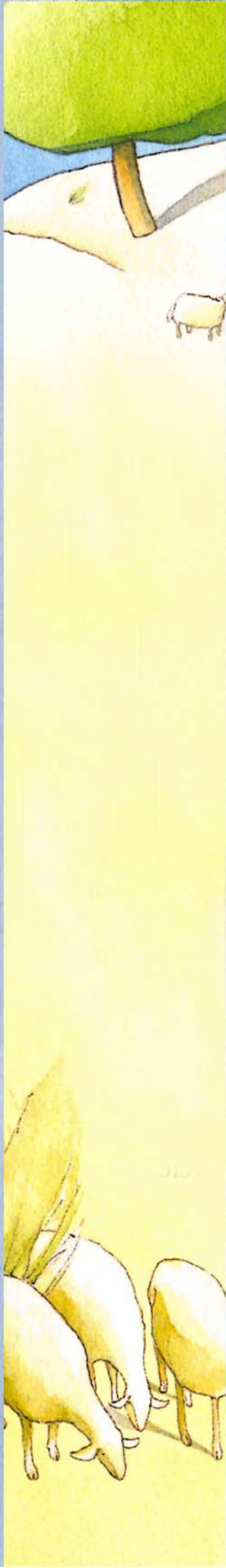


THE STORY OF



ADAM

Mawlana FEIZEL CHOTHIA



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ADAM



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THE BEGINNING

Long, long ago, so very long ago, there was no beautiful world. there was no warm, shining sun. There was no cool, white moon and no bright, twinkling stars... There was only Allah.

Long, long ago, so very long ago, there were no big, shady trees, no waves rolling on the seas, and no fresh flowing rivers. There were no sweet singing birds, no beautiful butterflies, no fish nor life of any kind... There was only Allah.

Long, long ago, so very long ago, there was no earth, no sky, no creation at all, but there was Allah.

Even before the beginning of things, when there was simply nothing, there was Allah, the creator of everything.

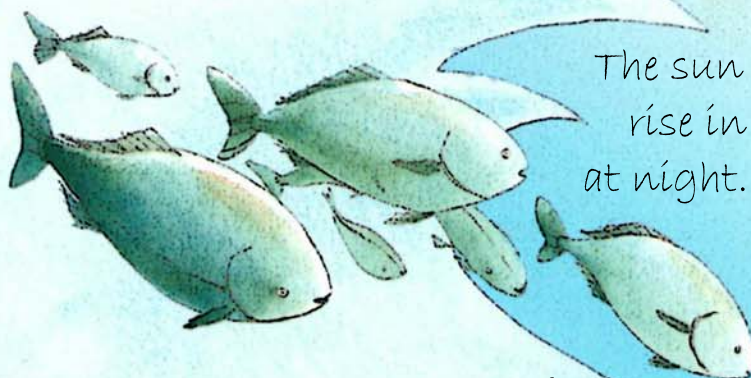
Allah then created creation, because He is the Creator. And by a mighty word, "Be!" it all became.

Creation was created in the most beautiful forms, because Allah is the Beautiful. And creation was cared for in the most wonderful way, because Allah is the Caring.

Allah created the angels pure, from light, mighty and trustworthy, to carry out His orders. Allah created the heavens and many worlds.

Allah created our universe, our sun and our earth.

The sun He commanded to rise in the morning and set at night. Allah called its golden, warm



light Day, and the darkness
He called Night.

The warmth of the sun covered the earth, and the waters Allah created began to flow. The waters came together and so formed the Sea, and where the high earth was left dry, this is land. Then Allah created the greenest grass, and plants, and trees, all clothing the land. Allah only said to it, "Be!", and it all became.

So there were trees and plants with flowers, fruits and seeds, and the most beautiful gardens and delightfully fragrant orchards.

And Allah also said, "Let there be fish in the waters!", and the fish came to be. There were really tiny fish and the mightiest of whales. There were a thousand other creatures, stranger and more wonderful still.

Then Allah said, "Let there be birds in the skies!", and they flew all around, birds of every kind, singing the most beautiful songs.

Allah commanded again, "Let the earth bring forth more creatures!", and all sorts of wondrous living creatures came into being. There were insects crawling on their bellies and mighty elephants standing tall and strong. There were lions roaring raucously and reptiles slithering along.

There was beauty and wonder all around. The earth was decorated as none could ever imagine. And yet there was no Man, not a single one, to appreciate her wonders - to admire the majesty of

... Allah's amazing creation.



ADAM and HAWWA



The earth was most marvelous indeed, decorated the most beautiful flowers and trees. There were and animals of every type, insects crawling and fish swimming, everything seemed just right.

with birds

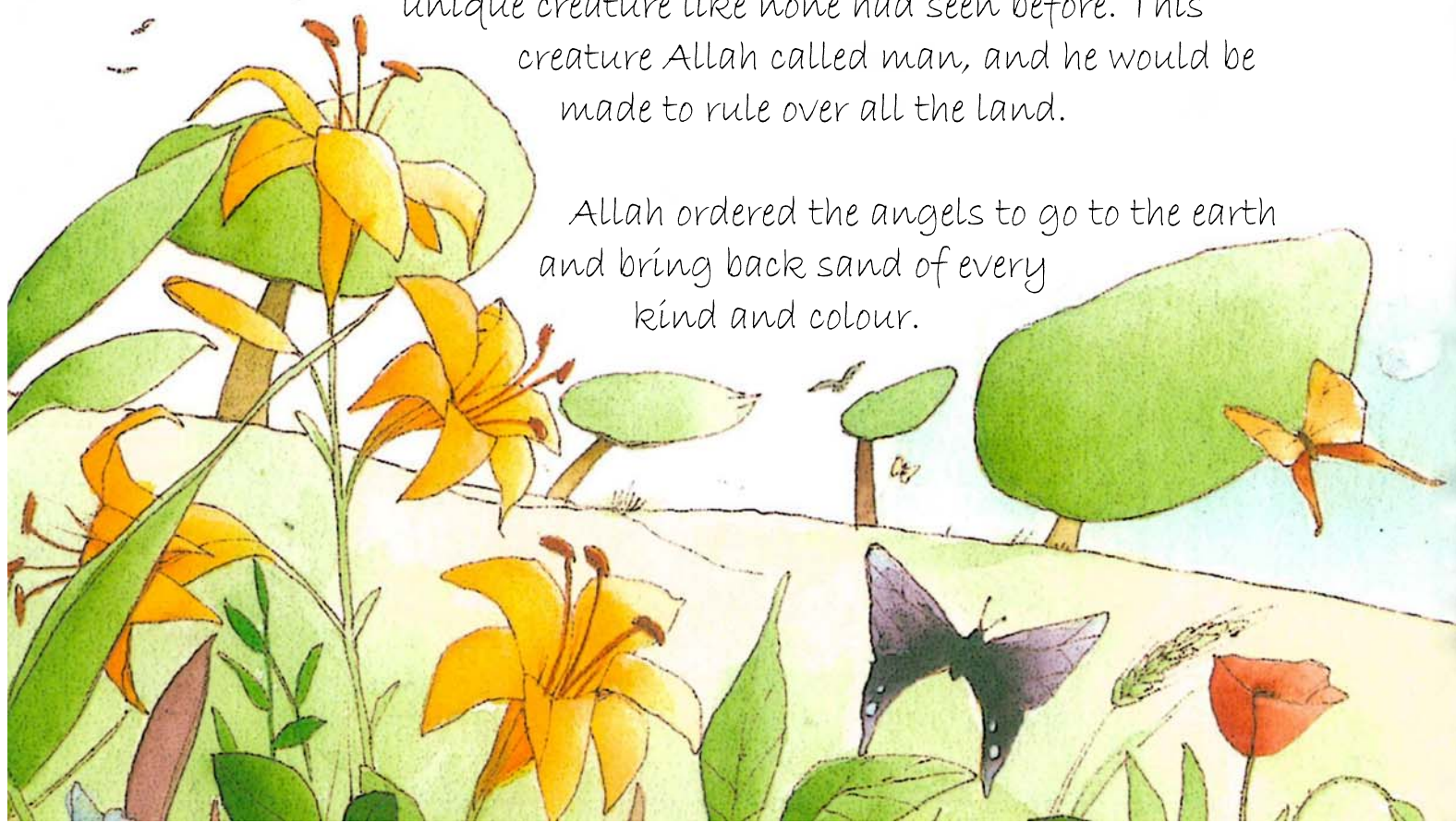
There were beautiful rivers and pretty streams flowing over the lands of the earth, with their cool, refreshing, bubbling waters and happy, splashing falls. The waves crashed against the rocks and the oceans continued their roly flow. The sun peeped through the clouds and the moon drifted along.

The earth then called out, "Is there no one to admire my wonders and to enjoy my great treasures?" And there was silence, no answer at all. The earth knew no one, nore did the angels, who could admire her beauty and enjoy her wonderful treasures.

Ah! but Allah knew.

Allah had chosen a creature who would rule over the earth, a unique creature like none had seen before. This creature Allah called man, and he would be made to rule over all the land.

Allah ordered the angels to go to the earth and bring back sand of every kind and colour.



The sand He then mixed like potter's clay.

Moulding it into the shape of a man, with hands, legs, eyes and ears, a handsome nose and soft lips, Allah then breathed His spirit into it... and so gave life to the very first man.

Allah named him Adam, the father of us all. Allah gave him knowledge and wisdom, and the talent to do every good thing.

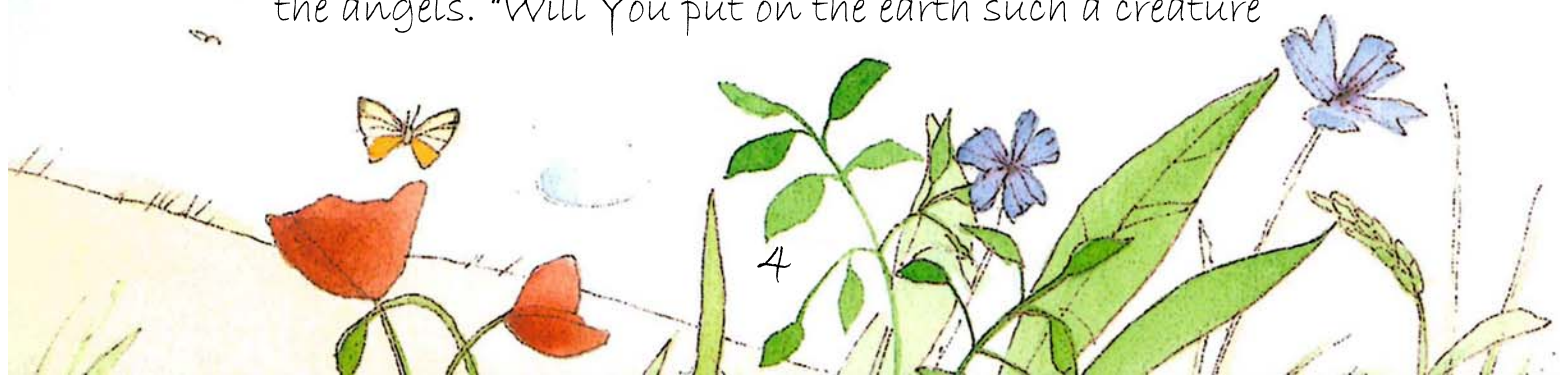
Allah then told the angels, "I will make Adam [a] My deputy. He will do my work on earth. And to do so I have given him qualities only I possess, and with these he will rule over the beautiful earth and all that is on it." And so Allah, being the All-Knowing, gave Adam [a] knowledge, and being the Creator of all, He gave Adam [a] creativity, and being the All-Kind and All-Loving, He gave Adam [a] kindness and a tender, loving heart. Allah was the All-Powerful too as well as the King of all, and so He gave Adam [a] power and kingdom. Now Adam [a] was to use these gifts to do Allah's work on earth.

The angels said, "O Allah! Will Adam [a] obey and worship You as we do?"

"That you will see," replied Allah. "I will also grant him the freedom to do as he pleases."

When the angels heard this they were dismayed. "He might even disobey You, O Allah!" they cried out.

"That he can certainly do," Allah agreed. "Why then do You create Man and make him the ruler on earth, O Allah?" asked the angels. "Will You put on the earth such a creature



that would make mischief in it and shed blood? Are we not obedient and dutiful? Do we not adore and worship You as You should be adored and worshipped? Surely Man will not carry out Your orders as obediently as we do. Surely he will disobey you if he has the freedom to do so!"

Allah replied, saying, "You do not know what I know. I have decided that Man will rule the world and everything in it, so bow down respectfully, to the best of My creation".

All the angels obediently bowed down before Adam [a], and so too did all of creation. But amongst them was a creature who served Allah as no other did, a creature whom even the angels admired. He was given strength and made of fire. He was boastful and proud because of the gifts he enjoyed, and even his service and worship of Allah made him believe that he was like no other. Who was he and what was his name? Ah! he was iblis, and none other. He stood haughty, he stood proud, he lifted his head high and the proud one refused to bow.

Allah was displeased and said, "You have disobeyed my order and shown disrespect to what I have created. Tell Me, Why have you not bowed down to Adam?"

iblis raised his wicked voice and said, "Why should I bow down to this Man? I am better than this thing of dust! You have created me from fire and he from clay." It was obvious to all that iblis was jealous of the special honour Allah had given Adam [a], and so he became rebellious, questioning Allah's wise endeavour. Because of his pride, he could not appreciate the amazing qualities Allah had gifted to Adam [a]. Iblis looked only at the clay body and not at the wonderful soul within, and so he became the fool



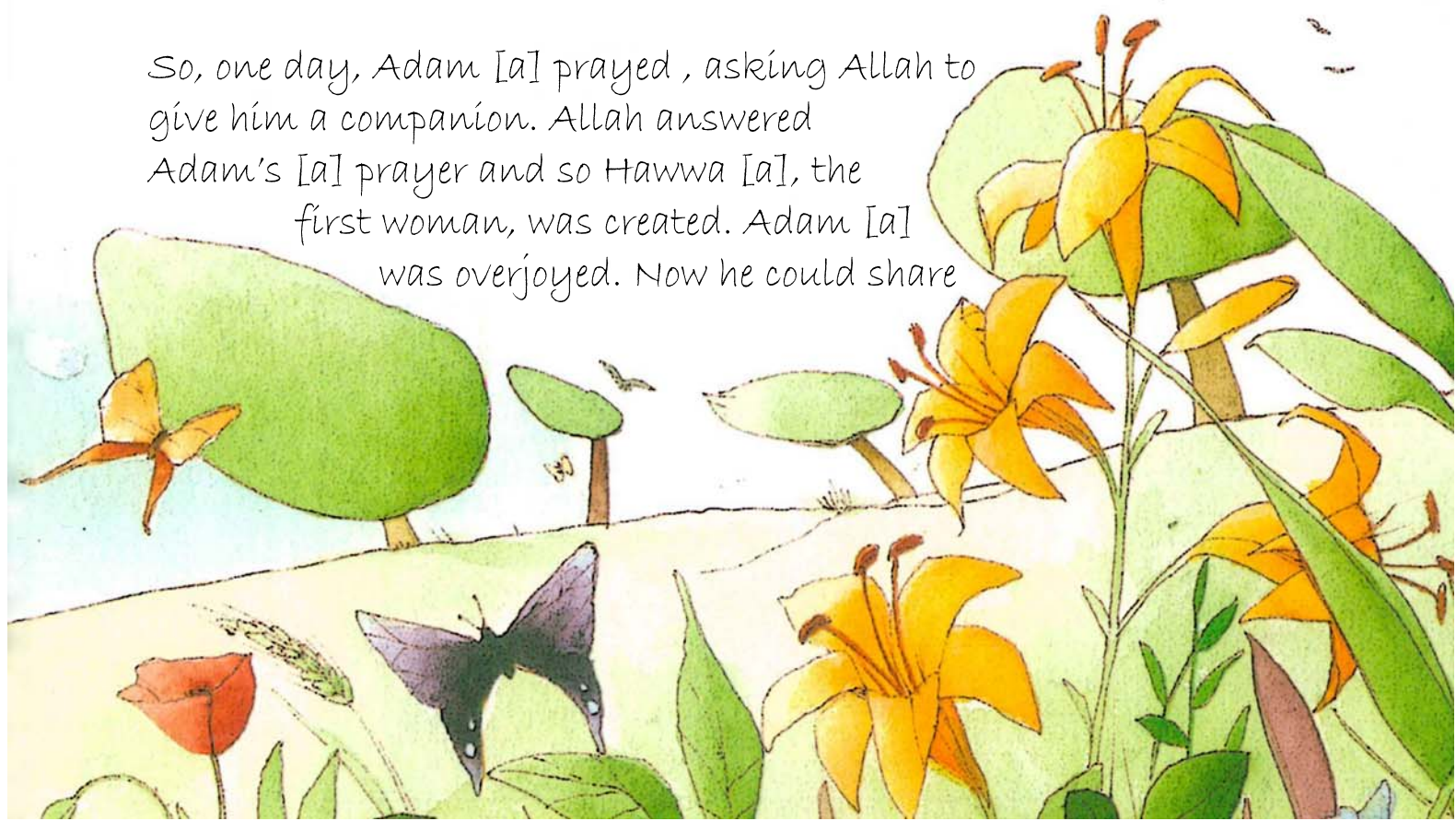
because of this sin. This haughtiness and disobedience angered Allah. "Leave from here immediately! You are cursed till the Day of Judgement, doomed to Jahannam!"

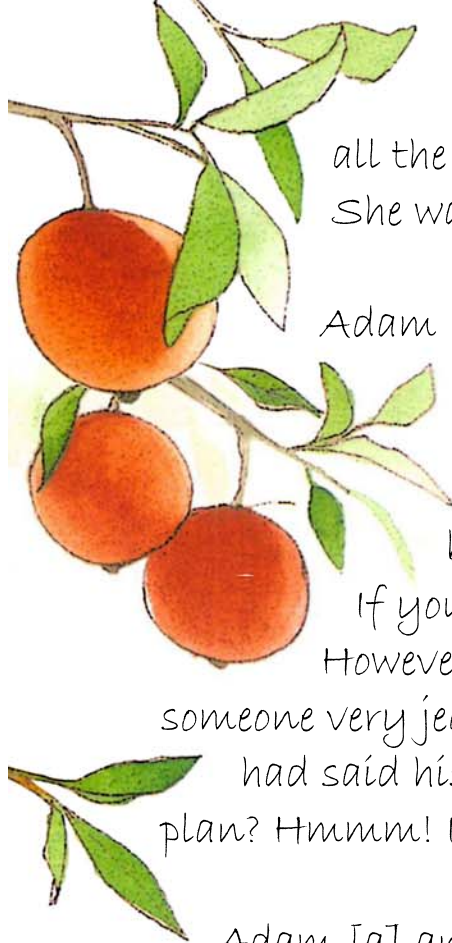
Ever since, Iblis came to be called shaytan, the one cast away, the enemy of Man.

Feeling angry and vengeful, shaytan said to himself, "Adam is to blame for all this. I swear that I will mislead mankind till the end of time. There will never be peace. How can mankind live in peace and enjoy the blessings of Allah while I will have to burn alone in Jahannam. I will cause mischief among mankind and drag as many of them as I can into the fire with me." This is how the twisted mind of the jealous one thinks.

Allah turned to Adam [a] and said, "Go now, and enjoy the Jannah that I have prepared for you. But beware of shaytan for he is your enemy. He will never change, not till the end of eternity." And so Adam [a] lived in Jannah in peace and happiness. For a long time Adam lived alone in the beautiful garden, enjoying all the good things that were there. But then, Adam [a] began to feel lonely. He had everything in Jannah, but no friend. There was no other human being to be seen.

So, one day, Adam [a] prayed, asking Allah to give him a companion. Allah answered Adam's [a] prayer and so Hawwa [a], the first woman, was created. Adam [a] was overjoyed. Now he could share





all the pleasures of Jannah with a friend and companion. She was beautiful indeed, and tremendous fun.

Adam [a] and Hawwa [a] lived in peace and happiness in Jannah, the Garden of Paradise. Allah said to them, "You may enjoy everything in Jannah. You will never feel sorrow. So eat and drink and be happy, but there is a certain tree you must avoid.

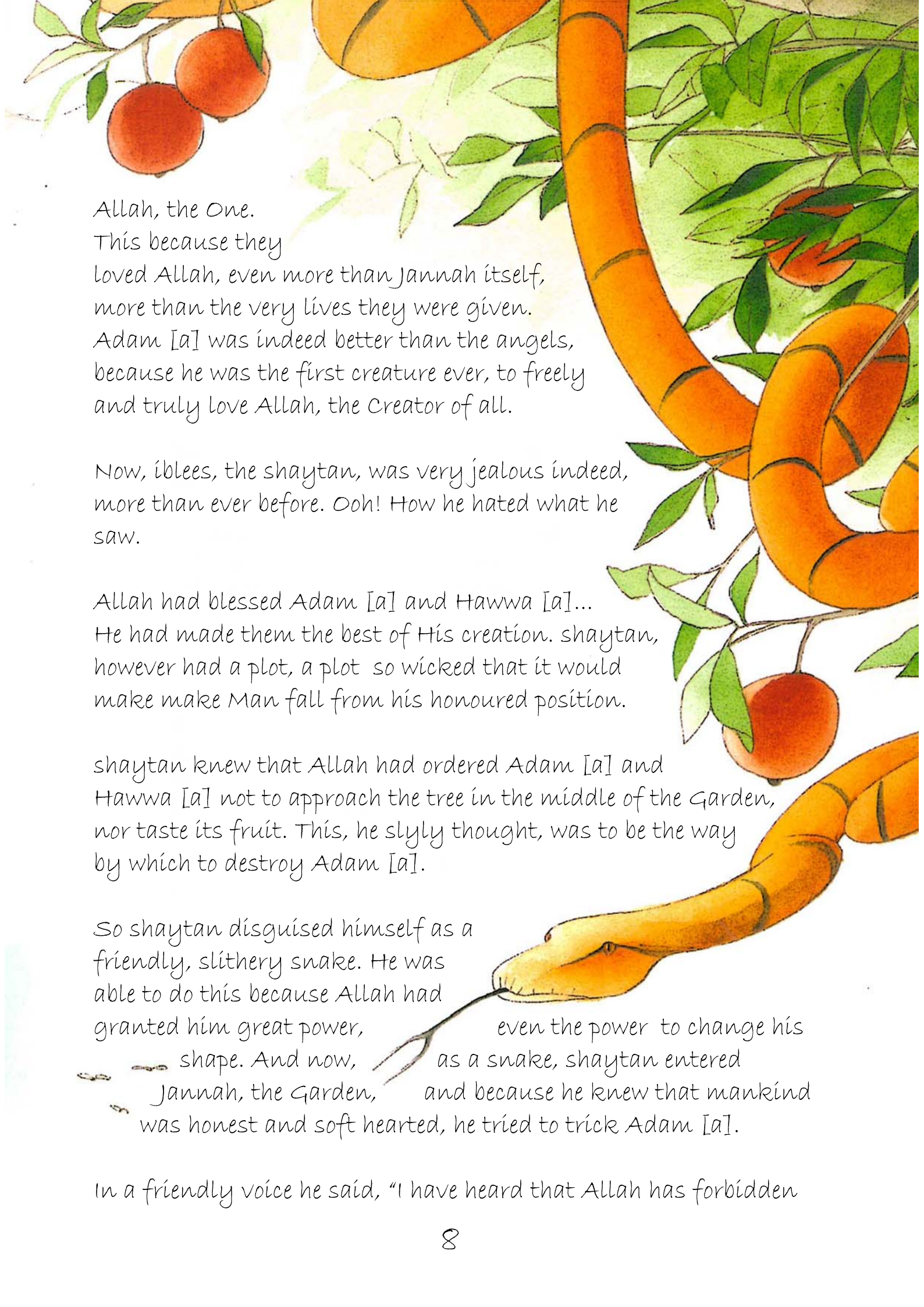
If you eat from the tree, it will lead you to disobedience."

However, there was someone else listening, someone wicked, someone very jealous. It was shaytan. When he heard what Allah had said his evil mind thought of an evil plan. What was the plan? Hmmm! I wonder?

Adam [a] and Hawwa [a] lived very happily in the beautiful Garden of Jannah. Jannah was much more beautiful than our earth, very much more. There were flowers more beautiful than you can imagine, having the sweetest of scents and colours prettier still. There were silver trees as huge as mountains, with golden leaves and fruits of a thousand flavours. There were birds with feathers so lovely, a hundred rich colours all in one. And they sang the sweetest, most melodious songs all day long. There were creatures as only Allah knows, beside heavenly streams with ponds as vast as the skies and the earth. And waters sweeter than honey, whiter than milk, with pebbles of rubies and emeralds twinkling beneath.

For Adam [a] and Hawwa [a] the days in this beautiful Garden were like one delightfully long and comfortable holiday, without any care or concern at all. Ahh! How superb indeed.

They went wherever they wished and ate whatever they chose. They drank the sweet, honey waters and swam in the deep, jewelled ponds. But they never dared go near the tree, the tree forbidden by



Allah, the One.

This because they loved Allah, even more than Jannah itself, more than the very lives they were given. Adam [a] was indeed better than the angels, because he was the first creature ever, to freely and truly love Allah, the Creator of all.

Now, Iblees, the shaytan, was very jealous indeed, more than ever before. Ooh! How he hated what he saw.

Allah had blessed Adam [a] and Hawwa [a]... He had made them the best of His creation. shaytan, however had a plot, a plot so wicked that it would make make Man fall from his honoured position.

shaytan knew that Allah had ordered Adam [a] and Hawwa [a] not to approach the tree in the middle of the Garden, nor taste its fruit. This, he slyly thought, was to be the way by which to destroy Adam [a].

So shaytan disguised himself as a friendly, slithery snake. He was able to do this because Allah had granted him great power, shape. And now, Jannah, the Garden,

even the power to change his as a snake, shaytan entered and because he knew that mankind was honest and soft hearted, he tried to trick Adam [a].

In a friendly voice he said, "I have heard that Allah has forbidden

you to eat the fruit of a special tree." and with a sly grin he said, "Do you know why?"

"No! Not at all." replied Adam [a].



"Well, because I am your friend, I will have to tell you then. Now listen carefully. The fruit of the forbidden tree gives eternal life, and with it you can become like the angels, and live in Jannah forever. This is true I say, and as a trustworthy friend remember, that I shall never harm you, ever."

Now Adam [a] and Hawwa [a], being pure and honest, could not see the trap of the wicked fiend. Both were now fooled into thinking that shaytan was their true friend.

Adam loved Allah dearly, for after all, Allah had created him and given him the best of everything. Allah had given him life and the most wonderful form. And knowledge, and the Garden and Hawa, the most beautiful, loving companion.

"Nothing," he thought, "would be better, than praising Allah and thanking him forever."

They were curious now, and time and again allowed themselves to explore that part of the garden where the mysterious tree stood. The more they saw the tree, the more tempted they were, to taste its fruit and then, maybe, live forever.

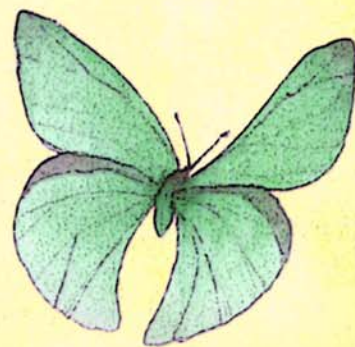
At last Adam [a] plucked a fruit and Hawwa [a] willingly shared it with him. And so Adam [a] and Hawwa [a] both ate the fruit. They found it delicious, so delicious in fact, that they had never tasted anything before quite like that.

But no sooner had they finished eating the forbidden fruit, they suddenly realised their error. They had forgotten the warning of Allah and felt ashamed. They found themselves naked, with no one but themselves to blame.



So, to hide their shame, they quickly gathered a few leaves and carefully covered their naked bodies. Allah was indeed displeased. He turned to them, saying, "Did I not command you to stay away from the forbidden tree and not to eat its fruit. And did I not tell you that shaytan is your open enemy?"

Adam [a] and Hawwa [a] felt very sad indeed for what had happened. They were not disobedient creatures nor were they proud. And so both Adam [a] and Hawwa [a] prostrated themselves to Allah and begged for His forgiveness. They cried saying, "O Allah! We have harmed ourselves, and if you do not forgive us and have mercy on us then we will surely have lost everything." They cried and cried, "We have made a terrible mistake. shaytan has tricked us. So forgive us, O Allah, for You are most Merciful and You are most Forgiving."



Allah is truly Forgiving, Allah is truly Kind, kinder than a even a mother can be to her little baby child.

And so Allah turned to them in forgiveness and accepted their prayers. Allah was now pleased with them, pleased that they were humble and not like the haughty shaytan, all puffed up with pride.

When shaytan heard this, he was more angry than before. "Adam and Hawa escaped from my trap, but not their children," he swore, "For I shall trick them with every kind of Evil and drag them down with me into the very bottom of Jahannam."





The time had come for Adam [a] to leave Jannah, the heavenly Garden, to do the work he was specially created for. He had now learnt the great lesson that to do Allah's work demanded self-sacrificing love and complete obedience, and to be ever watchful of shaytan, the proud, jealous deceiver.

"Now go down to the earth, and there you will live," Allah said to Adam [a] and Hawa [a]. "From now on you both shall work the earth for your food, and everything I have created on the earth you shall use for your own good. You shall be patient and show gratitude for all my gifts to you. You shall have children too and You shall all obey Me, your Creator. Most importantly, you shall keep away from shaytan, the deceiver."

And so Adam [a] and Hawwa [a] found themselves all alone, away from Allah and, oh, so far from the Garden. They were to learn to appreciate all the good things Allah did create, and especially the good favour in Jannah they once did enjoy.

Adam [a] and Hawwa [a] lived for many years on this earth, and they had many, many children, and their children had children, and so too did theirs. They spread out all over the lands and covered the earth, and from the east to the west, all the people we see, are all the children of common parents, children of Hawwa and Adam [a].



The people of all countries, the people of all colours,
people of every race and people of every time,
the people we know, the people we have never met,
and the people of the past and the future to come yet,
they are all children, children of the same parents,
children of the ones who were favoured by Allah,
children of Hawwa [a]
and Adam [a].

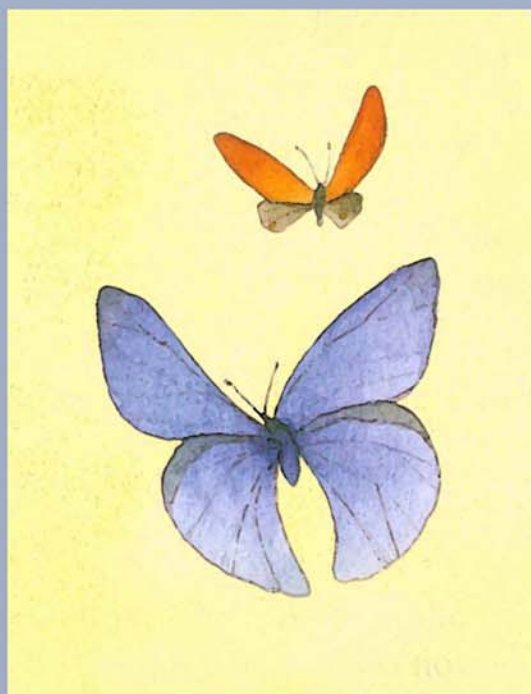






This book gives children an opportunity to :

- learn about the beginning of creation & the creation of Adam & Hawwa
 - understand that Allah has always been, and He has no beginning
- appreciate that Allah created creation as an expression of His qualities
 - recognize that there are many worlds or universes, not just our own
 - discover that creation was created to be appreciated and admired
- realise that only human beings have the ability to admire & appreciate creation
- understand that Allah has given human beings special qualities by virtue of which mankind was made His deputy
- discover that human beings are the only creatures which can truly love Allah & that true love for Allah implies complete obedience to Him



- learn that shaytan always tries to make disobedience to Allah seem attractive
- recognize that Adam [a] did not intend to disobey Allah but rather committed an error of judgement
- appreciate that Allah loves those who repent & that shaytan's plans are destroyed when we do so
- understand that if we disobey Allah He will remove the blessings we enjoy and by doing so teach us appreciation
- realise that humanity is one and that all the people of the earth are the children of Adam [a] and Hawwa [a]