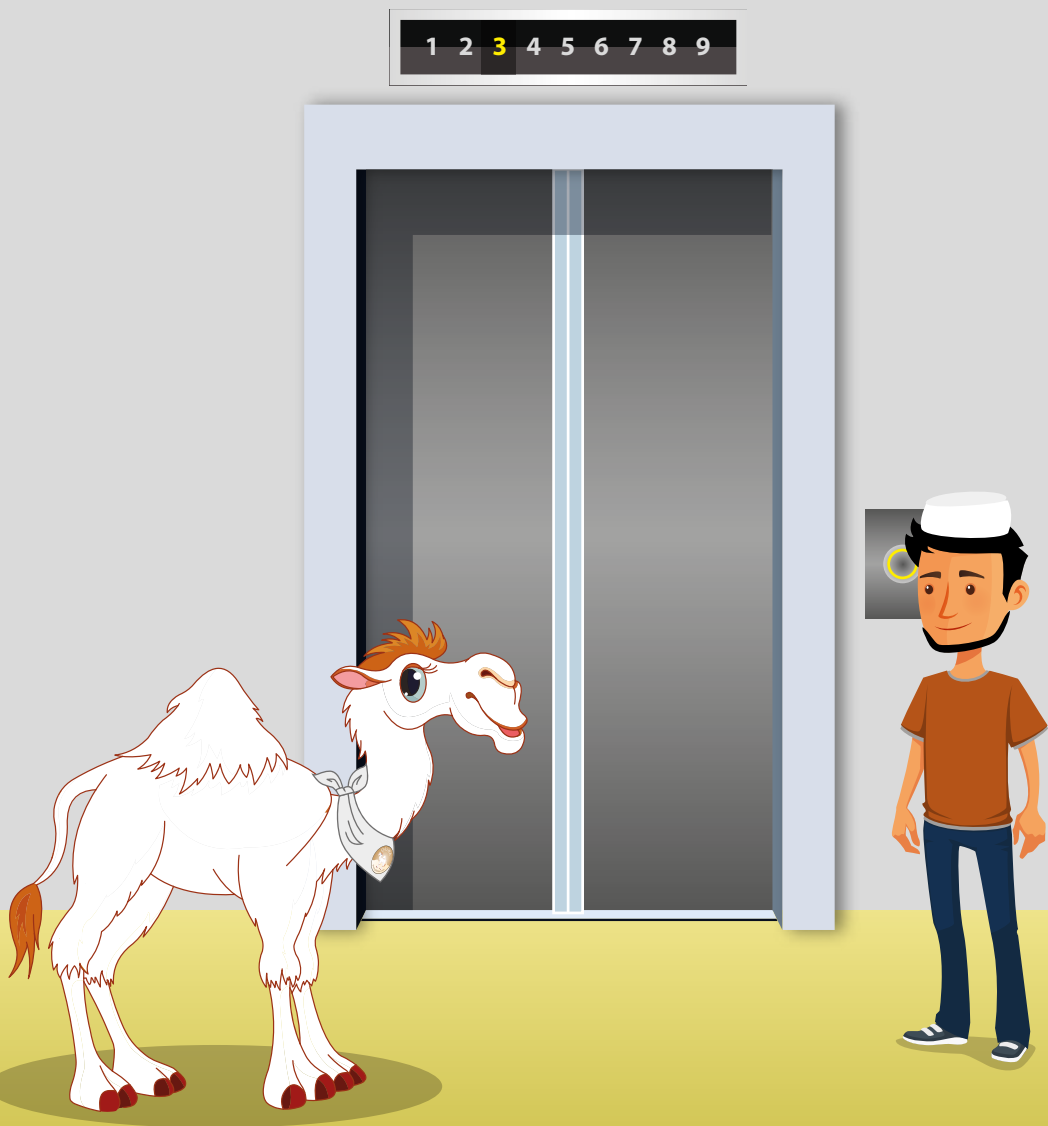
His eyes welled up with tears.



"What's the matter?" asked Habeeb  
 "I'm sure there's a window called Birr here and it's  
 aya no. 177 but I can't see it!" said Qaswa.  
 Habeeb smiled and said, "It's a special window. Every  
 time you recite a part of the aya, a bit of the  
 window appears. Follow me and I will show you."



Qaswa followed Habeeb into the Baqara building. There were nine floors and so many stairs. Qaswa was used to walking long distances but he had never climbed so many stairs before. As though Habeeb had read his mind, he said, "Let's take the special lift Qaswa!"





Habeeb led Qaswa to a circle, which had the numbers one to nine written all around it.

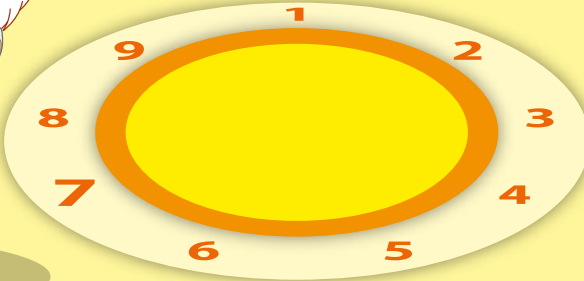
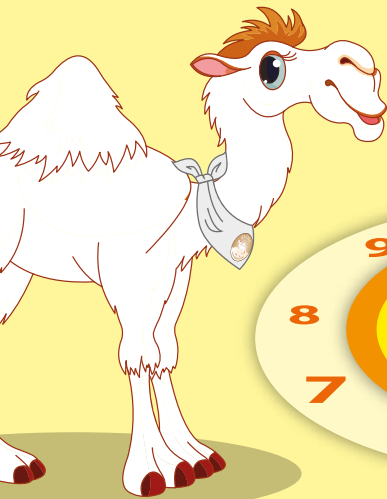
"Now, which floor would you like to go to?" Habeeb asked.

"Number seven please," replied Qaswa

"Look at the number seven and say بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ  
Habeeb said.

Qaswa looked at number seven and said,

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ



He found himself on the seventh floor in what looked like a big school. A sign said Ayaat 153 to 242 and near it all the subjects that were taught.

## Ayaat 153-242

The laws of God for  
those who believe



"Qaswa let's go to room 177 to find the Birr window,"  
Habeeb said.

They walked down the magical corridors where  
Qaswa could hear the ayaat of Suratul Baqara. There  
were students in every class. Qaswa wished he could  
come to this school with Safiya.

"Here we are," said Habeeb, interrupting his thoughts.  
They entered room 177. It was an empty room but it  
felt like it was full of energy.  
It was so quiet that Qaswa could hear his own  
heartbeat.

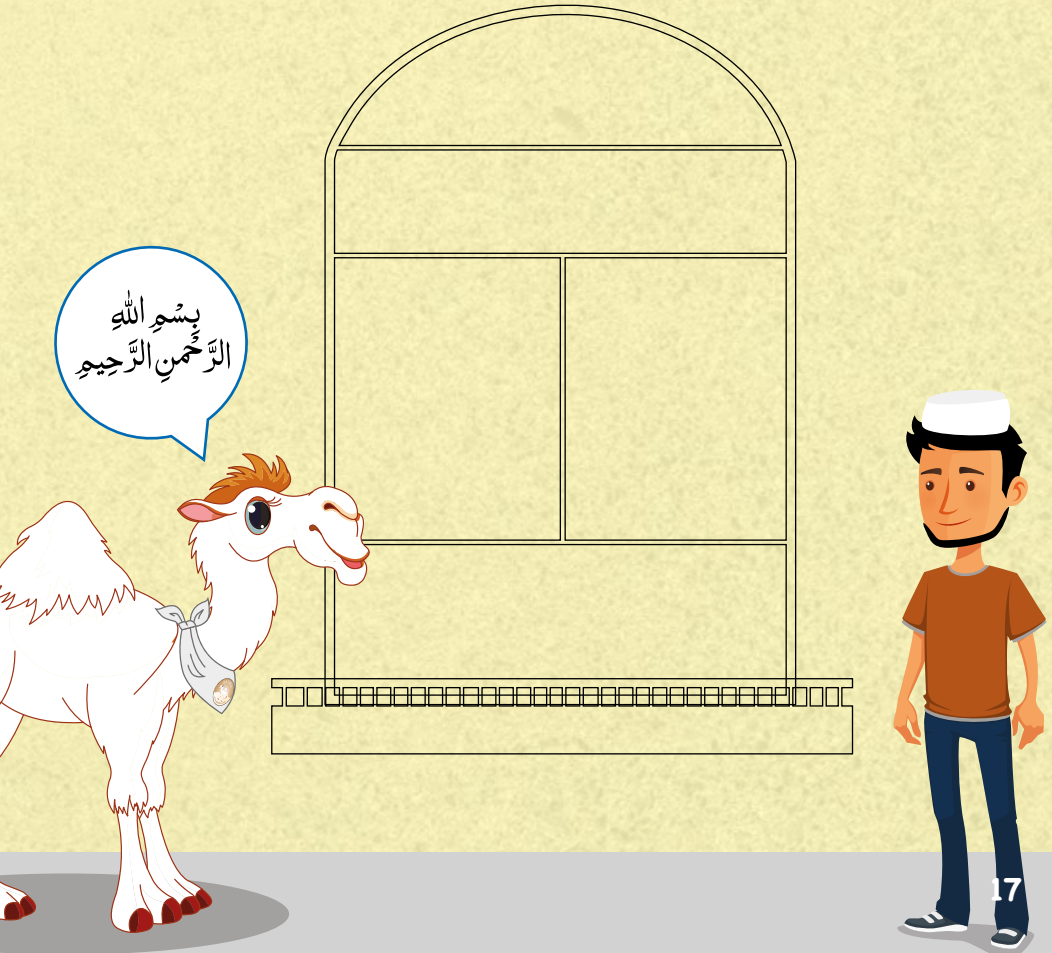




Ayatul Birr was written on the wall on the right.  
Qaswa remembered what Habeeb had said about the  
window appearing when the aya was recited.

He cleared his throat and said, بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

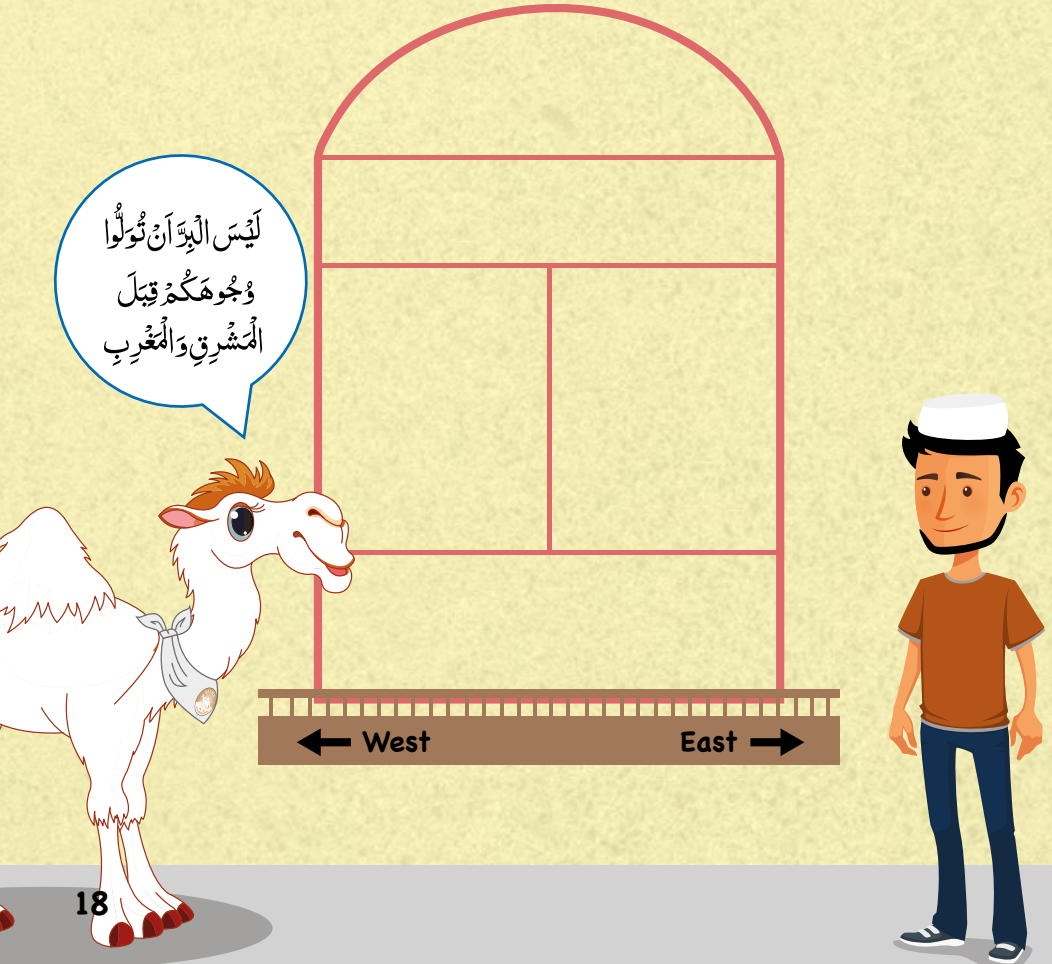
The outline of a window appeared on the wall. Qaswa  
was mesmerised.



## Chapter 2

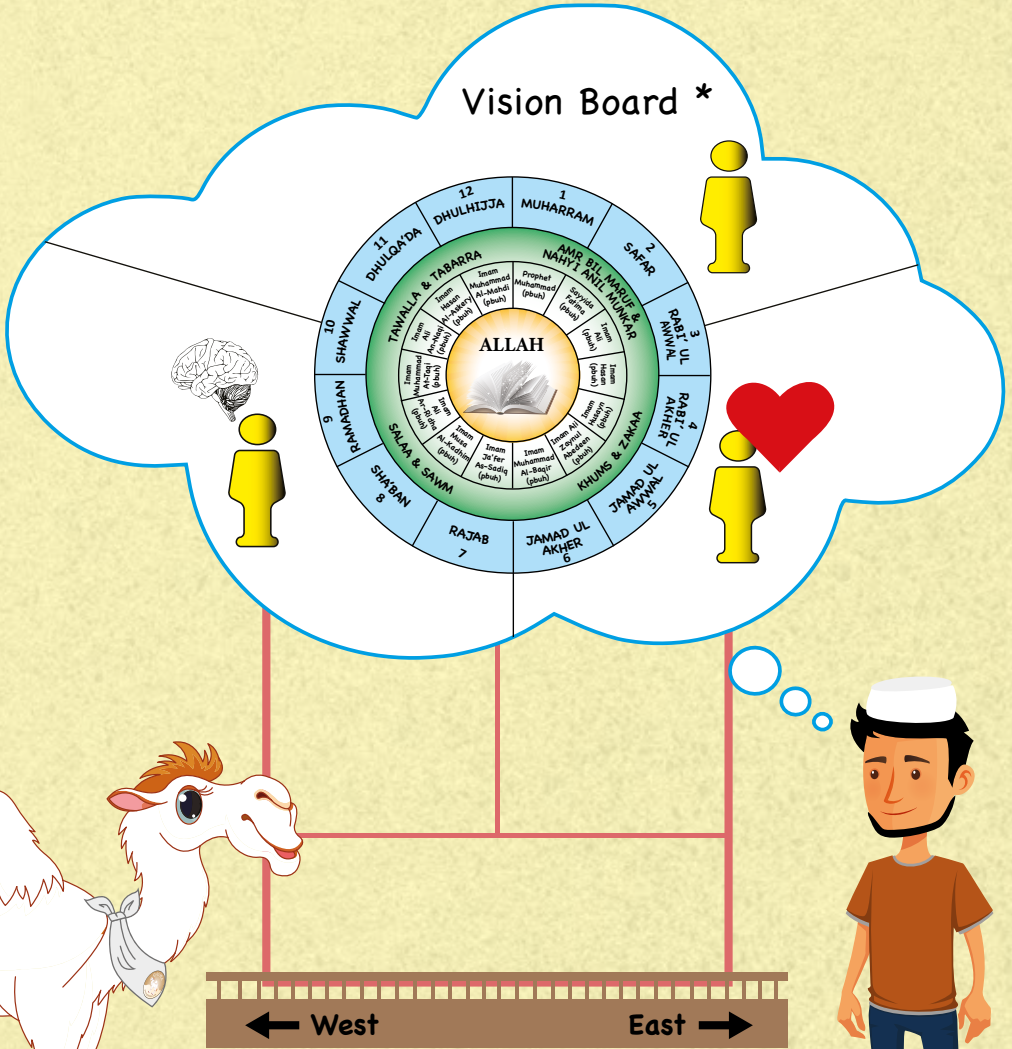
Qaswa recited, لَيْسَ الْبِرُّ أَنْ تُوَلُّوا وُجُوهَكُمْ قِبَلَ الْمَشْرِقِ وَالْمَغْرِبِ  
[Birr is not only turning your face towards the East and the West].

A ledge appeared at the bottom of the window with an arrow pointing first towards the East, and then to the West.





Qaswa looked confused. Habeeb explained that being good was not just about praying towards a certain direction, but it was about being good in all directions of life. Just being good in front of others, or when one prayed, was only one aspect of birr.



\* See page 52 for the full image and explanation

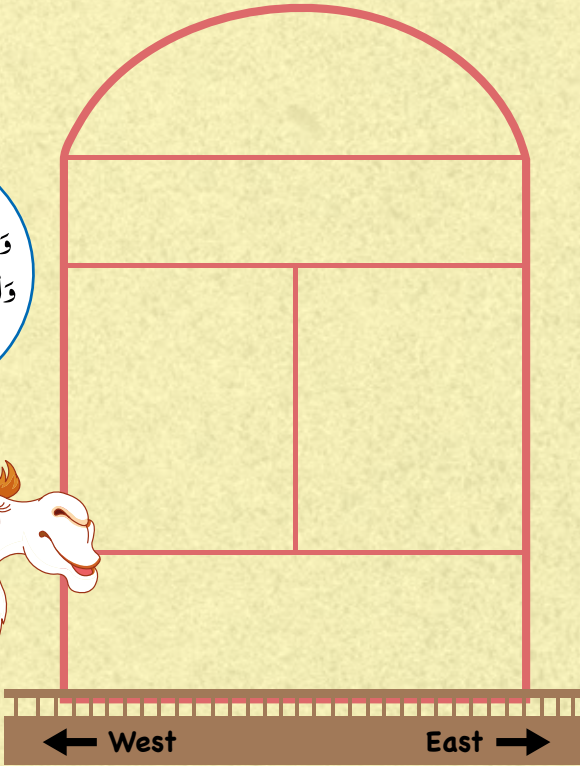
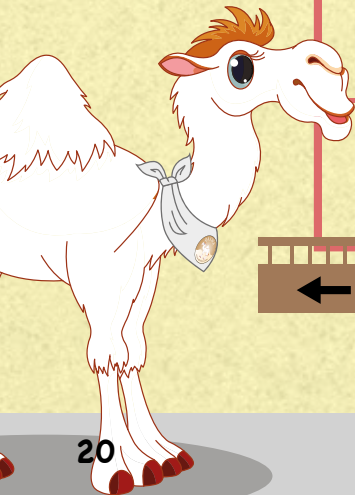
"Then what is birr?" asked Qaswa.

"Recite the next part of the aya, Qaswa." Habeeb said.

وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ

[But BIRR is believing in Allah, the Last Day, the Angels, the Book and the Prophets].

وَلَكِنَّ الْبِرَّ مَنْ آمَنَ بِاللَّهِ  
وَالْيَوْمِ الْآخِرِ وَالْمَلَائِكَةِ  
وَالْكِتَابِ وَالنَّبِيِّينَ

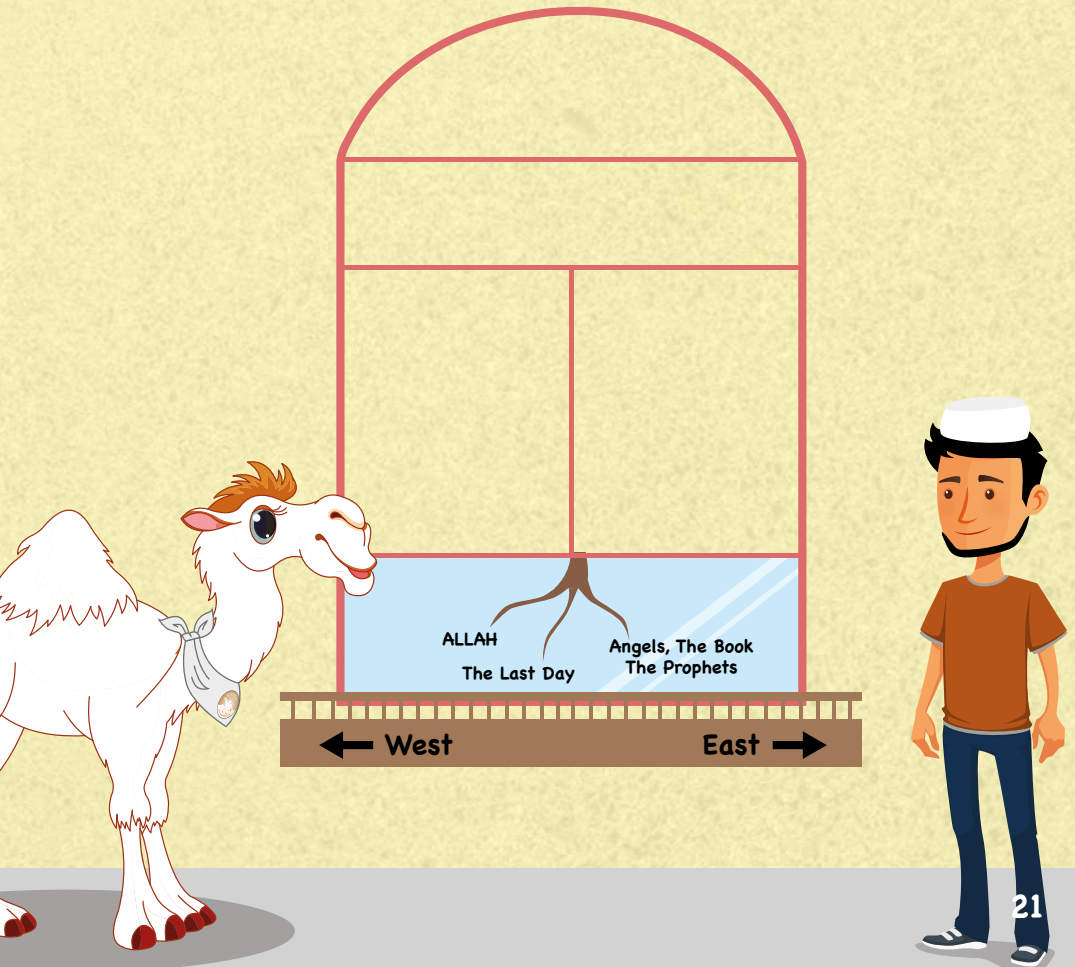




Suddenly, a pane of glass appeared with what looked like the roots of a tree.

There were 3 main roots with ALLAH written on one of them, YAWMUL AAKHIR on the other and on the third MALAAIKA, AL KITAB & NABIYYEEN.

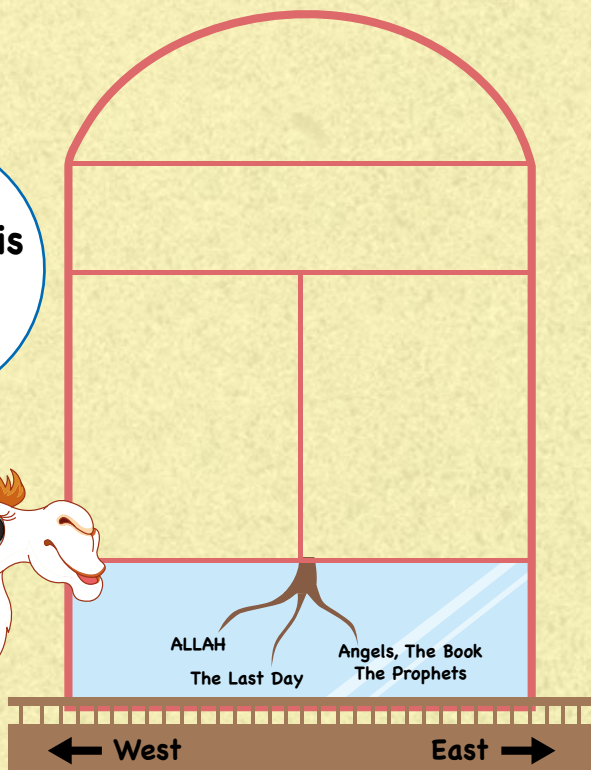
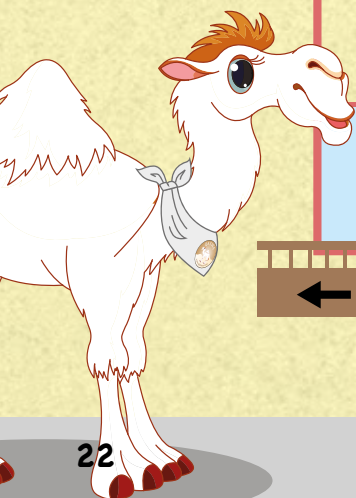
Qaswa remembered the second part of Ayatul Birr.



It started to make sense. He looked at Habeeb and said; "These are the roots of Islam. But where are Adala and Imama?"

Habeeb smiled, "You are a very clever camel! Adala (Justice) is part of believing in Allah. Imama is part of the root of believing in Angels, the Book and Prophets. The angels brought down the Qur'an to the Prophet, after whom came the Imams."

But where is  
Adala and  
Imama?





## Chapter 3

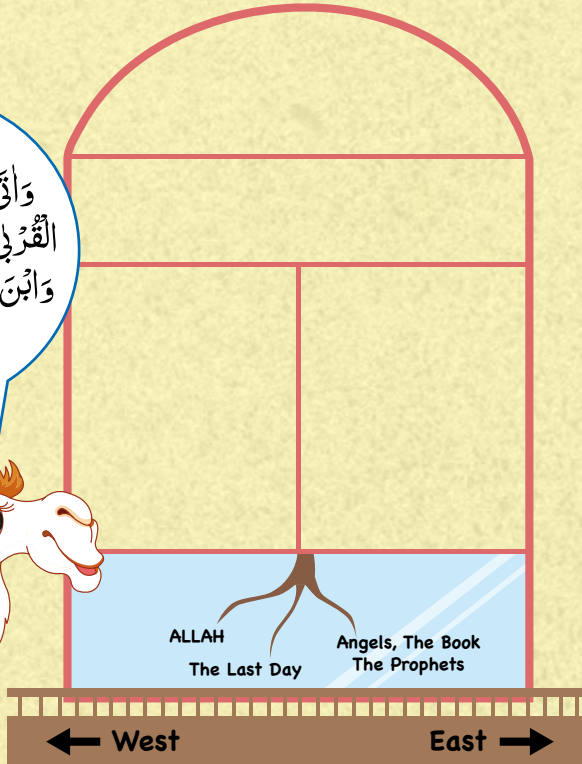
"I want to know more, please!" exclaimed Qaswa.

"Remember what you have to do, Qaswa!" Habeeb reminded him. "I have to recite the next part of the aya."

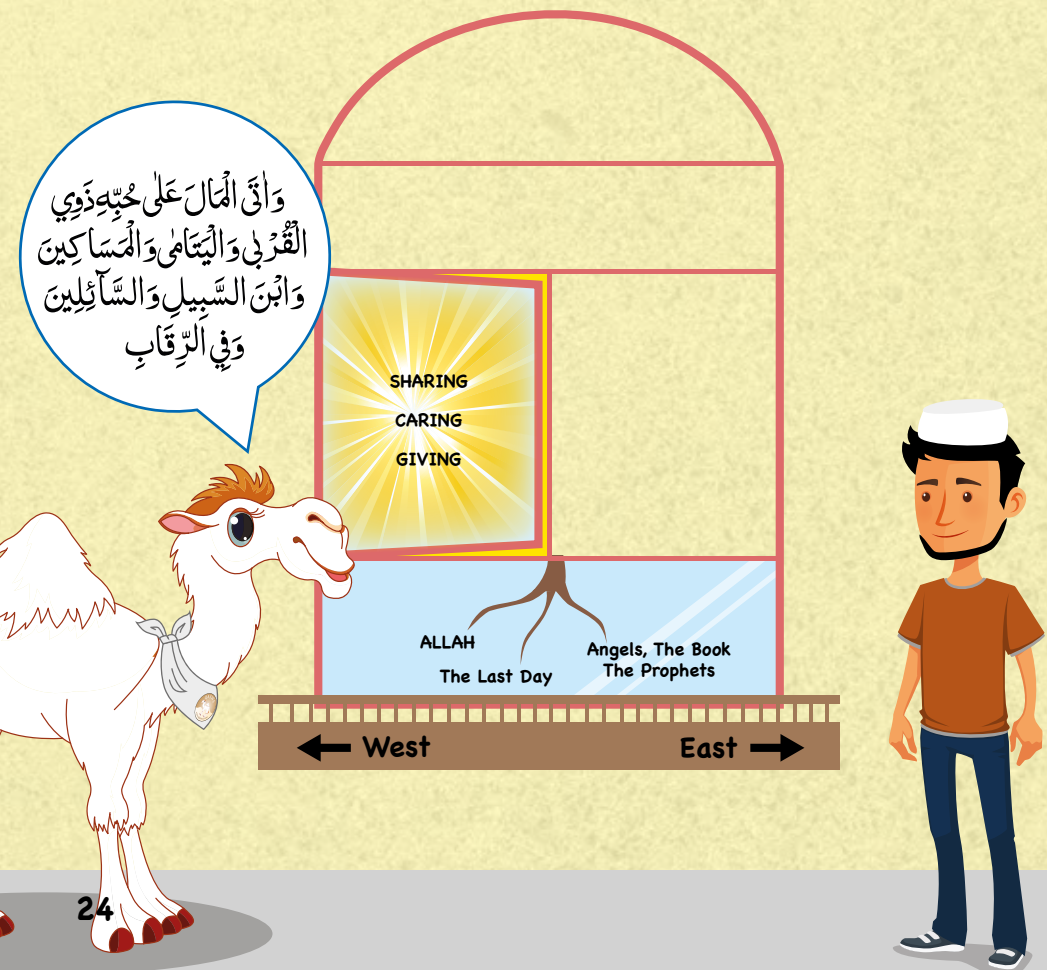
وَآتَى الْمَالَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ ذَوِي الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينَ وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ وَفِي الرِّقَابِ

[And gives wealth despite his love for it to the near ones, the orphans, the travellers, those who ask and those who are in debt].

وَآتَى الْمَالَ عَلَى حُبِّهِ ذَوِي  
الْقُرْبَىٰ وَالْيَتَامَىٰ وَالْمَسَاكِينَ  
وَابْنَ السَّبِيلِ وَالسَّائِلِينَ  
وَفِي الرِّقَابِ



Qaswa looked at the window and an opening appeared with the words SHARING, CARING and GIVING in big writing flashing on it.





Habeeb said; "The roots of religion is believing what is inside our heart; to know whether we really believe. The window of the heart has to open and the first thing that we have to check is whether we can share with others."

Qaswa remembered what Safiya's grandma had said about opening the window of the heart.

"I will try and share everything I have," Qaswa whispered to himself, "even my favourite toys."



He remembered the sadaqa box they had made at Saturday school, which was in a drawer somewhere. He would take it out and make sure he put some money in it every week from his pocket money. Maybe one fifth, like Khums.

Every Friday he got 50 pence, so he would put 10 pence in the box. Lost in thought, he wondered how else he could be a sharing, caring and giving camel?





Habeeb interrupted his thinking, "Why are you so quiet, Qaswa?"

"I want to be the best sharing, caring and giving camel, and I'm thinking of ways to be one."

"That is awesome thinking! May Allah bless you always," Habeeb said.

"Maybe the next part of Ayatul Birr will help you."



## Chapter 4

Qaswa looked at the window and recited the next part,

وَأَقَامَ الصَّلَاةَ وَآتَى الزَّكَاةَ

[And establish salaa and give zakaa].

Another opening appeared. This time with SALAA and ZAKAA on it. Qaswa could hear the ADHAAN in the background. "The energy and help to become BIRR comes from salaa," Habeeb said. "And it's not only about knowing how to pray, but making salaa a part of your daily life."





“What does that mean?” Qaswa asked.

“It means your day should revolve around salaa.

Everything you do should be around salaa times. It means you should know the salaa times for every day and try as much as possible to pray on time.” Habeeb replied.

**Fajr**



**Zhuhur**



**`Asr**



**Maghrib**



**`Eisha**



Then he asked, "What are the times for salaa today, Qaswa?"

Qaswa didn't know what to say... He just couldn't remember the exact times! Softly he whispered, "About 5am for Fajr, Ummmm 1pm for Zhuhr and maybe 6pm for Maghrib? And I don't know 'Asr and 'Eisha. Ummmmm. I just wait for my mum to tell me its time to pray."

He was so embarrassed. He made a mental note to always know the times of salaa.

"Please Allah, make me amongst the musalleen."

**Fajr**



**Zhuhr**



**'Asr**



**Maghrib**



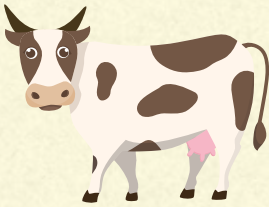


**'Eisha**





Turning towards Habeeb, he asked, “what about zakaa?”

“Zakaa is normally understood as 2.5% of the 3 C’s – Cattle, Crops and Coins. But it actually means all the different ways we can give money to help others whether it is khums, zakaa or sadaqa,” Habeeb answered.

C	C	C
		

Qaswa thought of all the extra things he had which he didn't use, and also the money he had saved from Eid and birthday presents.

"I will make Allah a partner in all my savings by spending it in a way that will make Him happy," Qaswa said.

Habeeb looked at him and said, "May He bless you always."





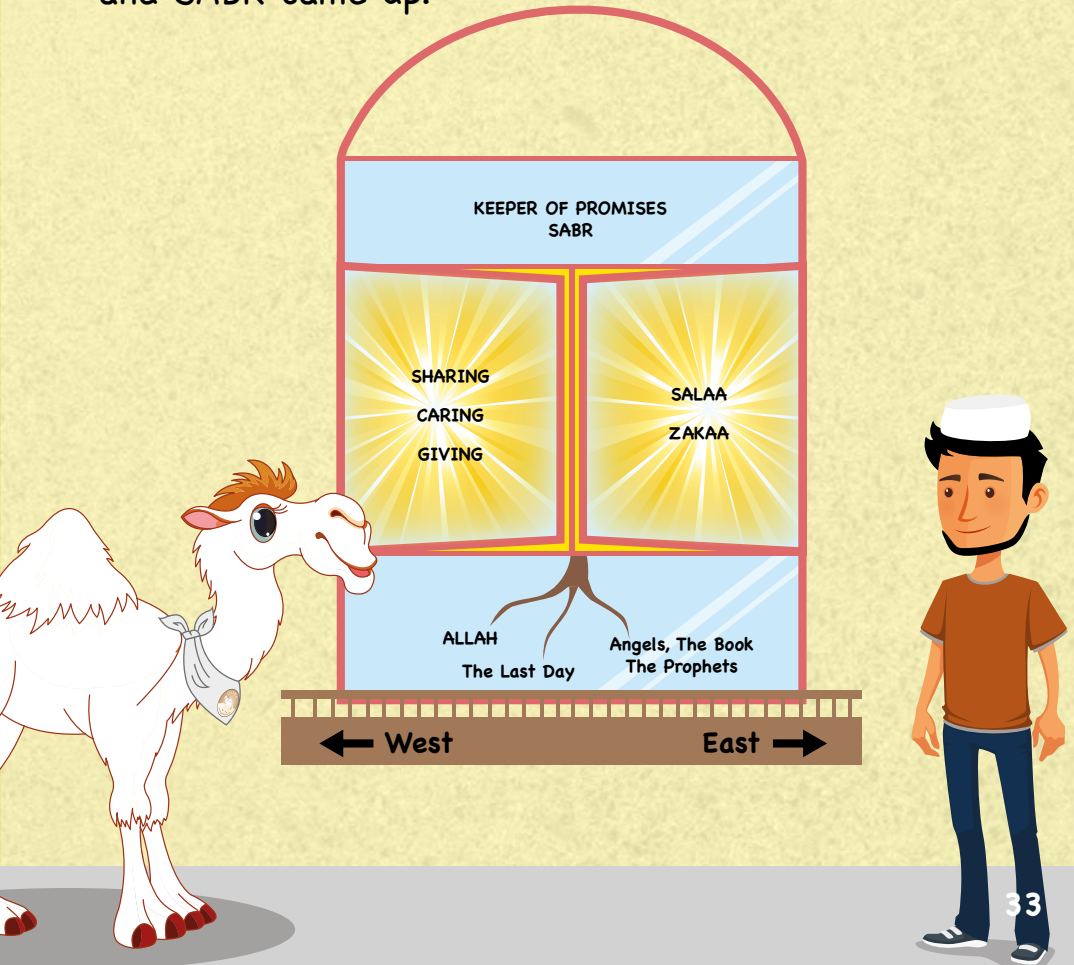
## Chapter 5

Qaswa knew exactly what to do to see more of the window, and he recited the next part of the aya,

وَالْمُؤْمِنُونَ بِعَهْدِهِمْ إِذْ عَاهَدُوا وَالصَّابِرِينَ فِي الْبَأْسَاءِ وَالضَّرَّاءِ وَحِينَ الْبَأْسِ

[And those who keep their promises and persevere with sabr in distress, affliction and in time of conflict].

It was as though the window was being built – a pane of glass with the words KEEPER OF PROMISES and SABR came up.



Qaswa understood what it meant to keep promises, but what was SABR?

He looked quizzically at Habeeb and asked; "What is sabr?"

Habeeb asked him to sit down, as this was the most important part of being good.

"You will have to make notes!" he said, giving Qaswa a book with a window on it and a special pen for camels.

Qaswa opened his new notebook and wrote BISMILLAH at the top. Then he put the title 'SABR'.





Habeeb said; "Sabr is three things:

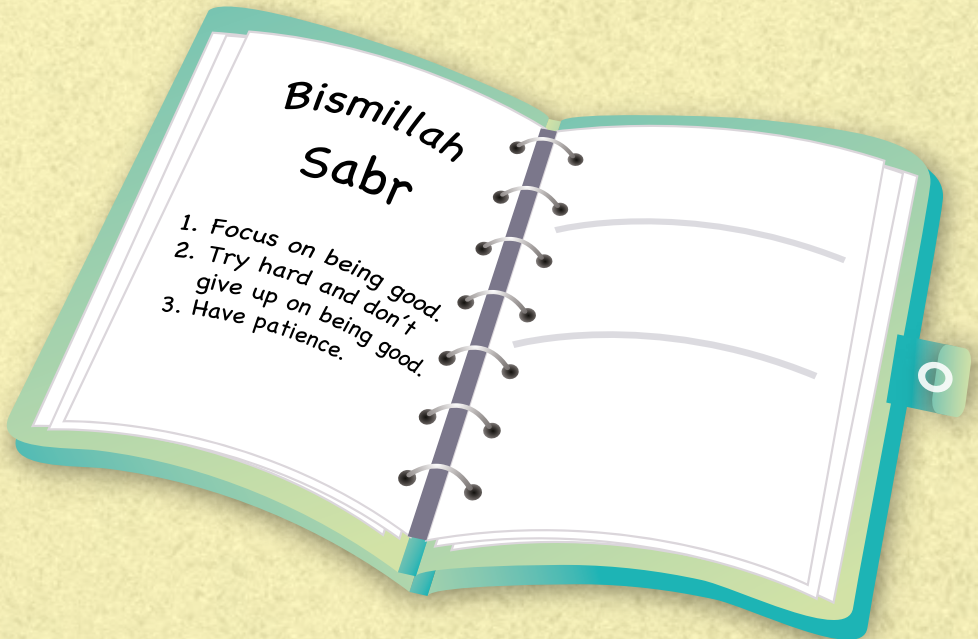
1. To stay focused on a goal. Here, we have to stay focused on the goal of BIRR; wanting to be good.
2. To keep on trying, and not give up, even though sometimes it is really hard.
3. To have patience."

Qaswa wrote in his notebook:

1. Focus on being good.
2. Try hard and don't give up on being good.
3. Have patience.

He was very proud of his neat notes, although he couldn't yet join the letters.

"This is really difficult," said Qaswa.

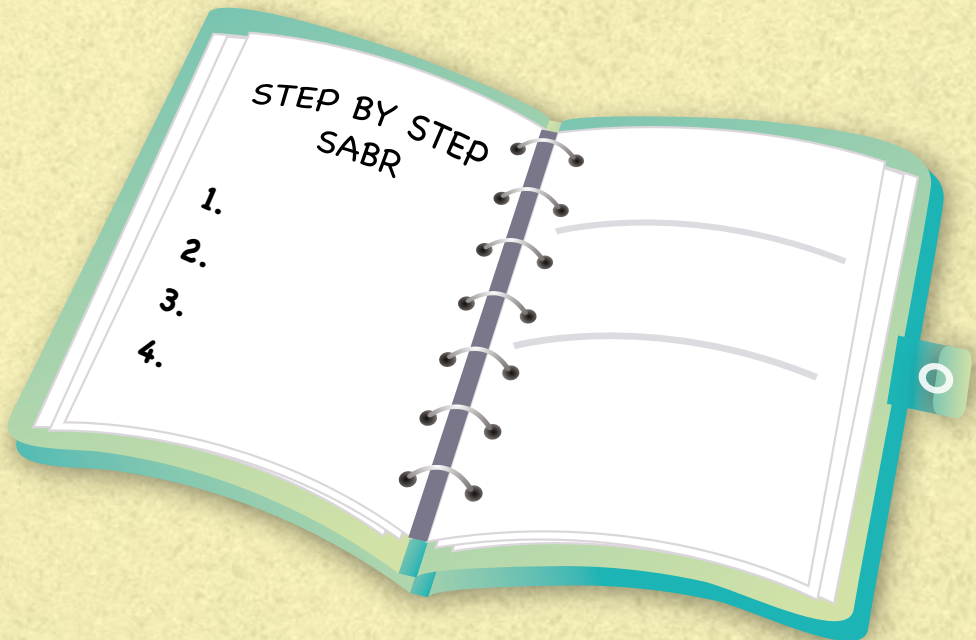


Habeeb said, "I will give you a little list of things you can do, which you can write down as a reminder."

Qaswa opened a new page in his notebook and wrote a heading "STEP BY STEP SABR". Habeeb said: "First, you must remember to thank Allah for everything you have, even in your most difficult times.

Second you must open your heart and talk to Allah. Tell Him everything. The best time is after Salaa. Thirdly, do something good for someone.

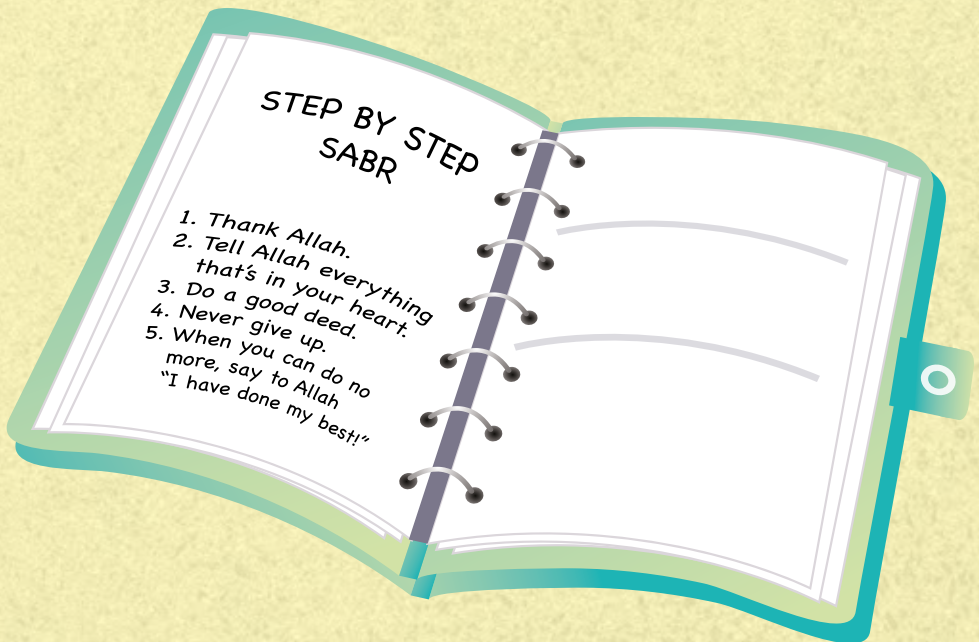
And finally, keep on trying and never give up, and when you have done everything you can, say to Allah – I have done my best! "





Qaswa wrote in his book:

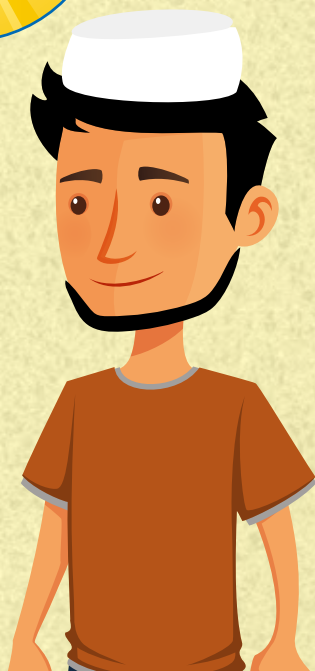
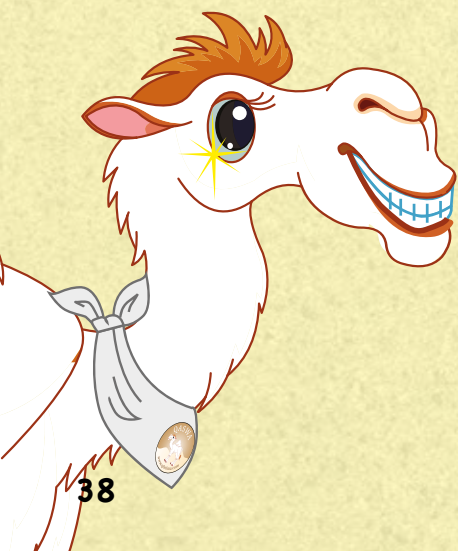
1. Thank Allah.
2. Tell Allah everything that's in your heart.
3. Do a good deed.
4. Never give up.
5. When you can do no more, say to Allah "I have done my best!"



Qaswa felt like someone had given him the keys to success!

If he could, he would have given Habeeb the biggest camel hug in the world but it would probably scare him so he flashed his biggest smile, the one that showed all his teeth and said, "Jazakallah Habeeb, you are so clever!"

Habeeb smiled back saying, "It is the words of Allah in the Qur'an that are clever, Qaswa."





## Chapter 6

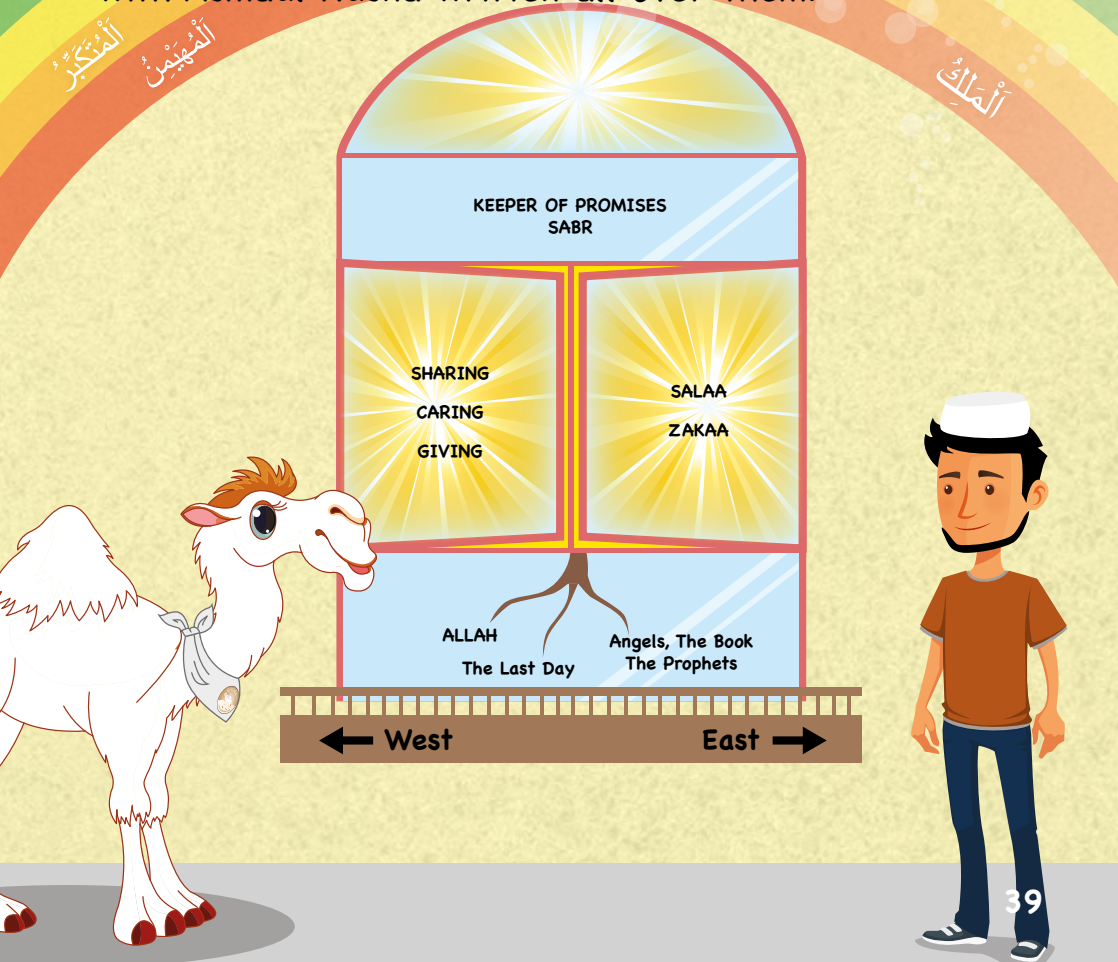
And finally, the last part of the aya. Qaswa recited:

أُولَئِكَ الَّذِينَ صَدَقُوا وَأُولَئِكَ هُمُ الْمُتَّقُونَ

[These are those who are truthful and those who have taqwa].

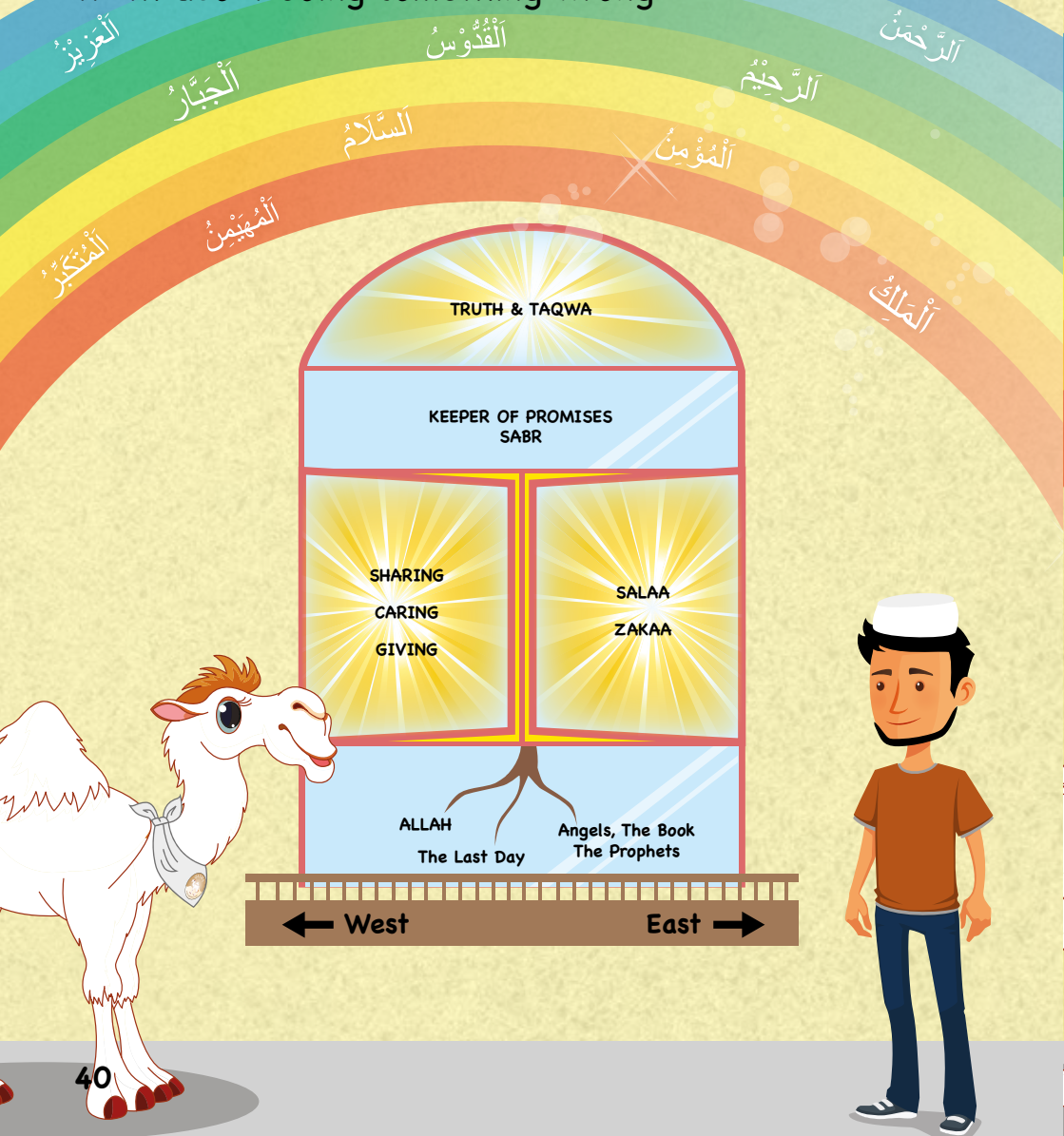
Like the last piece of a jigsaw, the final part of the window appeared, and the window was complete.

Light flooded through it, creating rainbows in the room. Wherever Qaswa looked, there were rainbows with Asmaul Husna written all over them.



When he turned to look at the window, the top arch said TRUTH & TAQWA.

Qaswa knew how important it was to tell the truth. Ever since he was little, he knew that he would get into more trouble if he lied rather than if he told the truth about doing something wrong.

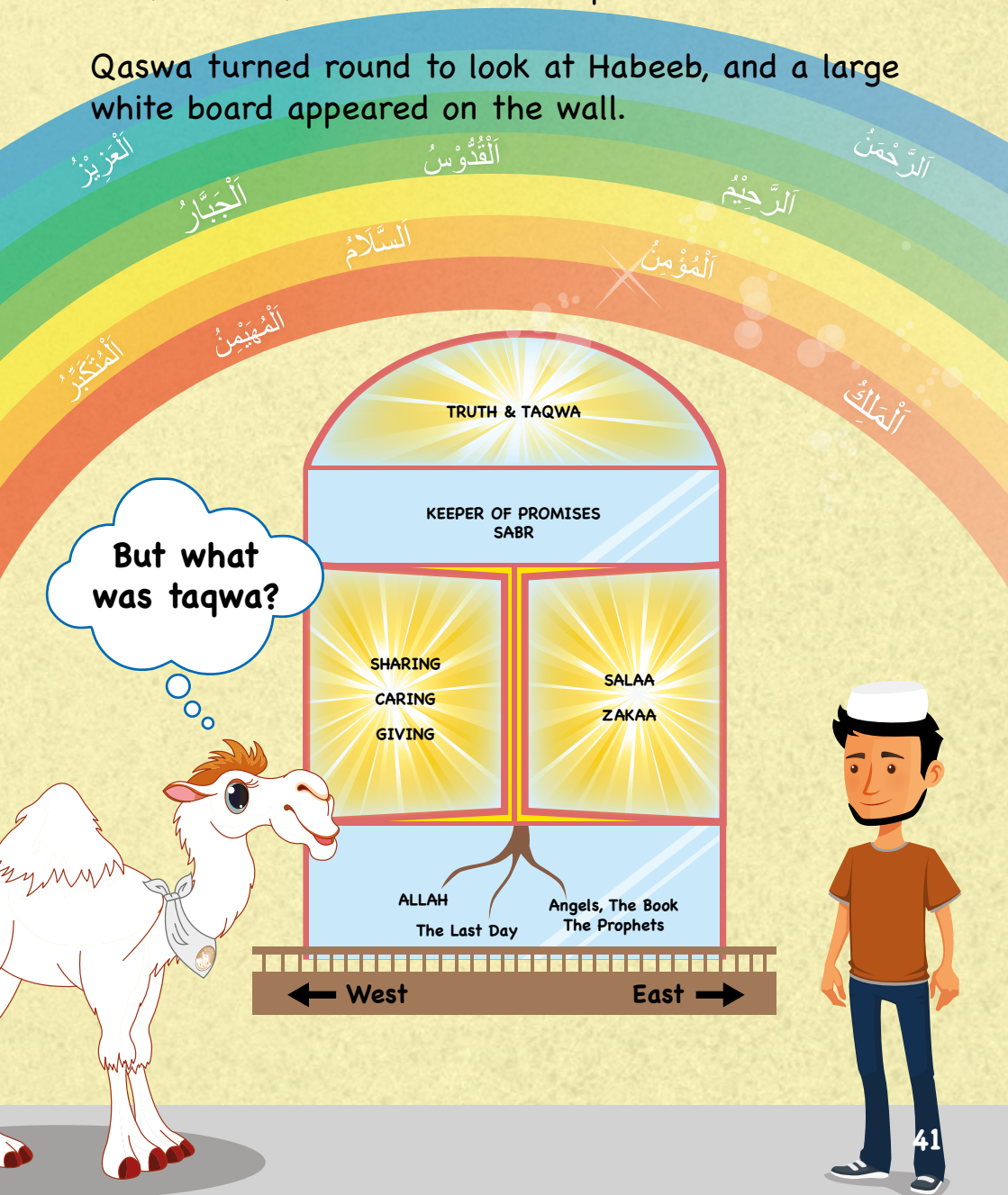




"But what was taqwa?" Qaswa thought to himself.

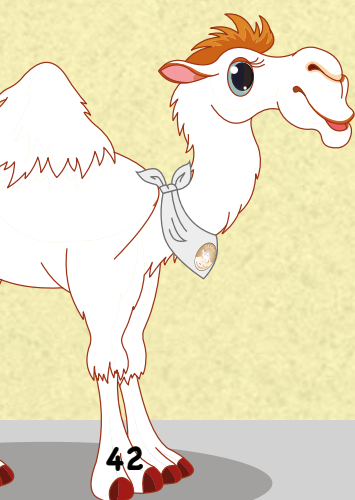
It was as though Habeeb had heard his thoughts and said, "Qaswa, lets talk about taqwa!"

Qaswa turned round to look at Habeeb, and a large white board appeared on the wall.



“Taqwa comes from the word WIQAAYAA”. Habeeb said, writing the letters و , ق and ي on the board.

“It means to protect. When you lock the outside door in your home, you are protecting yourself. Taqwa means protecting ourselves from the things that will hurt us.”





"So, what do the people who have taqwa do?" asked Qaswa.

Habeeb replied, "Let's look at some ayaat from building No 3."

"I know which one that is!" exclaimed Qaswa. "It is Aali Imraan."

"Well done!" smiled Habeeb.

So, what do  
the people  
who have  
taqwa do?

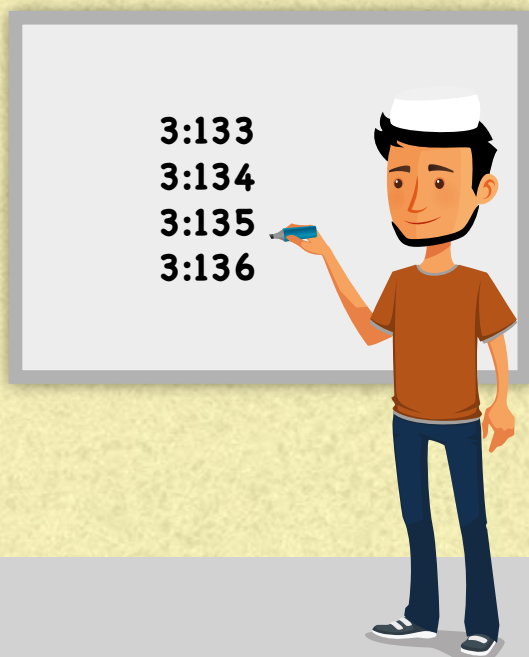
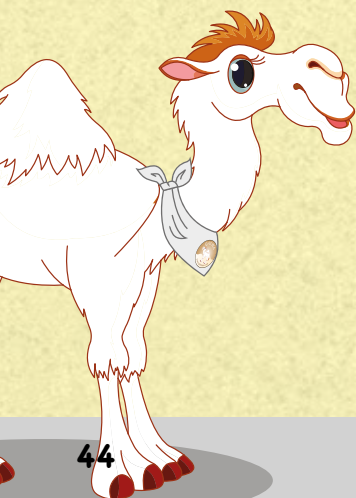
003. ALI 'IMRAN	
Success & Duas to maintain Contemplation, remembrance, patience, taqwa	190 - 200
Failure Rejection of Guidance, misdeeds and boasting	180 - 189
Post battle commentary Uhud	139 - 179
Directives to believers	120 - 138
Battle of Badr and Uhud (Divine help)	121 - 129
Dialogue with Ahlul Kitaab	64 - 120
Prophet Isa (pbuh) Mubashirah 61	33 - 63
Ayatul Shahada - 18, 19 Ayatul Mulk - 26, 27 Follow Messengers - 31	18 - 32
DIVINE GUIDANCE Tawrat, Injeel, Qur'an	1 - 17



On the board Habeeb wrote 3:133,134,135 & 136.

"Those are ayaat 133 to 136 of Suratu Aali Imraan."  
said Qaswa

"OK! Let me tell you what Allah says about those  
people who have taqwa," said Habeeb.



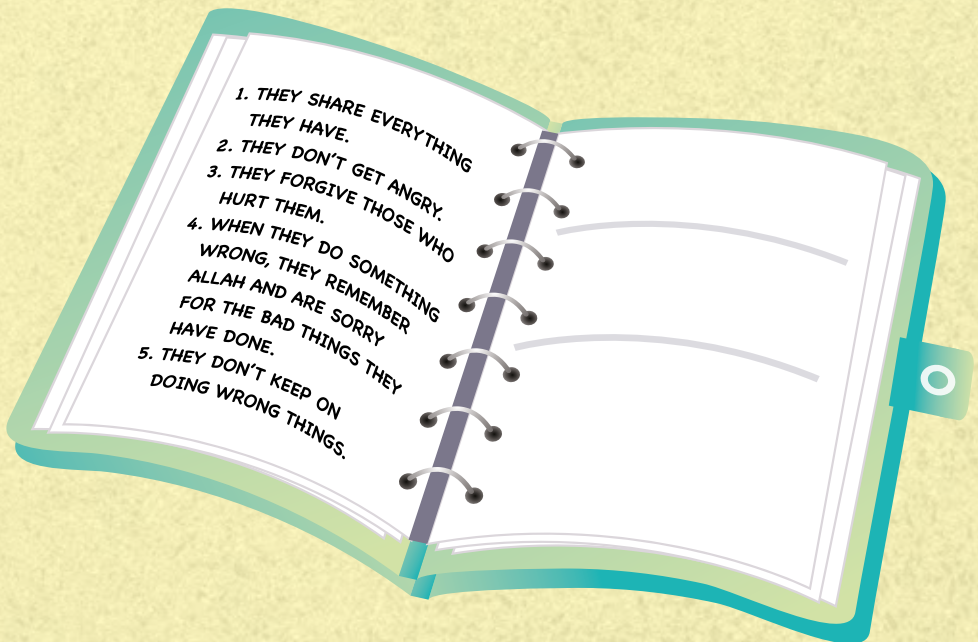


On the board he wrote:

1. THEY SHARE EVERYTHING THEY HAVE.
2. THEY DON'T GET ANGRY.
3. THEY FORGIVE THOSE WHO HURT THEM.
4. WHEN THEY DO SOMETHING WRONG, THEY  
REMEMBER ALLAH AND ARE SORRY FOR THE BAD  
THINGS THEY HAVE DONE.
5. THEY DON'T KEEP ON DOING WRONG THINGS.



Qaswa wrote all this down in his notebook. He decided that his new goal was to be a MUTTAQI (someone who has Taqwa).



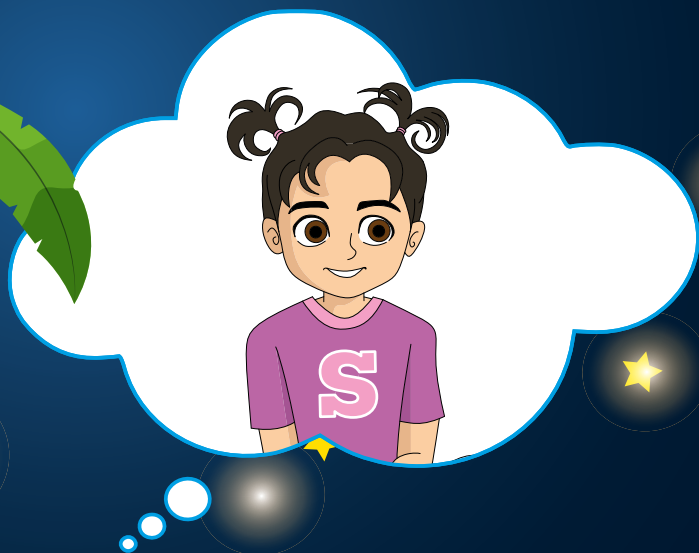
Suddenly, Qaswa's eyes opened and he was back in his bed. He looked for his notebook but couldn't see it anywhere!

He quickly found some paper and pen, and wrote down everything he had seen in the Birr window, and all the advise Habeeb had given him.





He couldn't wait to show Safiya his notes. He would tell her all about Ayatul Birr and draw her the magical window he had seen in Qur'an City. But most of all, he wanted to talk to her about how they could both be their BEST, every single day. He was sure that she would have lots of good ideas.

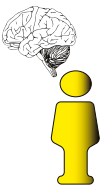
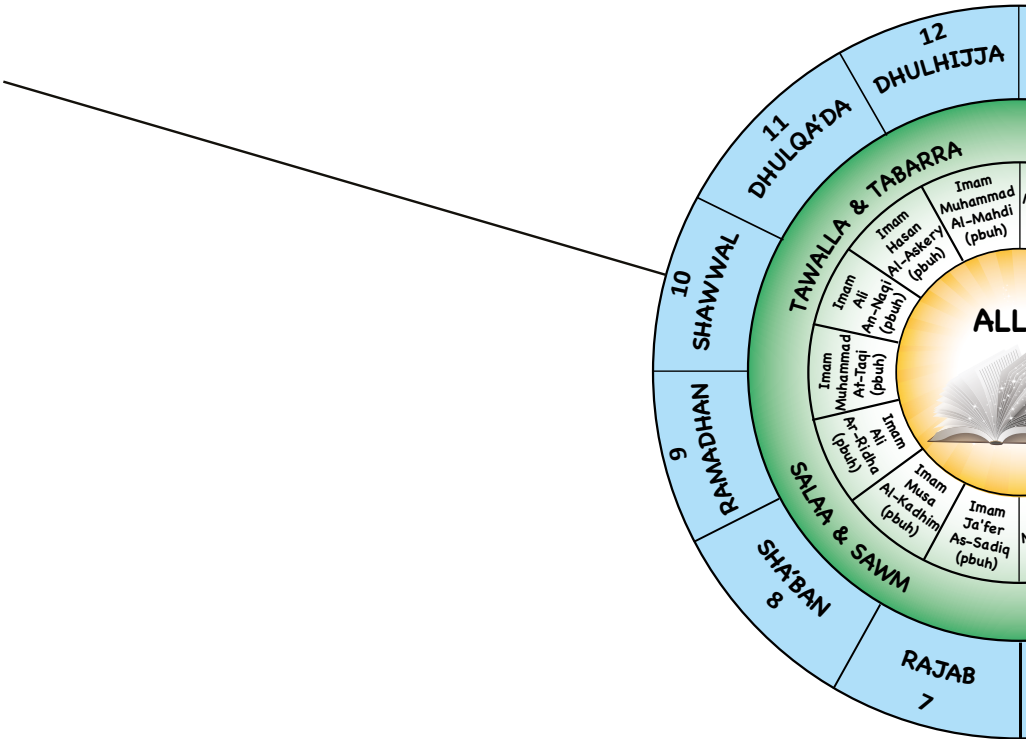


Complete the Ayatul Birr window below.

The diagram shows a window frame with a semi-circular top. The interior is divided into four main sections: a horizontal rectangle at the top, two vertical rectangles side-by-side in the middle, and a horizontal rectangle at the bottom. Below the window frame is a decorative base consisting of a row of 20 small squares. Below the squares is a long, empty rectangular box for writing.

# Vision Board

A vision board is a visual representation of the things you want to do. It is a reminder of ones goals. Children can use vision boards to keep them motivated and focused as they work toward their goals.





Ask the child to draw, write or stick pictures which represent his/her goals. We have a starter sheet which divides the goals into physical, mental and emotional having the core of the Qur'an, Ma'sumeen, Furu and calendar events to work around.

