



AL-GHAZĀLĪ

The Book of Knowledge for Children

WORKBOOK

FONS VITAE





Workbook
for
Imam al-Ghazali
The Book of Knowledge
for Children



سُبْحَانَكَ -subhanahu wa ta ala: Glory be to He

سَلَامٌ -salla-llahu alayhi wa sallam: Peace and blessings be upon him

سَلَامٌ -alayhi-s-salam: Be upon him peace

سَلَامٌ -alayha-s-salam: Peace be upon her.

رَضِيَ -radia-llahu anhu: May God be pleased with him

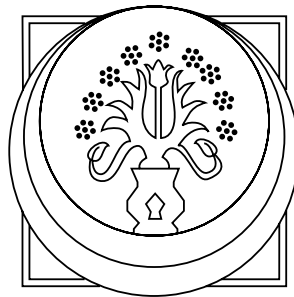
Dear Children, Families, and Teachers,

There is something for each age group in the pages to follow. Parents can simplify the questions and activities for the very small; some of you might like to color; others can do the questions and activities on their very own. Comics are provided in the back of the workbook for older children, along with ideas for further activities and a school curriculum.

Everyone is invited to the website: ghazalichildren.org to meet with your global brothers and sisters, to participate in contests, to submit your own ideas for activities, for curriculum, updates, and anything else. Simply enjoy the many resources provided and join in on a regular basis.

The Publisher

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FONS VITAE

The Book of Knowledge For Children Workbook

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Please frequent www.ghazalichildren.org for updates,
competitions, meeting one another and much more.

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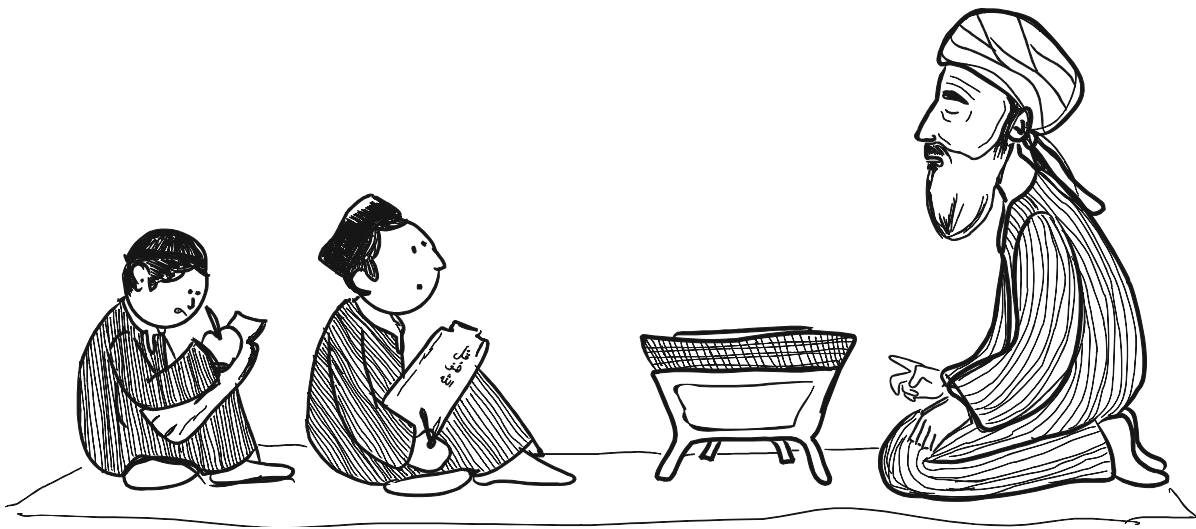
The Life of Imam al-Ghazali

A long time ago, nearly a thousand years, there lived a poor family in a town called Tus. The father wove cloth on a loom to support the family.

One day, they were blessed to have a son whom they named Muhammad, which means “the Praised one.”



Muhammad was sent to take lessons from a wise elder in Tus, who was a good and honorable man; all that he did and said was beautiful!



Soon Muhammad and his brother Ahmed went to another school in nearby Nishapur. There they had a truly great and intelligent teacher named Imam al-Juwayni, who was also blessed to have such fine pupils as these two lads.

Muhammad al-Ghazali was a careful student and wrote down all that the teacher was saying, placing these notes in a bundle which he could carry with him.

One day, on the road home from Nishapur where he had continued his studies, thieves came upon his caravan. He was afraid they would steal his precious treasure: the many lessons he had copied and safely kept.

All the other travelers were robbed of their valuables. When they snatched away young Muhammad's notes, thinking it was something of great value, Muhammad cried out, "Oh please, don't take my bundle!"

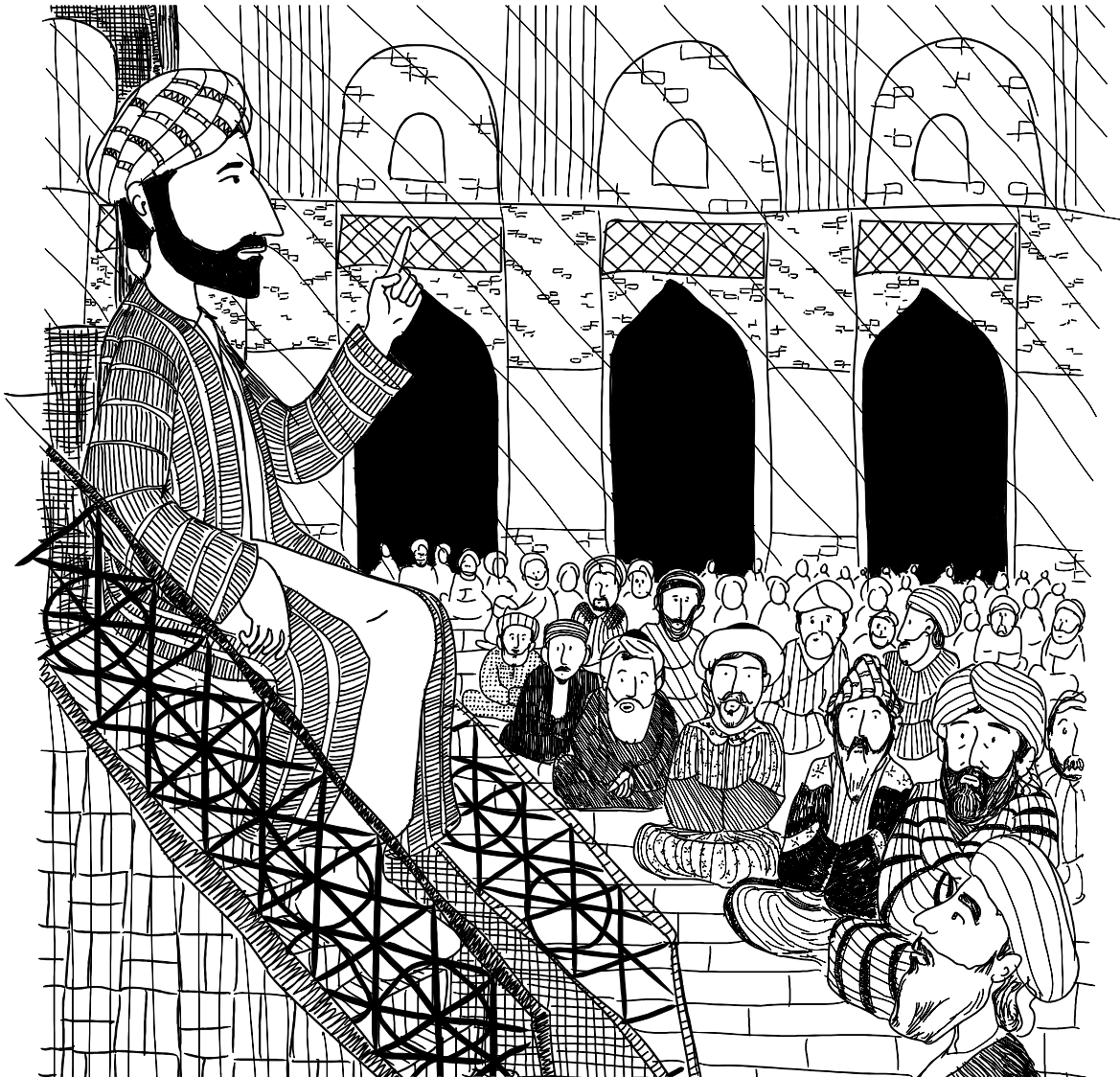


The thieves ransacked the package, throwing papers in all directions! They asked the young pupil, “Of what use are these pages?”

The terrified boy pleaded and replied, “If you destroy all my notes from my lessons, I will be ruined! I have worked so hard to record all I was being taught by my teachers!”

One thief said, “All you know is written on papers and can so easily be taken away from you? What kind of knowledge is THAT?!?”

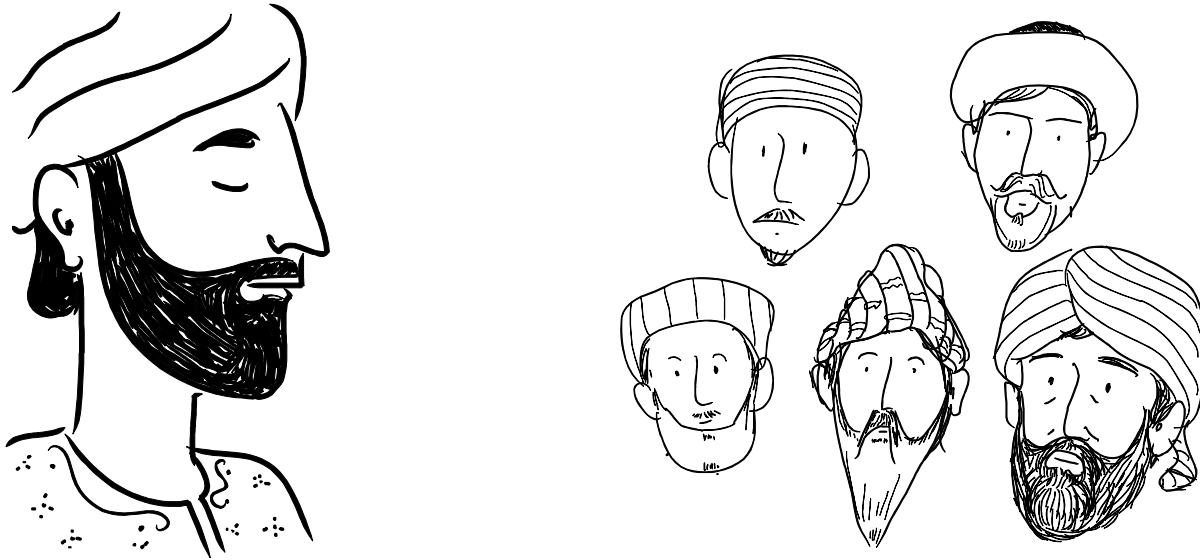
At that moment, young Muhammad al-Ghazali realized that true knowledge has to become part of you – the way you live and act! From this scary event with the thieves, he learned a huge lesson which changed his whole life.



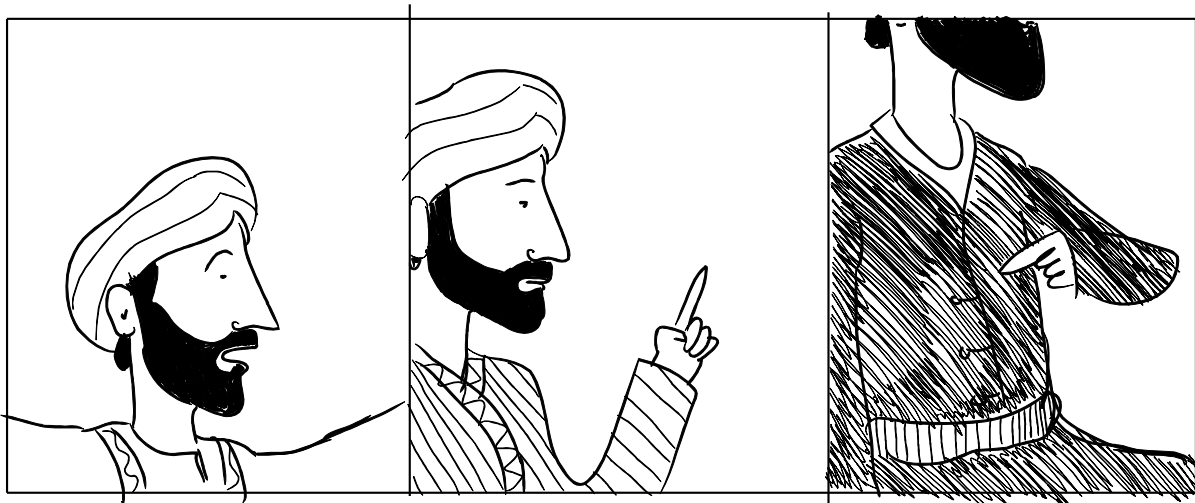
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Later, when Muhammad grew up, he was so intelligent that he became a truly great teacher himself. He knew more than anyone else and he spoke so beautifully that both students and other teachers crowded in to hear his lessons.

If anyone argued with Imam Muhammad al-Ghazali, he always won because he was smarter than everyone!!! He spoke both the Persian and Arabic languages well. People were amazed and dazzled by his brilliance.



As Imam al-Ghazali continued to give his lessons and lectures at the great Nizamiyya University, in the city of Baghdad, he began to grow very sad and upset! He noticed that he was very proud of himself, and very “puffed up”!



He watched himself think, “I am better and smarter than everyone else!”

This made him deeply worried about his own heart, because he knew that the very things he was teaching to others in his classes, he wasn’t even doing himself.

He was teaching others that Allah ﷻ wants us all to be humble and NOT puffed-up and proud. The Imam’s lessons were about how short our lives are and how we have to get ourselves ready and good enough to go on to our next life and home in Paradise. He was telling students NOT to be “hypocrites.”



What is that?

A “hypocrite” is someone who pretends to be something that he or she is not, and tells others to be good while only pretending to be good, himself or herself.

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In his heart he knew that he should give up his easy life and his job, where he enjoyed being so famous, and find a way to be humble and to polish his own Heart before he died. In that way he could best serve others because he would be a living example of the truths he was teaching rather than simply talking about these truths.

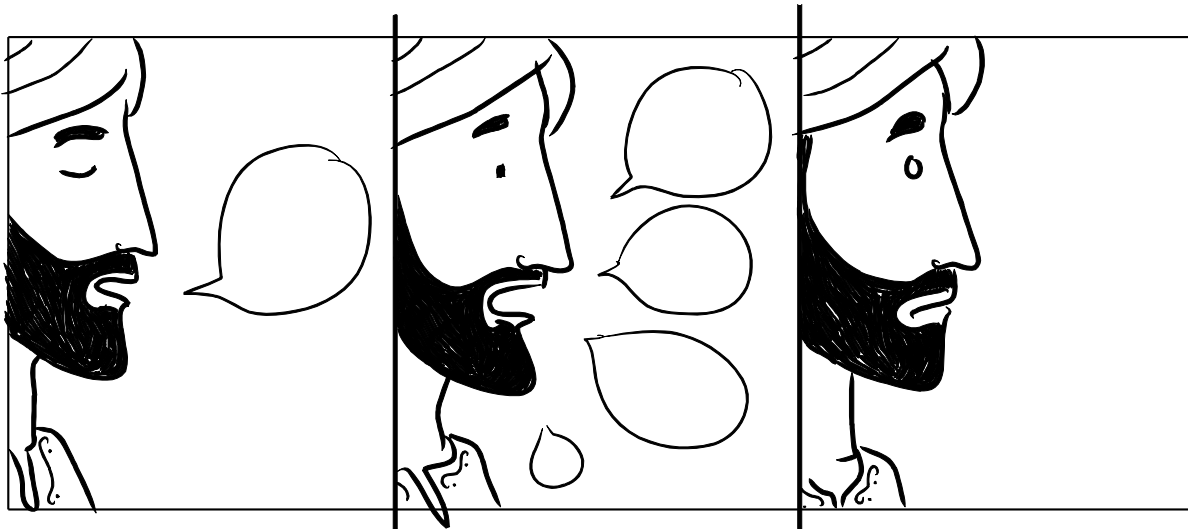
He exclaimed, “I am on the edge of a crumbling bank, and if I don’t leave now, when will I get away from wasting my life by being untrue to myself? When will I start my journey to Paradise instead of just having good times and teaching others that they should reach a beautiful state of being which I am not even doing myself?”



But he loved his life and his fame too much, and he continued going to teach at the university. Then, one day, Allah ﷻ helped the Imam, through His love and mercy.

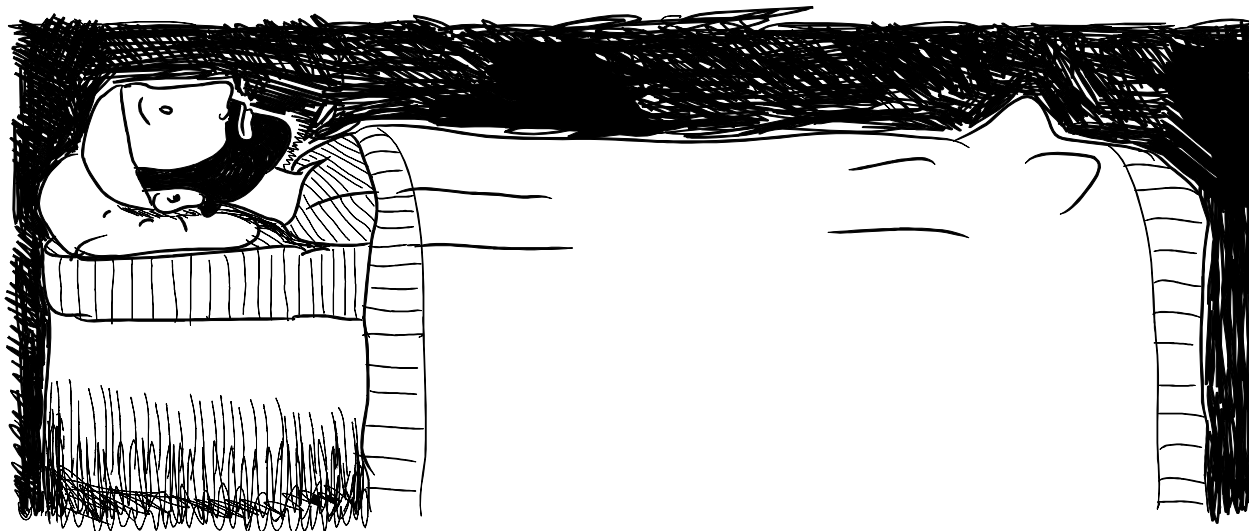
God ﷻ knew that the Imam had a good and pure Heart, but was too weak to abandon his way of life and leave the place where he was so important and admired by everyone.

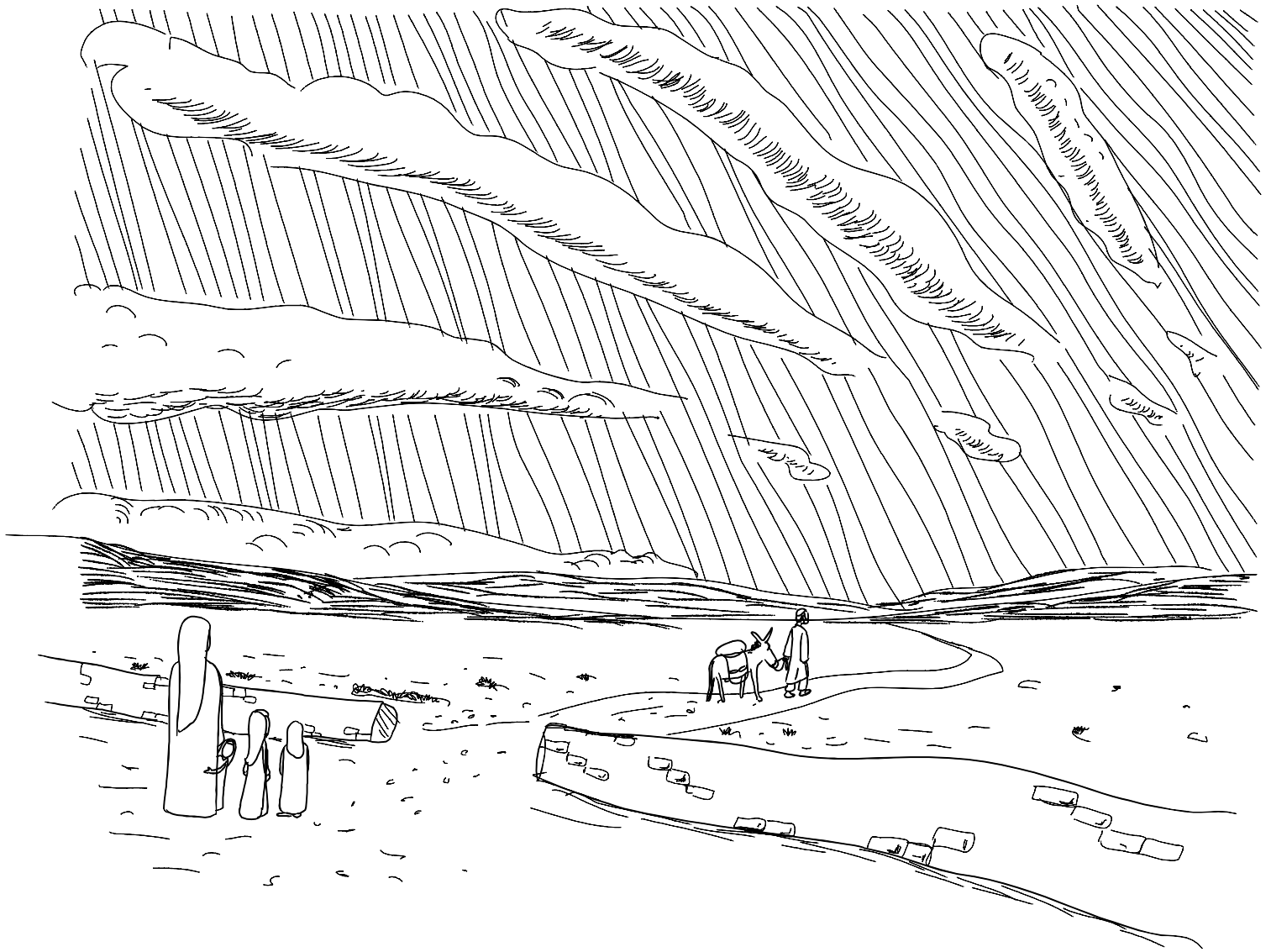
So, when Imam al-Ghazali went to the school the next day and was about to begin to teach, God ﷻ blessed him . . . by taking away his voice! Not one word came out! The Imam was embarrassed and confused!





The doctors found that his body was not sick, but that his good soul was deeply troubled. The Imam knew inside his Heart that he needed to leave the life he was trapped in, and go in search of God ﷻ.





So he made arrangements for his family and left to seek the treasure of REAL knowledge—holy spiritual divine learning—not just learning for the everyday life.

In Damascus, he found a job cleaning the floor of the mosque, and he found that, even when he was tempted to share his great knowledge with others, he held back. He didn't let himself be better than others. He didn't show off any more.



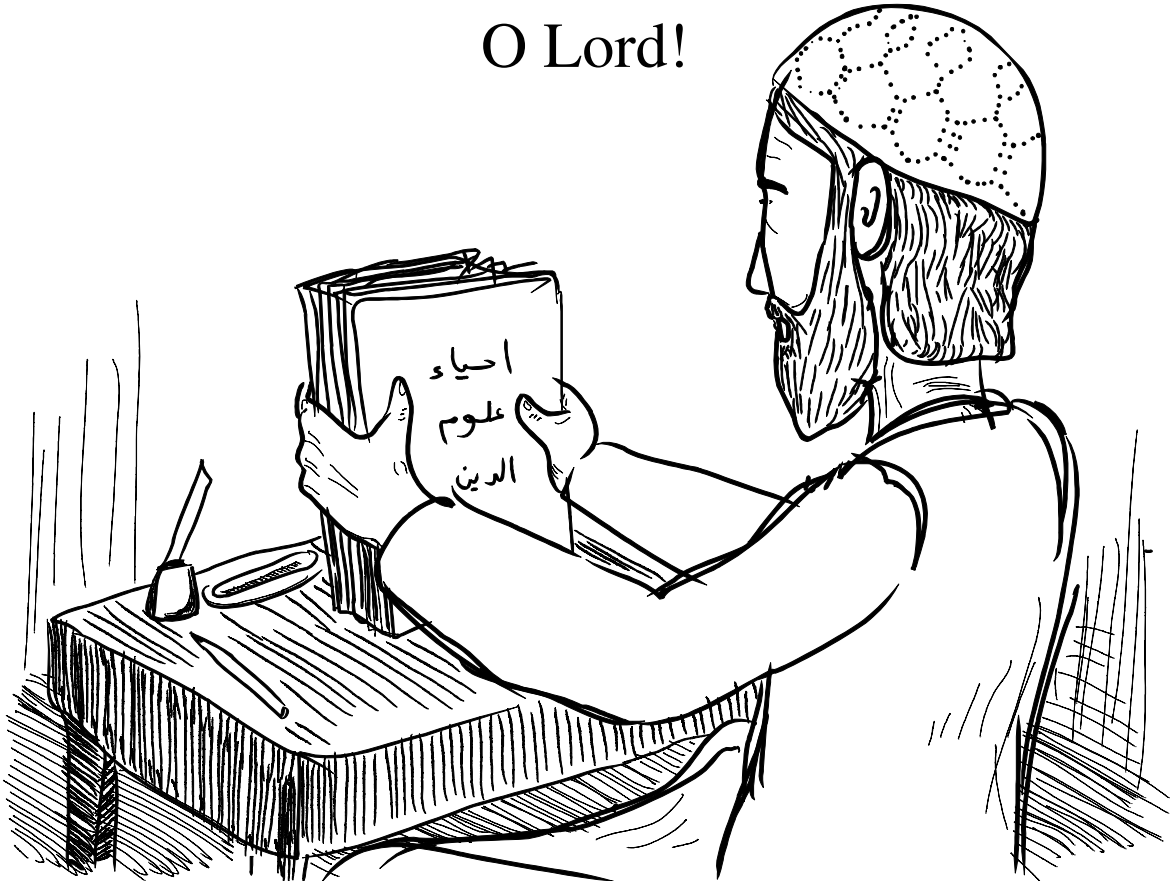
He traveled to Jerusalem and to the holy city of Mecca where he sat in the company of great and wise Muslims. He learned much from their example.

No longer did he just KNOW all ABOUT Islam, but his heart was being filled to the brim with goodness and peace. During his journey he was writing the books which explained the deeper meanings of everything in his religion. He gave all of us a great, great gift today by showing us that we aren't just being given rules to follow. Imam al-Ghazali wrote for us all about inner beauty and meaning of these rules and practices we do, and showed that these are beautiful ways to help us along our way back to God ﷻ, Who created us and everything in the world!



Finally, he returned home for good, to his wife and daughters. We are very blessed that he explained for us what our lives really are for and what good and joyful things we get to do each day in order to become nearer to and loved by God ﷻ.

Ameen,
O Lord!



Questions About Imam al-Ghazali's Life

1. Who was Imam al-Ghazali and how long ago did he live?
2. When he was a teacher, what bad things did he notice about himself. (Check the correct boxes.)

☐ Not friendly

☐ Lazy

☐ Full of himself with Pride

☐ Selfish

☐ Jealous

☐ A Liar

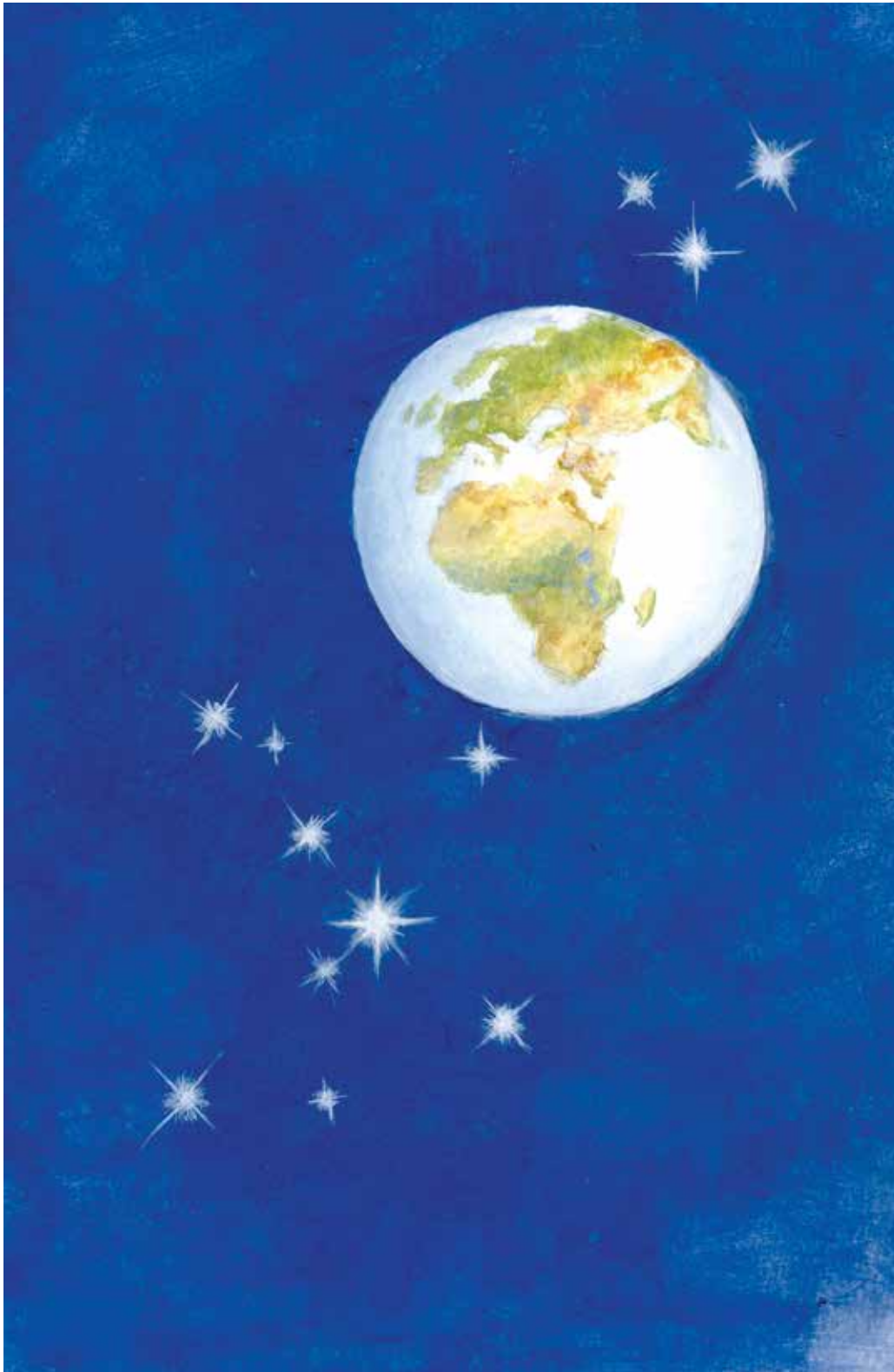
☐ Mean

☐ A thief

3. What happened to him one day when he was teaching that changed his life?
4. Where did he go after he made good arrangements for his family?
5. What did the Imam learn on his journey?
6. Before and after he came home, what kinds of books did he write?

Fons Vitae hopes you will enjoy this workbook created to accompany your “Book of Knowledge.” We have tried to provide things to do for all ages. Some exercises are for young children, and others—such as the comics—are for older. Included also is a Curriculum Manual for Teachers and Parents which provides suggestions for a variety of activities and games for both school and home. We have found that both the book and workbook have actually proven very useful for grown-ups in their own spiritual lives.

An interactive website has been created for announcements of competitions, updates of curriculum, postings from the community, the downloading of e-book versions of the Series (www.GhazaliChildren.org), and as a venue for children, their parents, and teachers from all over the Muslim world to meet one another and exchange ideas.



“We are taught to seek knowledge even if it comes from China.”

Chapter 1

Two Kinds of Learning

1. One kind of learning helps you in your everyday life. Name three things you have learned about how to take care of your body.

a.

b.

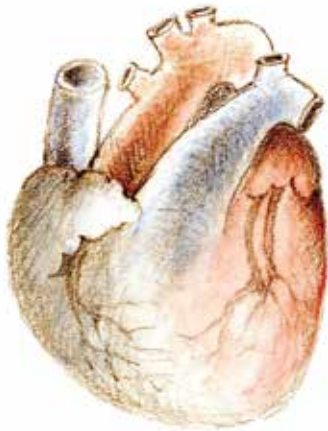
c.

2. How does learning math, how to add and subtract, help you?

3. The other higher special learning teaches you how to polish your Shining Heart. Name something you have learned that will help you go to Paradise in the Next Life.

4. What books can teach you the higher Special Learning?

5. What are the two kinds of hearts that you have?



6. Make up and play a game and act out one good thing you do. For example: Play that you are having fun sharing your toys. Then play how mean you are, when you won't share. Ask your parents to pretend not to share. What do you feel inside when you see them refusing to share?

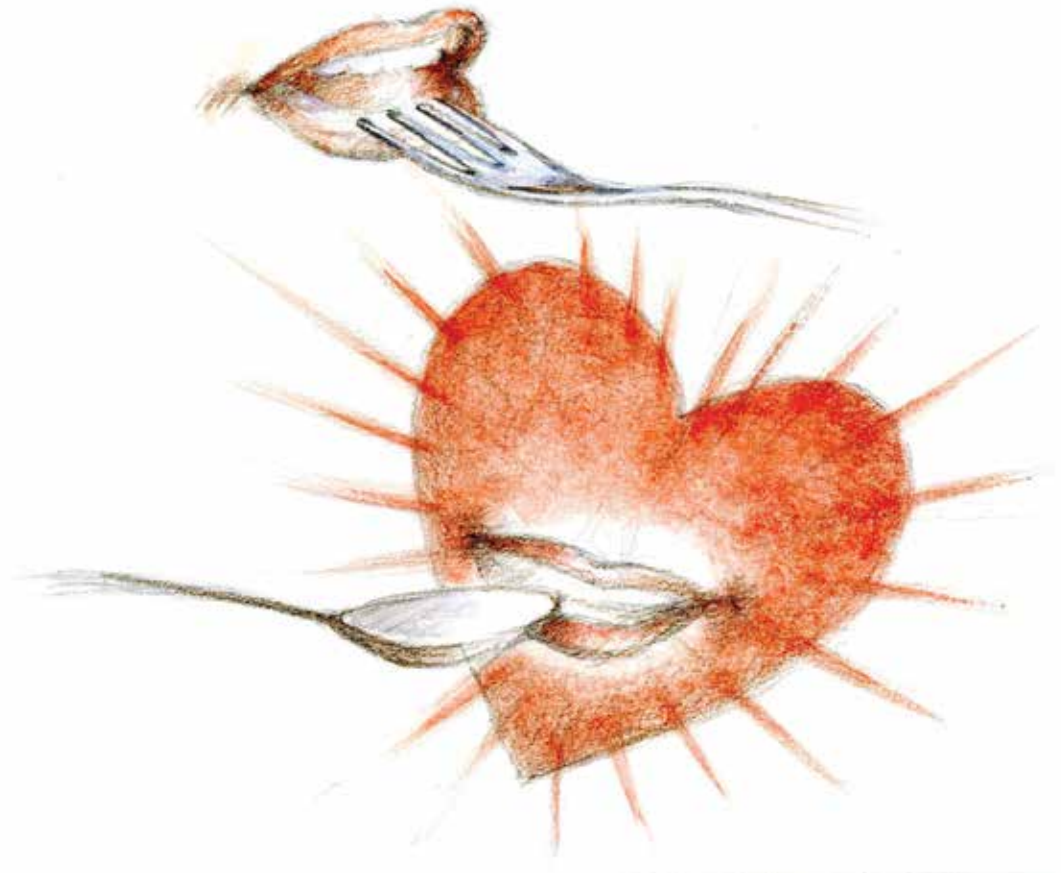


In what way are people better than animals? The elephant is bigger and the camel is stronger.

Chapter 2

Animals and People

1. Describe some amazing things that you notice about animals! What is special about birds?
2. Pretend you are a cat or bird. What is it like? What might the cat be thinking about? What could the bird be thinking? What have you been thinking?
3. What makes people extra special? What can we learn that a cat or bird cannot?
4. Name some things that you feed your body? What kind of “food” does your Heart need?





If you are going on a journey, don't you prepare what you need to take?

Chapter 3

The Two Worlds

1. Draw or describe some beautiful things in this world which God ﷻ made. Can you draw the sun? A tree? What else?

2. Pretend you are going on a camping trip with your family. What would you like to take with you? What will you pack?

a.

b.

3. What kinds of things do you need to learn in *this* world in order to be able to go to the Next World, which is even more beautiful than this world?

a.

b.

4. To get ready to travel to the Next World, what are some ways you can be? What can you BE like, what sort of a person? Circle the right ones:

Kind

Lazy

Bad Moods

Helpful

Sharing

Joyful

Naughty

Angry

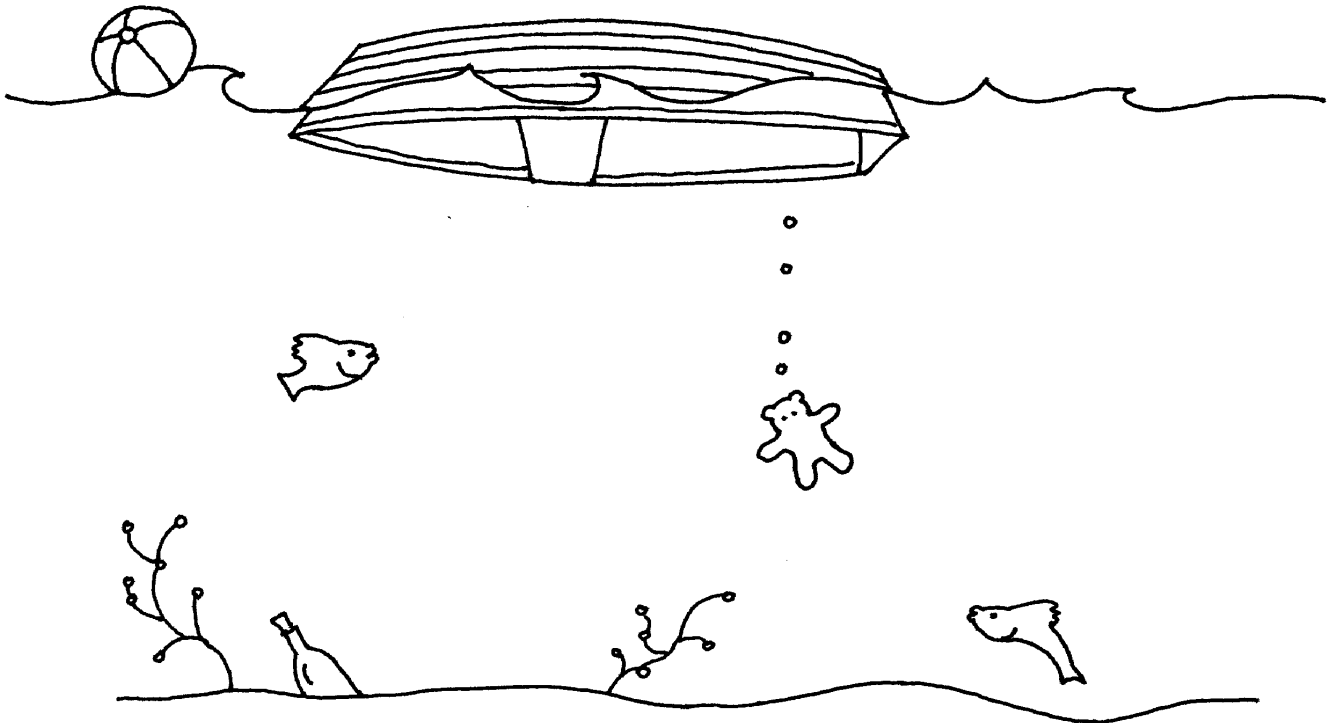


What doesn't sink if your boat tips over? Only ONE thing won't sink and get lost. What is that?

Chapter 4

How to Enter The Garden

1. On the picture of the tipped-over boat, draw in a few of your own toys that will sink to the bottom of the river.



2. If your boat tips over, all your toys will sink to the bottom. But all the good that your shining Heart has done will NOT sink! Name some good things you have learned that you CAN take with you to the Next World.

a.

b.

c.

d.

3. Write, or tell, a story about a child doing something helpful and good.



The key to opening the treasure chest is asking questions.

Chapter 5

Excellence of Learning

The Treasure Chest

1. Keys to open the treasure box are questions! What are some of your questions? What would you like to know?

a.

b.

c.

2. Get someone to ask you 3 questions! And when YOU ask or answer them, you get special rewards. What are some questions and YOUR answers?

a. Question:

b. Question:

Answer:

Answer:

c. Question:

Answer:

3. Draw some treasures inside the treasure box. Pretend it is like your special Heart. *Fill it with things you want inside your Heart.*





Even the ants and whales pray for the teacher who teaches what is good.

Chapter 6

The Best Gift of All

If you KNOW about some good things to do, that is wonderful!

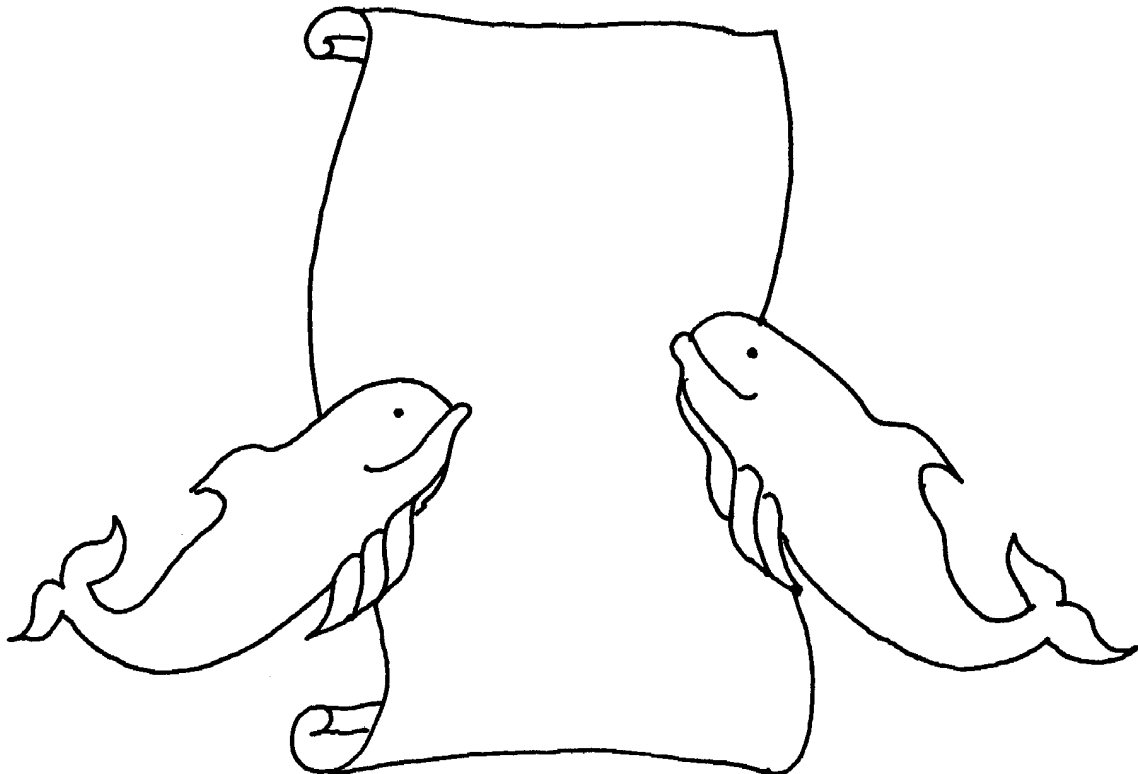
If you DO them and maybe someone else copies you, that is the BEST way to teach! What good thing will you do right now that you hope others will copy? Remember that when you DO these good things, the angels will want to be your friend and they will stroke you with their wings!!

1. Two things that you can do that you want other people to copy:

a.

b.

Did you know that even the whales pray for everyone, both young and old, who teach others how to be good. Put on the whales' list some good thing you have been taught by your teachers, parents and grand-parents that you can then do and others will copy.





“I get tired of playing with my toys but never tire when I am watching the beautiful animals which Allah ﷻ created, like this mother spider preparing the egg sac full of her babies.”

Chapter 7

How Do You Stay Really Happy All the Time?

1. What is your favorite toy, and what is your favorite game?

a.

b.

2. Do you enjoy playing with these toys all day long, every single minute?

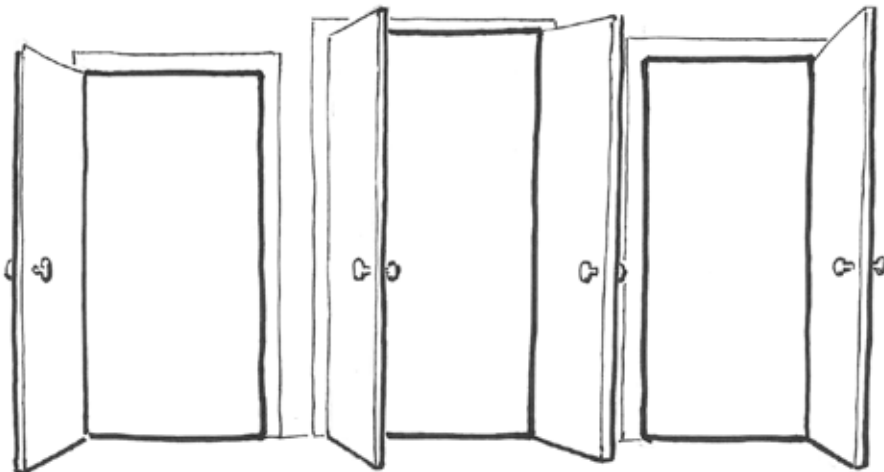
YES ___ NO ___

Do you ever get tired of playing with them?

YES ___ NO ___

3. Tell about a time when you helped someone, or made someone happy, or were kind. Did you enjoy that?

4. When you do good things, they are like little doors opening for you into Paradise. Draw or Name three things you can do to open these doors into the Next wonderful World.





Now, pretend you are one of those tiny seeds you just planted!

Chapter 8

Pretend You Are A Tiny Seed

1. Find a piece of earth or a pot or dish and put earth in it. Can you get some seeds to plant? Or can you find a tiny plant to care for, to water and watch grow?

2. Now pretend *you* are the tiny plant. Isn't that fun? What do YOU need to grow? (Sun, Water, Food?) DRAW a tiny plant in the sun.

3. But you are a child, not a plant! What do you need to learn in order to grow up to be beautiful and to have a good Heart? What can you learn about that will help you go to Heaven?

a.

b.

c.

In the 40 books Imam al-Ghazali wrote for you, he will explain many secrets about eating, praying, and everything in your daily life that are *doors* to Paradise.



Don't most of us have too many clothes and toys? Make a list of five things that you would like to share or give away.

Chapter 9

The Three Needed Things in This Life

1. What three things do you need **MOST** in this world, every day?! Put a **CHECK MARK** beside three “**MUST HAVES!**”:

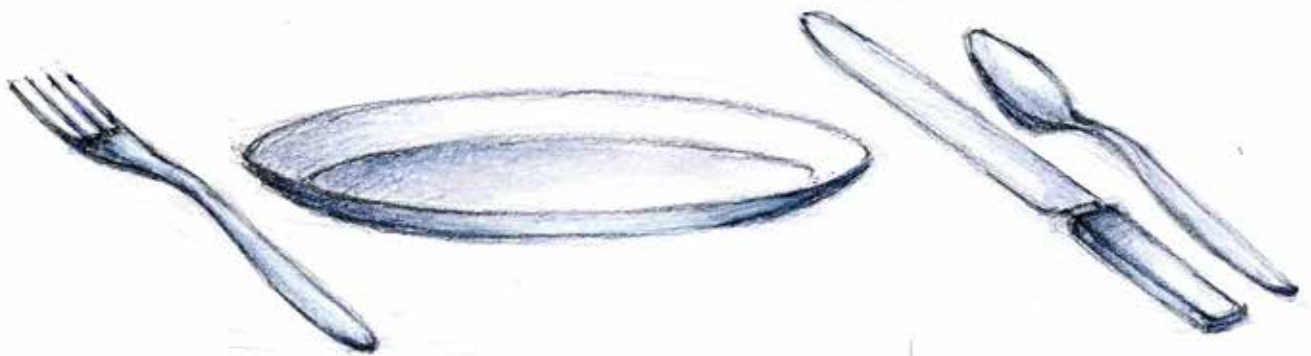
Toys ____ A Home ____

Food ____ Games ____

Parties ____ Television ____

Clothes ____ Pets ____

2. Draw some food that is good for you on this plate.



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3. Draw some clothes you like to wear.

4. Draw a few things that are in your room at home.

5. What extra clothes and toys do you have that you can give to someone in need? By doing this, you are being *generous*!!

a.

b.

c.

What happens to people who spend ALL of their time busy with food, clothes or their home? What is the danger? What have they forgotten to do with their time?

6. How much of each day do you spend having fun playing? What kind of games?

1 hour ____ a.

3 hours ____ b.

6 hours ____ c.

7. How many hours do you spend doing something helpful or kind for others which pleases Allah ﷻ and makes your Heart shine?

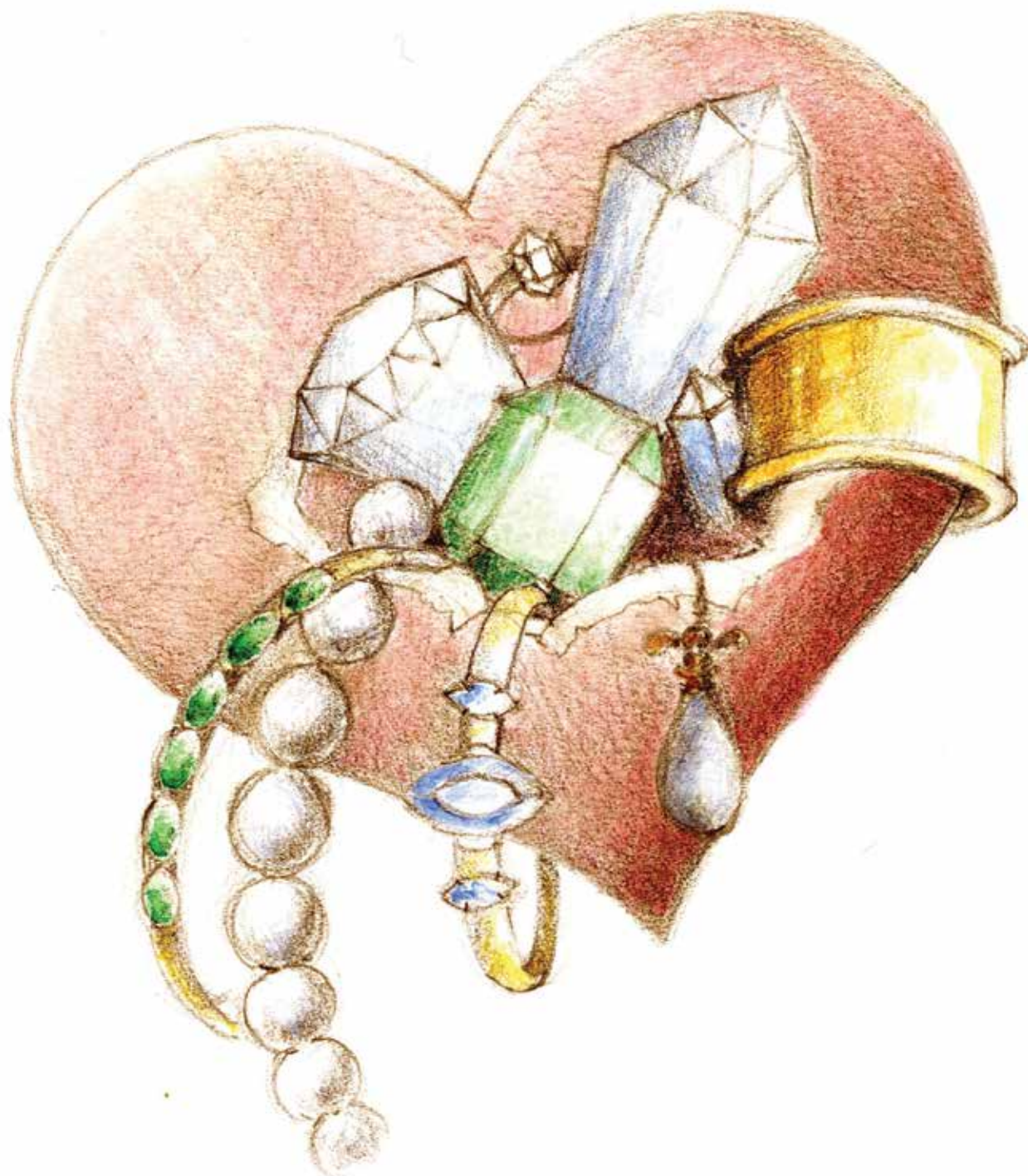
10 minutes ____

1 hours ____

2 hours ____

8. What do you do when you spend that time doing helpful things?

What are some good and kind things you can do today?



What Heart-treasure can you share?

Chapter 10

Sharing the Treasure

1. What are some of the special treasures inside your shining Heart that you can share?

Some Ideas:

Kindness

Helping Others

Sharing

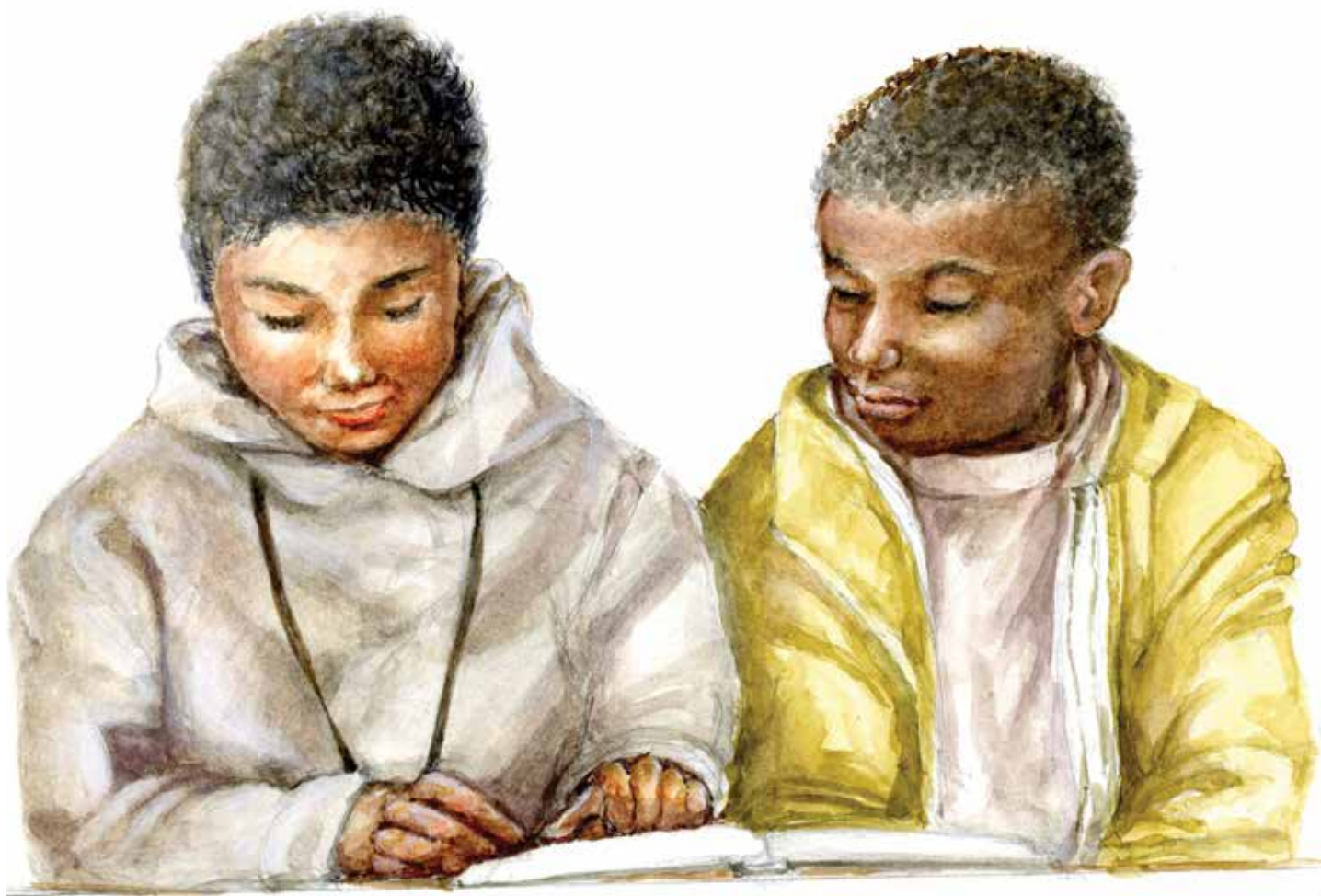
Not getting angry

Not speaking badly

Doing what Mother asks you to do

Telling the truth

2. Draw jewels and write on each one some good thing you do.



How could this boy be helping his friend?

Chapter 11

What Are Things You MUST Learn?

1. What are some things that can HURT our shining Hearts?

Feeding birds ____	Being mean ____	Arguing ____
Being greedy ____	Helping Mother ____	Being grumpy ____
Being sweet ____	Sharing toys ____	Getting angry ____
Being conceited ____		

2. Tell about a time when you did something that *hurt your* shining Heart.

3. Make up a story where you pretend you are very greedy and do something where you take the best for yourself.

4. What naughty ideas, that might come into your head, can you say “NO”! to?
Name two:

1. No! I will NOT _____

2. No! _____ is not a good idea! Sorry, but I won’t do that.

5. Tell a story about doing something that is giving and generous. Tell what that feels like?

6. What is the BEST answer you can give to your Mother when she asks you to do something. Maybe she asks you to pick up your toys. What do you say and then *do*?



Khadija is generous. She reads to her grandmother.

Chapter 12
Where Do They Come From,
The *Wonderful* Things We Can Learn?

1. Where do we go to find out how to have beautiful Hearts and wonderful lives?

Films ____	Parties ____	Comic Books ____
The <i>Hadith</i> ____	School ____	Grandparents ____
Magazines ____	Games ____	The Zoo ____
The Quran ____	Friends ____	Teachers ____
Television ____	Parents ____	Grocery ____

2. Who brought the Quran from Allah ﷻ to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ?

Angel's Name:

3. What kinds of things does a *hadith* tell us about our Prophet ﷺ?

a.

b.

4. What are some rules we have been given from God ﷻ in the Quran, to keep our lives in good order?

a.

b.

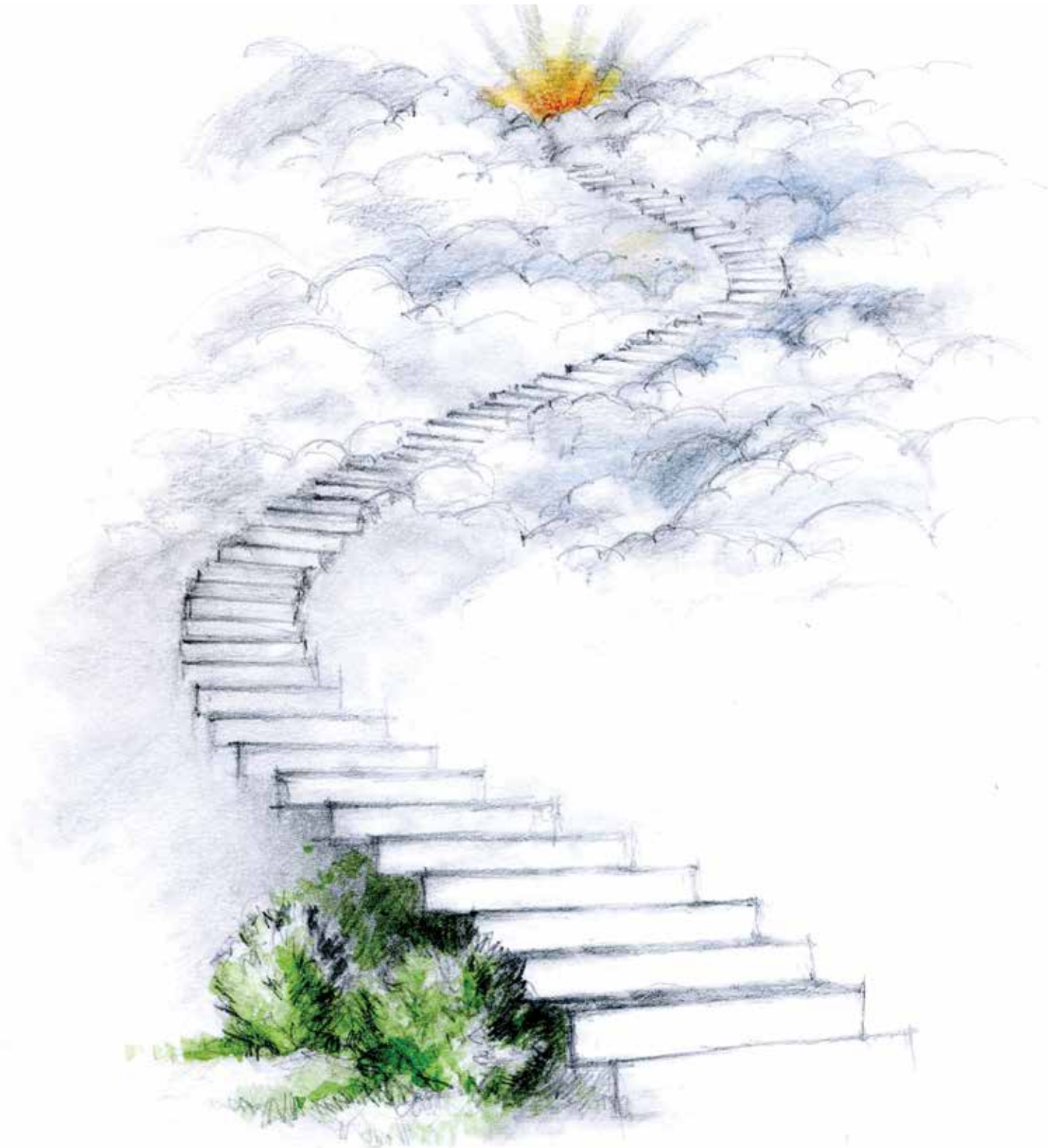
c.



What could these children be packing for their camping trip?

Chapter 13
A Family Trip
We Are on a Journey Together

1. What are some things you would need to pack for a camping trip?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
2. What would we need to prepare for the trip to the next Heavenly World, where we will be forever with everyone we love?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. Some ways to make our Hearts shine could be:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
4. What kind of people do you like most of all?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
5. What kind of a person are you trying very hard to BE in your life?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.



You can't go up to the next step until you have learned everything there is to learn on the step where you are!

Chapter 14

Two Kinds of Things You Can Learn To Make Your Heart Shine

Pretend you are on a staircase. Imagine that as you go up these steps during your life, you will one day learn the *special hidden mystical* learning. What are you learning right NOW, on the step you are on, about polishing your Heart?

Draw yourself on one of the steps. Then write one thing you learned on the step which you have now reached.



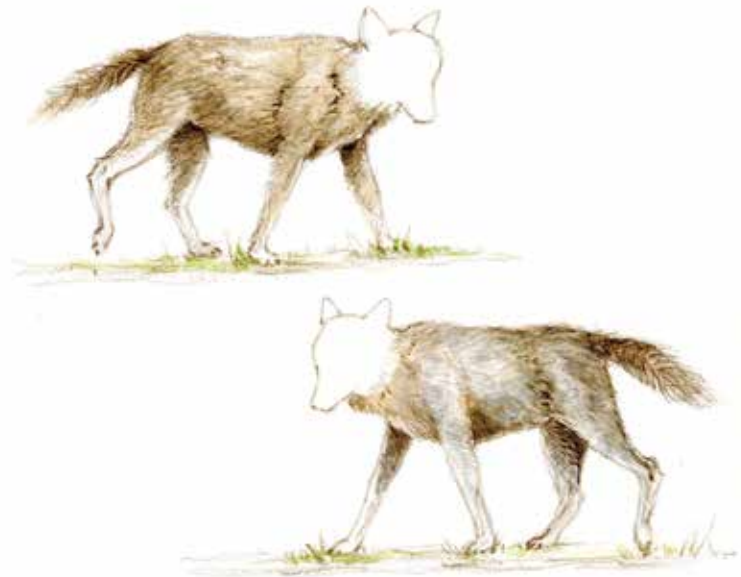
I can watch naughty thoughts and ideas, and say “NO” to them! What might this little girl be thinking about?

Chapter 15

The Story of the Pretend Two Wolves

A Useful Story we have learned from Cherokee Indians

1. Pretend you have two wolves whispering good and bad ideas to you. Draw a bad face on one and a good one on the other one! When you do what the pretend wolf is telling you to do, it's like you are feeding it and making it grow! Which wolf will you stop feeding so it will go away?



2. What could the imaginary bad wolf whisper when it wants you to do something naughty? (kinds of naughty ideas)

a.

b.

c.

3. What does the good friendly wolf tell you that it is best to do? What kind of “food” (or ideas) makes the good wolf strong?

a.

b.

c.



Write or tell a story about times when you feed the pretend good or bad wolves. What kind of thoughts come into your mind?

Activity Song

Make up a song with these words and add some of your own ideas:

“I Polish My Heart for Allah ﷻ”

When I help my father with the dishes,
I polish my Heart for Allah ﷻ

When I am happy for my friend who has a new toy,
I polish my Heart for Allah ﷻ

When I tell my sister, “I am sorry”
I polish my Heart for Allah ﷻ

When I am angry and take a deep calming breath
I polish my Heart for Allah ﷻ

When I _____
I polish my heart for Allah ﷻ

When I _____
I polish my heart for Allah ﷻ

When I _____
I polish my heart for Allah ﷻ

When I _____
I polish my heart for Allah ﷻ



The trust a falcon has for its master is invisible. We can see the body of this falcon with our eyes. But we understand the invisible trust of the bird and the warmth and kindness of its master with our spiritual Hearts. What we love most is invisible.

Chapter 16

Important Things You Cannot See

1. Circle what you can NOT see—that is invisible to your eyes?

A Flower Telling The Truth A Chair The Sky

A Car Kindness, Love Your Teacher Friendship

2. If you could only have one of these things to stay with you for the rest of your life, which would you choose to keep. Can you see it or is it invisible?

3. Describe everything that you CAN see about this falcon. What does it look like? If this falcon were yours, what invisible thing would you like most about it? Perhaps its friendship?



Chapter 17
More Ways To Make Your Heart Shine!
And the Four Imams Who Helped Us Understand What Allah ﷻ
Wants Us To Do

1. Imam Shafi'i wanted the best for his friends and everyone else! Even when he was disagreeing with someone, he wanted *that* person to be right and he didn't mind being wrong.

Play this game: Pretend you are arguing with someone now. Then let that person win! Write, or tell, how that felt.

2. When Imam Malik was given gifts, he gave them away to those in need. What do you have that *you* can give away to someone who needs it?

3. Who were the other two great Imams that helped explain and organize our religion? Circle Two:

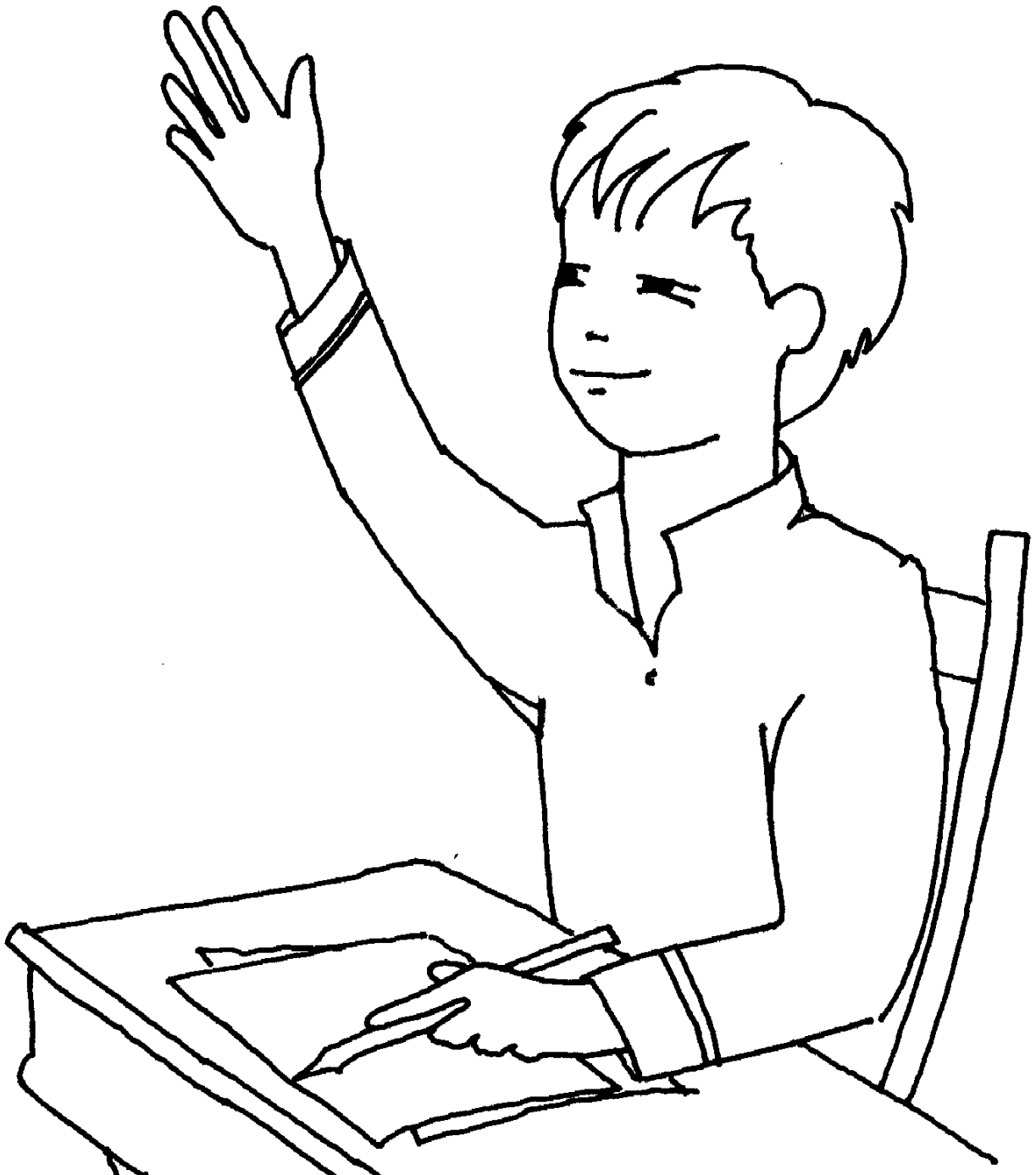
Imam ibn Hanbal Imam al-Bashir

Imam Abu Bakr Imam Abu Hanifa Imam Hossein

4. Which kind of learning and knowledge made these four Imams so special and wise? Circle One:

Science Math History Divine Learning

Nature Studies Reading Gardening Sports



Imam Malik loved and respected learning. So when he was studying or teaching, he wanted to be at his very best so he dressed well, and sat up straight. Show how you can sit in the very best way and how to look alert. Color this.

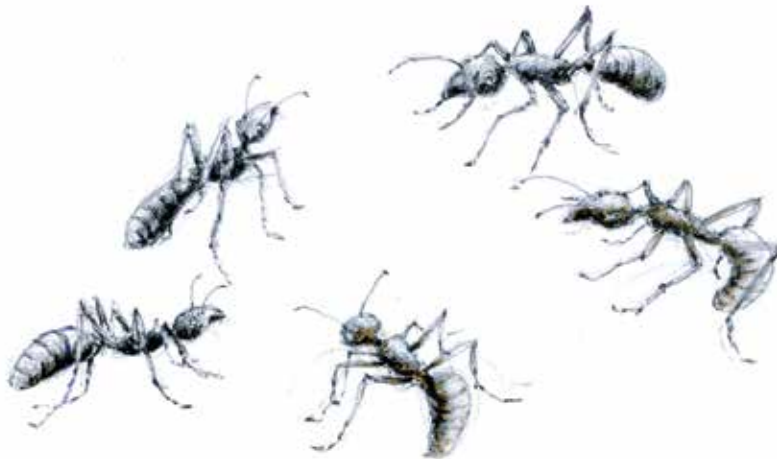


Allah ﷻ is sending us both blessings and difficult times which are sometimes hard to understand. But God ﷻ is all-Wise and knows the reason behind everything that happens. Do YOU trust God ﷻ, who made you and the whole world, to bring you nearer to Him through the losses He has promised to every single person? All the ant is able to see is the pen and the hand, but he cannot see Who is writing.

Chapter 18

The Ant and The Pen

1. Why were the little ants sad? What turned out to be the REAL reason the zoo trip was cancelled?
2. Tell about a time when you were upset about something and then it turned out to be a good thing instead?
3. Crawl on the ground and pretend you are an ant. How high up can you see? Can you see what's happening on top of a mountain or in the tree tops?
4. Make up a story about an ant family when disappointment comes. Put Names on each of these ants.



5. What did you learn from this story?



Chapter 19

The Little Boy Loses His Father's Horse

A Tale from Central Asia

1. What happened when the little boy lost his family's horse?
2. What lesson can you learn from this story?
3. Play this game: Pretend your Father comes to you with news you do not like. What are two ways you can respond?

Father says: “_____”

Your Answers—Two Kinds: The correct reply and the NOT correct reply.

- a.
 - b.
4. The Quran says that, sometimes, something which you may think is bad for you, is really GOOD for you. Can you think of a time when this happened to you?



Imam al-Ghazali mentioned that the Prophet ﷺ said that Allah ﷻ has angels wayfaring through the sky, other than the angels that watch over humankind. When these angels see people gathering for Remembrance, they call out to one another saying, “Hasten to your Heart’s desire!” Then, they surround this group and lower their wings over them, and listen!

Chapter 20

The Little Gardens Inside *The Garden*

1. If the Garden of Paradise is in the Next World, what are the “little gardens” like, that can be found in this world where we live now?
2. When people sit in a circle and say Allah’s ﷻ names together, who comes to listen?
3. What can make up for 70 times of just spending your time simply playing around?
4. What are some of Allah’s ﷻ names that people mention on their own or in a group? Write what each one means. Ask parents for help. Then you are “Asking a question” which is a key to the special Treasure.



What happens when a mirror gets covered with dirt or rust?

Chapter 21

How Can You Watch Your Very Own Heart?

1. If you can find a little mirror in your house, borrow it and put drops of mud all over it. Now, can you see your face correctly? Is it a true or complete image? Is that the way you REALLY look? If your Heart has dirt on it, it will not reflect things as they truly are. Draw a mirror and scribble dust and dirt all over it. Can the mirror shine very well? Can it reflect Light very well? Does it have a true, complete, and correct image of what is in front of it? Draw what a dirty heart or mirror sees.

2. What are some things you can do, when playing a game with others, that will help to polish off your dust and dots?

a.

b.



Every family has difficulties. Why do we say “al-hamdulilah,” Praise God ﷻ, when such trials come to us? Could it be because we are grateful to Allah ﷻ for giving us opportunities to purify ourselves?

Chapter 22

Envy

The Prophet ﷺ said, “Envy devours good deeds as fire devours wood.” So, we certainly don’t want to ENVY someone, do we?

1. Since Envy is wanting what God ﷻ especially gave to someone else to bring that person closer to Him, why would it be silly to “envy”? Why do you prefer the life God ﷻ gave to you?

2. Do you think this family, with a child that cannot walk, “envys” people who don’t seem to have any troubles?

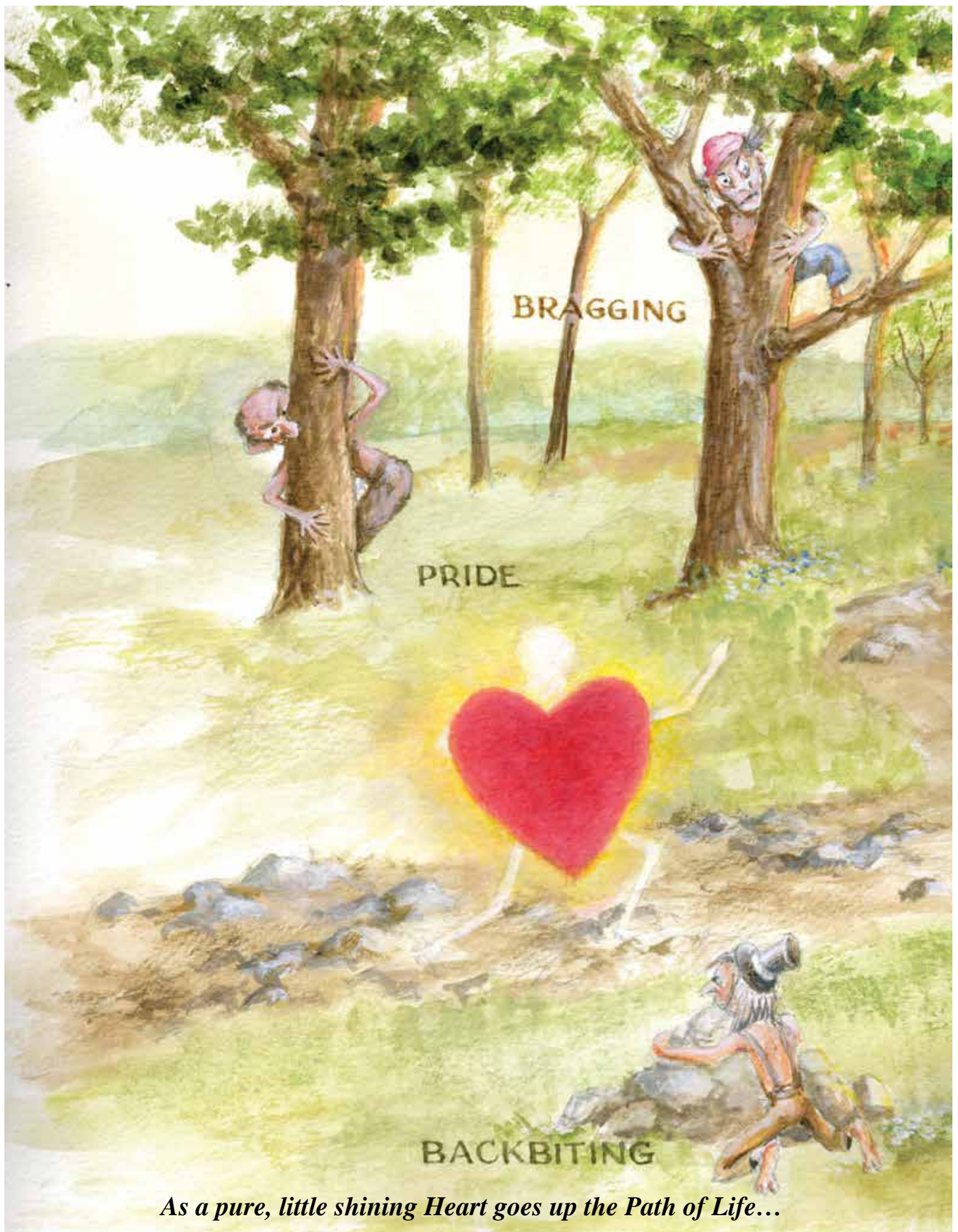
Chapter 23

Pride and Spitefulness

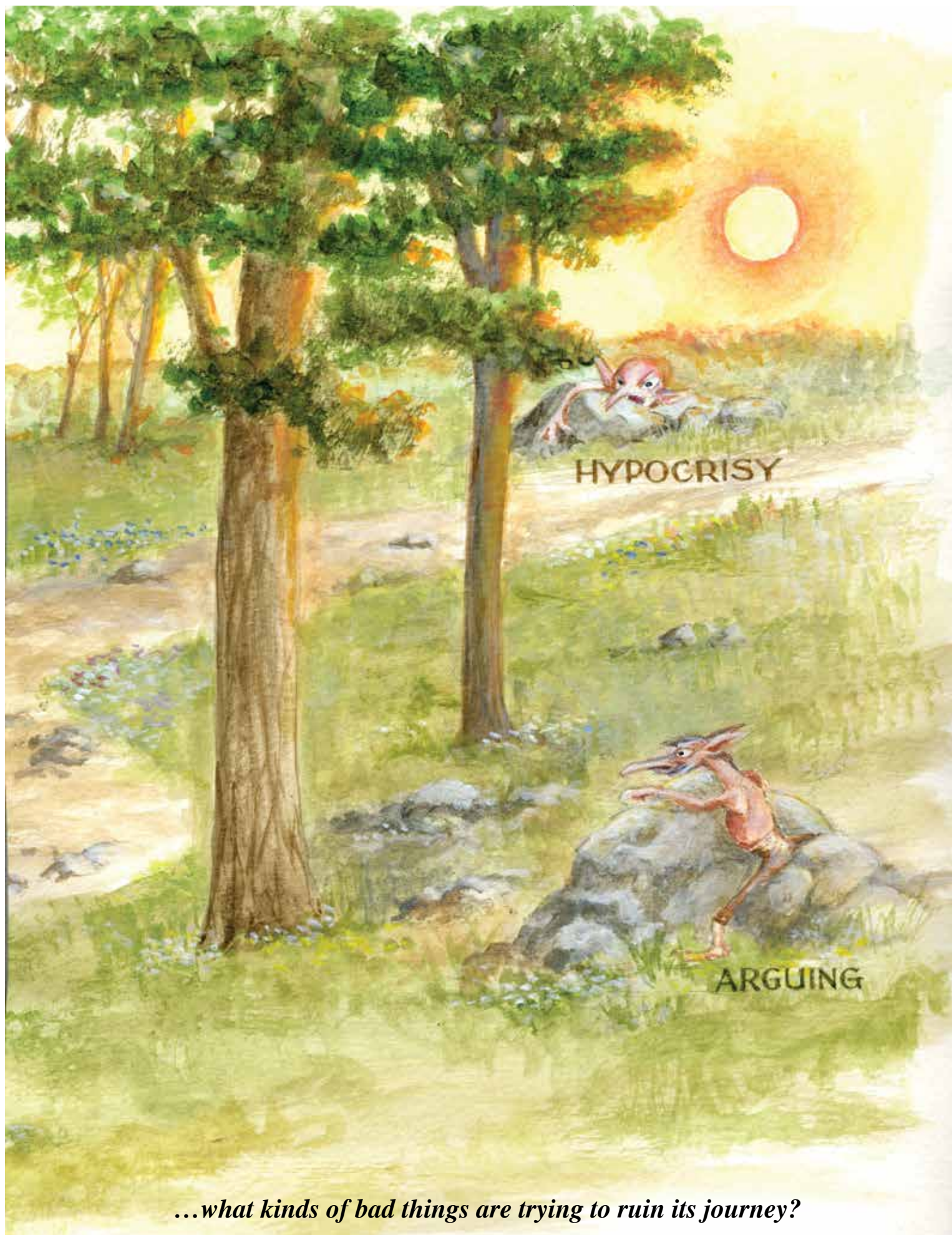
1. Tell a story about a child your age who is full of pride. Do you like this person? What do they act like? Can you pretend what someone is like who thinks that he or she is better than others? Demonstrate what pride is like.

2. To be spiteful is to be mean, annoy, disappoint, and upset others. If you are unkind to someone by mistake, what is the best thing to do as soon as possible?

3. Make a story about someone at your school who acts like he or she is better than anyone else, or is “spiteful.”



As a pure, little shining Heart goes up the Path of Life...

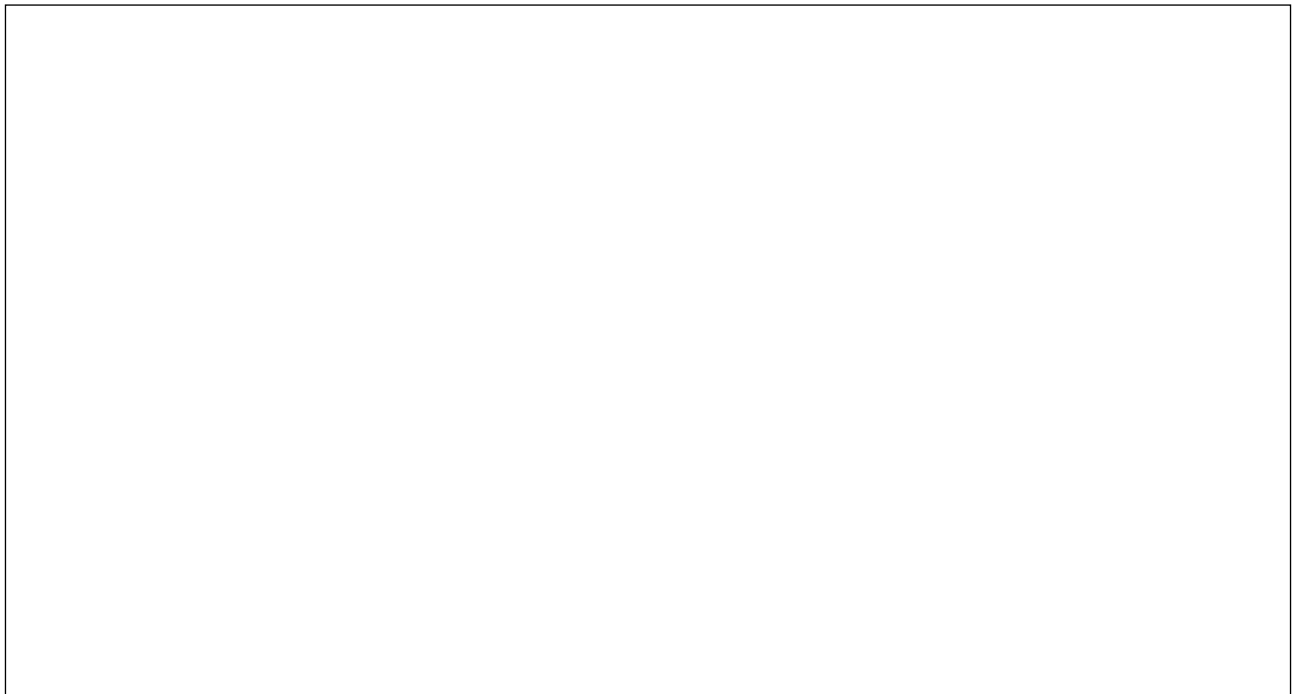


...what kinds of bad things are trying to ruin its journey?

Chapter 24

Back-Biting

1. If someone says bad things about another person when he or she is not there, why do you think this is called BACK BITING? Allah ﷻ says this is one of the worst things people do. Make up and tell a story about this. Tell what is being said and then what you would do to help, if you heard this going on?
2. Pretend you are listening to two friends talking very sweetly about someone else. What could they be saying?
3. Take some sand or grains of salt outside. Pretend these are unkind words you have said to someone. Scatter them on the ground, Try to pick them all up. They are like toothpaste squeezed out of the tube. Once out, it is too hard to get back inside. What does this game teach you? Can you draw this idea?





What is going on here? Color this drawing and think about what these children might be saying.

Chapter 25

Other Dangers! Beware of Making Excuses For Yourself, Bragging, Prying, and Spying

1. Dangers you will want to watch out for can come from *arguing*. Make up a problem and insist that *you* are the *right* one. Tell how this feels—great or not so good?
2. Pretend to brag and tell someone about something good you have done. What does it feel like. Why can something you say be called an *ugly* truth?
3. Do you keep a secret list in your mind of things people have done to you that you don't like? Why not tear up your list and forget it all and let it go? It polishes your Heart whenever you forgive. Name one thing you plan to forgive and let go.
4. Do you ever tell on your brother, sister or friend when they do something naughty? Or do you keep it to yourself, quietly? Which is *better* and *why*?

Chapter 26

Wanting The Best For Others

1. Play this game with one or two friends. Each one take turns giving good news and the others exclaim how happy they are for their friend's good news. Then do the same with sharing problems. What problem will you tell about? What would you like your friends to say or do, when you share your worry or problem? If someone wins at a game and you do not win, are you happy or unhappy? What is the best way to feel and why? How can we practice wanting the best for others?

Chapter 27
Being Two-Faced:
Hypocrisy

1. Draw a head which has two faces, one side is kind and one side is mean. Make up a story which tells how this person pretends to do something good just so *others* will *see*. Then, tell something naughty this same person also does but in *secret*.

2. Can you pronounce the word “hypocrite”? Do you ever correct your brother or sister for something you do yourself? Would it be better to do the correct thing and set an example instead? Name one thing you could do.

Chapter 28

More Problems With Arguing

1. What does God ﷻ do for people who *don't* argue and instead stay filled with peace, and are *calm and easygoing*?
2. When you hear people arguing, how does it make you feel inside? Do you want them to stop? Why?
3. Next time you are about to get into a fight over something, what *can* you do *instead*? Tell a story about this.
4. Play this game now: Get two people and let them both pretend to argue and say that they are *each* right about something. Watch it. What do you feel about it?
5. Sit quietly. Feel the goodness and light in your heart and how it fills your *whole* body. What happens now if you then get up and begin to show-off or argue?
6. Draw some stairs going up and then tell about, or write on each step, something that you do each day that takes you up higher and higher. Can you write on one step *REFUSING TO FIGHT* or argue? Write some good thing you did or said, which polishes your heart.

Chapter 29

A Question For You

1. What are you finding out from “DIVINE” Real Learning? Why do you want to do good and also, to help *others* to do well?
2. What is something you can do to help someone else?
3. What have you learned that you can do *this very moment*, which will help bring Light to your *beautiful* Heart and take you up another step? Even smiling at someone will fill his or her Heart with joy and Light. So easy to do!
4. Sometimes, we tell others to do the correct and right thing. Maybe we tell our brother or sister, “Tell the Truth! Don’t Lie”! And then, in *secret*, we lie sometimes. Make up a story about someone who does this! What does this person, in your story, *say* and then what does he *do* himself that is *different*?
5. What did Iman al-Ghazali realize while he was teaching? Why did he leave teaching? What became of the Imam after he left?
6. What did al-Ghazali write while he traveled and when he came home? What did he write for us, and why? What does he want to share with us from his Real Learning?
7. What are some things that you see others doing that you really admire and like?
8. What kind of person do you want to BE? Describe:



*Naughty thoughts can be like scary, barking dogs that frighten the angels
away from their home in your Heart.*

Chapter 30

Your Heart Is Like A House

1. In your “Heart-house” live special angels. What do they do if you get angry or envy what God ﷻ gave to somebody else instead of what He especially chose for you?

2. What could be some naughty thoughts that would seem like scary, barking dogs to your angels?

3. People build houses to live in. Allah ﷻ made your special Heart to be a place where you can find Him. What are two things you can do to make your “Heart-house” better?

a.

b.



This stream wasted its water and then ran out, so it couldn't make it to the Garden where it was headed. How do you spend your time? Do you save any of it for doing beautiful things?

Chapter 31

Doing Too Many Things

1. Pretend you are a stream of clear blue water, headed to bring water to a magical special garden. You have just enough water to make it there, where you will be very happy. But along the way you stop and do other things. You leave a bit of your water at the play-yard. Some at the ice-cream shop. What do you think will happen now? You no longer have enough “time” (or water) to reach The Special Garden.

2. Draw four plants below. Draw a water pitcher labeled “TIME,” to water them. Time is like the water you have. You need to be careful with how you use it because you only have a certain amount. You need enough time to polish your Heart so you that can reach The Garden, shining. What amount of time do you need each day for these four activities? Write that beside each plant.

Plant 1: Sleeping and Eating



Plant 2: Learning at School

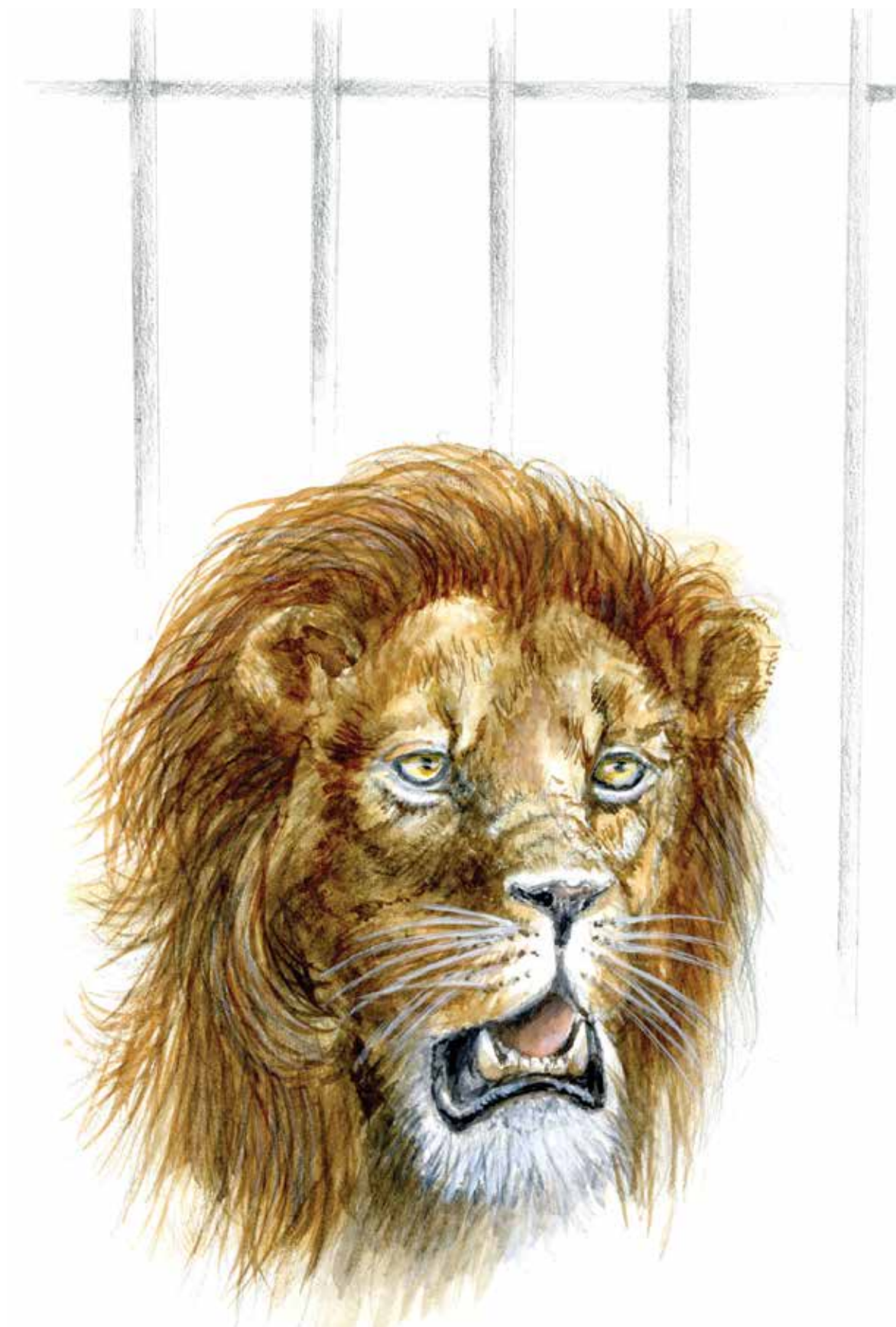


Plant 3: Games and Toys



Plant 4: Doing Good to Polish Your Heart





Chapter 32

The Teacher, The Lion, and The Jug of Water

1. If a lion gets out of its cage and someone saves you from being gobbled up, do you thank that person? What do you say?

2. If a person teaches you special “divine REAL learning” that saves you from wasting your life and makes it possible for you to go to the Garden of Paradise in the Next World, what do you say to these teachers?

3. Who are the people who teach you how to be good and nearer to God ﷻ?
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.

4. Some people are the “know it all” type and are full of themselves. Should we be like empty, or full, glasses when we are learning? Why? How do we need to be so that wisdom and learning can be poured in?



Have you ever made a sling-shot? It takes lots of practice to hit the center of the target just like it takes lots of practice to polish your heart! What are you aiming for in your life? What is the best goal to shoot for? Why?

Chapter 33

When You Shoot An Arrow, You Need A Target

1. Draw a target with your own heart at the center. Now draw lots of arrows, or pebbles, and write on each one a way that will help you to reach the center, your shining Heart.

2. What can you practice doing every day that will make your heart better and better? A regular activity?

a.

b.

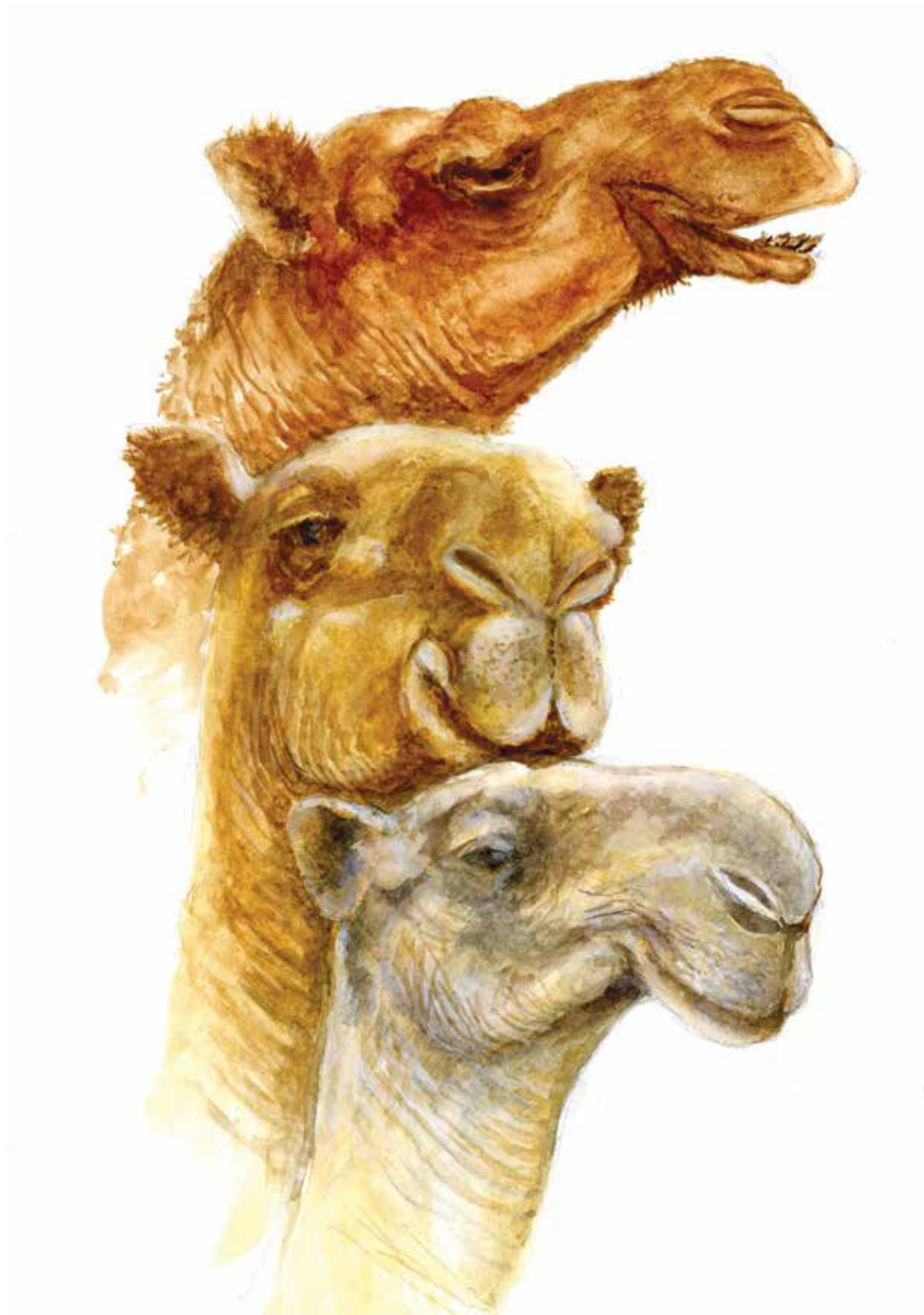
c.

3. What about math and reading? Why are they important? How are they like steps on the stairway of your life? Why do you need to learn math and be able to read?:

4. Draw a heart that is like a target. Make a list of what you aim to do with your life in this world.

a.

b.



What would you like to name each camel?

Chapter 34

The Camels Leave

1. Draw camels in a line crossing a rocky desert. Draw people riding on their backs. What supplies do the people and camels both need for the long trip?

a. The people need_____.

b. The camels need_____.

2. What “*ideas*” do you know about which can help get you across these “rocks,” or small problems which are put in your way to help you grow stronger? In what ways do these help you to grow?

a.

b.

c.



1. Now, draw YOURSELF with your big heart riding inside your body! What does your *heart* need for the journey through *your* life? What supplies will it need to make it *safely* across the rocky problems which *everybody* has been given in their lives, at different times?

2. What are some problems you are having at this time? How will you solve them?

a.

b.

c.

What is the best REAL food you need for your heart? What small problems, like the rocks here on the path, have been sent to you so you can become stronger and better? Can you pass easily over the rocks, or the difficulties which God ﷻ kindly sends to strengthen you? Color these children pretending to be camels.





Even animal babies copy their parents who are their teachers. Name something you are copying from your parents that you love very much about them.

Chapter 35

Grandfather Explains Some Important Ideas that Seem Hard or Difficult to Understand, *At First*

1. Imam al-Ghazali tells us there are three groups of people. The people in Group ONE are busy buying things and entertaining themselves all day. Make up a story about someone like this.

2. Although the people in Group TWO live shining perfect lives, teaching all the good they learned by being good examples, most people are in Group THREE. These people learned the Special Learning and are good people from whom others can learn. But inside their Hearts is “hypocrisy” which needs a lot of polishing. Make up a story about someone in Group THREE; tell about a normal day in his or her life:

3. What group are you in?



*“Grandmother, will you tell us about the **THREE** selves inside of us?”*

Chapter 36

Grandmother Explains The Three Selves — Part 1

1. What have we been given human bodies for? Circle One.

To Play To Meet Friends To Watch Films

To Eat To Get To Be Near Allah ﷻ To Travel

To be near to Allah ﷻ, we need Special Real Learning, “divine” learning, that teaches us how to polish our Hearts exactly. God ﷻ also gives each one of us three selves to help us do this! Do you know the names of the three selves inside of you?

2. This is how it works: Each person has a low self that does things only for its own happiness! Anything naughty, and bad ideas come from this “*nafs al-ammara*.” Tell three things that your own low, false self does:

a.

b.

c.

3. But this low self is watched by another self inside you that scolds and blames the lower one. It says “You shouldn’t be doing that! It’s a bad idea. Stop!” The “*nafs al-lawwama*” is kept very busy trying to get the lower one to be good. Tell of 3 things you have noticed your blaming self say to your lower, false self.

a.

b.

c.



Describe yourself! What are you like?

Chapter 36

The Three Selves — Part 2

4. Make up two stories:

First, a story about when the low self wins and won't do what the scolding self asks but goes ahead and *does* the bad, wrong thing.

Second, make up a story about when the low naughty self *listens* to the one blaming him, and then does the *right* and correct thing:

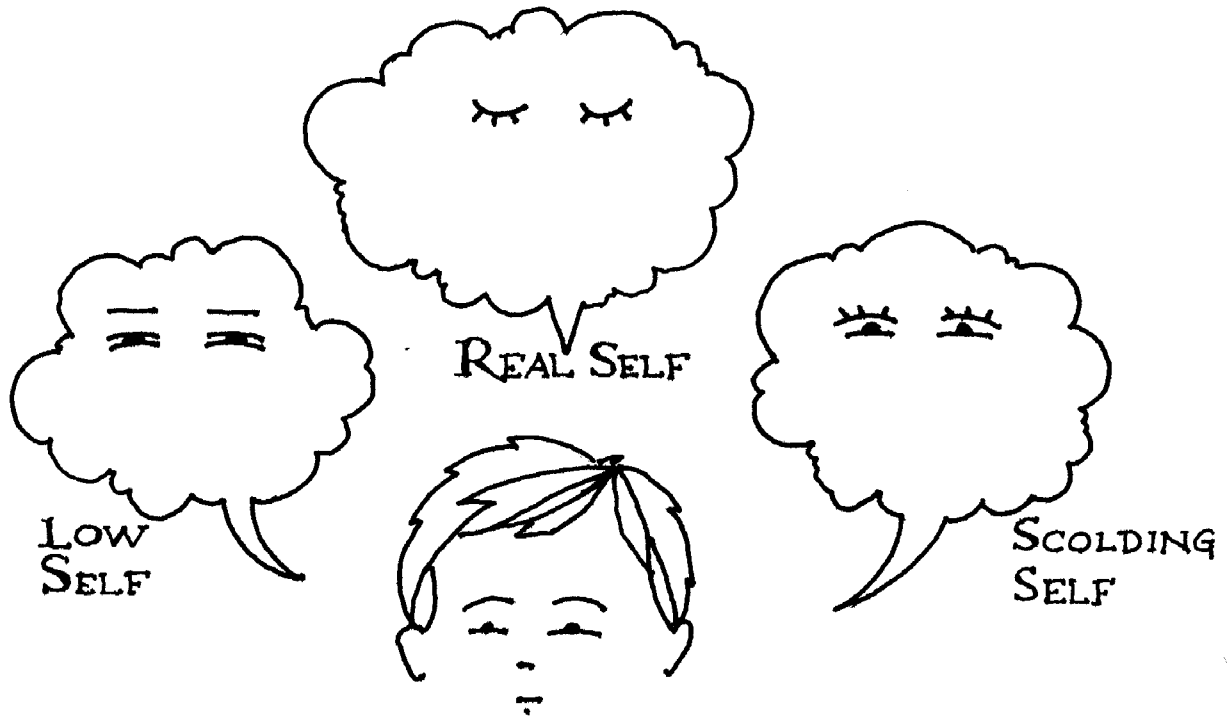
5. But you are not either of these 2 selves. Your REAL Self, which you will experience fully when your Heart is polished clean, watches this talking back and forth. Tell of a time when you watched the low and blaming selves arguing back and forth inside your head. Maybe your mother is calling you to get up for breakfast and school. Have you noticed the lower self pretends not to hear her?

6. So, you can see how it works! The pure Heart knows what is *true*, always. The 3rd self, the “*nafs al-mutma'inna*” is at rest and peace and full joy. Don't you want to be that real, happy, good self inside of you? Well, that's where you already *are* every time you *choose* the good over the bad, and then DO the right thing. Sit quietly, shut your eyes and experience *just being* inside your shining heart. What is that like?

Chapter 36

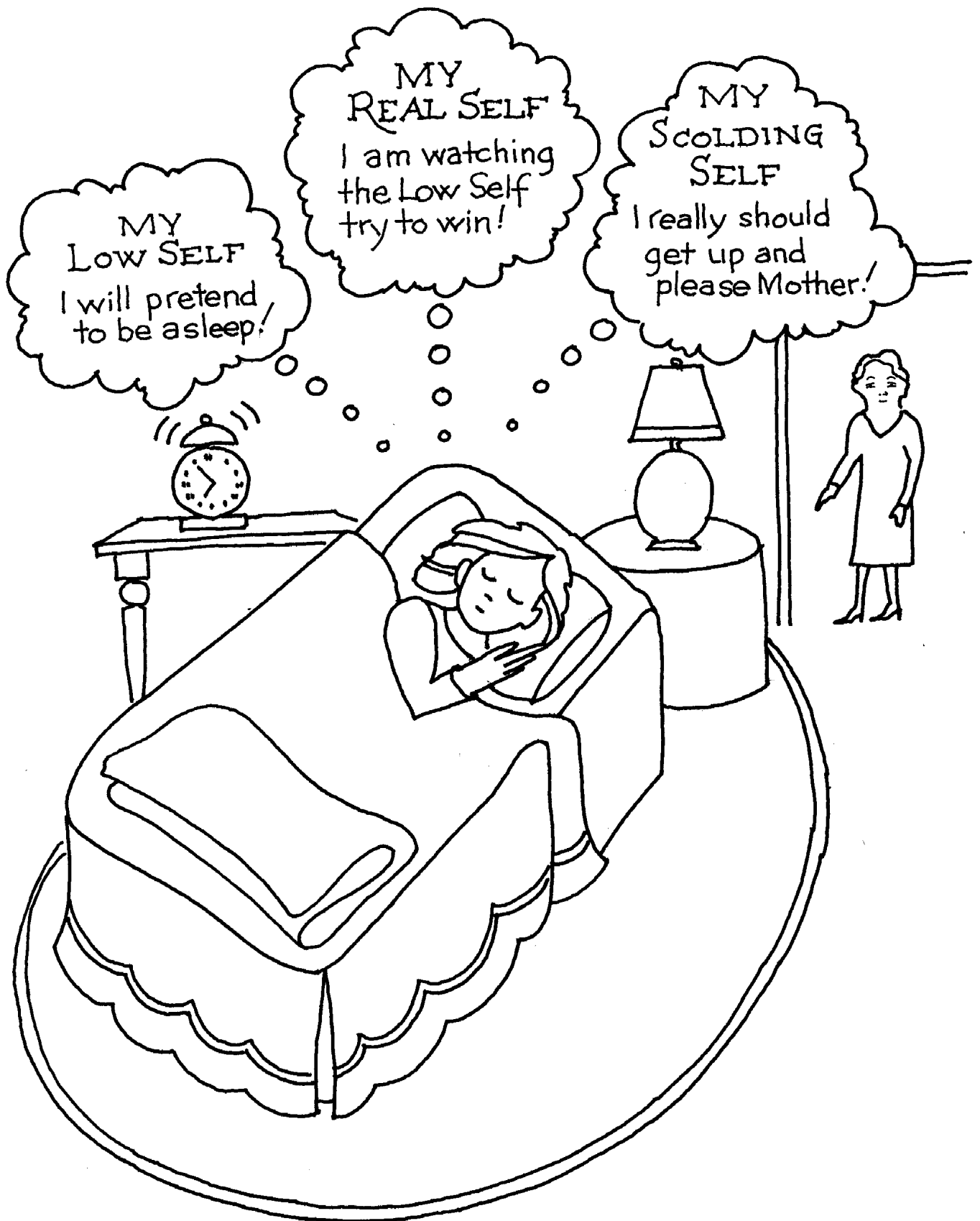
The Three Selves — Part 3

1. Here is a head with three thought clouds above it. Write in each what the selves are thinking or saying.



Make up what the lower self might say, and how the blaming self corrects it, and include the Real You who is watching.

2. Sit quietly and watch your thoughts. Describe what they are saying. Which ones do you want to polish away? Why? Which do you want to keep? Why?



Chapter 37

Getting Rich and Getting Knowledge

1. Where can you find Real, Special Learning? Circle all the right answers:

At the store Grandparents At the zoo From teachers

The Quran In books On television

Playing with toys Games Parents

Playing ball Eating sweets Books

2. Once you have your very Special Divine Learning which shows you how to polish your heart, what will you do with it? Circle the true answers.

a. Keep it for yourself.

b. Share it by being a good example yourself.

c. Explain the good ideas to others.

d. Not teach anything.

3. We can ALL be teachers by sharing what we have learned. By doing all the good things we learn, we are sharing! What 3 things can you do today that will show others how to behave correctly?

a.

b.

c.



What is this boy teaching his little brother? How is he doing it?

Chapter 38

Being A Teacher

1. How is a teacher *supposed* to treat students? Circle what is true.

- a. Hit them if they are noisy
- b. Act as if they were his or her *own* children
- c. Be angry if the children are naughty
- d. Be sweet and loving and merciful

Since you are a teacher every moment in your life, be sure to be a good example for others.

2. What are the two best things all of the children in your class, (who are like your brothers and sisters, like your *family*), can have together as THE goal, or target, of their *learning*?

- a. To get a good job
- b. To have people admire you and think that you are important
- c. To polish your Hearts and become shining
- d. To buy a big house
- e. To go out to eat a lot at restaurants
- f. To reach Paradise and be near God ﷻ
- g. To buy many things

3. Imam al-Ghazali has written books just for you to: (Put a check or X)

- ___ Help you know exactly how to polish the dust off your Heart
- ___ Have more time to sit around and chat
- ___ Teach you the deep meanings in life
- ___ Explain what the Prophet ﷺ brought for you from the angel Gabriel
- ___ Show you more ways to be near God ﷻ and completely happy
- ___ To win games when you play
- ___ To understand why you were born and what your life is for



Write a lesson in the teacher's book. Color the drawing and add whatever you like to decorate the classroom.

Chapter 39
Playing School:
Here is Something For *You* To Think About

1. Pretend you are the teacher. One of the children has bumped into a table of art supplies and all the paint colors have spilled and made a mess. What do you do?

1st: Be angry at him. What would you say when you are angry?

2nd: Make her feel she is stupid and has ruined everything? What might you say to make her feel sad?

3rd: Tell an imaginary story about a careful, peaceful rabbit that one day was nervous and, by a mistake, knocked over and broke a vase because he was hopping too quickly. Maybe something happened at the rabbit home that has worried this poor baby rabbit. What is the best way to treat the rabbit baby that broke the vase?

2. Pretend you are a mother or father, or big brother or sister. Gently explain to your younger sisters or brothers or friends, in their own simple language, something they don't understand, or how to do something. What are gentle words you can use?

3. Are you speaking kindly and with manners? How do you treat someone with respect? Are you speaking to their low, not-real self, or are you speaking to the Real Self full of light and peace? Would that be hard to do? Try it now.



*What is the best way for you to teach others?
What kind of teacher are you today?*



Draw a shadow coming from each tree. Imagine their shadows are what they are teaching, being straight and good or being crooked. What kind of shadow comes from the way you are? What is your shadow like?

Chapter 40

The Two Trees

1. Draw a straight shadow coming from a straight tree. Draw straight children standing in the straight shadow copying the straight tree. People look and act like the people they copy, don't they? Put birds, leaves, fruit and flowers in the branches.

2. Draw on the shadow of a bent ugly tree, crooked people who look the same as the tree which they are copying. And then these crooked people make more crooked shadows – which are the people who then go on to copy them! Put bats on the branches and a few dead leaves.

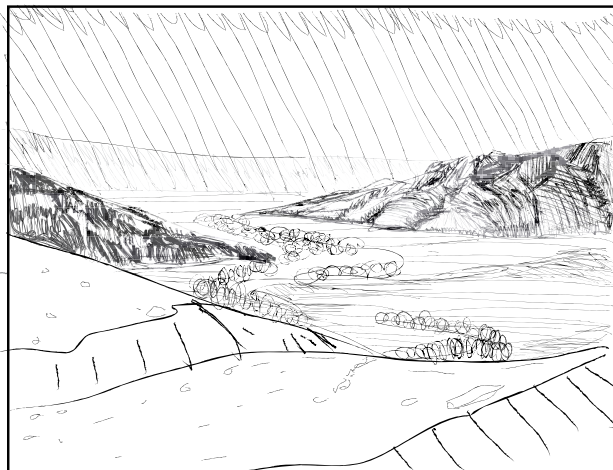
3. Get a friend to do something silly. Then copy that person exactly. Be exactly like his or her shadow.

4. Now get someone to do a beautiful wonderful thing. Pretend you are his or her shadow. Copy that person exactly.

5. People copy each other – like being each other's shadow. What kind of things do you want others to copy that you do?

The Life of al-Ghazali

The Book of Knowledge For Children Workbook



900 years ago, in a country known today as Iran



Imam Abu Hamid al-Ghazali was born in Tus, Khurasan.
His family was very poor.

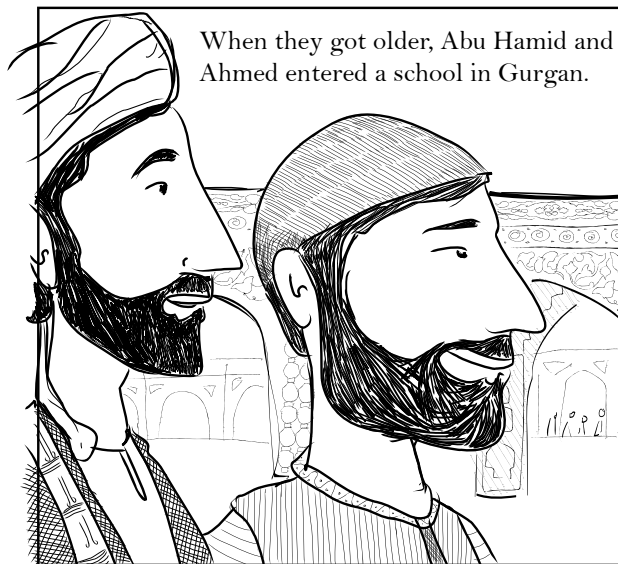


His father was a weaver. He died when Abu Hamid and his brother Ahmed were very young.

Before his death, he made sure his sons were put under the care of a local shaykh.



Even though this wise elder was not a scholar, he was very righteous, honorable and filled with true knowledge.



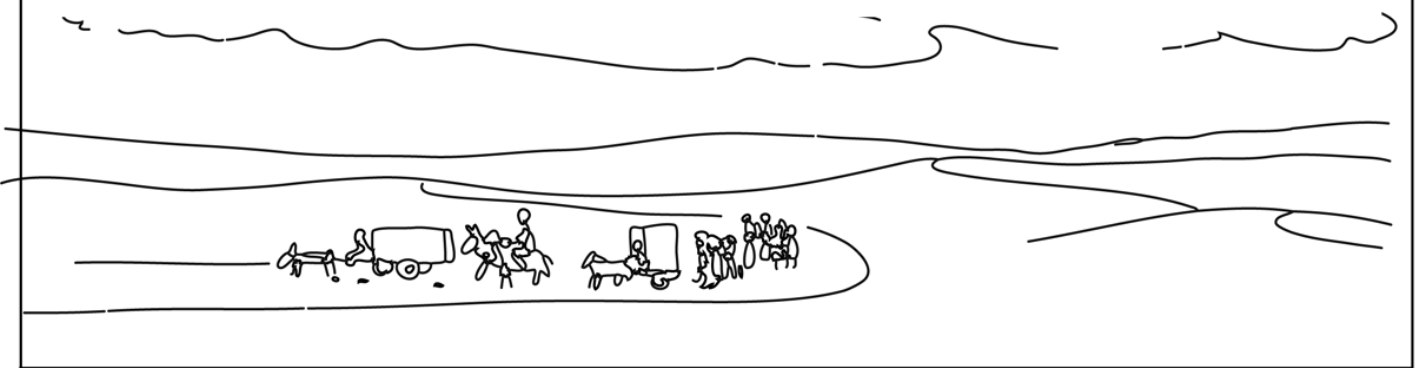
When they got older, Abu Hamid and Ahmed entered a school in Gurgan.



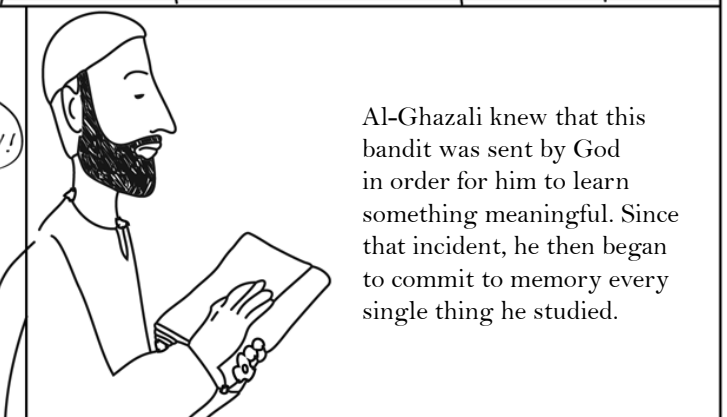
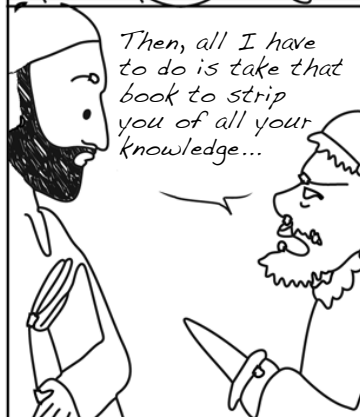
Imam al-Ghazali was fortunate to have one of the greatest scholars of Islam as a teacher, Imam al-Juwayni.

Imam al-Ghazali

One day, Imam al-Ghazali was on his way to Bagdad with a caravan in the desert...

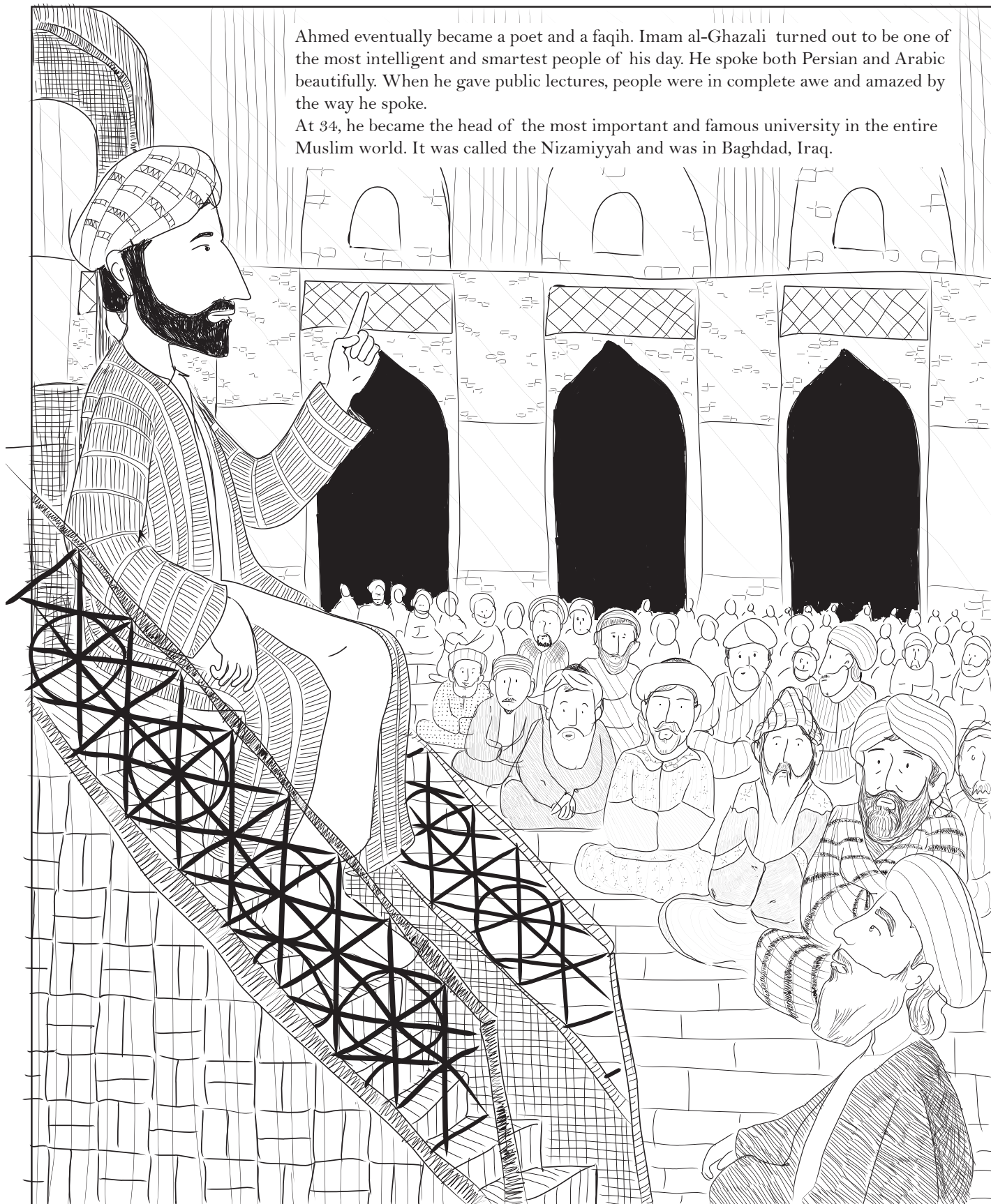


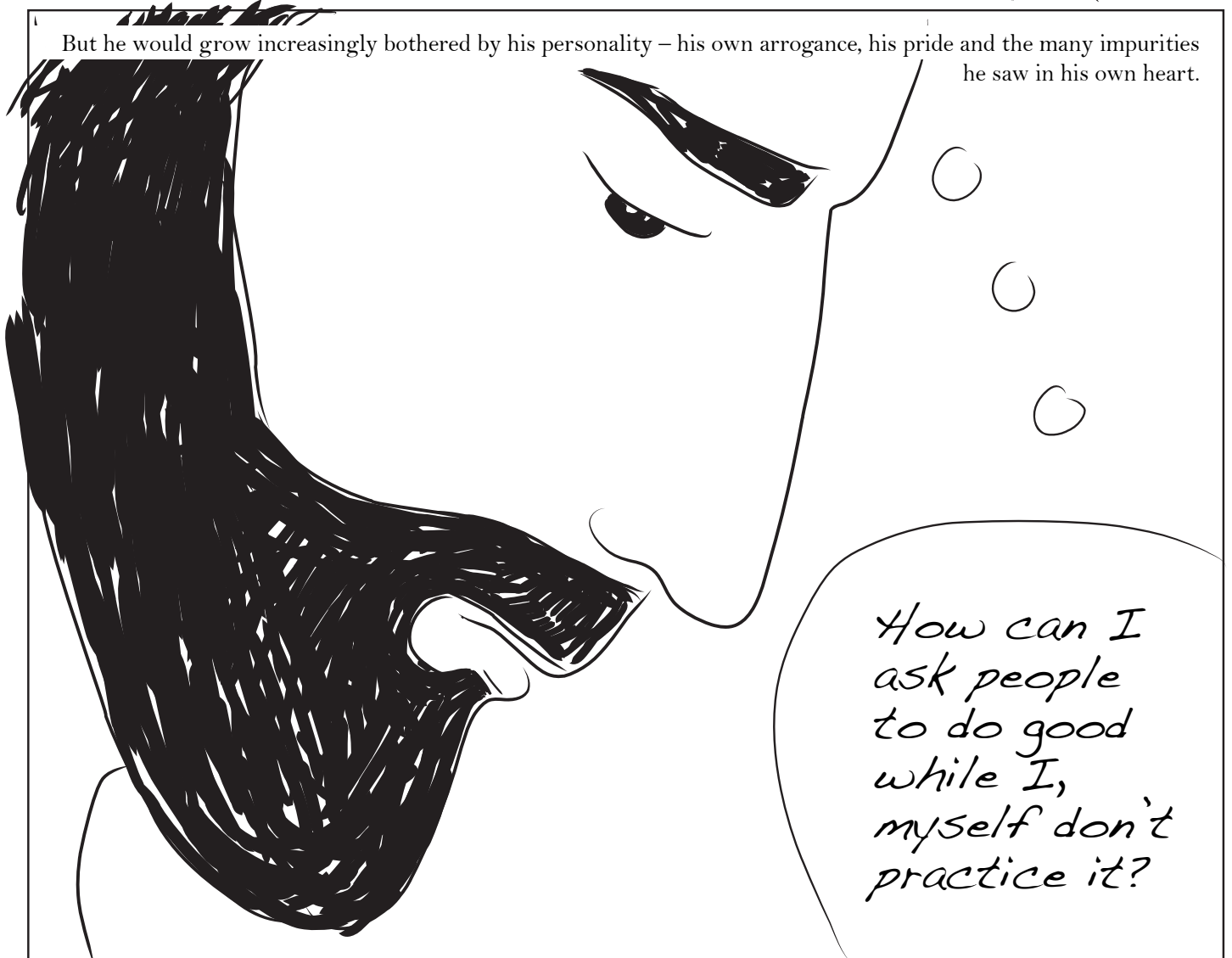
Bandits were watching them from behind a hill



Ahmed eventually became a poet and a faqih. Imam al-Ghazali turned out to be one of the most intelligent and smartest people of his day. He spoke both Persian and Arabic beautifully. When he gave public lectures, people were in complete awe and amazed by the way he spoke.

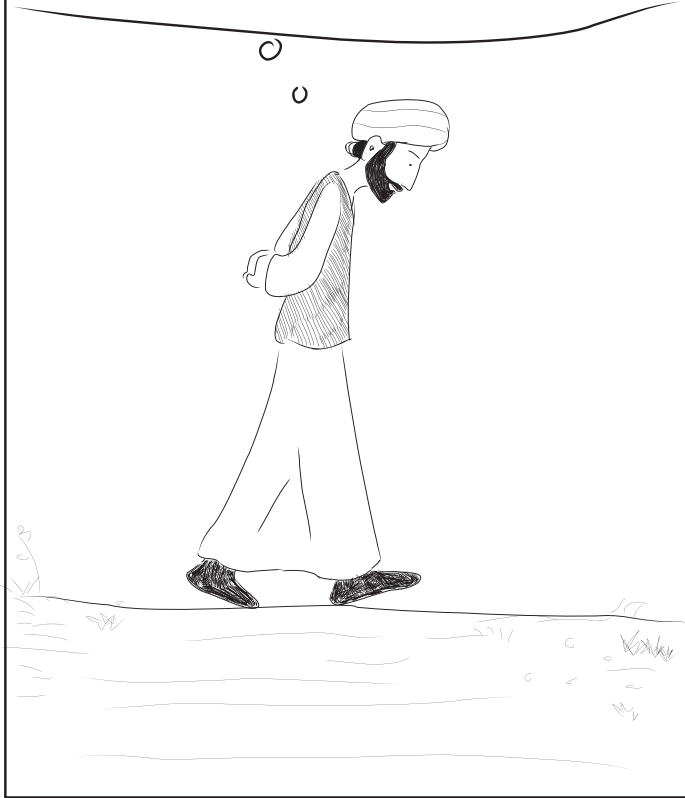
At 34, he became the head of the most important and famous university in the entire Muslim world. It was called the Nizamiyyah and was in Baghdad, Iraq.





The Book of Knowledge For Children Workbook

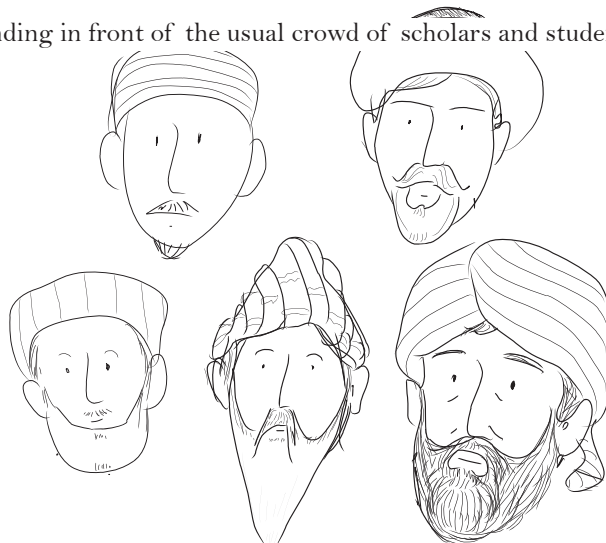
I have to give all this up!
I must BE all the things
I'm teaching... Turn away
from this life of fame and
pride in this material world...



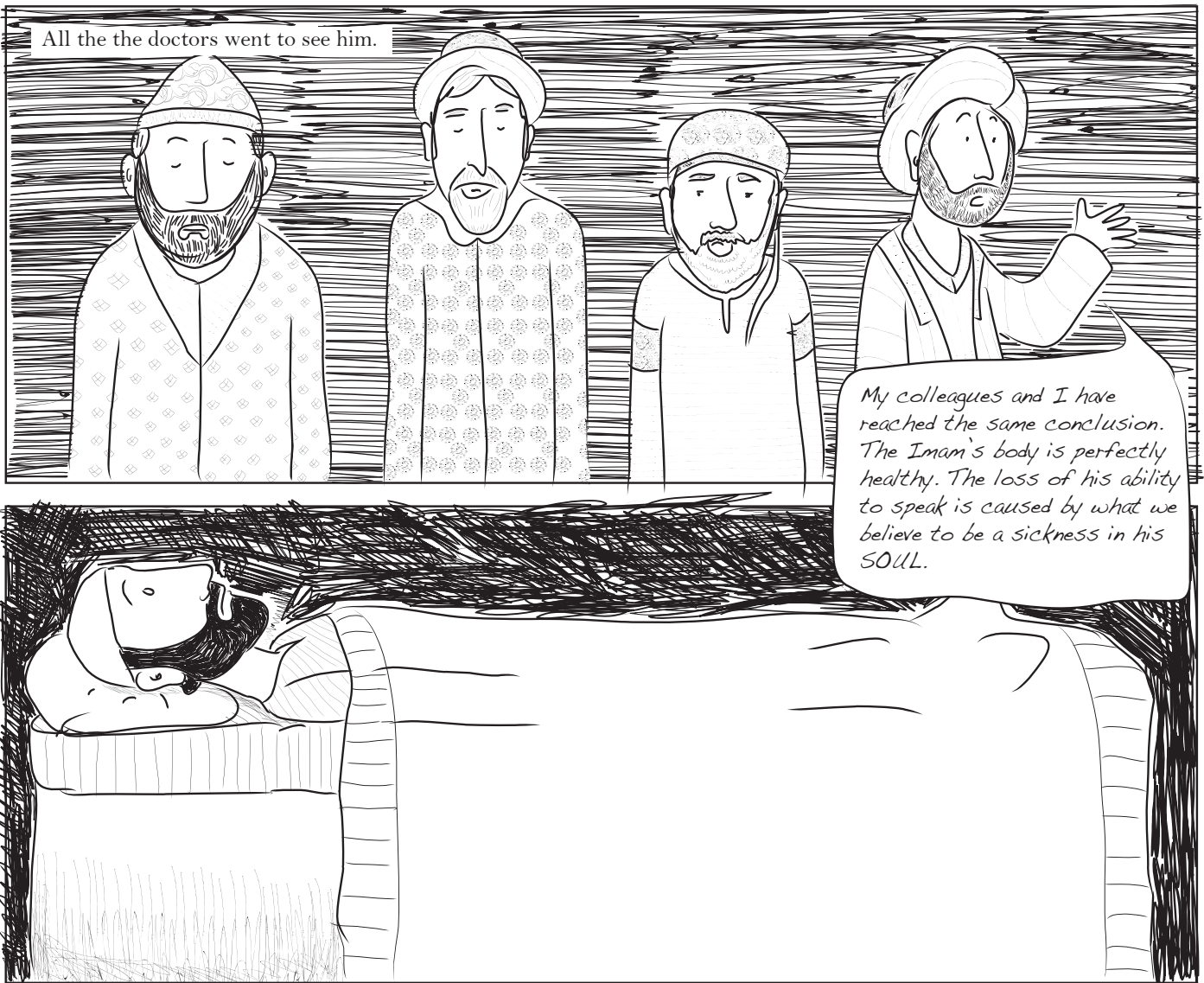
But how CAN I give up
this great job and position??
I am loved and praised
by everyone!!



One day, Imam al-Ghazali went to class and was standing in front of the usual crowd of scholars and students.



Imam al-Ghazali



The Book of Knowledge For Children Workbook

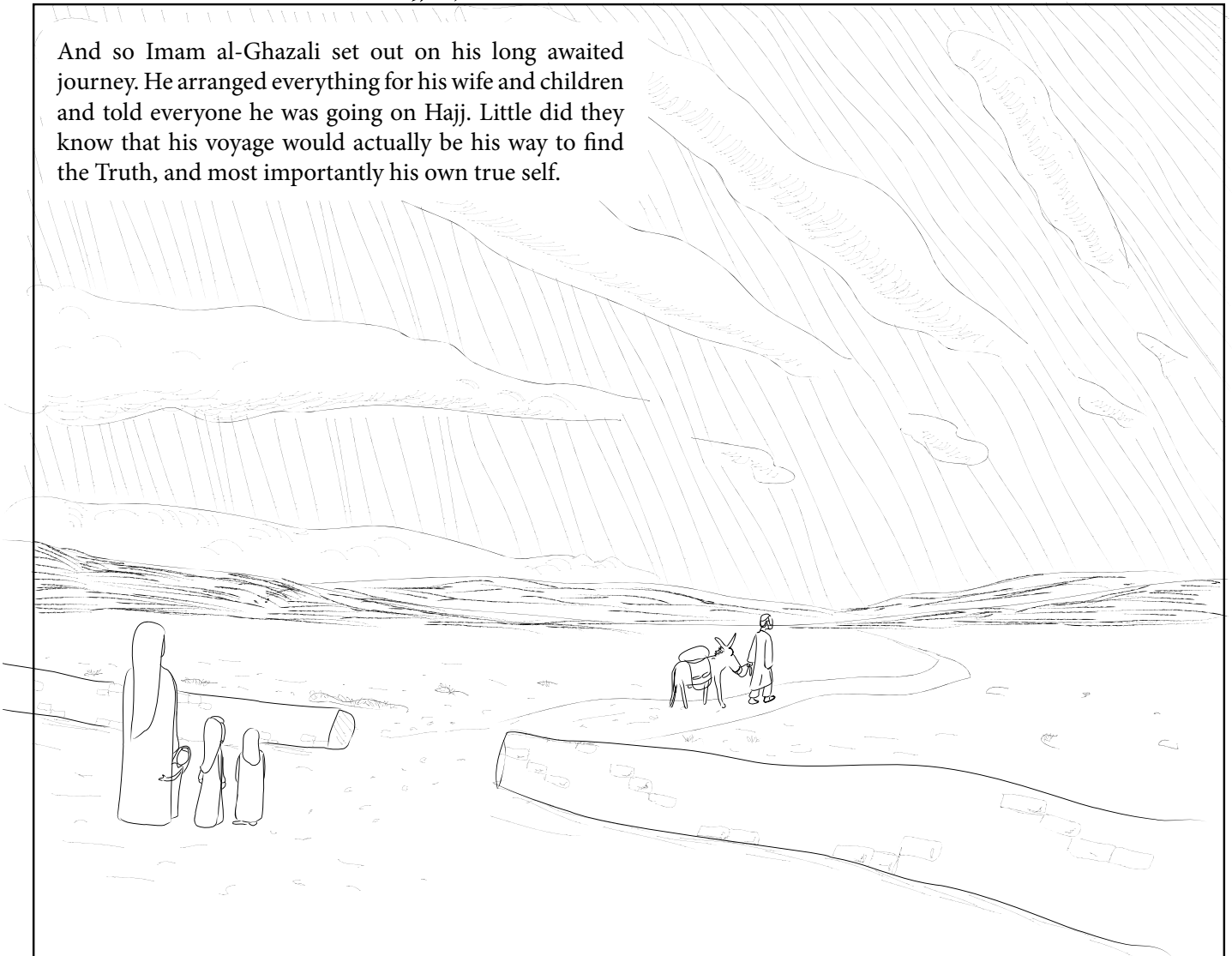
This is definitely a sign from God...



*I have to go away Now!
Before it's too late...*

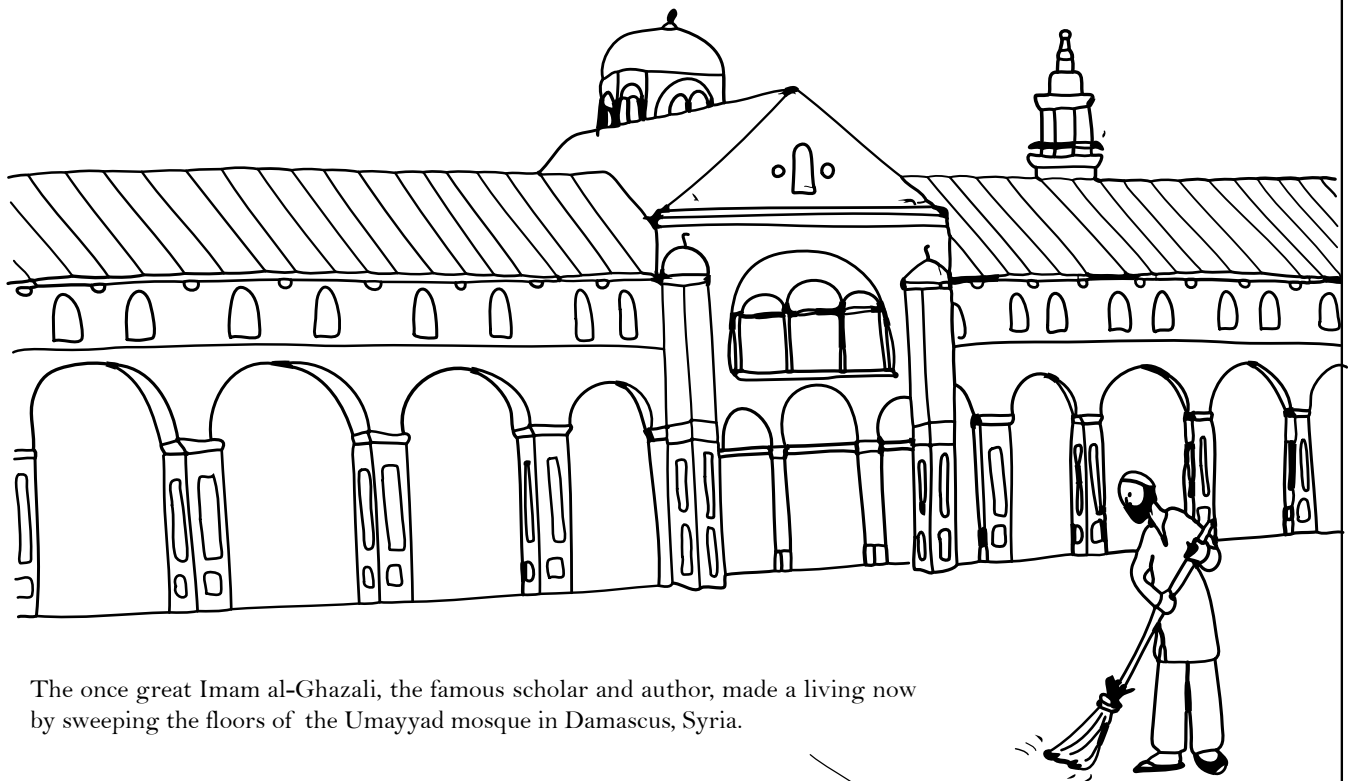


And so Imam al-Ghazali set out on his long awaited journey. He arranged everything for his wife and children and told everyone he was going on Hajj. Little did they know that his voyage would actually be his way to find the Truth, and most importantly his own true self.



Imam al-Ghazali

He spent the next ten years of his life traveling around the Muslim world. He lived in a state of total lowliness.



The once great Imam al-Ghazali, the famous scholar and author, made a living now by sweeping the floors of the Umayyad mosque in Damascus, Syria.

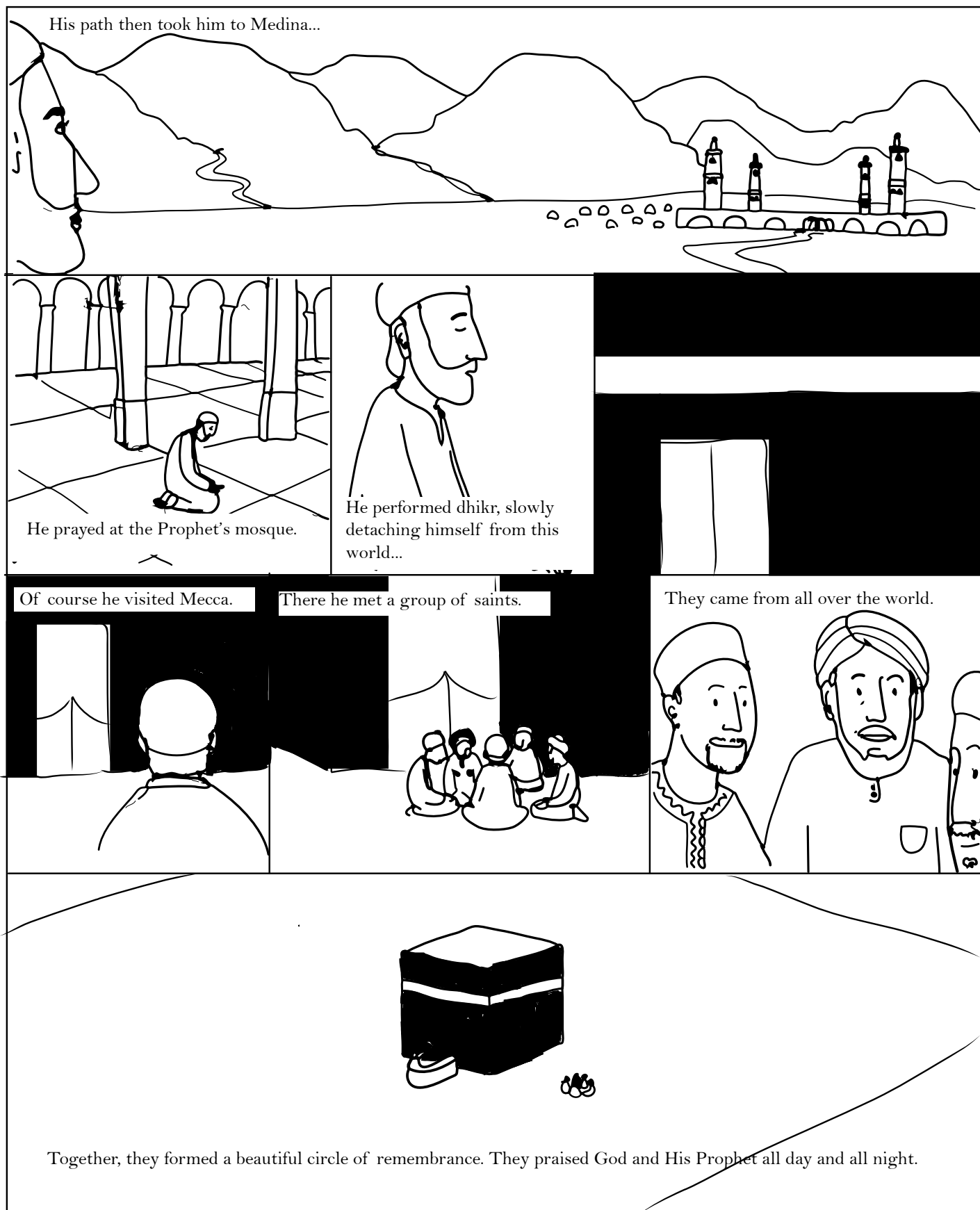
The Book of Knowledge For Children Workbook

One day, while a group of scholars was discussing his books, a man came to them with a question.

But none of the scholars knew the answer.



Imam al-Ghazali

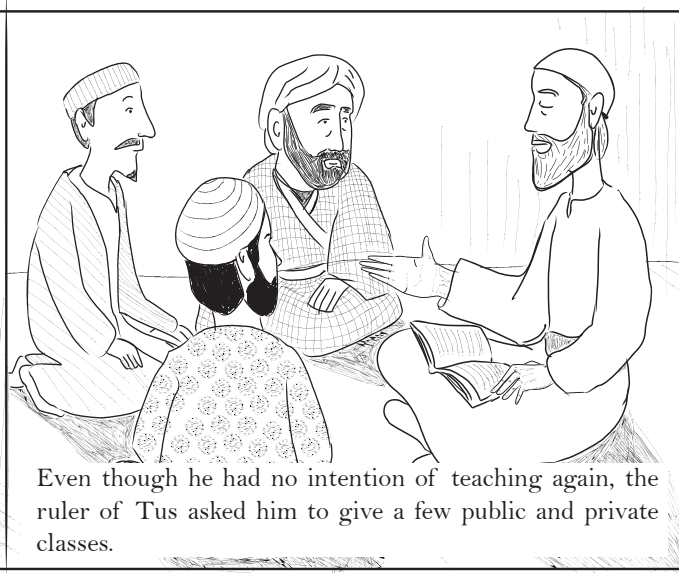
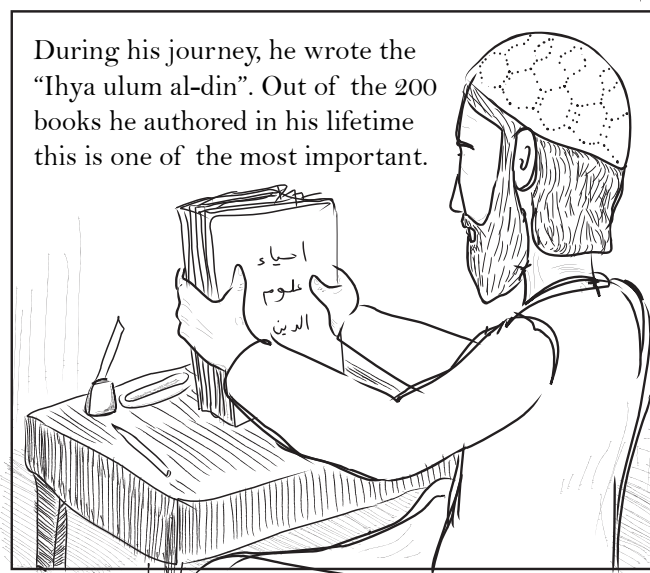


The Book of Knowledge For Children Workbook

When he was 48, Imam al-Ghazali went back home to his family in Tus, Khurasan.

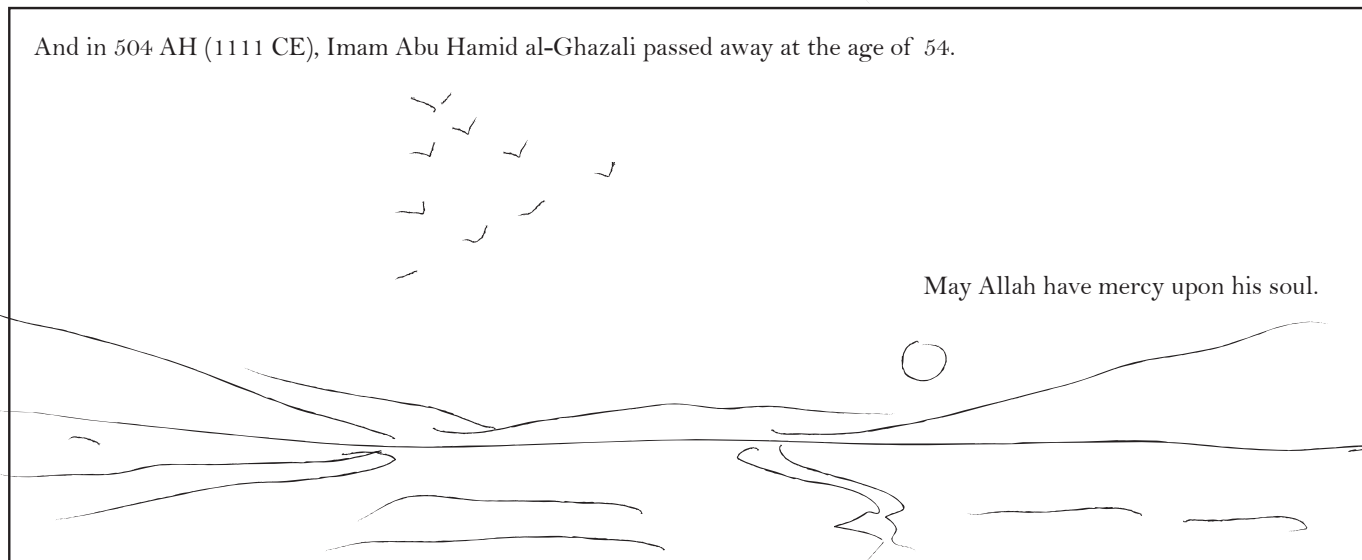


During his journey, he wrote the "Ihya ulum al-din". Out of the 200 books he authored in his lifetime this is one of the most important.



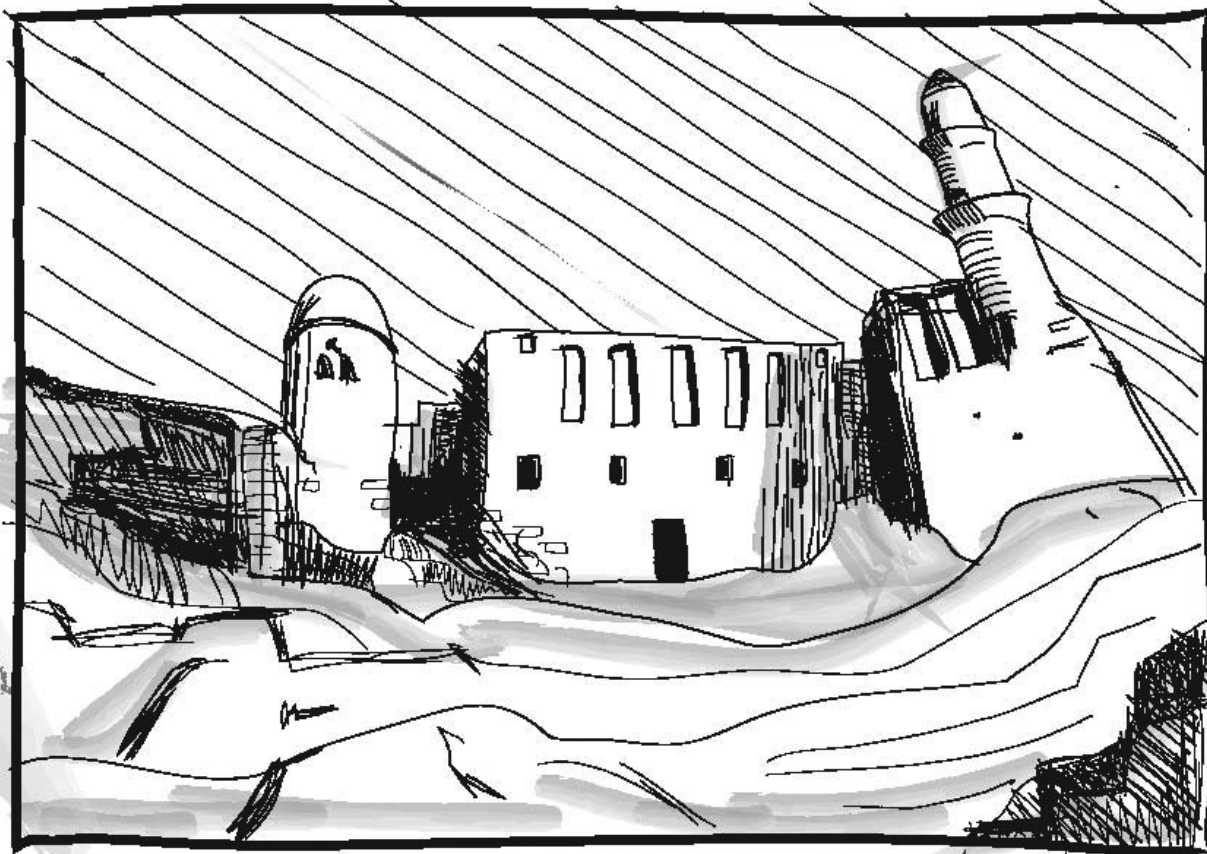
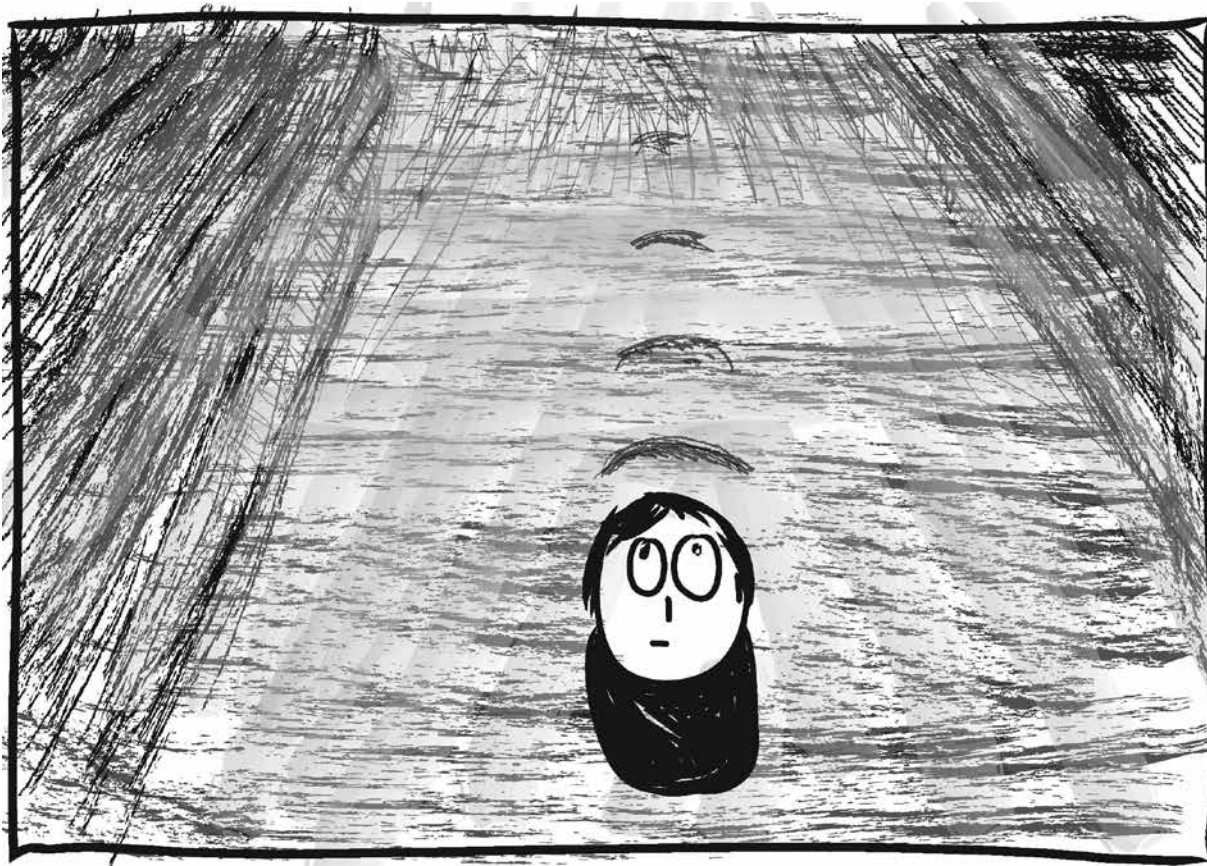
Even though he had no intention of teaching again, the ruler of Tus asked him to give a few public and private classes.

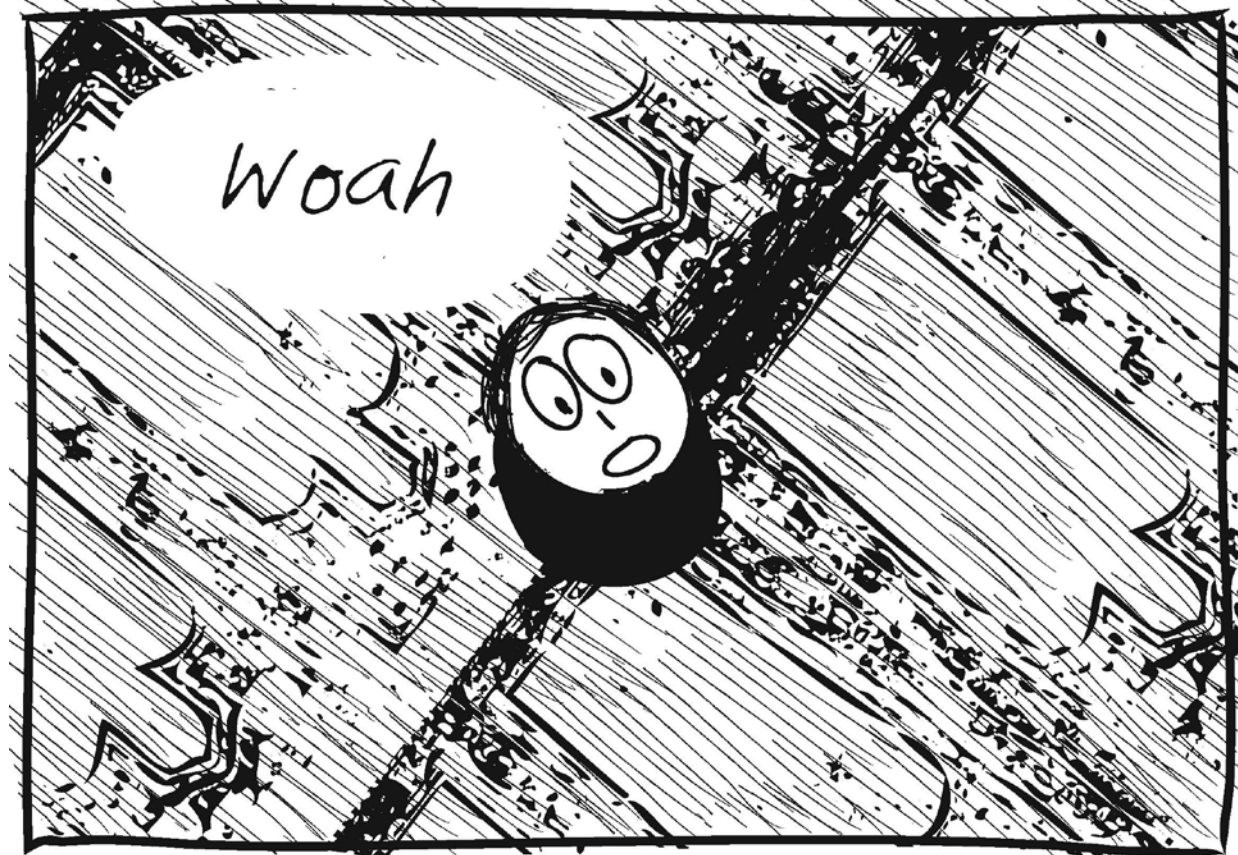
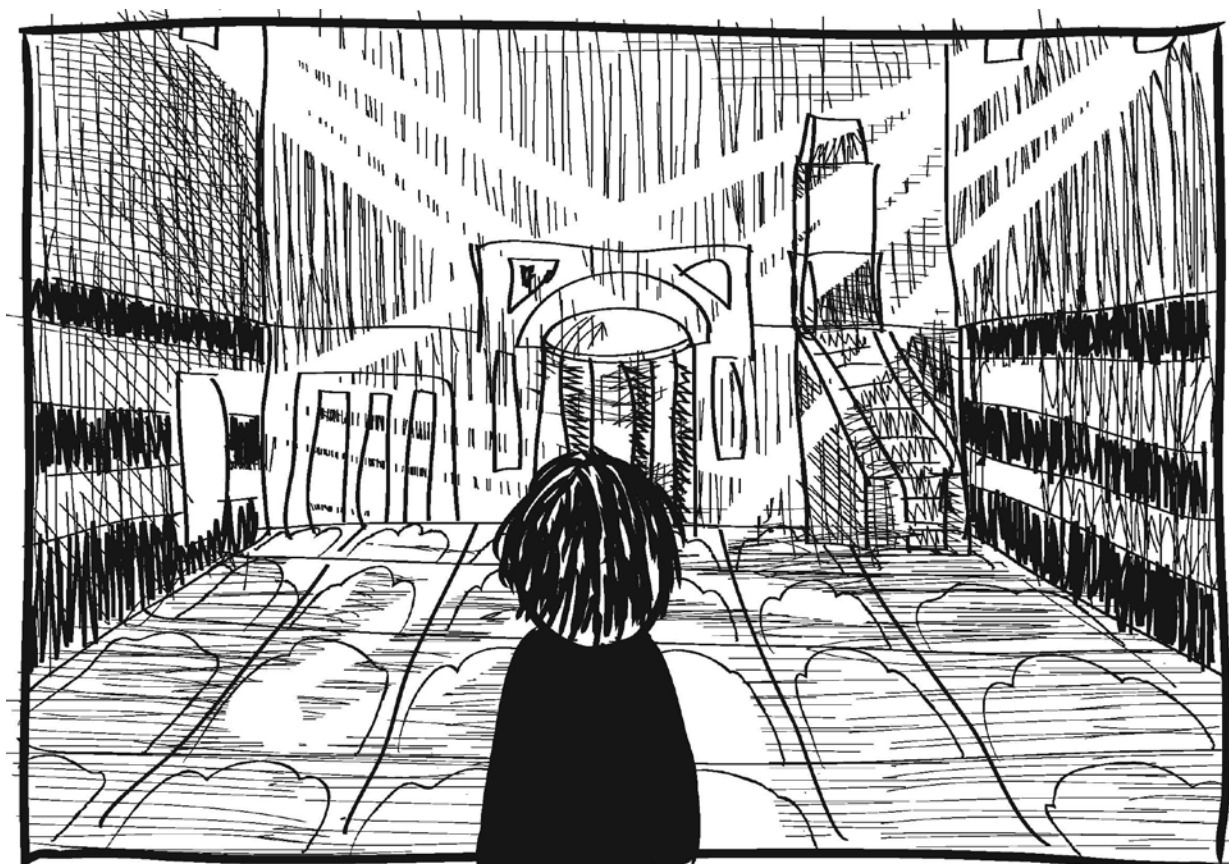
And in 504 AH (1111 CE), Imam Abu Hamid al-Ghazali passed away at the age of 54.

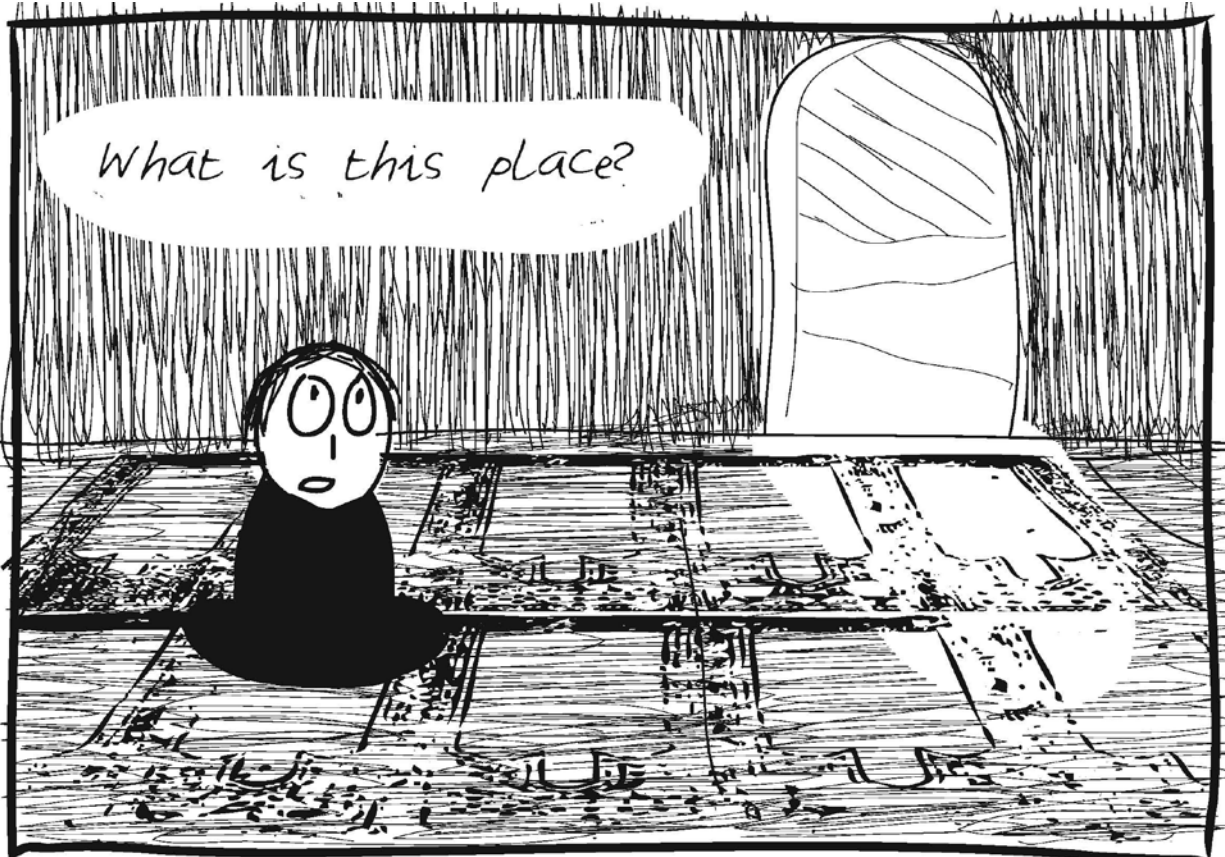


May Allah have mercy upon his soul.

You Have Two Hearts

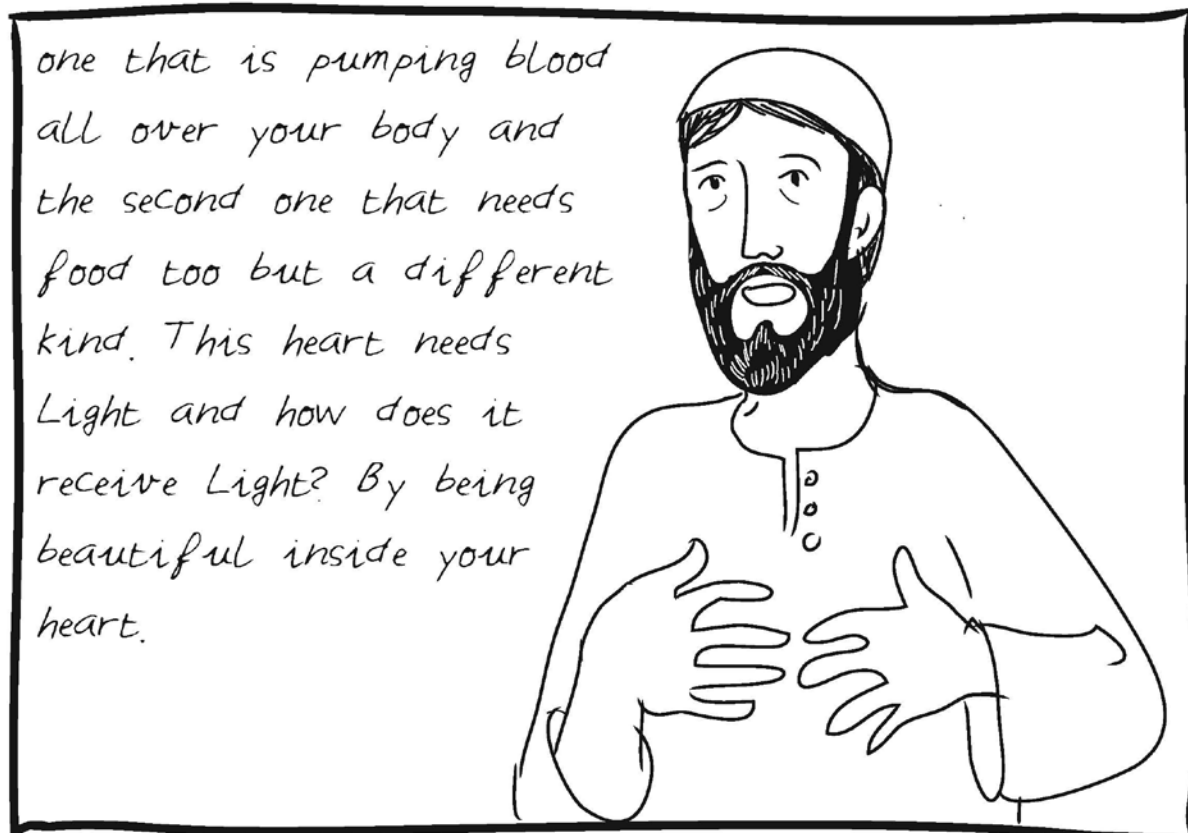


















Play this game. Each child in the group shakes a finger and says, “No!” to a naughty idea that comes to mind. Then each child tells what he or she was saying “No” to. Go around the circle playing this game three times. Color this drawing.



The Revival of the Religious Sciences

The Quarter of Worship

Book 1 : The Book of Knowledge

Book 2 : The Principles of the Creed

Book 3 : The Mysteries of Purification

Book 4 : The Mysteries of the Prayer

Book 5 : The Mysteries of Zakat

Book 6 : The Mysteries of Fasting

Book 7 : The Mysteries of the Pilgrimage

Book 8 : The Etiquette of the Recitation
of the Qurʾān

Book 9 : Invocations and Supplications

Book 10 : The Arrangement of the
Litanies and the Exposition of
the Night Vigil



FONS VITAE

