

THE STORY OF



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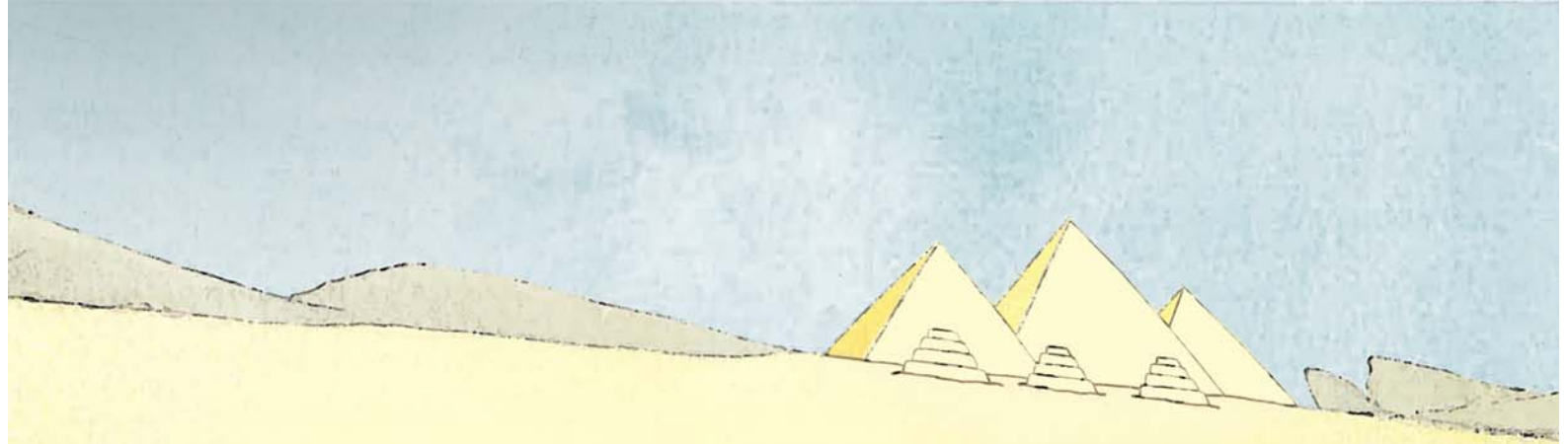
THE STORY OF Musa [a]

We've learnt about the magnificent story of Nabí Ibrahim [a] in the previous book. Do you remember? Well, Nabí Ibrahim [a] had two sons, one was Nabí Ismaíl [a] and his younger brother Nabí Is'haq [a]. They were both pious and obedient servants of Allah. Nabí Ishaq [a], like his elder brother, grew up to be a great Prophet. He had many children and grandchildren, more than you could imagine, and they came to be known as the Banu Isra'íl, the Israelites. They believed in Allah and worshipped Him alone.

The Banu Isra'íl had come to settle in the land of Egypt. They lived there for many years, enjoying the blessings of Allah in this wonderful land. However, as time passed, things changed as things do, and a very proud, superstitious and evil king came to rule over Egypt. Wherever he went the people were terrified and fled. He was cruel and wicked, and his name was Fir'awn.

This king hated the grandchildren of Nabí Ishaq [a]. He hated the Banu Isra'íl. This was because they refused to believe in the false gods and idols the Egyptians worshiped. The banu Isra'íl remained faithful to their belief in one Allah, Master and Creator of all. The proud Egyptians forced the Banu Israel into slavery and placed such difficulties upon them that almost none could bear.





They forced them to work as animals do, beating them, kicking them and starving them too. The only food the Banu Isra'íl were given to eat were the scraps and waste thrown out to dogs and cats in the alleyways and streets.

Despite all these difficulties the Banu Isra'íl continued to grow in number. They had become so many that the Egyptians became afraid of them. Fir'awn knew that the Banu Isra'íl would become too numerous and difficult to control. And what is more is that he was told of a prophecy that an Israelite child will be born who would destroy his kingdom.

Fir'awn was mad with rage and ordered that every newborn male child be killed and only the girls of the Banu Isra'íl be left alive. This cruel order was obeyed and thousands of little baby boys were slaughtered in the streets before their mother's eyes. These were terrible days indeed.

Chapter 2

During this frightful time a handsome son was born to the wife of Imran. Imran was a pious Israelite, a man of truth. For a few days the beautiful baby's mother hid the child away from the cruel Egyptians, but the time soon came when she could do so no longer. Fearing for the safety of the little child, the frightened mother put her baby into a basket ...





and carried it down to the banks of the river Nile. She hid the basket amongst the reeds, commanding Maryam, her daughter, to keep watch from a distance. The poor mother wept bitterly but what could she do? Rather than see the child killed before her eyes, she decided to hand the child over into the care of Allah.

The basket began to float slowly down the river with the child sleeping peacefully in it. It so happened that it was that time of the day when Fir'awns wife, the Queen of Egypt, would go down to the river to bathe along with her maid servants. As she came closer to the bank of the river, she saw the basket and ordered the servants to bring it to her.

The Queen lifted the blanket and peeped under it. She could not believe her eyes. There lay the most beautiful little baby, smiling and gurgling ever so cutely. "What a beautiful child. I have never seen such beauty in all my life!", she exclaimed.

Fir'awns wife was enchanted by the sweet, smiling face of the baby and decided to adopt the little boy. She named him Musa, which in the Egyptian language means 'the one who was taken out of water'.

"We will have to find a nurse to take care of him", said the Queen and she gave orders that a good nurse be found for the baby. Maryam who had followed the basket from a distance was delighted to learn that the Queen was looking for



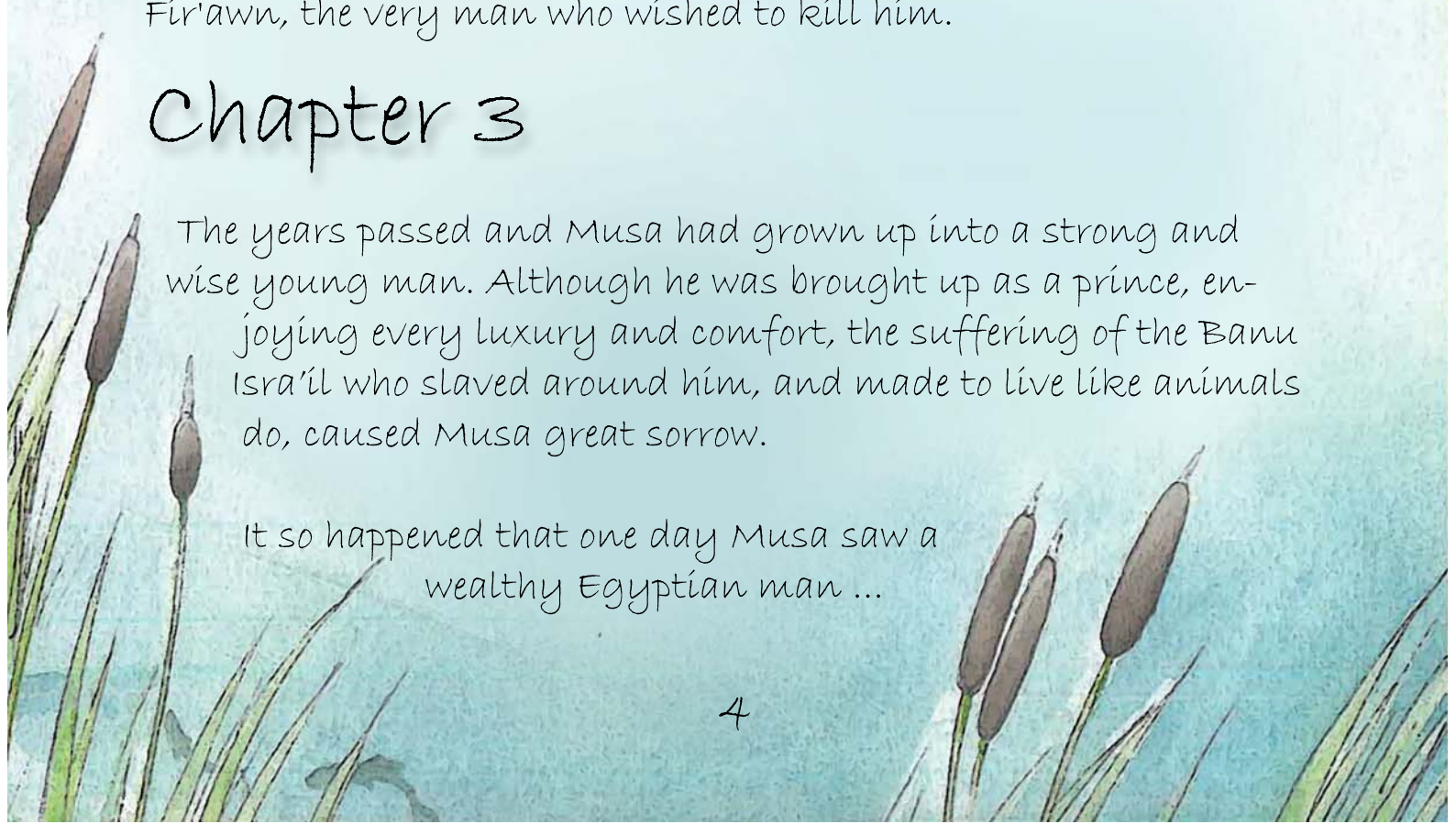
a good woman to take care of the baby she had adopted. She at once went to the Queen and explained that her mother was the best nurse in all the land of Egypt.

"Go fetch her!", said the Queen "If she can nurse the baby I shall pay her well."

Musa's mother was overjoyed. She knew that Allah had protected the child from harm. She knew that Allah had brought mother and child back together, safe from the cruelty of Fir'awn. She knew that Allah always cares for those who put their trust in Him.

And so, with his mother by his side caring for him, handsome little Musa began his life as a prince of Egypt in the palace of Fir'awn, the very man who wished to kill him.

Chapter 3



The years passed and Musa had grown up into a strong and wise young man. Although he was brought up as a prince, enjoying every luxury and comfort, the suffering of the Banu Isra'il who slaved around him, and made to live like animals do, caused Musa great sorrow.

It so happened that one day Musa saw a wealthy Egyptian man ...



mercilessly beating an Israelite slave. Seeing such cruelty, Musa [a] fell upon the Egyptian in order to save the Israelite slave, but in his anger he dealt such a heavy blow that the Egyptian was killed on the spot. Musa [a] was very regretful and prayed to Allah for forgiveness. He did not wish to kill the man. But the crime was very serious indeed and he had to flee from Egypt into the deserts that stretched across the shores of the Red Sea, into the land of Madyan.

His wanderings in the desert brought him one day to a watering place where he saw two maidens who were finding difficulty in drawing water from the well for their flock of sheep.

Musa [a] went to their assistance. After helping them he quenched his own thirst and lay down to rest under the shade of a tree nearby.

Later one of the damsels came back. Approaching shyly, she said in a soft voice, "My father is grateful for what you had done for us. He invites you to our home so that he may thank you in person and reward you for your kindness."

Musa [a] happily accepted the invitation and followed the maiden to her father whom he found to be a very kind, noble old man. His name was Shu'ayb. Shu'ayb and his family lived a very happy life in their comfortable and peaceful home.

Musa [a] introduced himself to Shu'ayb, explaining how he had come to be in Madyan. He told Shu'ayb the story of his youth and upbringing and how he had lived as a prince of Egypt in the palace of Fir'awn. He described what had happened to the Egyptian man



and how he was forced to leave Egypt. "You are well rid of them", said Shu'ayb. "Who would live among such cruel people? You should thank Allah for your escape," added Shu'ayb.

After some days, one of the daughters told Shu'ayb, "O Father, why don't you employ this man to work for us? He is strong and seems trustworthy too."

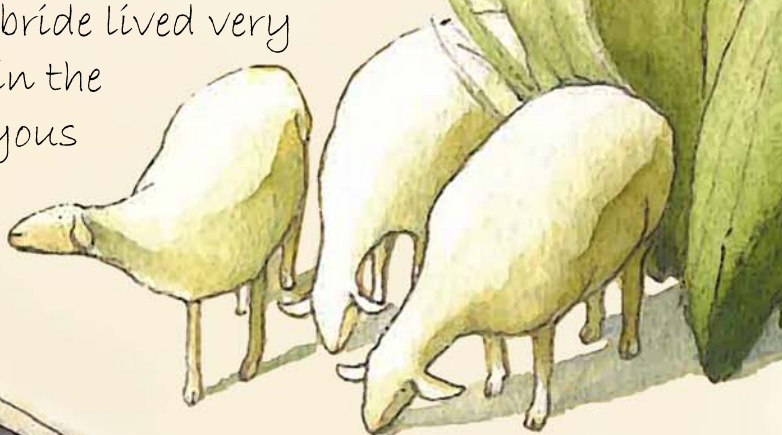
Shu'ayb had already noticed the excellent qualities of Musa [a]. and was only too eager to accept his daughter's advice.

Musa [a] thus stayed in the home of Shu'ayb and

the two became close friends. One sunny day Shu'ayb proposed to Musa [a] that he marry one of his lovely daughters.

Musa [a] was overjoyed at the proposal and before long the two were married. Musa [a] and his beautiful bride lived very happily in the bright joyous home of Shu'ayb.

But, even there, he was not at peace. He continued



He continued to think about the sorrow of his people and their sufferings in Egypt.

Chapter 4

One day while travelling through the cold night with his family, Musa [a] saw a fire blazing from the Mountain of Sinai. "Stay here!", he told his wife. "I am going over there to bring back a burning ember, and with it we will make a fire to warm ourselves."

But when he reached that which he thought to be a fire, he found a glorious blaze of light, a light so bright it lit up the heavens and the earth from east to the very far west.

Suddenly an All-Powerful voice fell upon his ears, "O Musa! I am Allah, the Lord of the worlds."

Musa [a] stood overawed, fascinated and speechless.

"Now throw down your staff!", commanded the voice. Musa [a] obeyed, and miraculously, the staff stirred to life and began to slither about. It had turned into an enormous snake.

Musa [a] was shocked by the unexpected sight, but the voice calmly reassured him. "O Musa!" It said. "Fear not for no harm shall come to you. Now place, your hand under your arm, near to your heart, and see what shall be seen!" And lo, the hand glowed bright with the glory and splendor

of Allah. Allah had filled the heart of Musa [a] with the light of faith and revelation.

"Now go!", said the voice, "...with these two signs, to the wicked Fir'awn and to his people. Go as My messenger, call them to truth and free the Banu Isra'il from slavery!"

Musa [a] had been chosen by Allah to be His Prophet to the Banu Isra'il. He was now Nabí Musa [a], Prophet and Messenger of the Lord of the Worlds.

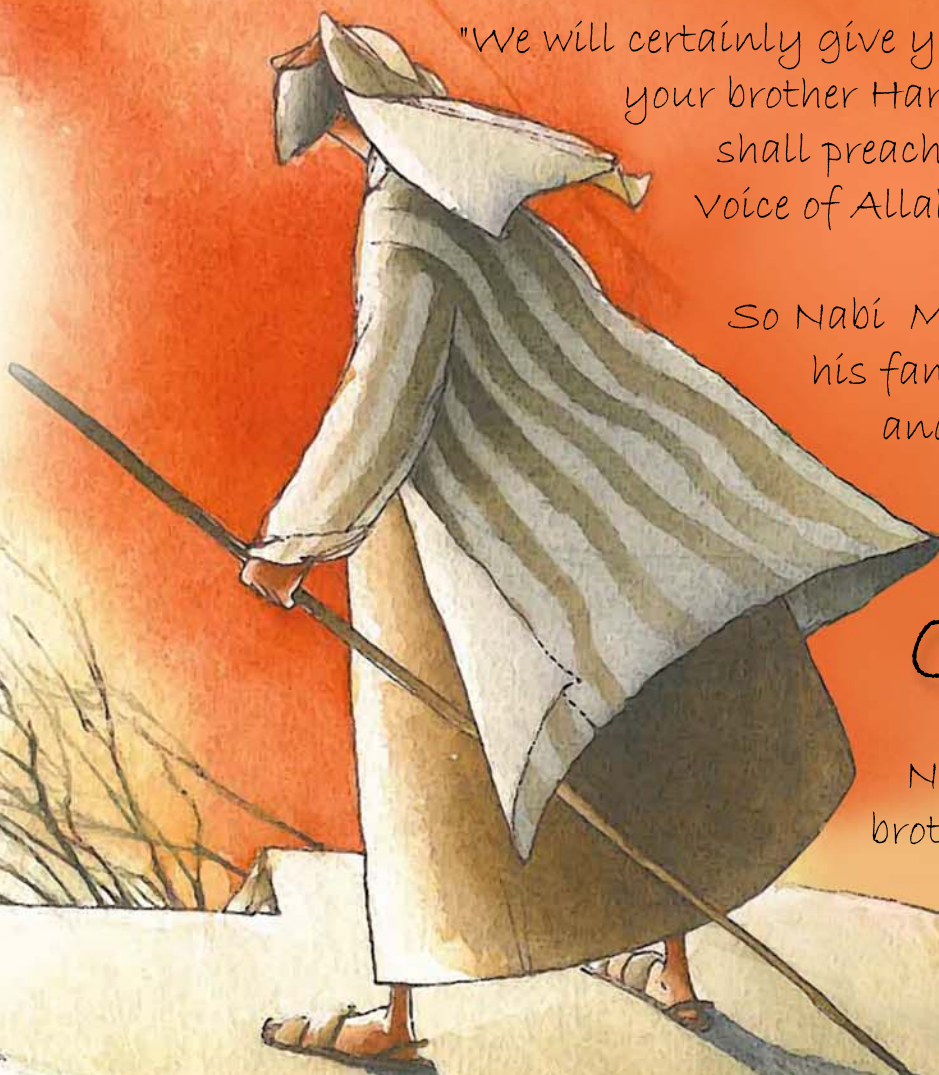
Nabí Musa [a] was fearful of the great duty placed upon him. He was commanded to free a whole nation from slavery and change the wicked ways of a powerful king and his people. This was no easy task. "O Allah!" Nabí Musa [a] prayed, "Make my brother Harun my helper for he is a better speaker than I am."

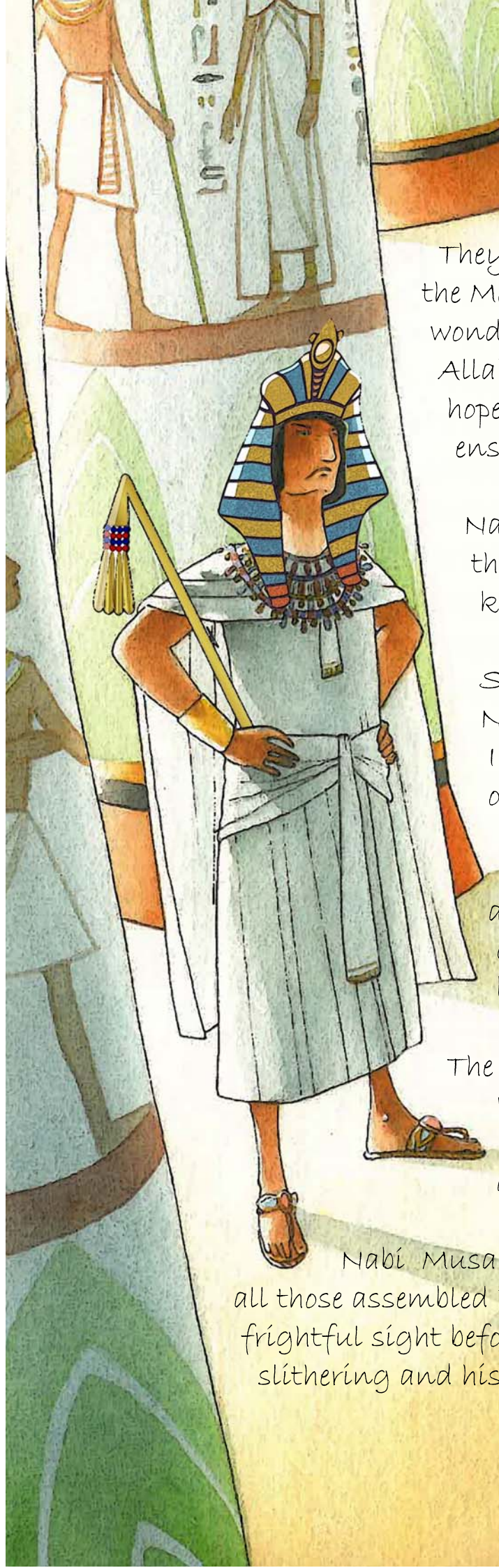
"We will certainly give you the support of your brother Harun and together you shall preach My word", said the voice of Allah.

So Nabí Musa [a] returned to his family greatly excited, and immediately set out on his journey to Egypt.

Chapter 5

Nabí Musa's [a] brother, Nabí Harun [a] joined him in





Egypt and together they began their mission of calling the Banu Isra'il to their message.

They told them of all that had happened on the Mountain of Sinai, Nabí Musa's [a] wondrous encounter and the revelation of Allah. The people were overjoyed and the hope of freedom filled the hearts of the enslaved people.

Nabí Musa [a] and Nabí Harun [a] then made their way to the palaces of the king of Egypt, Firawn.

Silence filled the court of Fir'awn as Nabí Musa began to speak, "O Fir'awn! I am a messenger from Allah, the Lord of the worlds, and I have come to you to demand the freedom of the Banu Isra'il whom you have kept in slavery and persecuted for so many years. I come with a clear sign from Allah, so be warned and fear Allah, your Creator"

The wicked king was greatly amused.

"So you are now a Prophet of Allah!" he laughed. "Well, show us a sign if you are truthful".

Nabí Musa [a] at once threw down his staff and all those assembled in the court of Fir'awn drew back at the frightful sight before them. There arose a gigantic serpent, slithering and hissing.

Nabí Musa [a] reached over and the
turned once more into a staff.

terrifying snake

"Now see", said Musa as he placed his
arm, by his pure heart. As he drew it out,
surprise, it was sparkling brilliantly,
with Divine Light.

hand under his
to everyone's
radiant

Fir'awn and his chiefs were struck with wonder.

"This is magic, pure and simple!", the chiefs told the
king. "Musa is using magic to snatch away your
kingdom."

"Let us match his magic with that of our magicians", advised the
chiefs.

So Fir'awn issued orders to all the magicians of the land to gather
on a certain day at his palace. He offered them a rich reward
if they could defeat Nabí Musa [a].

On the appointed day all the magicians gathered
at the palace of the king. When Nabí
Musa [a] and Nabí Harun [a]
arrived the chief magician stood
them saying, "O Musa!

up and addressed
Will you be first or shall we?"

"You first," replied Nabí Musa [a]. And so the magicians, who
knew of the staff of Nabí Musa [a], threw their rods and magical-
ly the ground was covered with slithering, hissing snakes.

Then Nabí Musa [a], taking his turn, threw his staff to the
ground, and behold! It began to devour the magician's snakes until

not a single one was left. The king's magicians, realising that this was no magic nor was it trickery, bowed their heads down before Nabí Musa [a] and declared their belief in Allah, the Lord of the worlds. This was the work of a power far greater they had ever known, a power that could only be possessed by a Prophet of Allah.

"Now do you believe?" Nabí Musa [a] asked Fir'awn. But Fir'awn was angrier than before. He had been humiliated and his own magicians had turned against him.

Fir'awn looked fiercely towards the the magicians, "How dare you believe in Musa before I give you permission to do so?" he thundered. "I shall have you nailed to a cross and leave you to die a slow, painful death", he threatened.

Instead of believing in Allah and releasing the Banu Isra'íl from slavery, the wicked Fir'awn became even more cruel towards them, ordering his chiefs to work them even harder and beat them even more viciously.

Chapter 6

Nabí Musa [a] told his people to pray to Allah and to be patient. He warned Fir'awn that a great punishment would come upon the land of Egypt if he did not heed Allah's warning. But still Fir'awn refused.

The punishment came over the wicked king and his people. Allah withheld the rains and a drought gripped the land. There was a severe shortage of food and many began to die of starvation.

But the stubborn king saw this punishment as nothing but the evil of Nabí Musa [a] and defiantly said, "We shall never believe in your sorcery, O Musa!"

The punishment of Allah came upon the evil king and his people even more fiercely. Firstly, the water of the vast river Nile turned to blood. None could drink it and all the fish in the river died.

Then, countless swarms of frogs appeared. They were everywhere; in the houses, in the gardens and in the street, crawling over everything, and everywhere you could feel them creep. The people had no water and now no peace. They became very afraid.

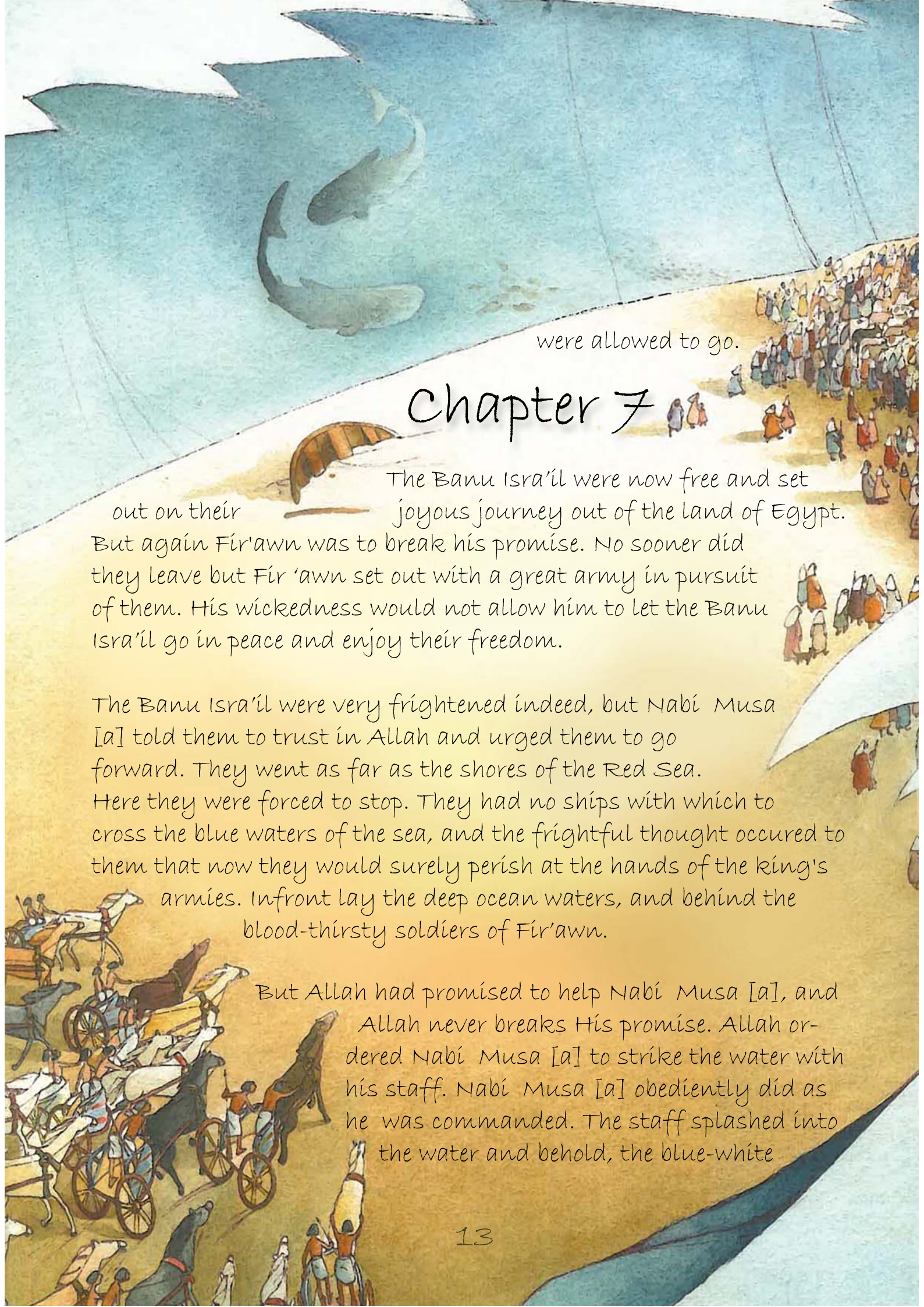
The king too was very scared. He now summoned Nabí Musa [a] and said, "O Musa! Pray on our behalf to your Allah. If we are saved from this punishment, then we shall truly believe in you and we shall allow you to take the Banu Isra'íl with you as free men".

But when Allah removed the frogs and the water of the Nile became fresh and sweet again, the king refused to fulfill his promise. So Allah's punishment returned; first a plague of lice then followed clouds of hungry locusts which settled upon the fields and devoured all the vegetation.

Thereafter came terrible hailstorms and a dreadful disease which infected all the Egyptians covering their bodies with painful boils and sores. Through all this horror the Banu Isra'íl were kept safe and protected.

Once again, Fir'awn and his people were terrified and begged Nabí Musa [a] to pray to Allah to save them, promising in return to believe in him and to free the Banu Isra'íl. Thus it was that after years and years of slavery, the Banu Isra'íl at last





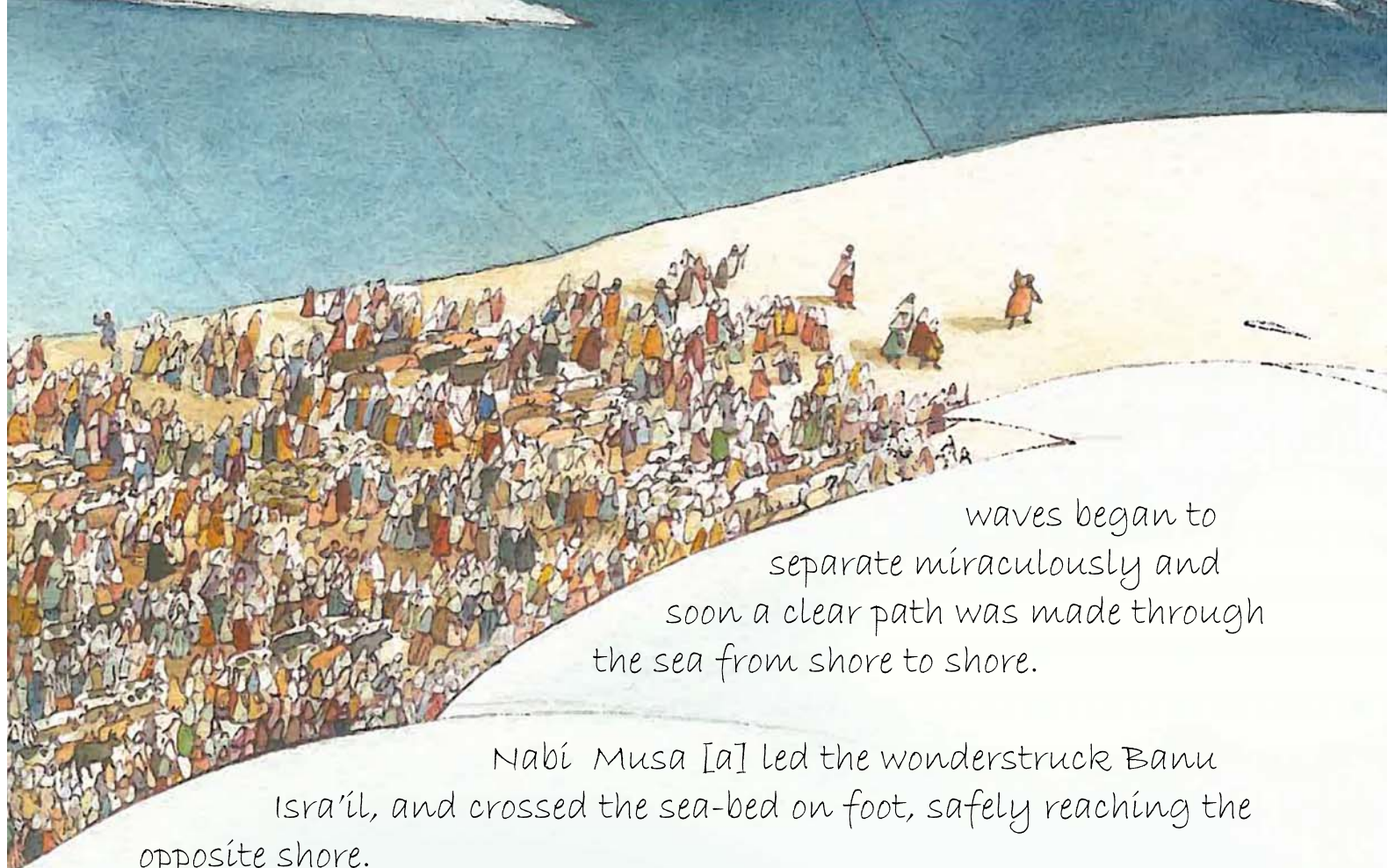
were allowed to go.

Chapter 7

out on their joyous journey out of the land of Egypt. But again Fir'awn was to break his promise. No sooner did they leave but Fir 'awn set out with a great army in pursuit of them. His wickedness would not allow him to let the Banu Isra'il go in peace and enjoy their freedom.

The Banu Isra'il were very frightened indeed, but Nabi Musa [a] told them to trust in Allah and urged them to go forward. They went as far as the shores of the Red Sea. Here they were forced to stop. They had no ships with which to cross the blue waters of the sea, and the frightful thought occurred to them that now they would surely perish at the hands of the king's armies. In front lay the deep ocean waters, and behind the blood-thirsty soldiers of Fir'awn.

But Allah had promised to help Nabi Musa [a], and Allah never breaks His promise. Allah ordered Nabi Musa [a] to strike the water with his staff. Nabi Musa [a] obediently did as he was commanded. The staff splashed into the water and behold, the blue-white



waves began to
separate miraculously and
soon a clear path was made through
the sea from shore to shore.

Nabí Musa [a] led the wonderstruck Banu
Isra'íl, and crossed the sea-bed on foot, safely reaching the
opposite shore.



Firawn, in his fury and pride, and so not realising the dangers
ahead, charged with his armies into the sea path. But no sooner were
they in its deepest area, but the water rushed back, swallowing
the whole army and drowning the wicked Fir'awn along with his
soldiers, chariots, horses and all.



On the opposite shore of the Red Sea, the Banu Isra'íl sang out
in praise of Allah and His messenger, Nabí Musa [a]. They
were glad. Their long years of slavery were over at last. They
returned once more to Kan'an, the land of their forefathers, and
there they settled, living in peace and happiness, worshipping
Allah and praising Him for all His favours.

This is the reward for those who believe in Allah and obey His com-
mands, and a warning to those who, because of pride and greed,
disobey the messengers of Allah and do evil on the earth.





This book gives children an opportunity to :

- learn about the Prophet Musa [a]*
- discover that all kings who are proud and disbelieve in Allah become cruel and wicked*
- understand that we must be concerned for the poor and oppressed even if we ourselves are living in comfort*
- learn that when intending marriage, always look for one who has commendable spiritual & moral qualities*
- realize that what seems to be beneficial to us, Allah can make harmful, and what seems harmful to us He can make beneficial*



- appreciate that belief does not depend on miracles*
- learn that Allah punishes severely those who see his signs and still refuse to believe*
- learn that Allah always comes to the rescue of those who believe in him and follow His Prophets*
- learn that in the end, only the believers are successful*