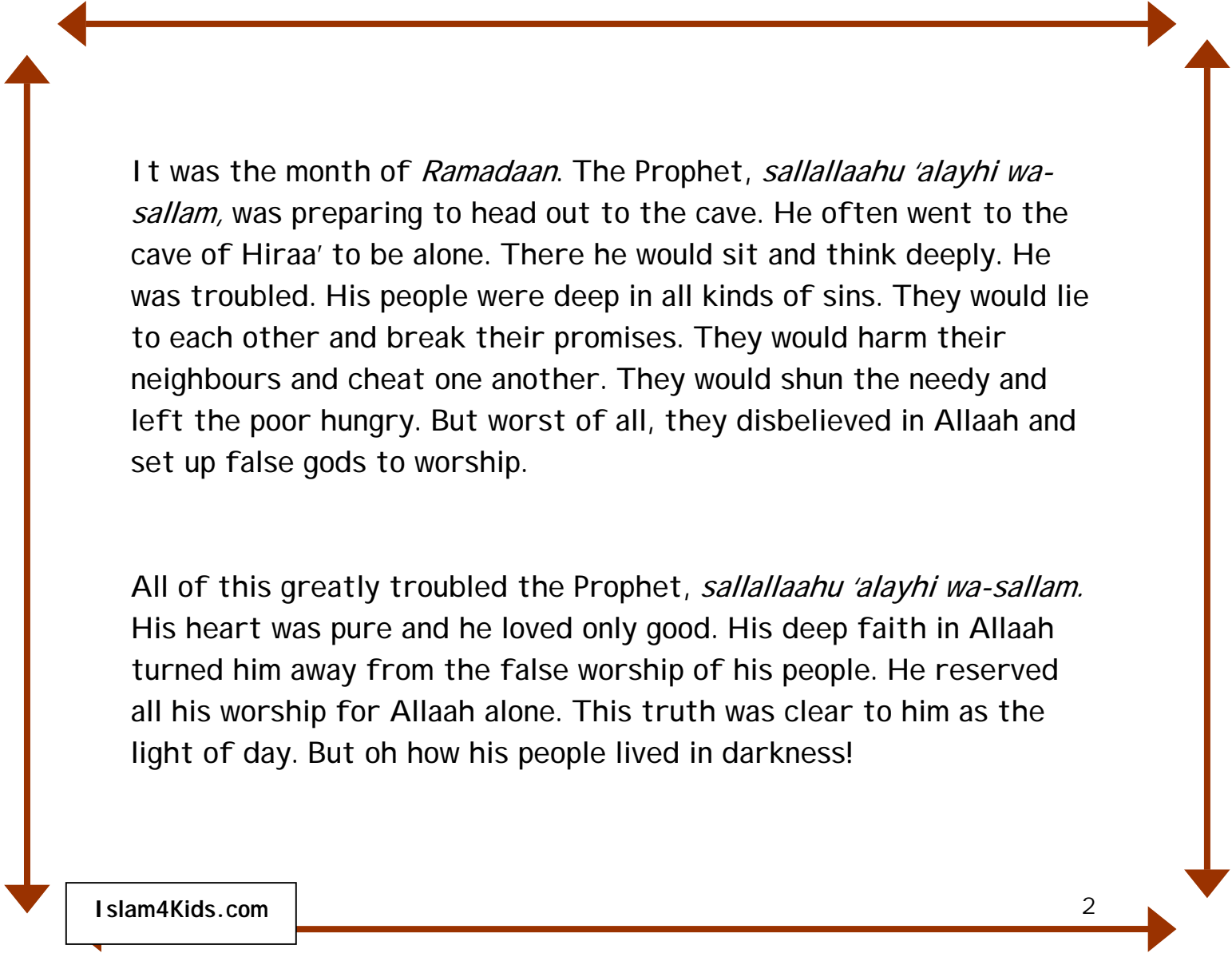


Story based on
authentic
ahaadeeth

From The Cave Of Hiraq, To Mankind

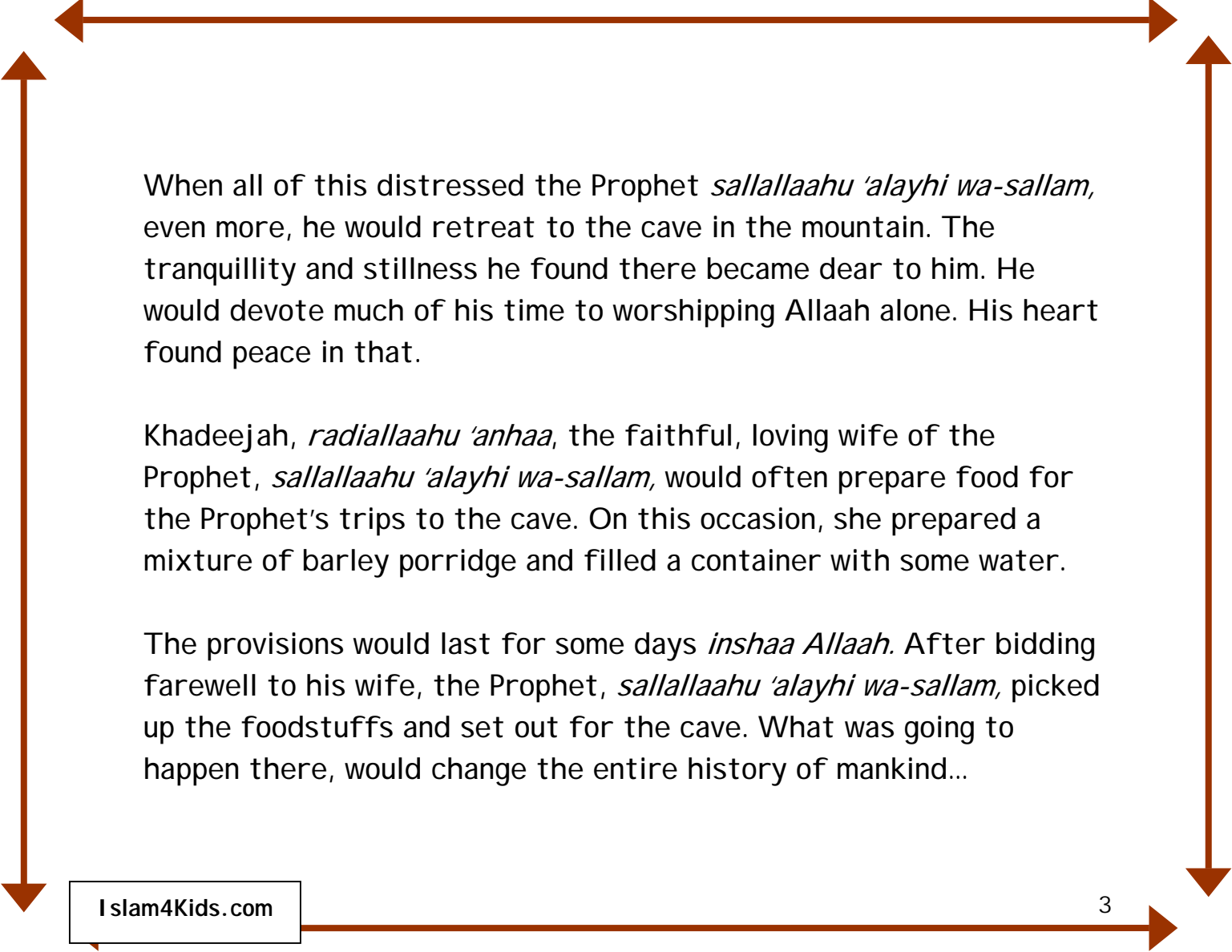


References:
Saheeh al-Bukhaaree Trans. Vol 1 chapter: How the Divine Inspiration Started.
*Ar-Raheeq Al-Makhtoom (The Sealed Nectar) - Biography of the Noble Prophet, sallallaahu
'alayhi wa-sallam, by the Scholar Safi-ur-Rahman al-Mubarakpuri.*



It was the month of *Ramadaan*. The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, was preparing to head out to the cave. He often went to the cave of Hiraa' to be alone. There he would sit and think deeply. He was troubled. His people were deep in all kinds of sins. They would lie to each other and break their promises. They would harm their neighbours and cheat one another. They would shun the needy and left the poor hungry. But worst of all, they disbelieved in Allaah and set up false gods to worship.

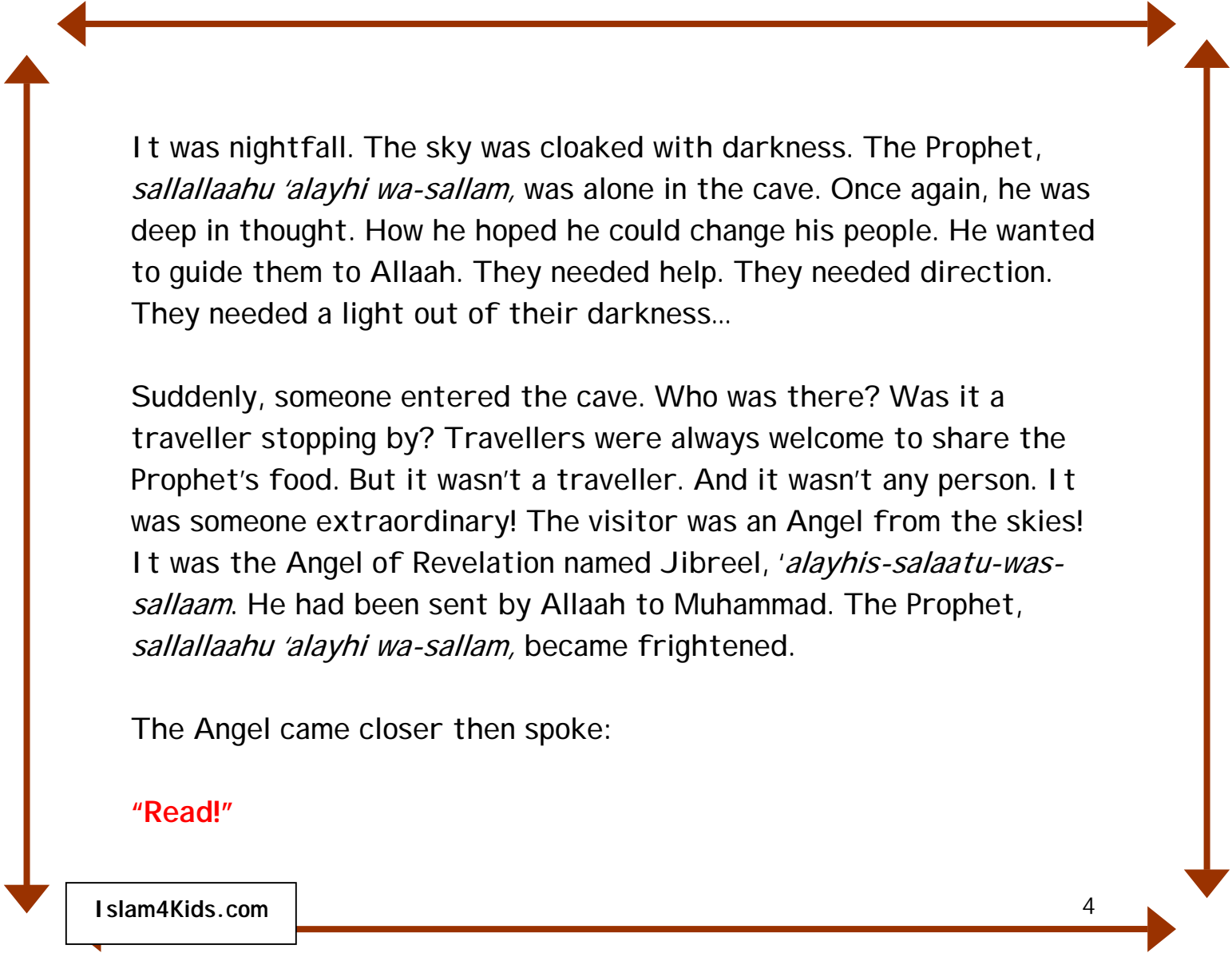
All of this greatly troubled the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*. His heart was pure and he loved only good. His deep faith in Allaah turned him away from the false worship of his people. He reserved all his worship for Allaah alone. This truth was clear to him as the light of day. But oh how his people lived in darkness!



When all of this distressed the Prophet *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, even more, he would retreat to the cave in the mountain. The tranquillity and stillness he found there became dear to him. He would devote much of his time to worshipping Allaah alone. His heart found peace in that.

Khadeejah, *radiallaahu 'anhaa*, the faithful, loving wife of the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, would often prepare food for the Prophet's trips to the cave. On this occasion, she prepared a mixture of barley porridge and filled a container with some water.

The provisions would last for some days *inshaa Allaah*. After bidding farewell to his wife, the Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, picked up the foodstuffs and set out for the cave. What was going to happen there, would change the entire history of mankind...

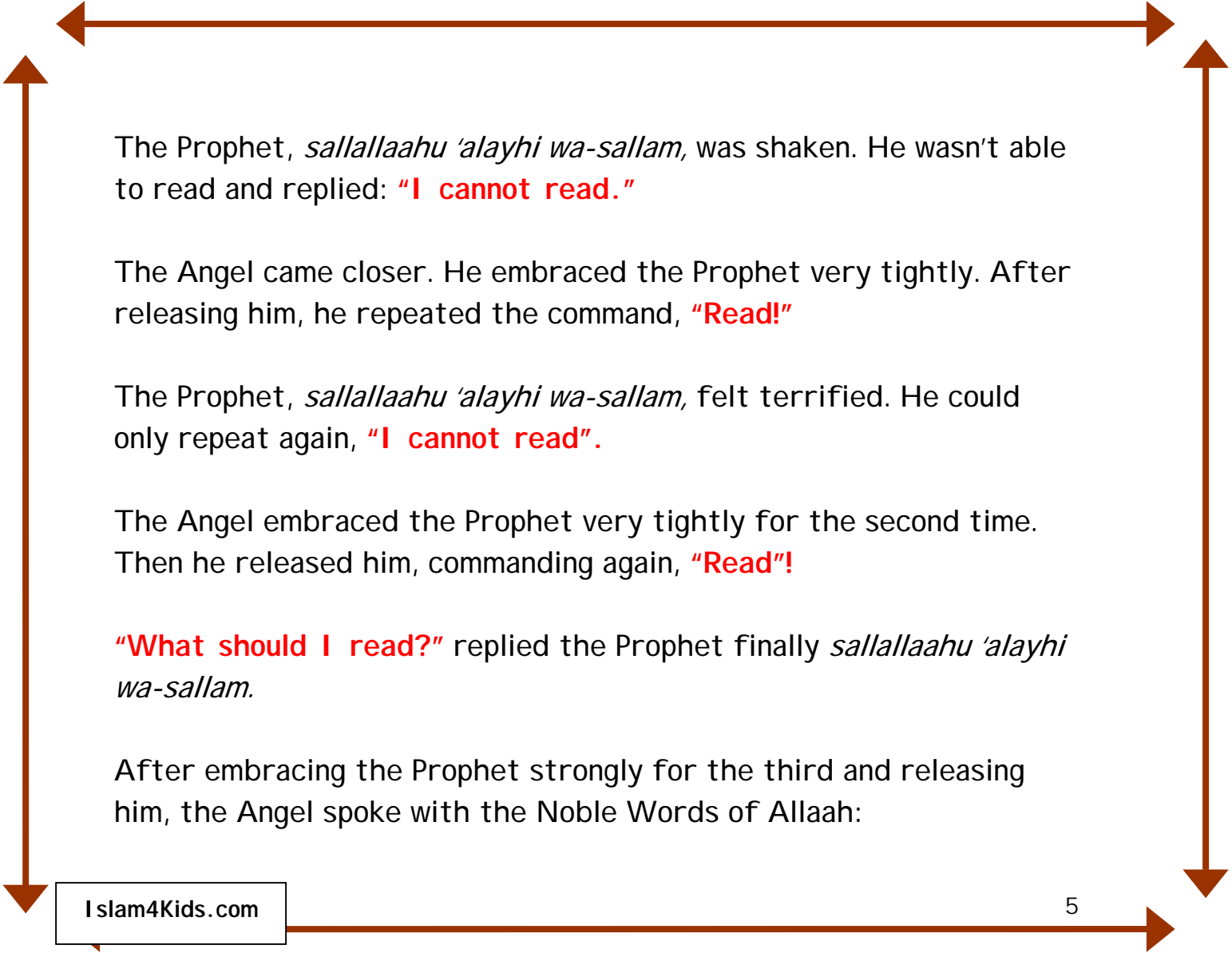


It was nightfall. The sky was cloaked with darkness. The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, was alone in the cave. Once again, he was deep in thought. How he hoped he could change his people. He wanted to guide them to Allaah. They needed help. They needed direction. They needed a light out of their darkness...

Suddenly, someone entered the cave. Who was there? Was it a traveller stopping by? Travellers were always welcome to share the Prophet's food. But it wasn't a traveller. And it wasn't any person. It was someone extraordinary! The visitor was an Angel from the skies! It was the Angel of Revelation named Jibreel, '*alayhis-salaatu-was-sallaam*. He had been sent by Allaah to Muhammad. The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, became frightened.

The Angel came closer then spoke:

"Read!"



The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, was shaken. He wasn't able to read and replied: **"I cannot read."**

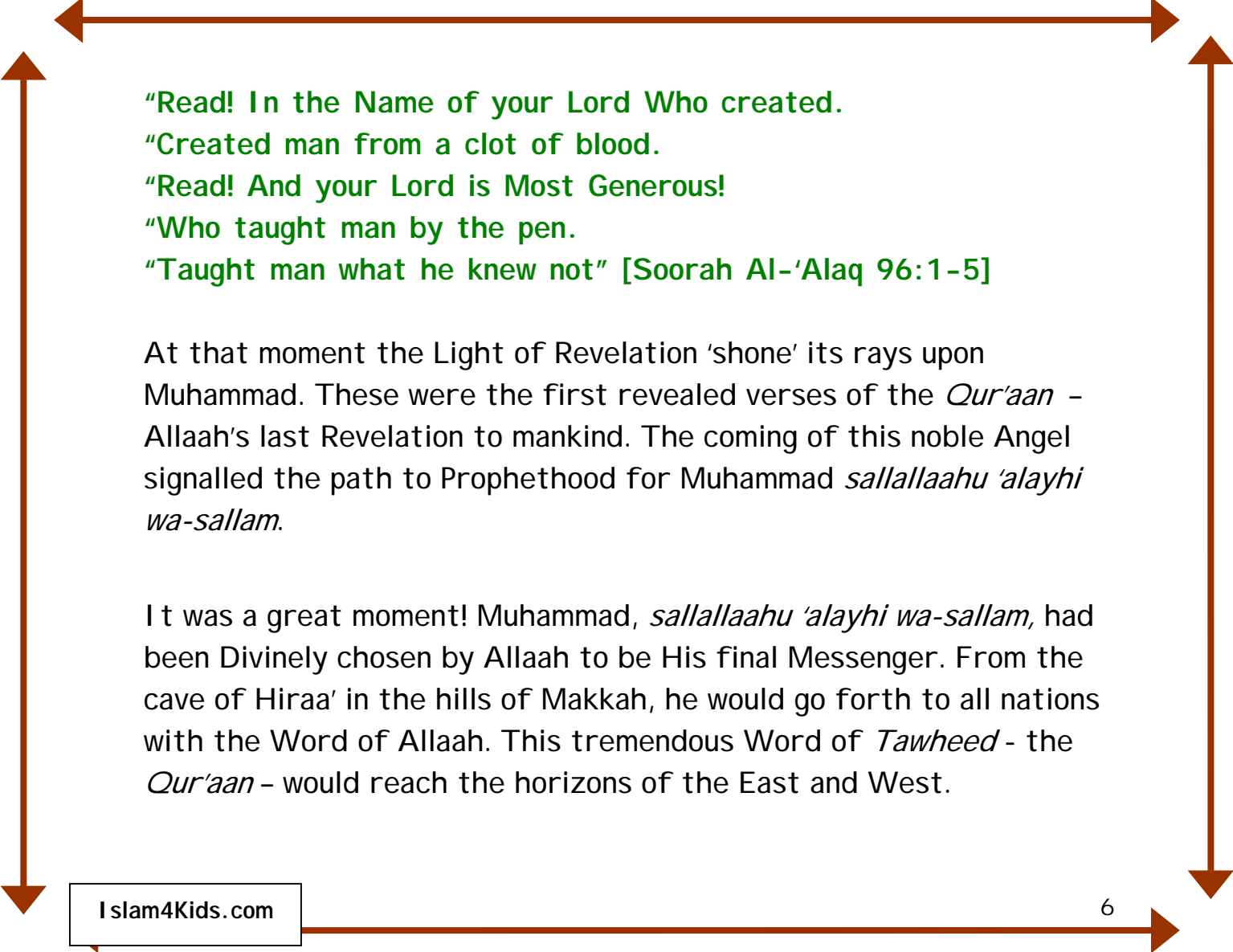
The Angel came closer. He embraced the Prophet very tightly. After releasing him, he repeated the command, **"Read!"**

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, felt terrified. He could only repeat again, **"I cannot read"**.

The Angel embraced the Prophet very tightly for the second time. Then he released him, commanding again, **"Read!"**

"What should I read?" replied the Prophet finally *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*.

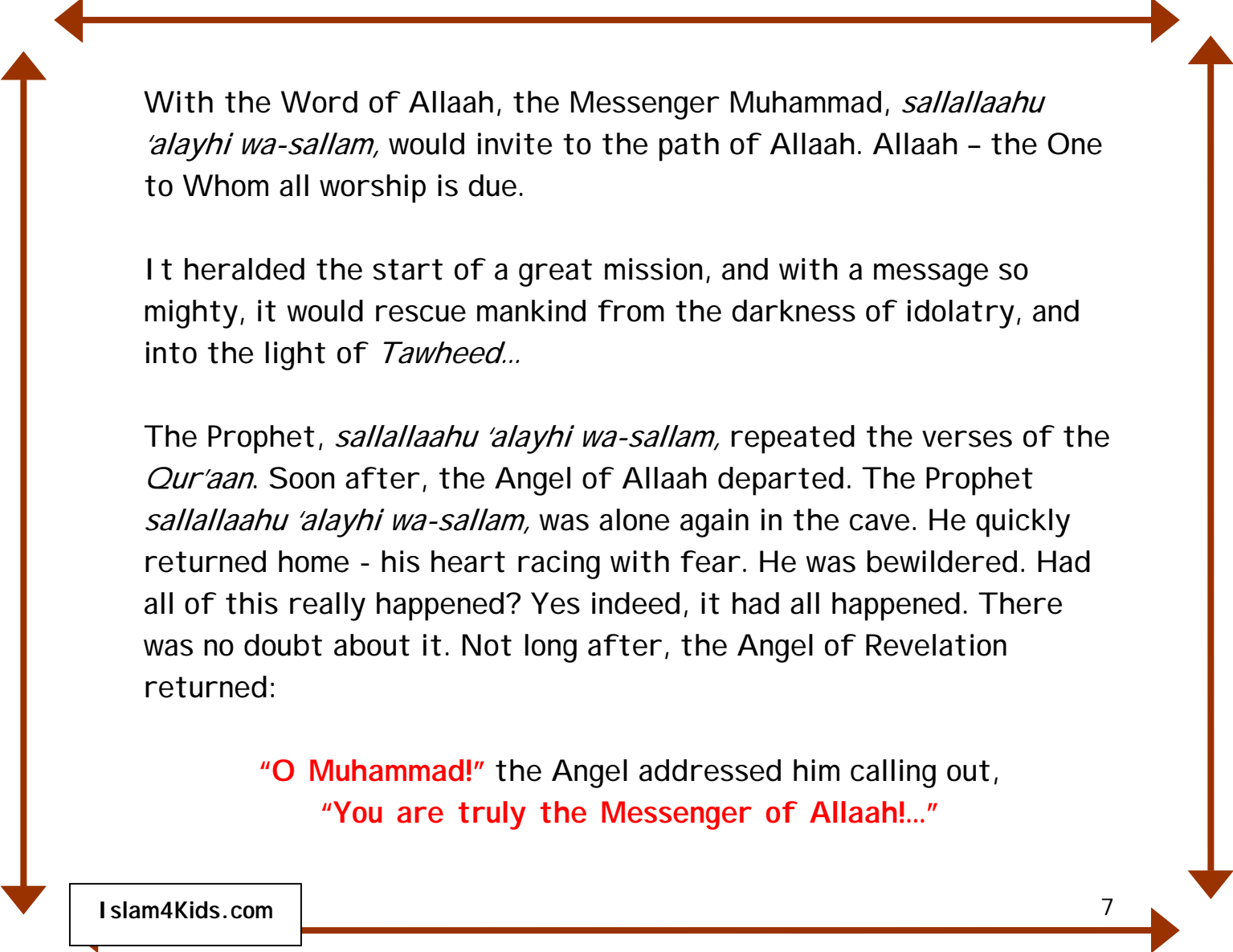
After embracing the Prophet strongly for the third and releasing him, the Angel spoke with the Noble Words of Allaah:



"Read! In the Name of your Lord Who created.
"Created man from a clot of blood.
"Read! And your Lord is Most Generous!
"Who taught man by the pen.
"Taught man what he knew not" [Soorah Al-'Alaq 96:1-5]

At that moment the Light of Revelation 'shone' its rays upon Muhammad. These were the first revealed verses of the *Qur'aan* - Allaah's last Revelation to mankind. The coming of this noble Angel signalled the path to Prophethood for Muhammad *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*.

It was a great moment! Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, had been Divinely chosen by Allaah to be His final Messenger. From the cave of Hira' in the hills of Makkah, he would go forth to all nations with the Word of Allaah. This tremendous Word of *Tawheed* - the *Qur'aan* - would reach the horizons of the East and West.



With the Word of Allaah, the Messenger Muhammad, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, would invite to the path of Allaah. Allaah – the One to Whom all worship is due.

It heralded the start of a great mission, and with a message so mighty, it would rescue mankind from the darkness of idolatry, and into the light of *Tawheed*..

The Prophet, *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, repeated the verses of the *Qur'aan*. Soon after, the Angel of Allaah departed. The Prophet *sallallaahu 'alayhi wa-sallam*, was alone again in the cave. He quickly returned home - his heart racing with fear. He was bewildered. Had all of this really happened? Yes indeed, it had all happened. There was no doubt about it. Not long after, the Angel of Revelation returned:

“O Muhammad!” the Angel addressed him calling out,
“You are truly the Messenger of Allaah!...”