

Stories from Qur'an

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# THE CAVE'S COMPANIES

<http://www.sef.ps/vb>

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فادي\_أبو محمد



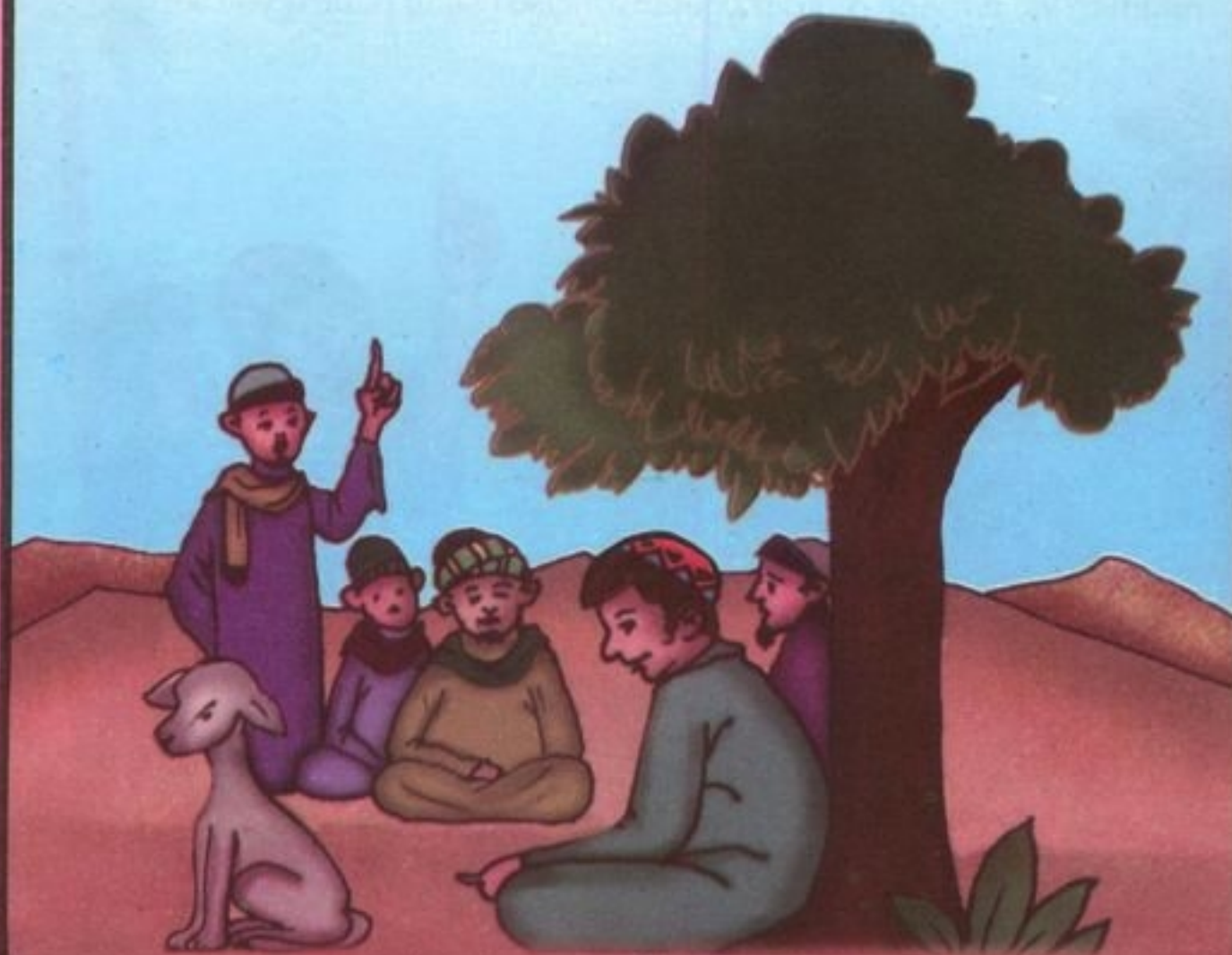


In the past, before the mission of Prophet Muhammad, Allah's peace and blessings be upon him, there was an unjust king called Diqyanus. He was an idol-worshiper and used to call his people to be the same. So the people of his town worshiped idols instead of Allah, the Almighty. One day, the residents of the town went out to celebrate one of their feasts and offer sacrifices to their gods. A number of youths observed what their people were doing. One of them isolated himself from the others and sat under a tree. After a while another came and sat beside him, then the rest came one after another and gathered under the tree. Each of them was afraid to tell the others about the secret that he had kept from the people.





When they all sat together, away from their people, one of them said, "By Allah! You must be hiding something secret; otherwise you would not leave your people like this. Therefore, let every one of you tell the others about what he is hiding." One of the youths said, "Looking at what my people do, I realized that it is wrong and that only Allah deserves to be worshiped, as He is the One God, Who has no partner. It is He Who created the heavens and the earth and all that is between them." Another youth said, "I also believe in what you have said." Then the rest of the youths expressed the same beliefs that the first two had expressed and thus they joined together as brothers in the cause of Allah. They betook themselves to some place where they could worship Allah, the Almighty.

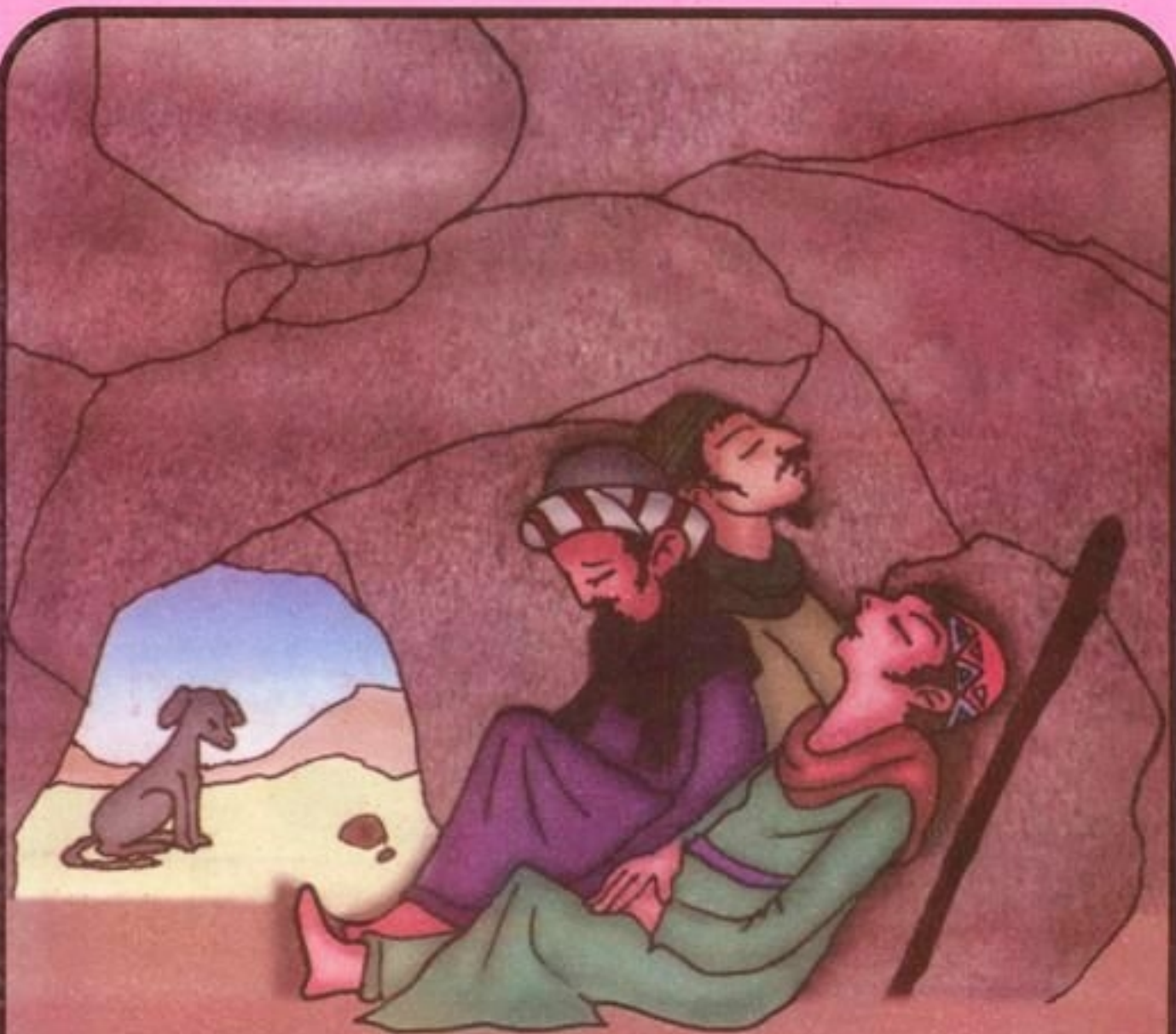




They kept worshiping Allah, the Almighty, until their people discovered their secret and told the king that these youths had deserted the worship of their idols. The king ordered that they should be brought before him, then he said to them. "I heard that you do not worship our gods but worship another god!" They looked at each other then said, "Yes, king! We worship Allah, the One God, Who has no partner, and Who created us, you, and all things in the universe. And we invite you to worship Him alone!" Their reply and invitation enraged the king who said, "I have brought you here to return to our faith but you are now asking me to worship your god!" Then the king commanded the guards, "Take off their clothes that belong to our people, for only those who adopt our faith should wear these clothes." Then he addressed the youths, saying, "Look, youths! You are still young and so you do not understand matters well. I shall give you some time to rethink and return to the religion of your people, or else I shall punish you severely."







This period of time that king Diqyanus gave to the youths to come back to their people's faith, was really a mercy from Allah for them. After consultation they decided to escape with their religion to a cave in a mountain. Then they entered the cave.

The next morning, the people discovered that they had gone and told the king, who commanded his soldiers to search for them everywhere. Yet, they failed to find them, according to Allah's will, Who safeguarded them because they fled with their faith, away from disbelief and error.

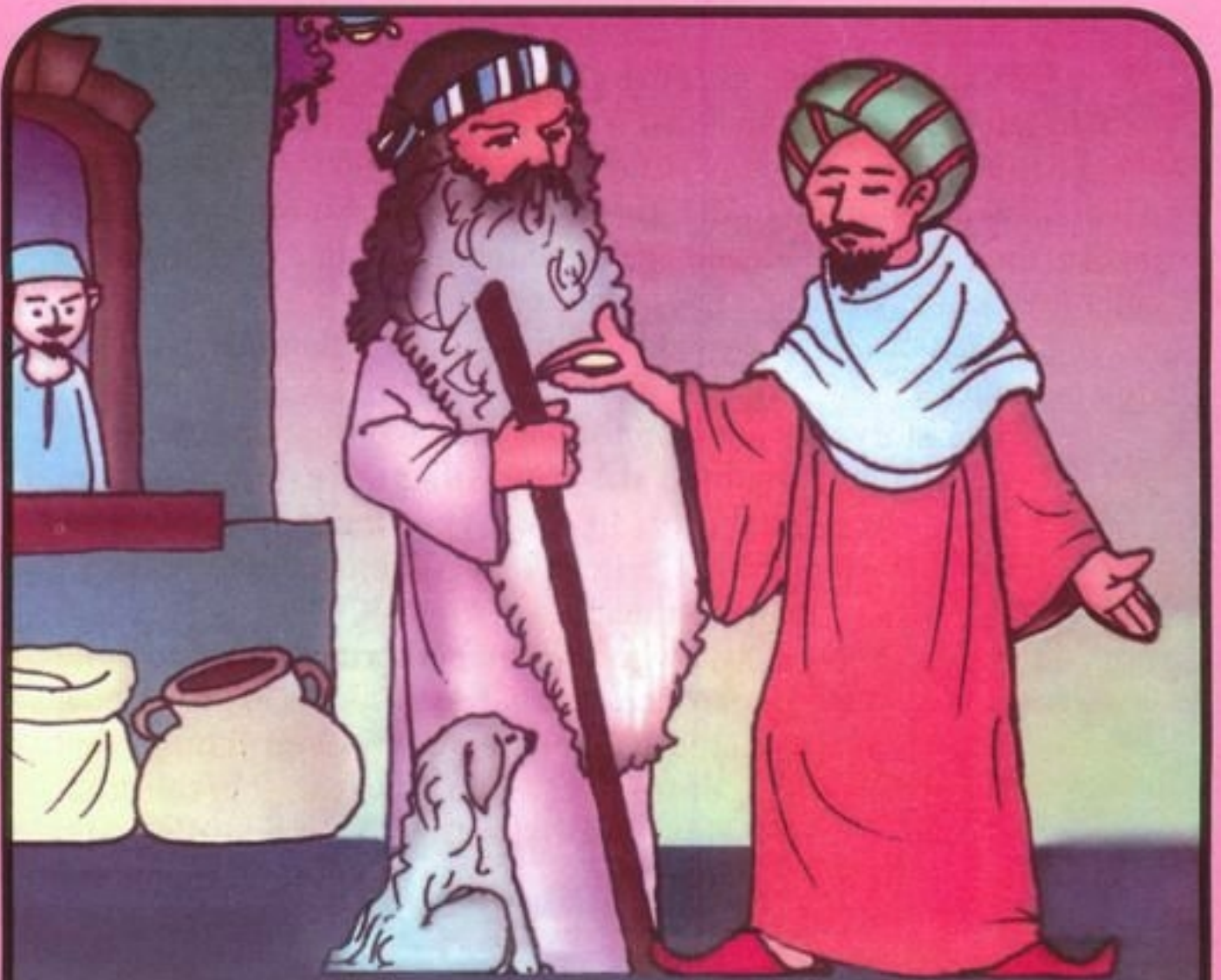
In the cave, and as a blessing from their Lord, they fell into a deep sleep, even though they had only gone out of the town in the morning. Their dog, which had also accompanied them, sat at the entrance of the cave.





One night, the people of the cave awoke and realized that they had slept very deeply. They asked one another about how long they had been asleep. They thought they slept for one day or perhaps for some hours. However they concluded that only Allah knew how long they had slept. Then, feeling hungry, they said, "What is important now is that one of us should go and buy some food, and he should be careful so that no one would know anything about us. If they know where we are, they will either kill us or take us back to the worship of idols." Then they chose one of them to do this difficult job.





The youth went out of the cave and walked towards the town. He felt as if the town was not his town although the way to it was the same. He wondered whether he was dreaming or not, but continued walking to bring food to his friends. He also felt that the people were different from those whom he had known before. Anyhow, he presented to one of the merchants in the market a coin but the man was astonished. Then the youth showed it to another merchant and then to a third one. They all thought that he had found a treasure so they asked him, "Where did you get this coin?" "It is the coin that we use and that king Diqyanus proclaimed as the coin of the town," the youth replied. They accused him of madness and sent him to the king. The youth kept invoking Allah to protect him but when he stood before the king he noticed that he was not Diqyanus but that he was a Muslim king. The king asked him about his story and he told him about what had happened to him and his companions. Then the king said, "How is that! That was three hundred and nine years ago!" The youth said, "By Allah, I am not telling a lie and my fellows are still in the cave!" The king and some of his attendants headed straight for the cave.



When they reached the cave, the youth asked them to let him enter first, to tell his fellows what had happened so that they would not be shocked and that he might reassure them. He wanted to tell them that Allah had caused them to die for three hundred and nine years, and that He took care of them and protected them, and that the sun would enter their cave but would not burn them.

He entered the cave and closed it behind him, and then Allah caused them to die.

Their story was a lesson for the people of that time, as some of them doubted the truth of the Resurrection and Accountability. So Allah gave them an example so they might believe that Allah is able to resurrect man after death.

Those who were in authority wanted to build a mosque over the dead youths to give lasting fame to their memory, even though that contradicted the laws of the religion. However, the people returned, filled with wonder as well as strong faith in the Resurrection.

