

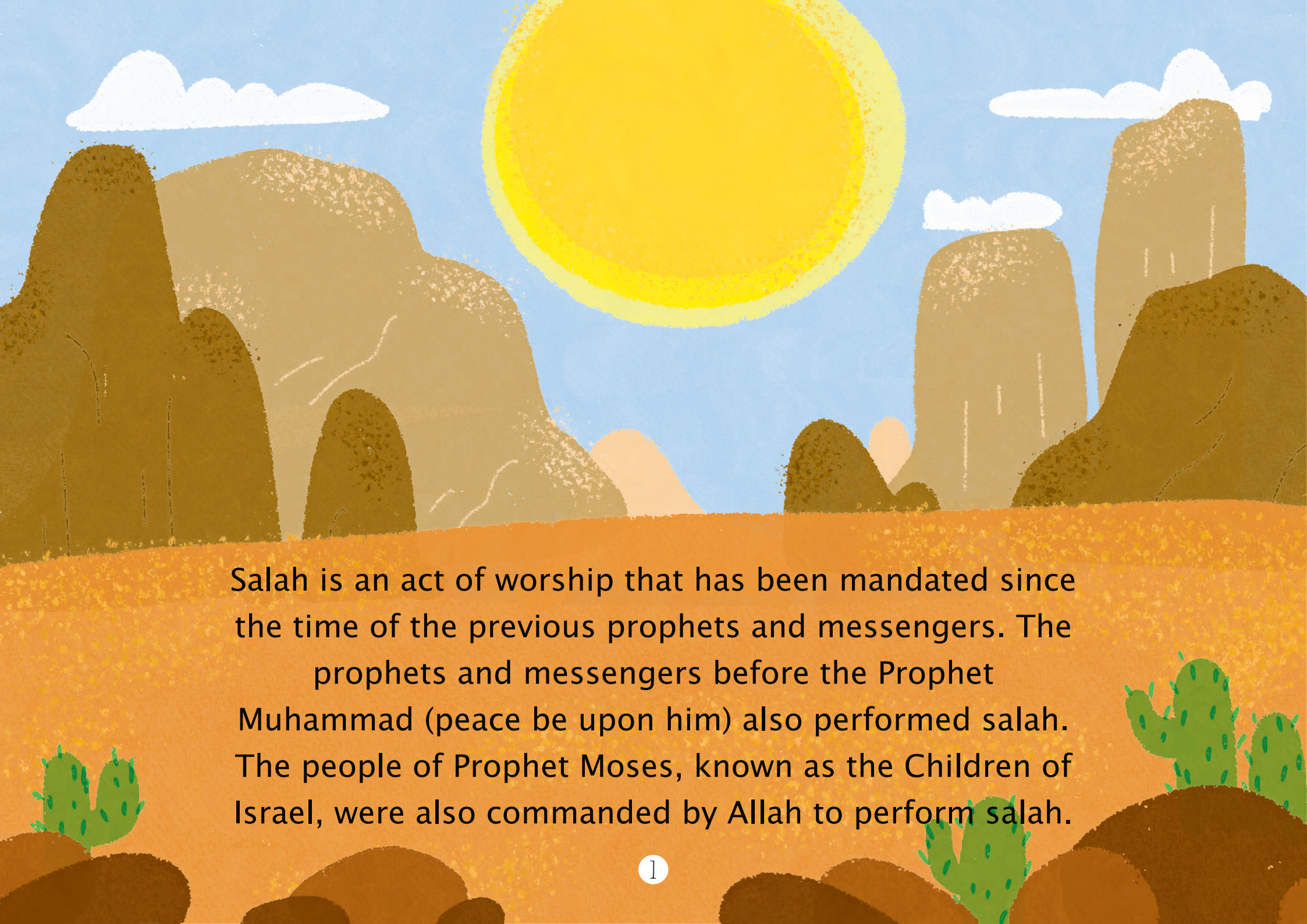
A Short History of Prayer

Story & Illustration by Noli

English Translation by Nandyka Yogamaya

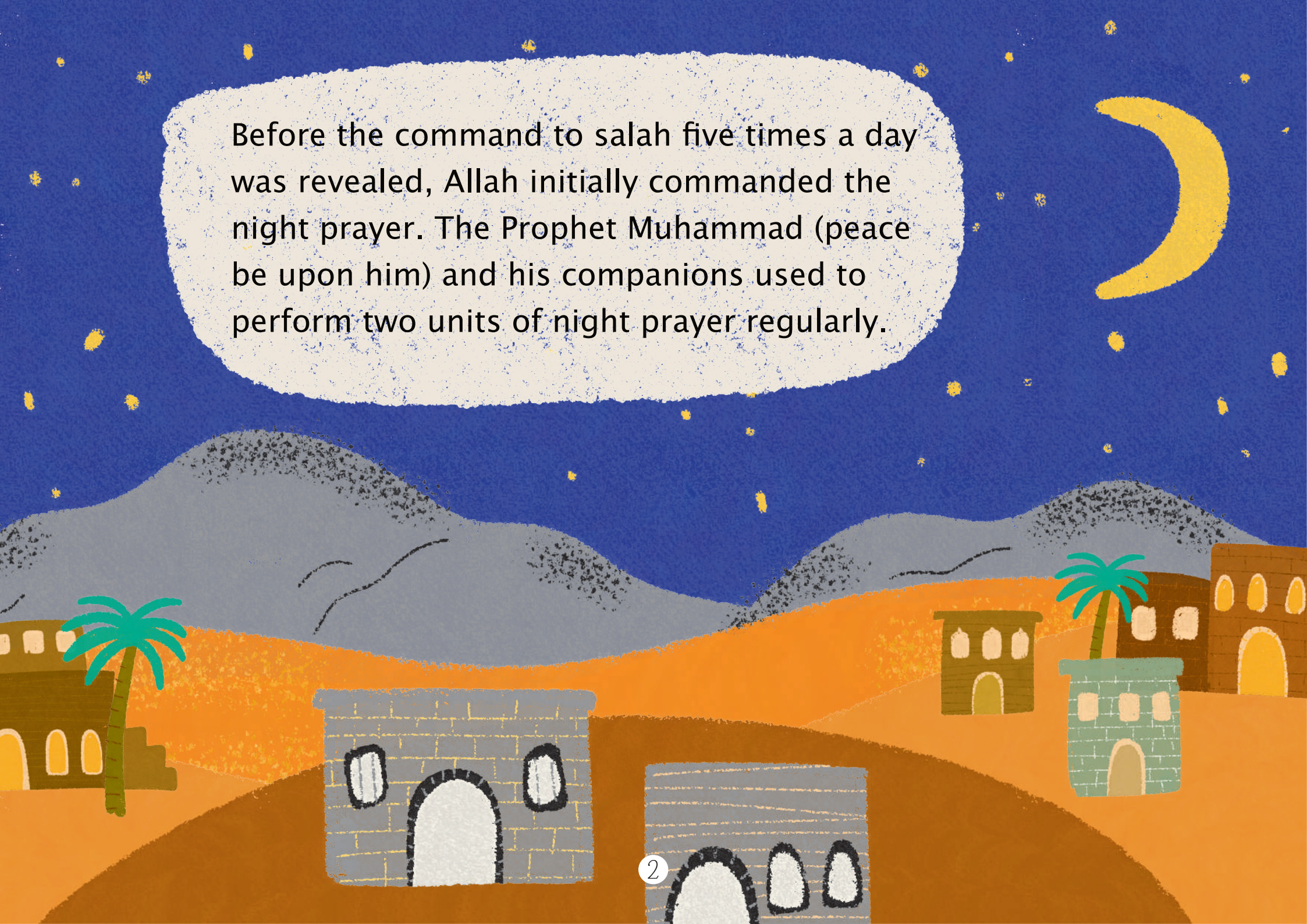
Reviewed by Ustadz Akhmad Taufik Arizal



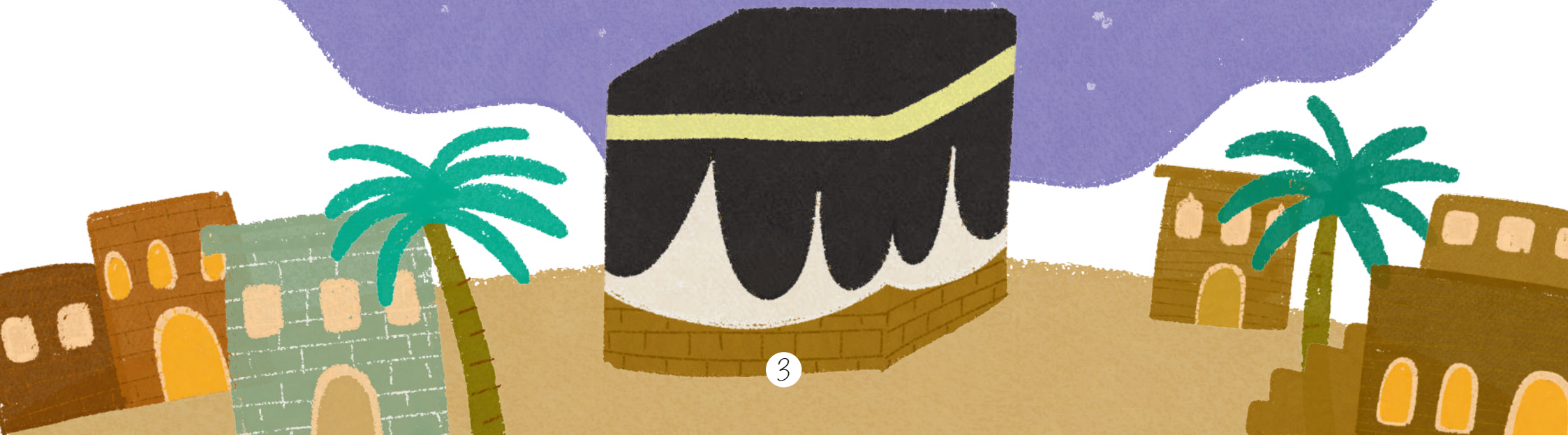


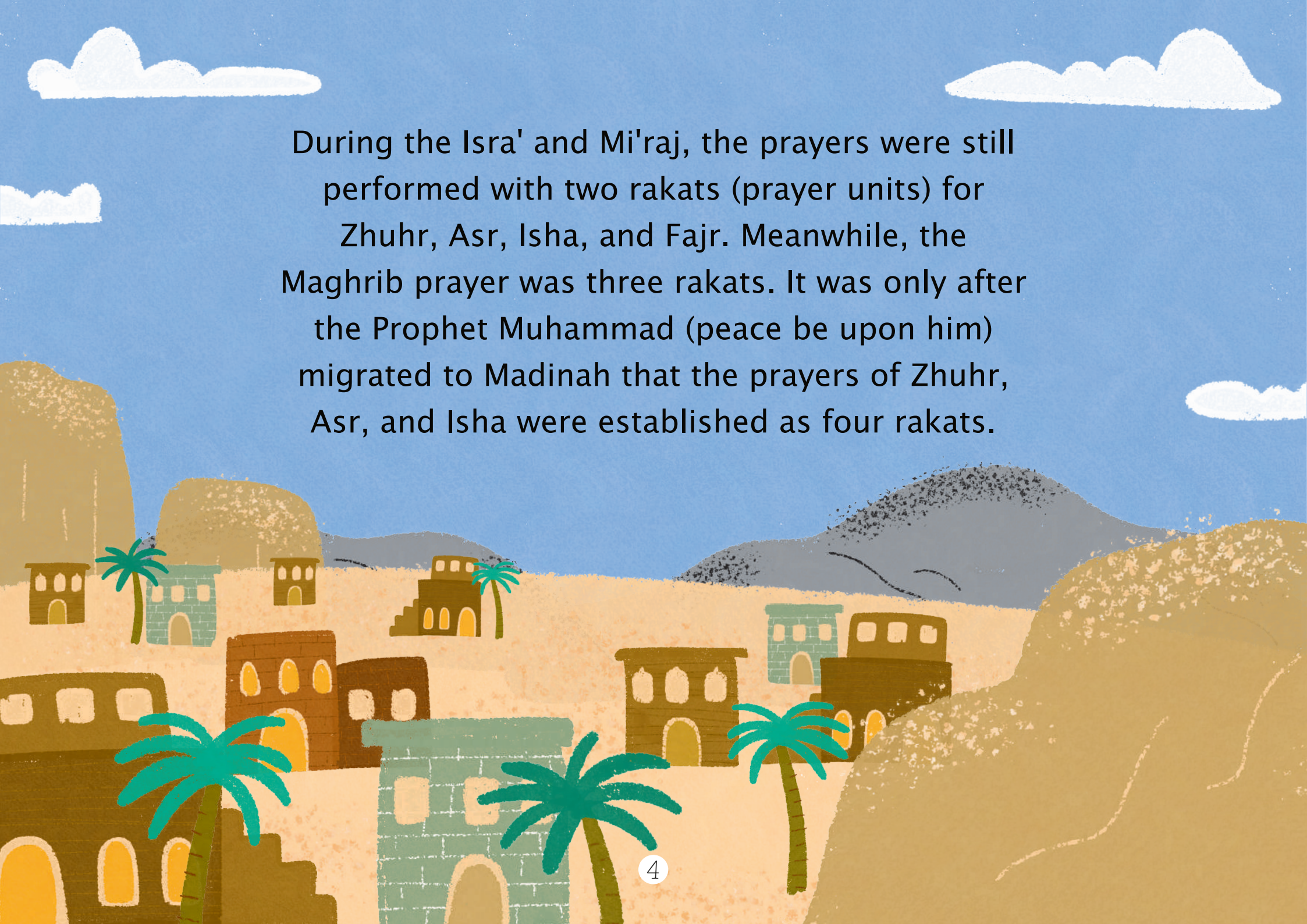
Salah is an act of worship that has been mandated since the time of the previous prophets and messengers. The prophets and messengers before the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) also performed salah. The people of Prophet Moses, known as the Children of Israel, were also commanded by Allah to perform salah.

Before the command to salah five times a day was revealed, Allah initially commanded the night prayer. The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) and his companions used to perform two units of night prayer regularly.

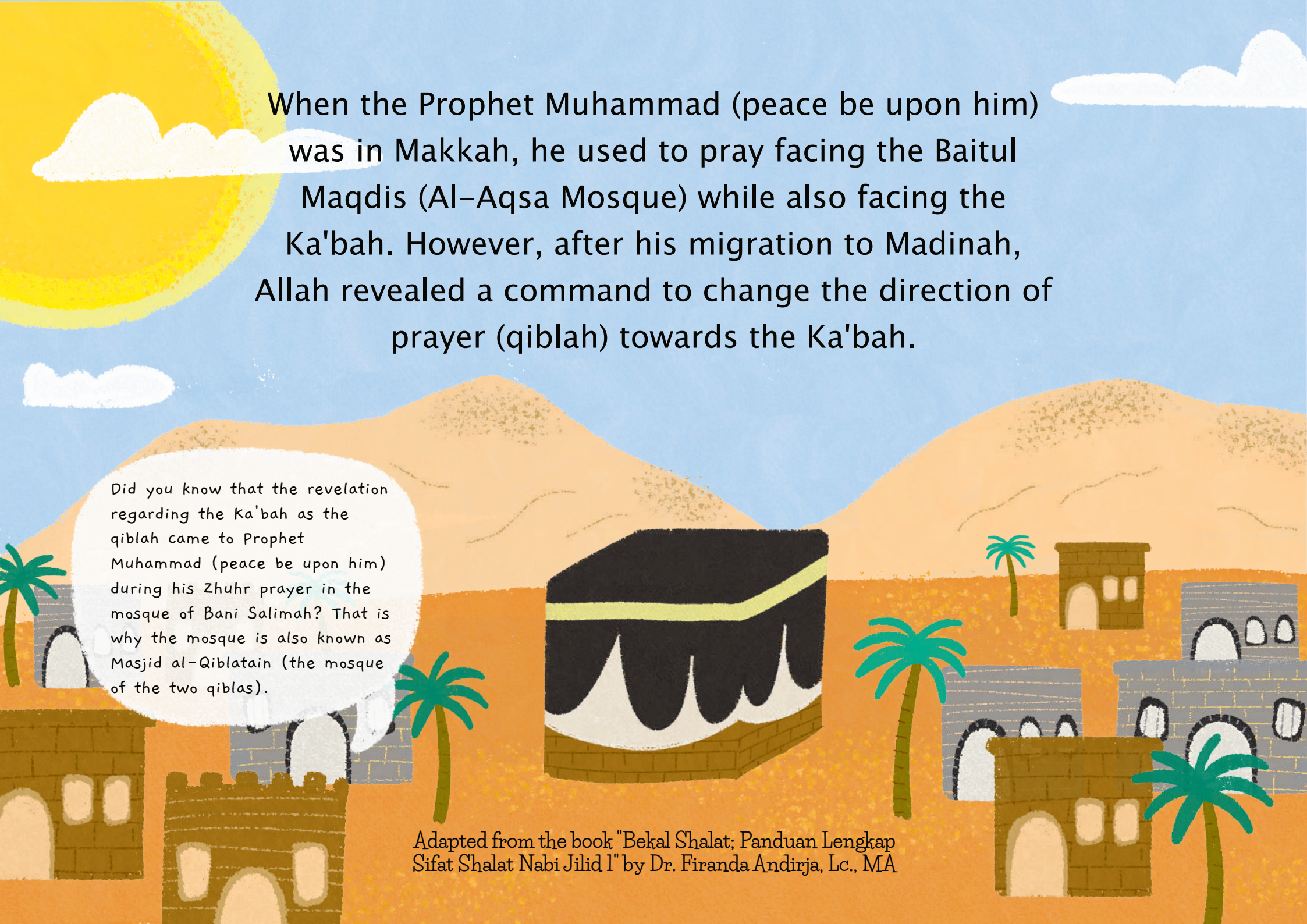


The command to salah five times a day was revealed during the Al Isra' wal Mi'raj journey (Night Journey and Ascension) of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). Initially, Allah obligated salah fifty times a day. However, Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) asked for it to be lessened, until it eventually became five times a day.





During the Isra' and Mi'raj, the prayers were still performed with two rakats (prayer units) for Zhuhr, Asr, Isha, and Fajr. Meanwhile, the Maghrib prayer was three rakats. It was only after the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) migrated to Madinah that the prayers of Zhuhr, Asr, and Isha were established as four rakats.



When the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was in Makkah, he used to pray facing the Baitul Maqdis (Al-Aqsa Mosque) while also facing the Ka'bah. However, after his migration to Madinah, Allah revealed a command to change the direction of prayer (qiblah) towards the Ka'bah.

Did you know that the revelation regarding the Ka'bah as the qiblah came to Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) during his Zhuhr prayer in the mosque of Bani Salimah? That is why the mosque is also known as Masjid al-Qiblatain (the mosque of the two qiblas).

Adapted from the book "Bekal Shalat; Panduan Lengkap Sifat Shalat Nabi Jilid I" by Dr. Firanda Andirja, Lc., MA