

Qur'an City



Qaswa visits Sura Al Kawthar

108 Ahlulbayt Circle
Muhammad Square
100108102

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 suwar 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.

It was Saturday and Qaswa had come with Safiya to her house after Workshop. They had such fun at the party celebrating the birthday of Sayyida Fatima. Raihana Aunty had recited a Nasheed about Sayyida Fatima and both Qaswa and Safiya were humming it all the way home.

"Come and join our celebrations
Born today Born today
The lady of light
Bibi Fatima Zahra"



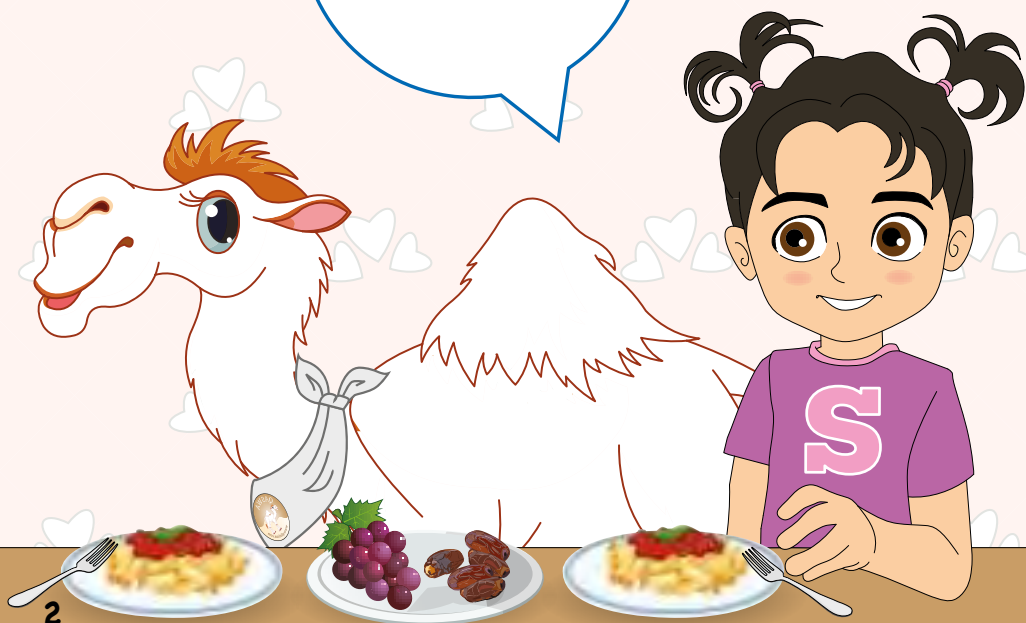
They sat down for lunch and Safiya's grandma told them both to recite a Sura of Quran first. Both of them started reciting Suratul Kawthar.

"Why did you pick that sura?" she asked.

"Because it is the sura of Sayyida Fatima," they both said together.

Lunch was their favourite food – Pasta with fresh tomato sauce and cheese followed by dates and grapes.

**Inna 'Atayna
kal Kawthar**



Safiya's grandma then gave both of them a present. Qaswa pulled at the blue ribbon and carefully opened the box. There was a beautiful blue tasbeeh made out of knotted wool. "It's beautiful!" they both said together. "Jazakillah."

"The first tasbeeh that Sayyida Fatima made for herself was from blue knotted wool, so I thought I'd make one for both of you," she said. "I'm glad you both like it."



Qaswa and Safiya both decided to take their tasbees in the garden and recite 34x Allahu Akber, 33x Alhamdulillah and 33x Subhanallah.



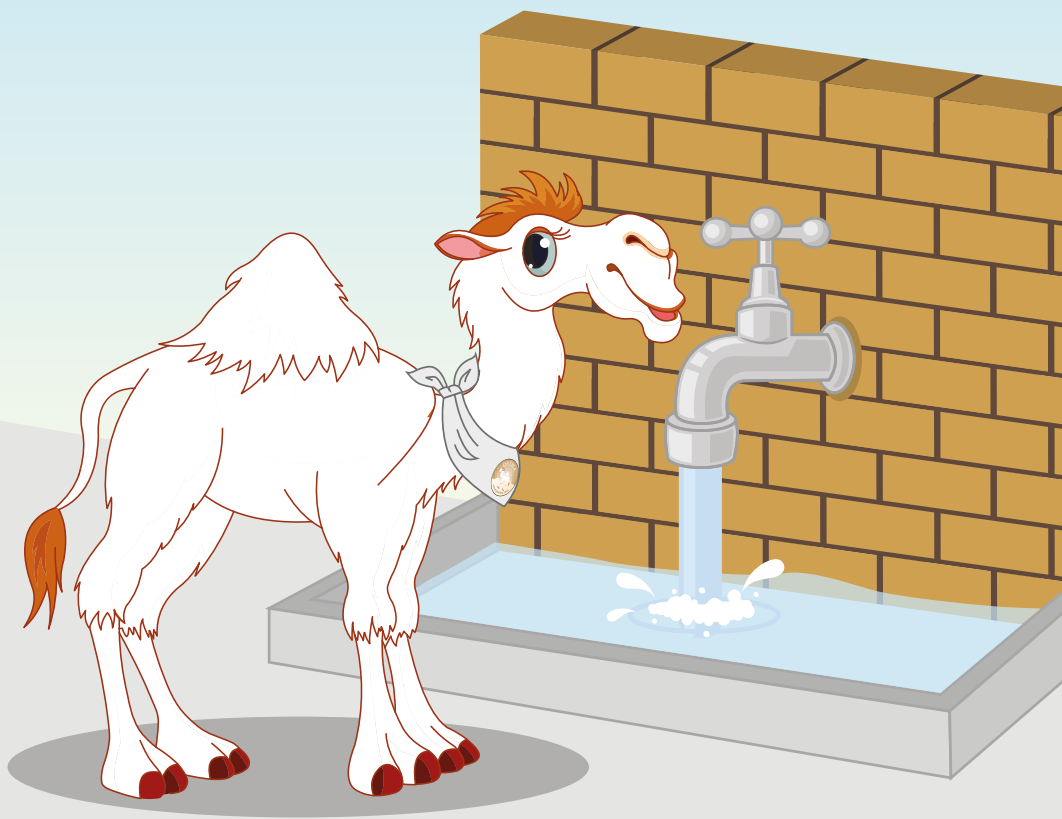
Qaswa leaned against a tree and started saying Allahu Akber (Allah is greater than anything and anyone). Before he had even got to Alhamdulillah (Praise and Thanks are for Allah) his eyes closed and he found himself at the doors of Qur'an City.



He knocked on the big brown doors which had IQRA' carved on them. A young man opened the door and said "Assalamu 'alaykum Qaswa. My name is Habeeb. Welcome to Qur'an City"



Qaswa did wudhoo at the special camel bathroom and said Bismillahirrahmaanirraheem before he entered.



Habeeb showed him the city map and said; "Which building would you like to visit?" "SURATUL KAWTHAR please; '108 QUR'AN CITY in MUHAMMAD CITY CENTRE."



"Follow me," Habeeb said.

They entered Book Close and here Qaswa saw 4 buildings that he could see through. They looked like libraries of books all about the Qur'an. He read the signs on the buildings.

When? How? What? And Who?

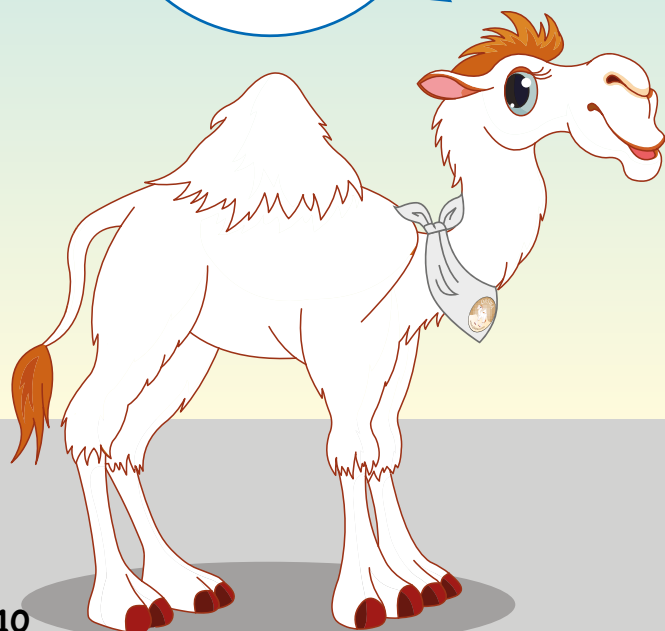


"I know the names of these suwer!" Qaswa told Habeeb. "I saw them on Safiya's map."

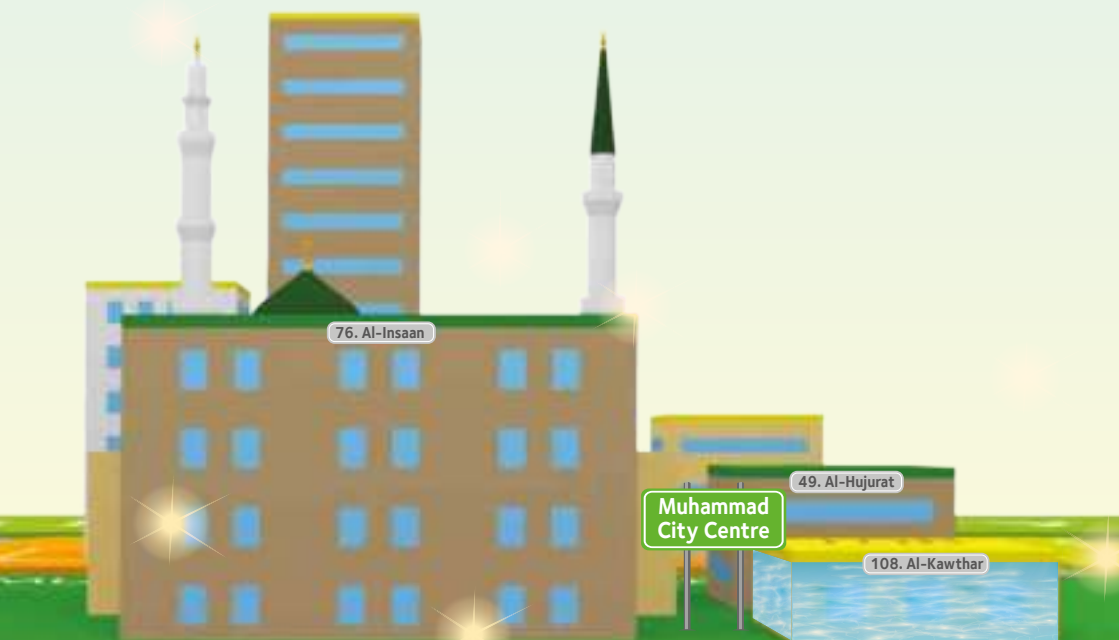
Suratul Qadr which is no 97 tells you when the Qur'an was revealed, Suratul 'Alaq which is No 96 tells you how it was revealed, Suratul Bayyina which is No 98 tells you what the Qur'an is and Suratul Furqaan which is No 25 tells you who you will become if you follow the Qur'an and who you would become if you didn't."

"You are one phenomenal camel" said Habeeb. Qaswa felt like he was on cloud nine.

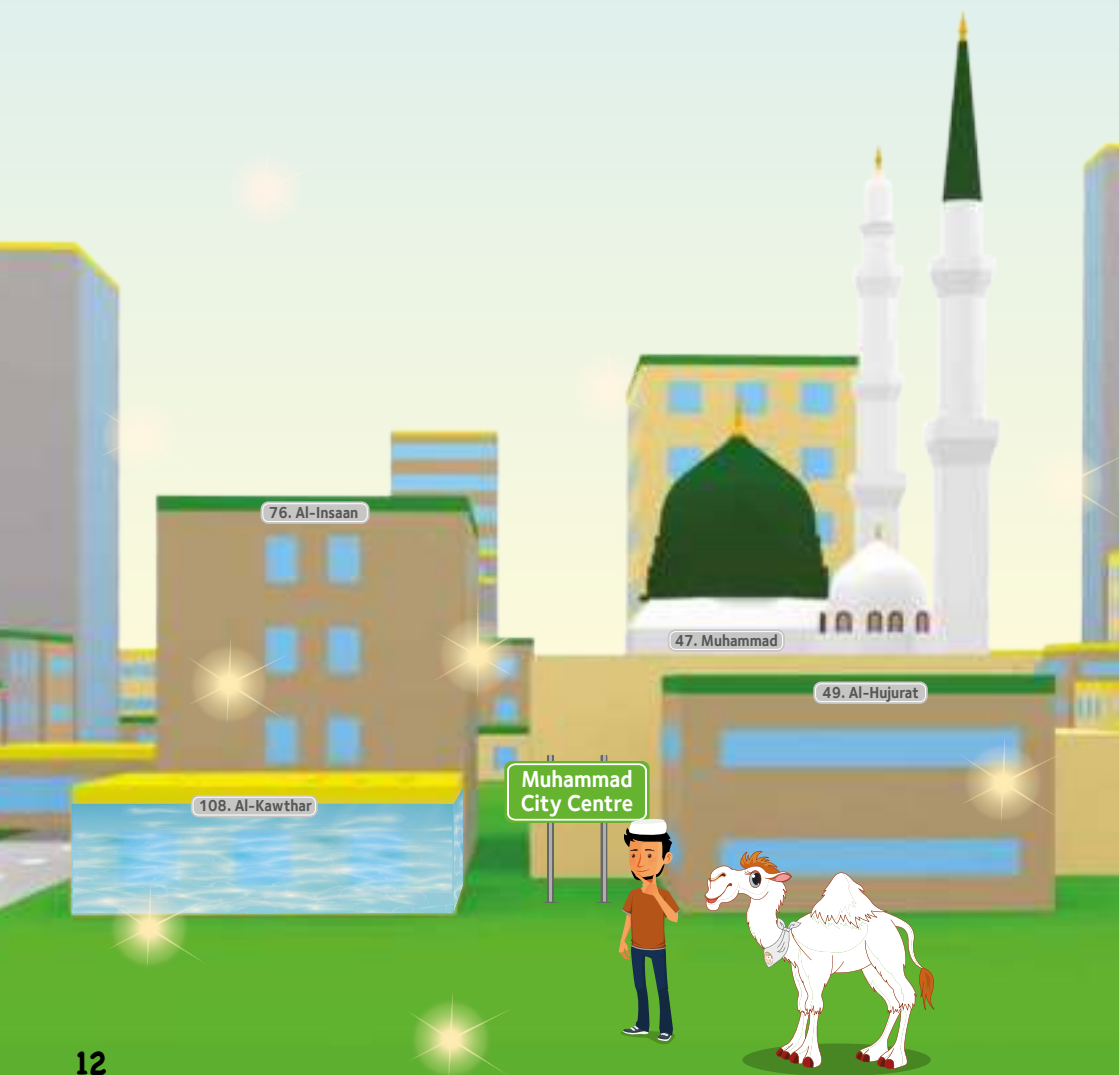
97 - When?
96 - How?
98 - What?
25 - Who?



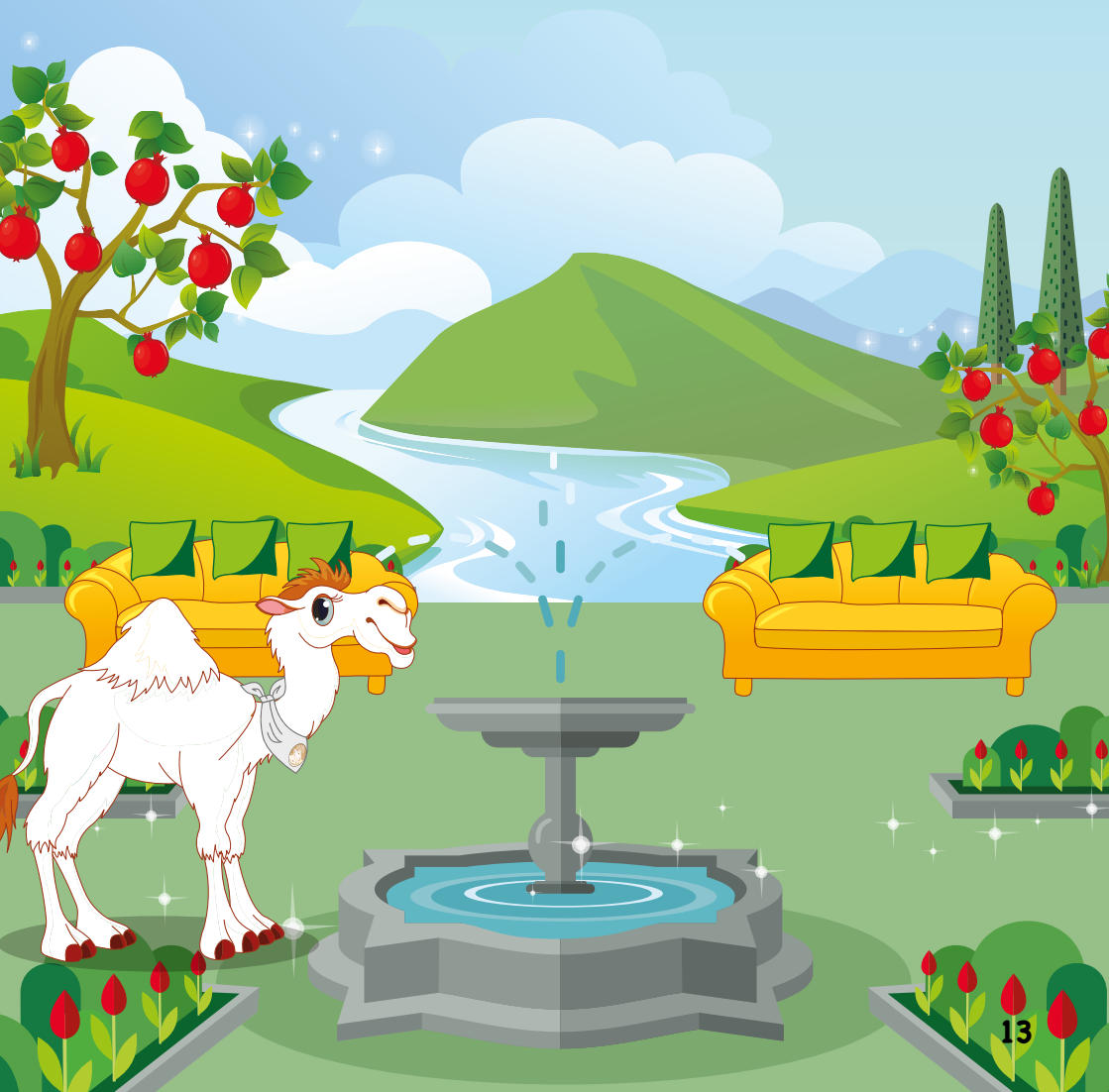
Soon they entered Muhammad City Centre. It was spectacular. Every building was surrounded by gardens, which seemed just perfect. The grass under Qaswa's feet felt like a velvet carpet. It was so clean and organized.



Qaswa could see a green dome and a minaret. Adjacent to the mosque were three buildings. Habeeb pointed out No 108 to Qaswa. The building looked like it was made of water. He had never seen anything like it. He edged near the walls and touched it but it was solid yet it looked like it wasn't. He couldn't wait to go inside.



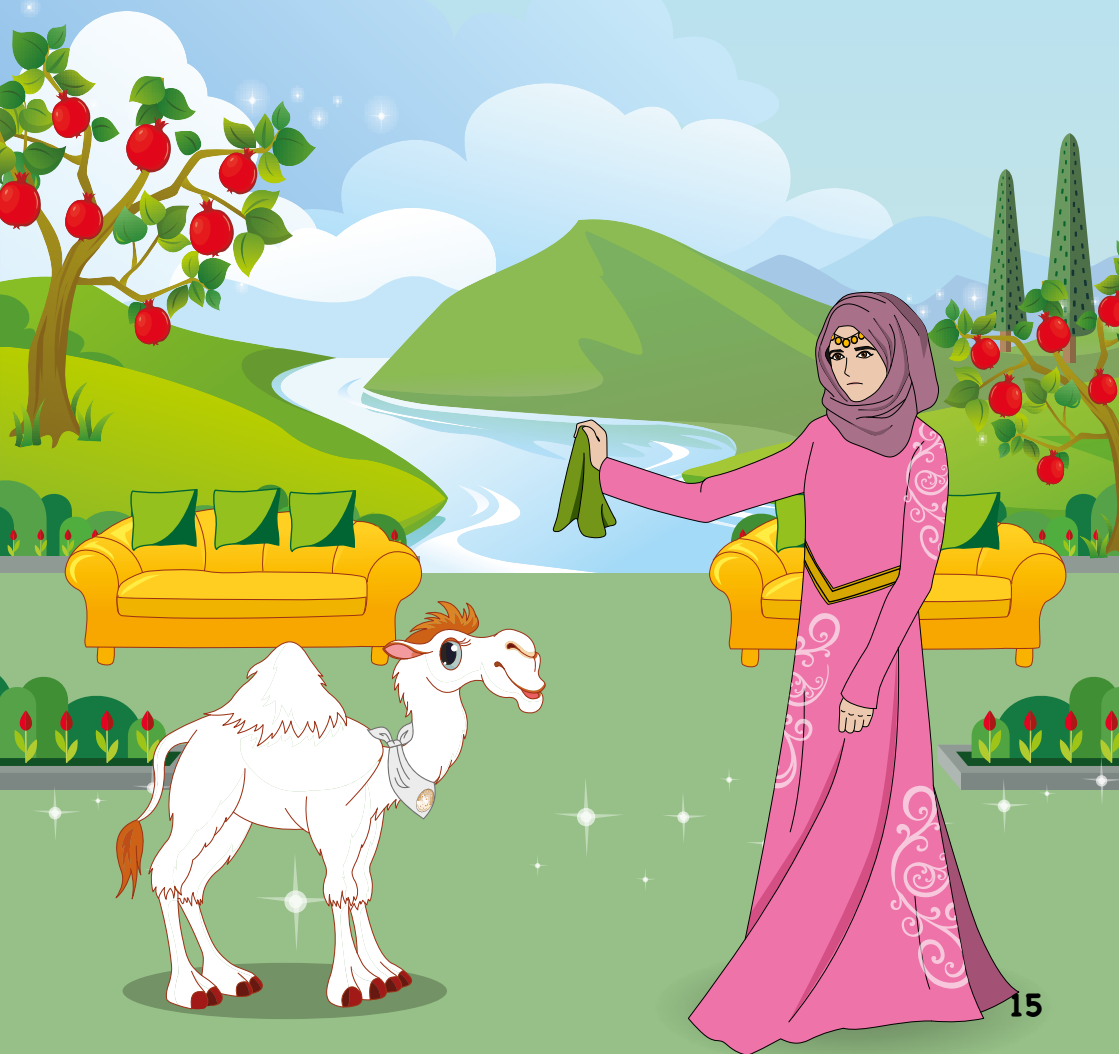
Qaswa entered the building only to find himself in the most beautiful courtyard he had ever seen. A beautiful river was in the middle and there were streams, beautiful flowers, grape vines, pomegranates, and lots of comfortable settees with green cushions.



A beautiful young lady came up to him and said:
"Salaam 'alaykum Qaswa, welcome to Al Kawthar. My name is Aasiya. Can I get you something to drink?"
Qaswa replied: "Some pomegranate juice would be lovely, thank you." In an instant there was a crystal bucket in front of him with pomegranate juice.



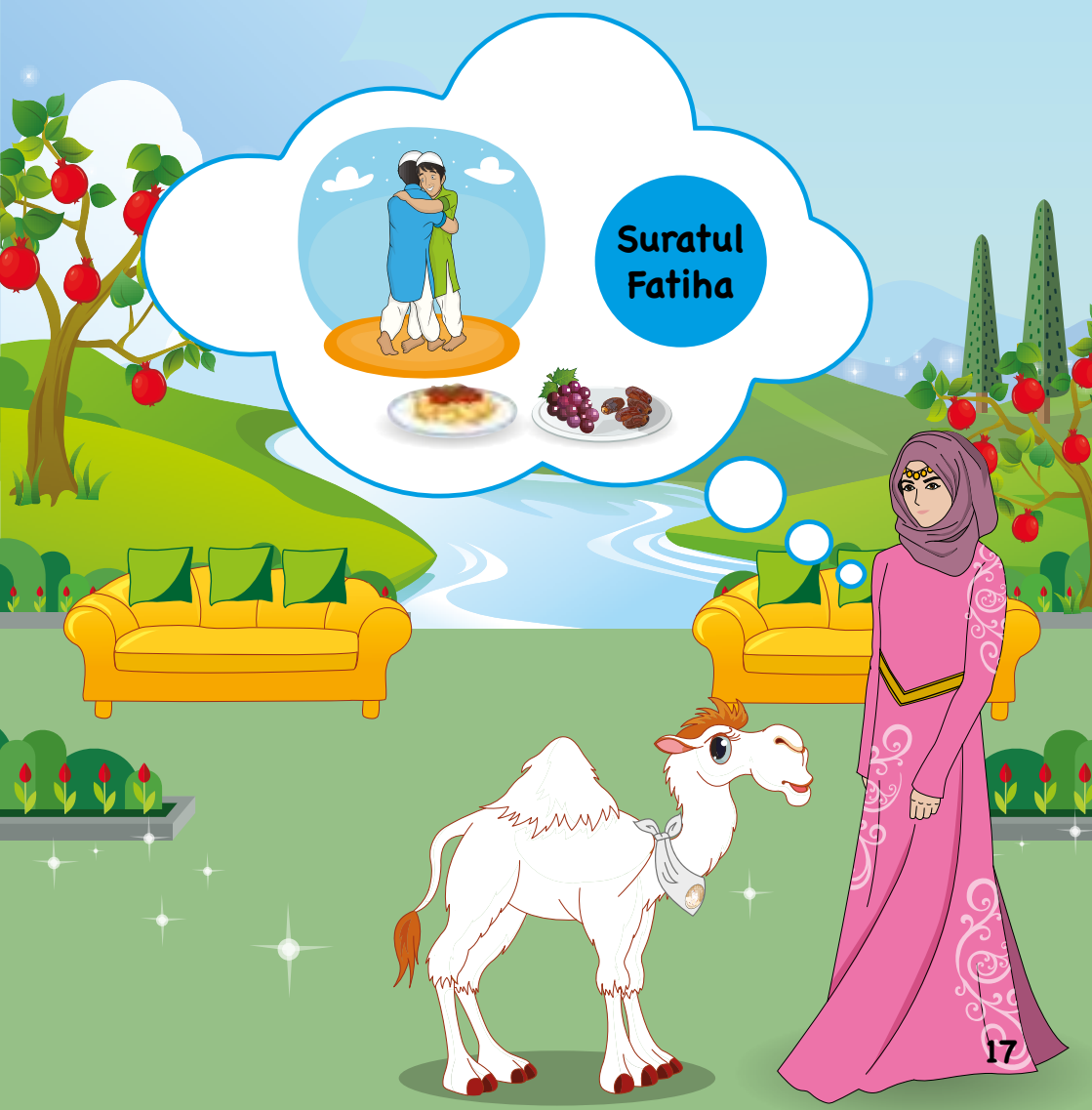
"Before I show you round the courtyard, Id like to tell you a story." Aasiya said. "I love stories." Qaswa replied. "This one is rather sad to start with." She said handing him a green handkerchief.



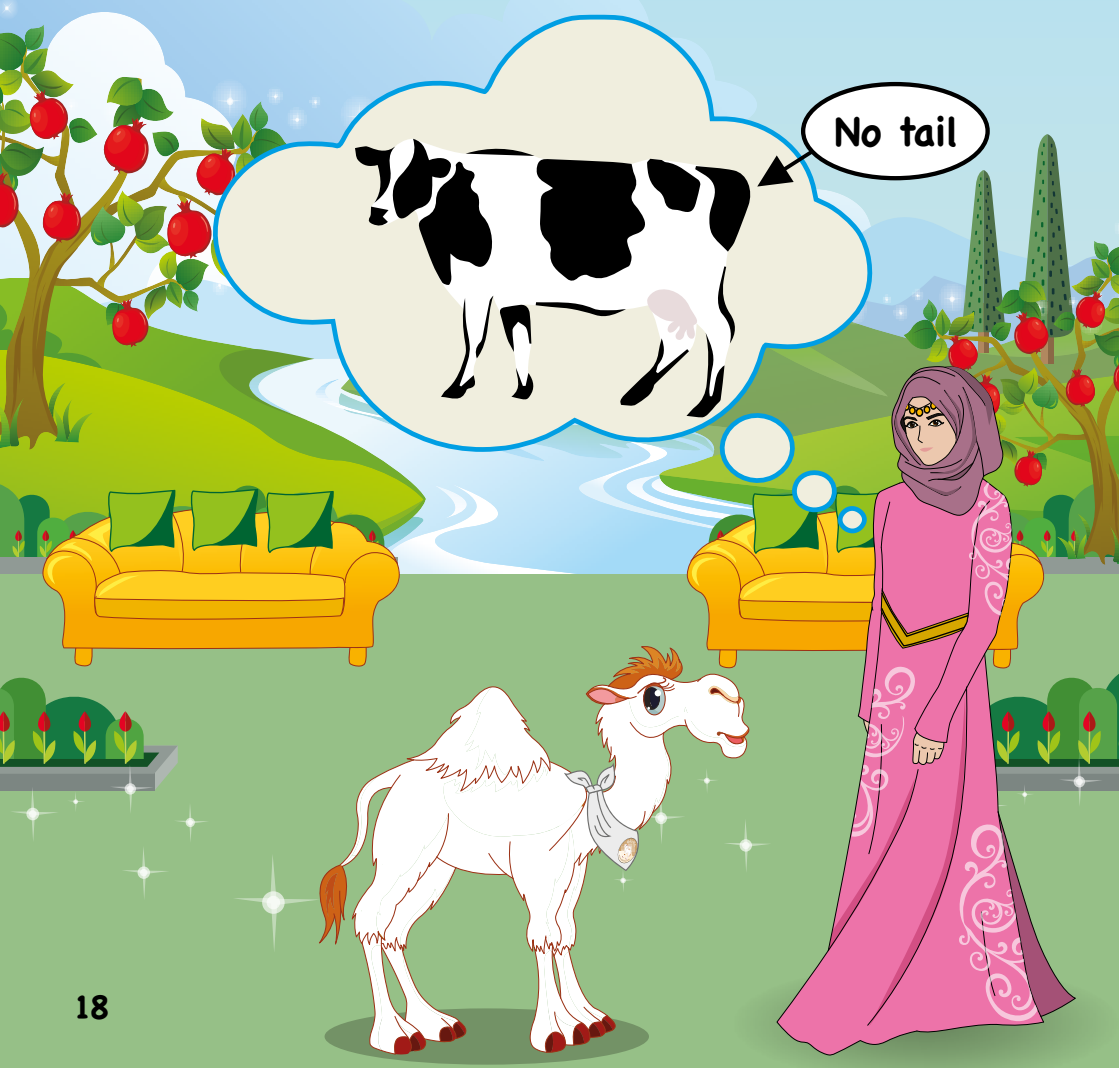
"Prophet Muhammad had a young son called Taahir who died when he was a young child. The Prophet was heartbroken." Tears fell down his cheeks.



“When someone dies, we have to go and make their family feel better by hugging them, reciting Suratul Fatiha with them and looking after them. The Prophet taught us to send food to them for 3 days.”



"However, there were some bad people in Makka at the time who teased him and made fun of him at such a sad time. They were happy that his son had died. One of them even danced in the streets laughing and shouting out "Batara Muhammad" which means Muhammad has no children, he is like an animal without a tail."



Tears fell down Qaswa's cheeks.

Aasiya continued: "The Arabs called someone who had no sons Abtar, which was used for an animal whose tail was cut off. They said after he died no one would remember him because he had no sons to take his name." Qaswa sobbed. "How could anyone be so mean?" he said. He made a promise to himself never to tease or make fun of anyone.

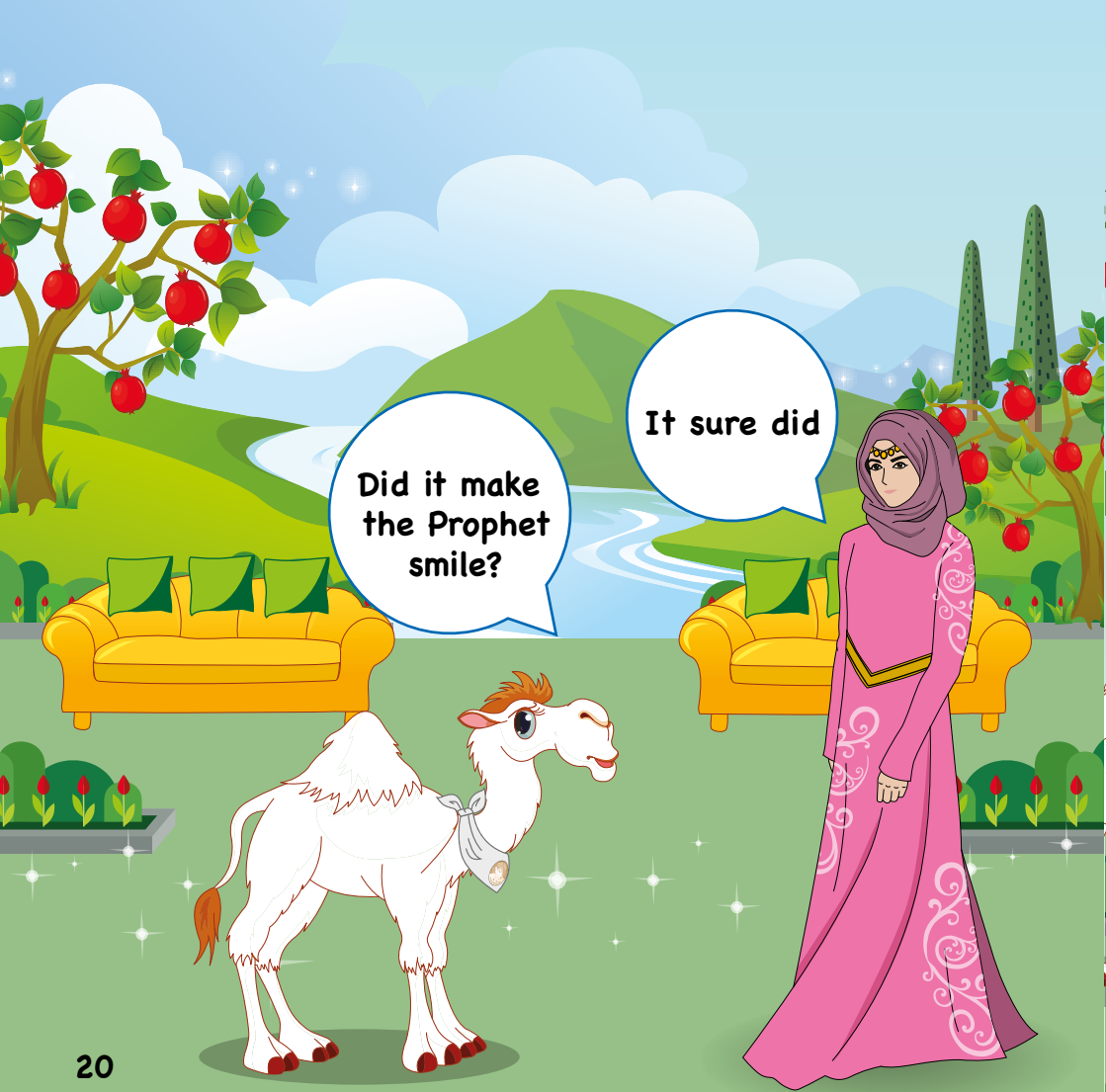


Aasiya continued: "It was at this moment when the Prophet was heartbroken that the angel Jibraail came with this Sura from Allah."

Qaswa wiped his tears and asked; "Did it make the Prophet smile?"

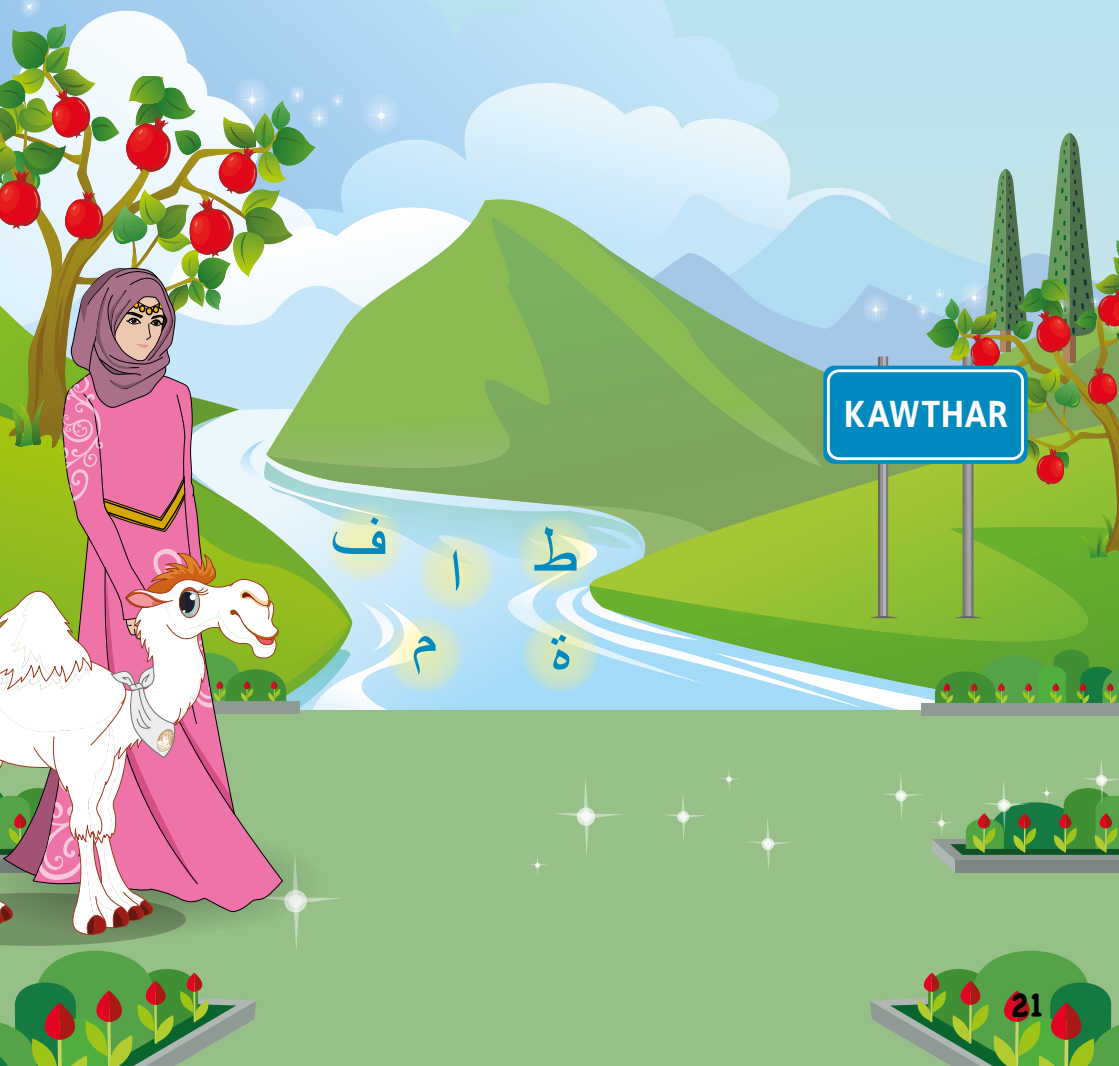
"It sure did," Aasiya replied.

"Let me show you around so you can understand this sura."



Qaswa followed Aasiya to a river that ran through the middle of the courtyard. A big sign said KAWTHAR and when he looked at the river, he saw Arabic letters in the water.

Qaswa read the letters - "FAA ALIF TAA MEEM TAA MARBUTAH" ف ا ط م ة that put together made the word 'Fatima' فَاطِمَة



He peered into the river and he saw the most awesome Qur'an. It was as though the pages were turning as the water was flowing. There were pretty jewels in the water too with the names of all the Aimmah on them. He could see Ali, Hasan, Husayn, Ali, Muhammad, Ja'fer, Musa, Ali, Muhammad, Ali, Hasan & Muhammad.

He just stared and stared at it never wanting to move away or blink.



Aasiya asked him to think of all that he had learnt about Sayyida Fatima and to give him a word for each of the letters F A T I M A.

"You mean an acronym?" Qaswa asked feeling clever.
"Yes," said Aasiya with a smile.



Qaswa thought of everything that that Laila Aunty had taught him about Sayyida Fatima.

"F for a fantastic role model"

"A for being an awesome daughter to the Prophet."

"T for a tremendous wife to Imam Ali."

"I for an interconnection between Nabuwwa & Imama."

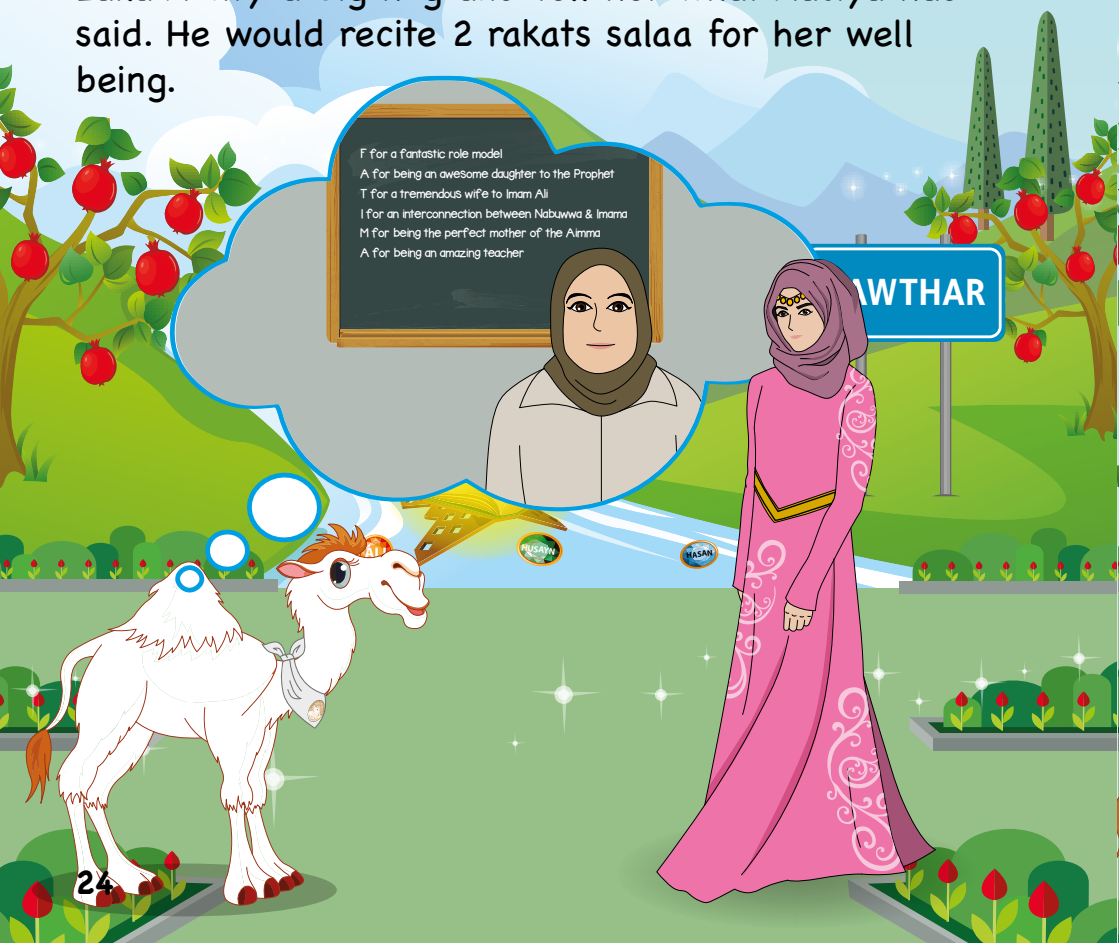
'M for being the perfect mother of the Aimma."

"A for being an amazing teacher."

"You are an fantastic, awesome, amazing, young camel!"

Aasiya said "And your teacher even more so."

Qaswa promised himself that he would go and give Laila Aunty a big hug and tell her what Aasiya had said. He would recite 2 rakats salaa for her well being.



Now I want you to recite the first aya of Suratul Kawthar for me.” Aasiya said.

Qaswa cleared his throat and started:

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ





Innaa 'Ataynaakal Kawthar

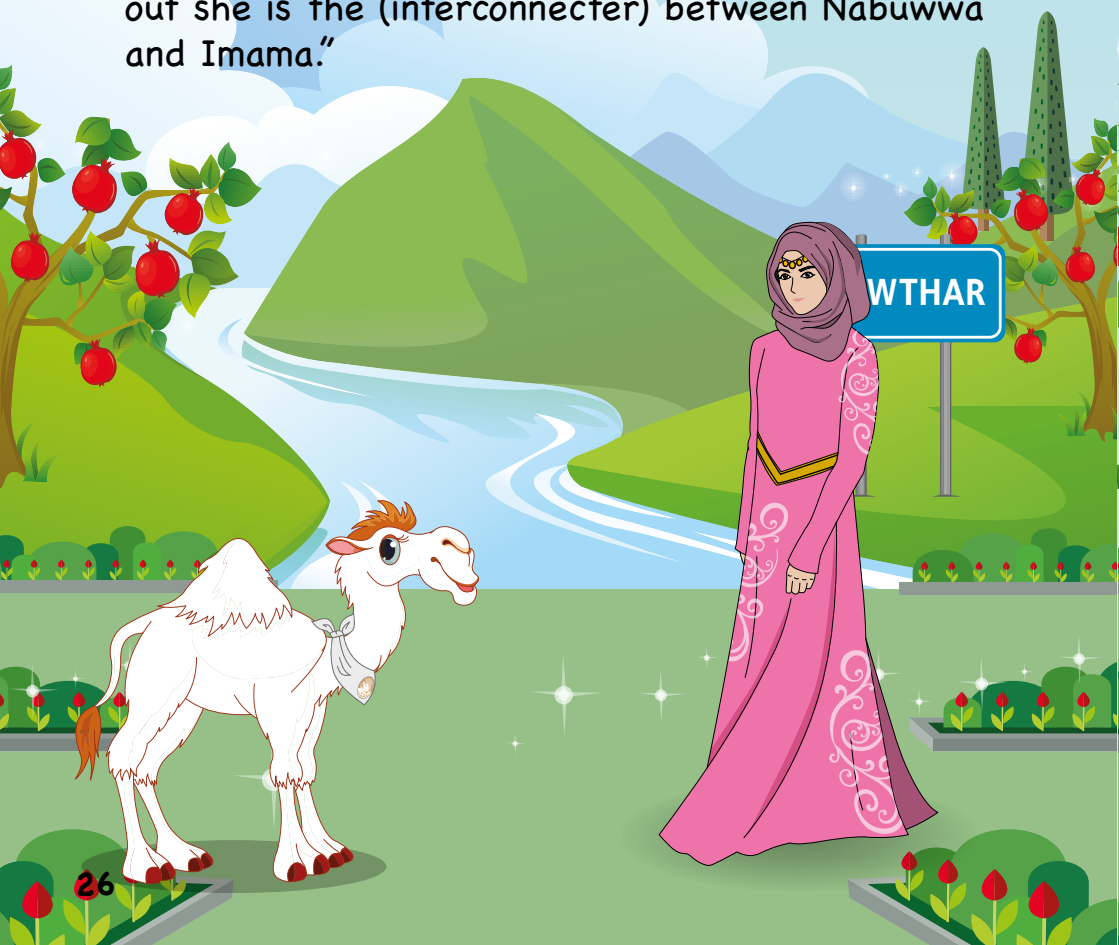
And then he translated it in English saying “Indeed We have given you Kawthar.”

Aasiya said “Awesome! You even recited it emphasizing the shadda on the nun in Innaa.”



"Kawthar means lots and lots and lots and lots of good from Allah. It is:

1. A river in Janna 
2. The Qur'an 
3. Adhan through which at every moment of the day somewhere in the world the Prophet Muhammad is remembered after Allah. 
4. Salawat which Muslims recite every day. 
5. Sayyida Fatima who is the mother of the 12 Aimmah and through whom the Prophet had lots of children called Sayyids today. And as you rightly pointed out she is the (interconnector) between Nabuwwa and Imama."



Qaswa remembered the paper chain activity he had made with Laila Aunty. They had joined the circle with the Prophet's name to the chain with the names of the Aimmah, with a pink one which said Fatima. It all made sense.

"So that's why I saw the Qur'an in the river, and the names of the Ma'sumeen in particular Sayyida Fatima!" he said to himself.

"Let me explain the rest of the sura now." Aasiya said.



She took him through an arch to another courtyard. It had two large tents. One was white and one was a dark grey dingy looking one, which looked like a prison.

The white one had light shining out of it and it had the second aya of Suratul Kawthar written on it.

فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ

Fasalli liRabbika wanhar

"So pray salaa to your Rabb and do 'nahr"



Qaswa followed Aasiya into the white tent. There were lots of people praying and the sound of Allahu Akber could be heard from everywhere. There were angels everywhere and it felt like Qaswa was in Janna.

Qaswa whispered to Aasiya, "What does nahar mean?"



Aasiya said: "When the sura was revealed, the Prophet asked Jibraail 'What is this nahar that Allah has asked me to do?'"

Jibraail replied: "Allah asks you to raise your hands at the beginning of salaa when you say Allahu Akber, and when you are going to do rukoo and sajda, and after that, because our salaa (the angels) in the seven heavens, are like this."

Everything has something that makes it beautiful and that which makes salaa beautiful is raising the hands when saying Allahu Akber."



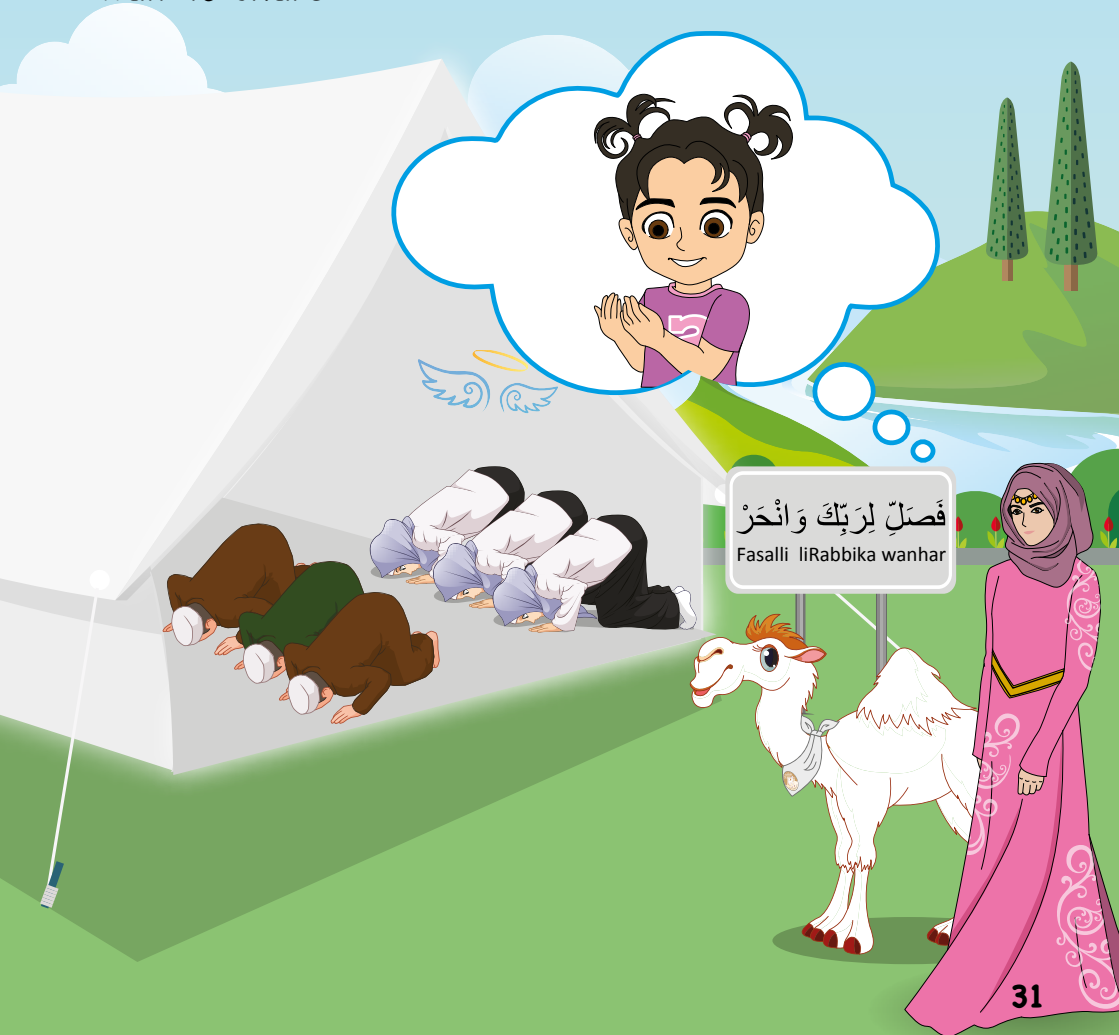
"How do I do that?" asked Qaswa.

Aasiya grinned and told him he should make sure his ears were straight up towards Qibla.

"What about my friend Safiya?" Qaswa asked.

"She should raise her hands so her palms face Qibla and her thumb should be in line with her neck," Aasiya replied, showing Qaswa how to do it.

Qaswa wanted to share this with Safiya. He couldn't wait to share.



Aasiya asked Qaswa to follow him to the next tent but warned him that it was not going to be very nice. Before Qaswa could ask why, they were standing at the door of the dark grey scary tent. There was a picture of a cow without a tail on the door of the tent and the last aya of Suratul Kawthar.

إِنَّ شَانِيكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ

Inna shaaniaka huwal abtar
"Certainly your enemy will be abtar"



The tent door opened and Qaswa stepped into a dark place where there was total silence. He could barely see. There were lots of little rooms. Each room had a person sitting in it all alone looking terribly lonely. "Who are these people?" he whispered to Aasiya. Before she could answer, one of them called out: "Some of us are those who made fun of the Prophet when his sons died and called him 'abtar' and some of us are those who made people cry just for fun; basically we were bullies."

Qaswa didn't want to stay there one more moment. "I hate it here," he told Aasiya and ran out. When he got outside he promised Allah he would never bully anyone or make fun of them ever.



Suddenly his eyes opened and Safiya was calling out to him "Qaswa, wake up! It's time for 'Asr salaa."

Qaswa, wake
up! It's time
for 'Asr
salaa.

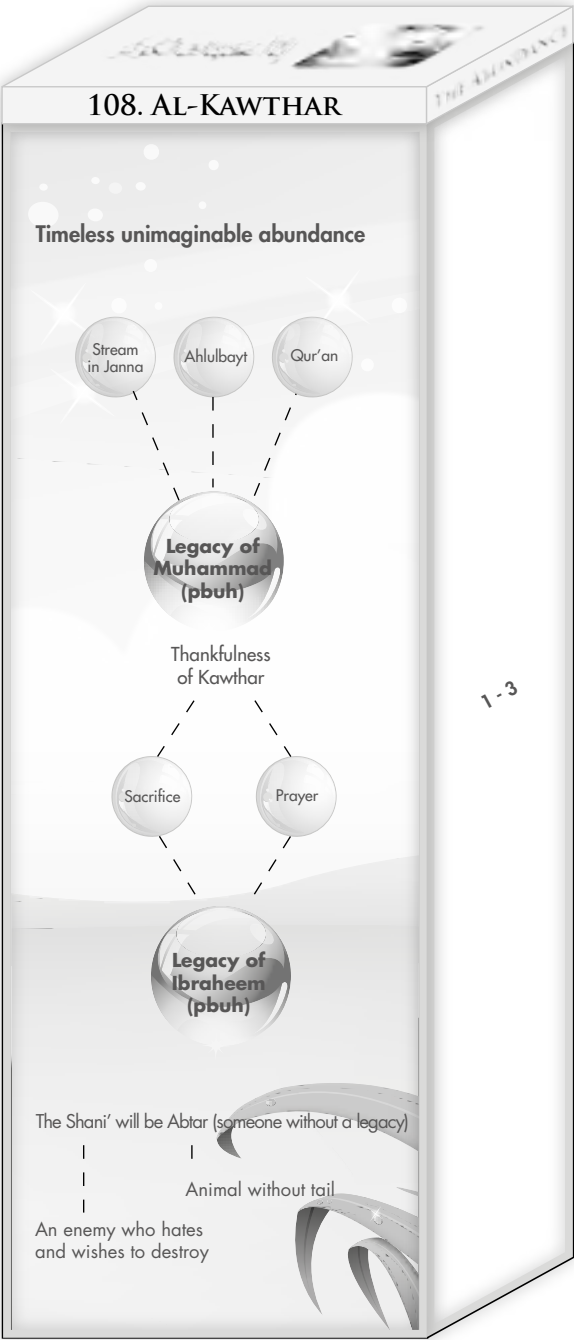
بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

إِنَّا أَعْطَيْنَاكَ الْكَوْثَرَ ۝

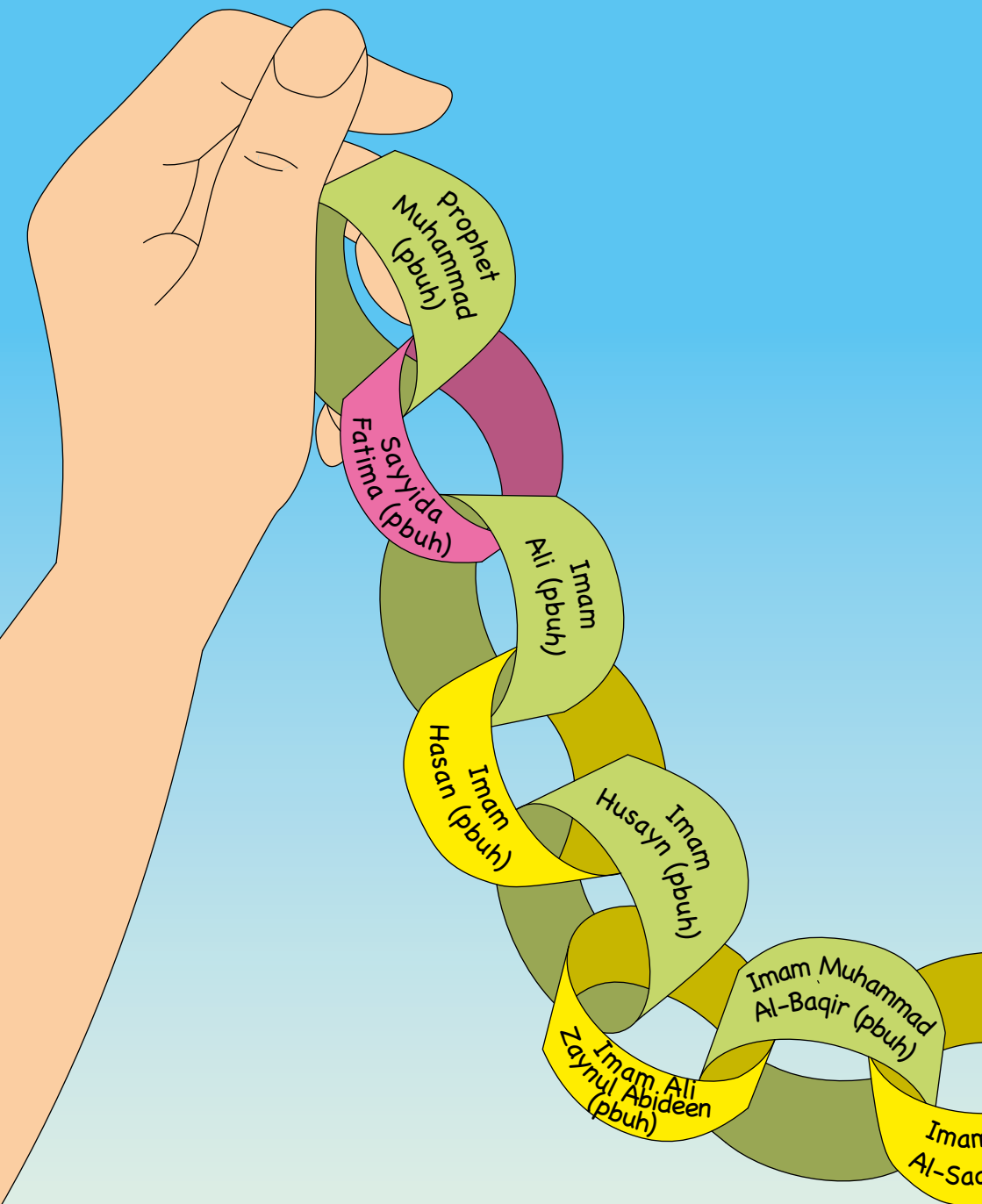
فَصَلِّ لِرَبِّكَ وَانْحَرْ ۝

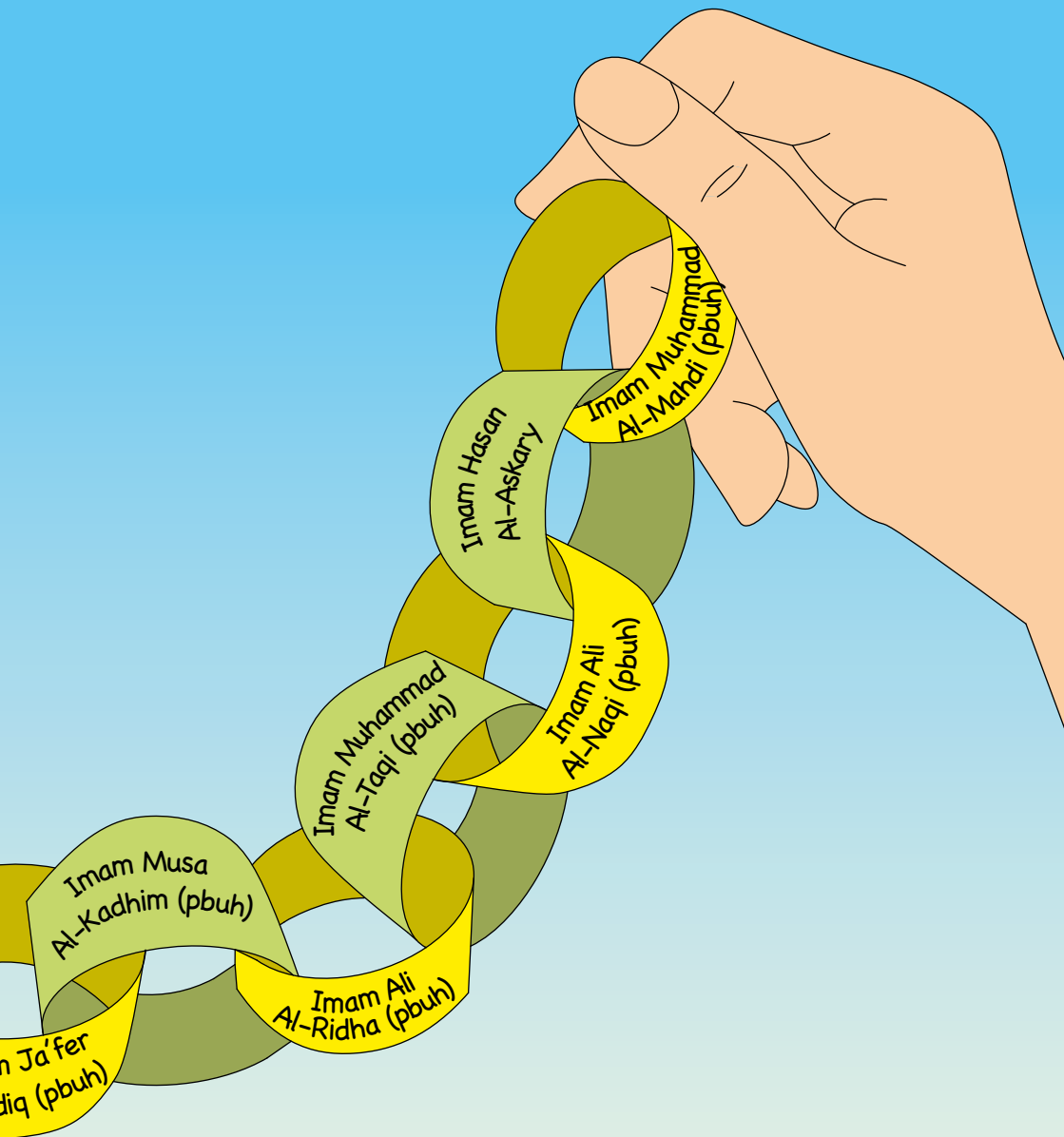
إِنَّ شَانِئَكَ هُوَ الْأَبْتَرُ ۝

Colour in the Suratul Kawthar Building.



The link between Nabuwwa & Imama





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