

# THE PROPHET AND A TERMITE

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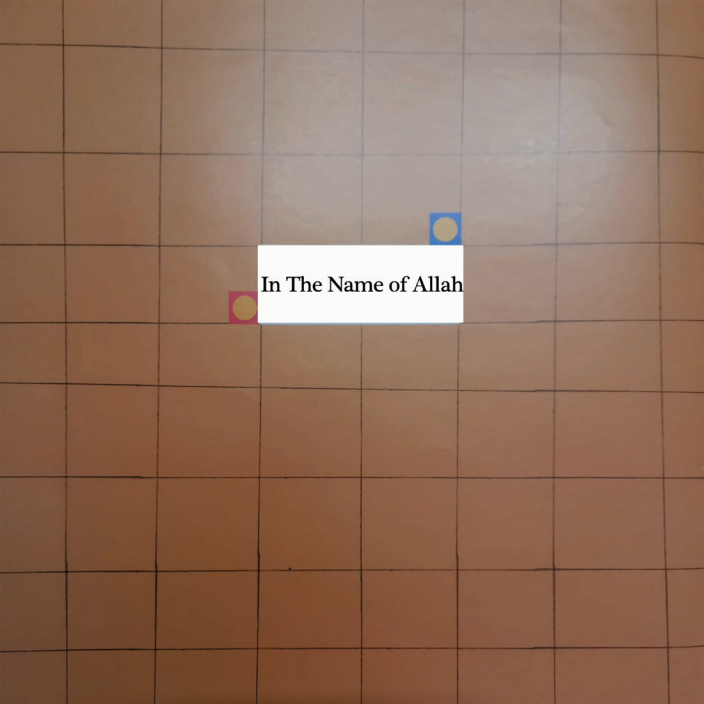
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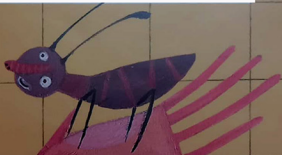
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In The Name of Allah



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AND A TERMITE**







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# THE PROPHET AND A TERMITE

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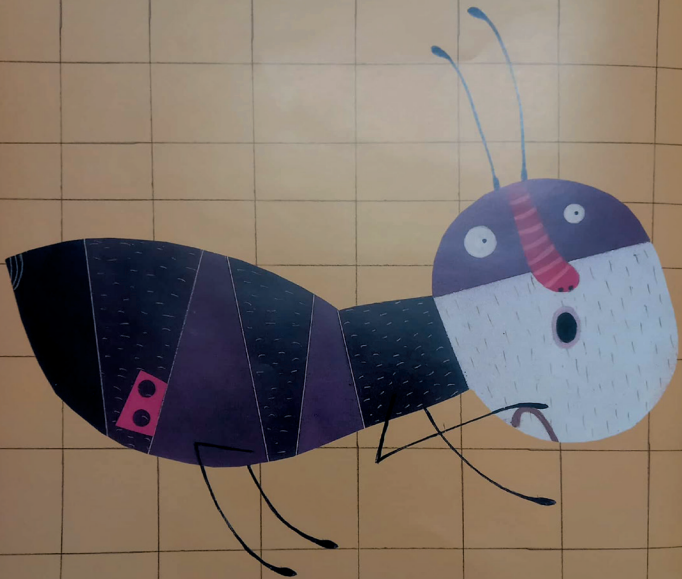
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An illustration of a scene in a desert. In the center, a man with a long white beard and a blue robe, identified as Uncle Sepid, stands with his hands raised in a gesture of surprise or concern. To his left, a woman in a purple dress and headscarf looks towards him. In the bottom left, another man in a green robe and headscarf also looks towards the center. In the bottom right, a woman in a purple headscarf looks up. The background features stylized orange and red circular patterns on a tan tiled floor.

*That day was a strange day. The alert bell rang in our land. People had come and become our neighbors. Uncle Sepid went to find out why they came to our land. Is there not a good place for people to live over there; why did they choose this part of the desert?*

8 *We were all worried. Uncle Sepid went and returned.*

*He breathed and said: "Don't worry! Relax! They are the friends of the Prophet who have come here with their leader. They don't want to bother us. They have been kicked out of the city!"*

*We all circled around Uncle Sepid. I asked in surprise: "Why have they been kicked out of the city?" Uncle Sepid leaned on his cane and said: "Because they do not believe in idols and they follow their Prophet. It was agreed that no one should interact with them; no one should sell anything to them; no one should marry them; no one should help them so that they might give up on their Prophet!" With these statements of Uncle Sepid, we looked at each other dumbfounded. Uncle Sepid said: "Go about your business, they won't harm us." I asked with surprise, "Do they want to live here under these conditions?! They will all die of hunger!"*

*Uncle Sepid wiped the tears that were falling from his eyes and said: "I think they must have gone through hard days. My friend asked: "Who is their Prophet? Uncle Sepid pointed to the middle of the crowd.*

*My heart calmed down when I saw the Prophet. I could not take my eyes off the Prophet. I had seen the moon many times, but the Prophet was a thousand times more beautiful than the moon. All my friends were staring at the Prophet like me. The Prophet used to put his hands on the children's heads and try to console the people. My heart was beating fast. I put my hand on my heart and closed my eyes for a moment. The Prophet and his companions were going through a tough time. Every day, I came closer to the Prophet; I stood aside and looked at him for hours. Uncle Sepid and my friends kept calling me and saying come and get on with your life activities. But I loved to stay with the Prophet and look at him.*

10

*For days, the children complained of hunger. Sometimes their food was just a date seed. Sometimes, they shared a piece of bread among ten people. I used to see the Prophet giving his share of dates to the children. I would stick to the Prophet's clothes and go with him. Many times, I had seen him tying a stone to his stomach because of hunger, and I cried because of grief. How delightful his ritual prayer was!*





*He was communicating with God and beseeching Him to help them. I had been gathering my food and taking it to the Prophet for three years. And he was smiling and thanking God.*

*I said to myself, I wish the Prophet could talk with me one day. But what could the Prophet do with a weak creature like me?*

*One sad and impatient day, I tried to run the distance from the nest to the Prophet's vicinity. As I was going, I suddenly saw a big shadow over my head. My heart stopped moving. Someone's foot was landing on my head. I could not move anymore. I closed my eyes and said to myself that I am done.*

*But a little later, when I opened my eyes, I saw that the foot that was*

13

*landing on my head moved back. How could such a thing be possible? I mourned seeing the Prophet standing in front of me and leaning towards me.*



*The Prophet smiled and looked at me. I enjoyed seeing the beautiful face of the Prophet. The Prophet kindly said: "O beautiful termite of God, take care of yourself!" I knew that no one would believe what I said. For several days, I told everyone that the Prophet had spoken with me. But my friends said to me: "Do you want to make yourself great now? You are too small to be given attention by the Prophet!"*

*From that day on, I thought about how I could help the Prophet and his companions. The Prophet had said to me "a beautiful termite of God!"*

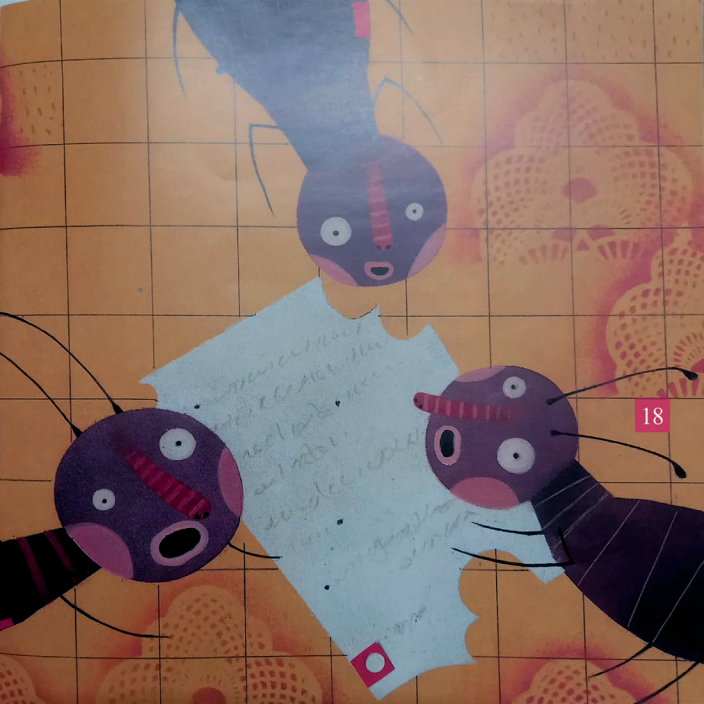






*I used to sit under the shadow of the rocks for days and think. That night, I stayed awake until the morning and counted the stars and I was engrossed in thought. In the early morning, a beautiful thought struck my mind. We could do a great job.*

*was as if a light from Heaven had shone on my heart and someone was talking to me, saying: "O beautiful creature of ours, you can do great things..."*



*I gathered all my friends and talked to them. All of them accepted my words, they smiled and nodded. Then we made a serious decision and shook hands. We were supposed to eat the most delicious food in the world that night! I have never been happier about eating food than I felt that night! The moon was shining in the sky. The cries of hungry children hurt my heart. Several old men and women tiredly rubbed their feet. Everyone was tired, hungry and worried, gathered around the fire. The Prophet spoke to them and said: "God is with us. God says that with every difficulty, there is ease..."*

19

*How beautiful was his voice! On the way, I was just thinking about the Prophet's speeches. When we reached the Ka'aba, we all got busy. I had told my friends before that they should chew and eat this contract paper so that nothing is left. Even if we die and our stomachs swell, we should not stop working! We started chewing and eating that contract together. Each one of us went forward from a corner. We chewed and ate. Our stomachs were inflicted*

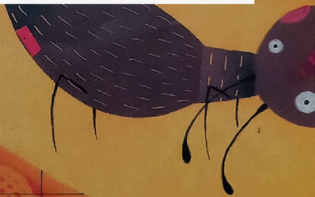
*with pain. Sometimes, my friends moaned. We were busy for a few hours. I looked at the contract. It was only the name of God that remained now. I smiled and said, "That's enough! Only the blessed name of God remains on the contract. We are done."*

*We were panting. Each of us fell into a corner. We were tired and couldn't move. We pulled ourselves to the corner of the Ka'aba wall. After a while, there was a conversation coming from outside.*

*The Prophet had understood earlier than others. Someone was saying loudly: "Our Prophet, Hazrat*

**20**

*Muhammad, said that his Lord had sent termites to eat up everything in the contract except God's name, and now the termites have eaten everything. If what he said is true, what will you do?" And the voice of the infidels came, saying:*



*"If this is the case, we will give up on you and have nothing to do with you anymore. But it is impossible that the contract, which was kept in a safe place to be destroyed like this..." When the door of the Ka'aba was opened, we quickly ran away from there. We used to laugh and run and we could see the infidels running towards the contract they had hung on the wall!*

*We barely made it to the nest, and each of us fell into a corner, gasping for breath. The news reached the Prophet and his companions very soon. When we took the head out of the nest, we saw the children jumping up and down with joy. The elders were gathering their things. Some performed thanksgiving prostration. Some hugged and kissed the Prophet.*

*Uncle Sepid wiped the tears from his eyes and said: "Thank God! The difficult time for the Prophet is over. Now, the covenant for the Prophet's siege has been destroyed. Who would have thought that termites could eat and destroy it?" Thereafter, he looked at us and smiled.*



22

*It was sunset. The valley where the Prophet and the rest of the Muslims*

23

*were besieged for three years remained empty. The Prophet and his companions had gone, but the remains of some of their belongings were still found on the ground. The wind blows and moves the thorn bushes from side to side. I looked at the place where the Prophet used to sit and stare at the sky. I was disturbed by missing him. I hugged my knees and tried to withhold my tears. Suddenly, I heard a beautiful voice.*

*The voice comes from behind me.*

*I turned my head. The Prophet was*

*standing in front of me with the most beautiful smile in the world. He was looking at me. I was motionless. I couldn't say anything. He smiled kindly and said: "I came to say well done to you and your friends.*

*"Kudos to you, O loyal and kind termites! History will always remember you. I appreciate your great work. You made us win...*

*"The Prophet left and I stood while watching his departure from behind. I was indeed the most fortunate termite in the world!*







*He smiled kindly and said: "I came to say well done to you and your friends." Kudos to you, O loyal and kind termites! History will always remember you. I appreciate your great work. You made us win ...*

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