

Hazrat Maryam

(May Allah be pleased with her)



And remember when the angels said: ‘O Mary,
Allah has chosen you and purified you and chosen
you above the women of all peoples.’

[Holy Quran, 3:43]

Publication Department Lajna Ima’illah UK





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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

My Dear Children

Assalamo Alaikum

I hope and pray that you read the series of books on the stories mentioned in the Holy Quran and learn from them.

There is so much to learn from these books like power of prayers, importance of being truthful and kind, how brave and resilient they were and much more.

May Allah enable you to read these books and learn from them for your own benefit and knowledge. All that you learn at this age helps your understanding of your faith and makes it stronger. These stories are also very inspiring and have many moral lessons to learn.

Please read them yourself or even better, with your parents.

Wassalam

Yours sincerely

Fariha Khan

Serving as Sadr Lajna UK

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

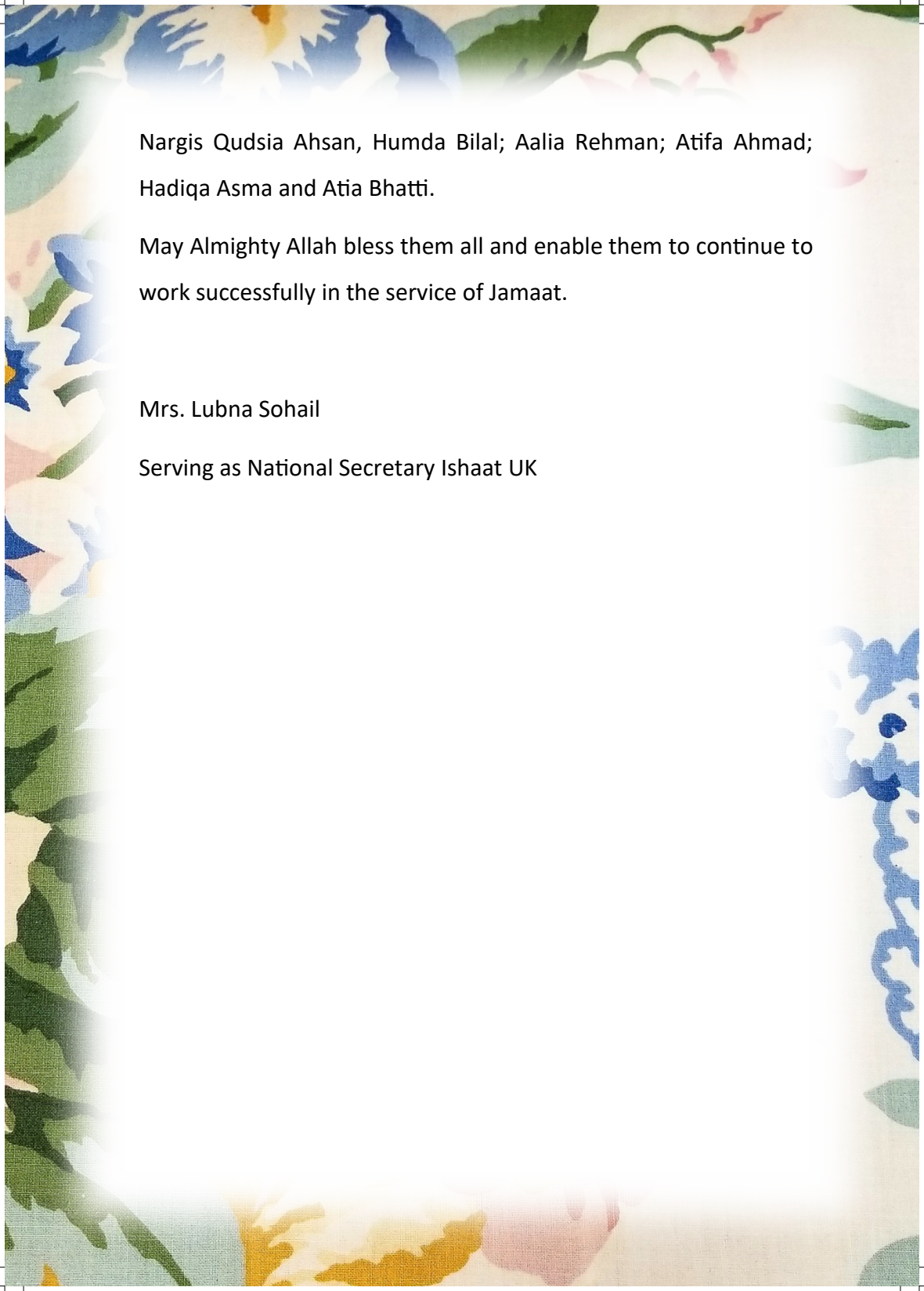
In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious, Ever Merciful

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, our thanks and praise are due to Almighty Allah without Whose boundless Grace and Blessings none of our work would be possible.

Lajna Ima'illah UK is privileged to receive the nurturing support and direct advice of Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}. This inspires our women always and we earnestly pray that we continue to enjoy this Grace of Allah for a very long time. Ameen

I am grateful to Sadr Lajna Ima'illah UK, Dr Fariha Khan Sahiba for her numerous prayers and steady guidance on this project. Under her direction, a team of lajna members, co-ordinated by Mrs. Qudsiya Ward worked together to create this series of books suitable for young children telling the stories mentioned in the Holy Quran. The following members of the team require a special mention for their splendid work together, sharing knowledge and experience in the process of producing these books.



Nargis Qudsia Ahsan, Humda Bilal; Aalia Rehman; Atifa Ahmad;
Hadiqa Asma and Atia Bhatti.

May Almighty Allah bless them all and enable them to continue to
work successfully in the service of Jamaat.

Mrs. Lubna Sohail

Serving as National Secretary Ishaat UK

Guide for Parents

This book, one of a series of books, produced by Lajna Ima'illah UK, is based on the stories narrated in the Holy Quran. The books are designed for children of primary school age who can read and try the activities independently.

It is intended that after reading and enjoying these stories you can help your children to find the stories in the Holy Quran and read them for themselves.

We hope that you will also be able enjoy sharing the stories with younger children by reading to them and discussing the story events. We also hope you will enjoy sharing the activities with your children.

May Almighty Allah enable us to follow the illuminating path of the righteous people who are a beacon of light for all humanity.



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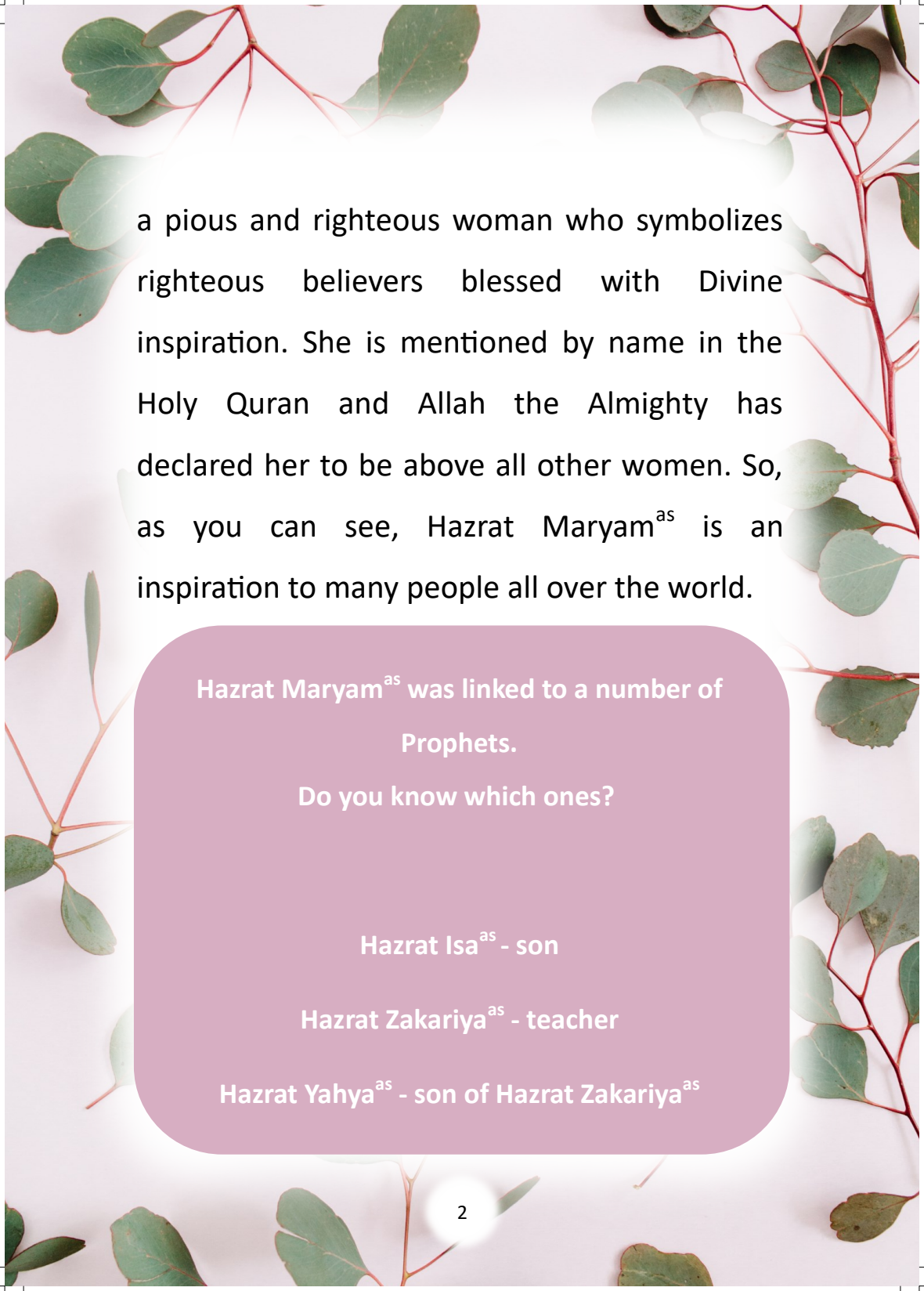


Hazrat Maryam

(May Allah be pleased with her)

Hazrat Maryam^{as} was surrounded by numerous prophets throughout her life. She came from an incredibly pious family and her blessed lifestyle shows us how we can attain that nearness of Allah.

In this book, we will be learning about a pious woman mentioned in the Holy Quran - Hazrat Maryam^{as}. She is an important figure in Christianity and is mentioned in the Bible as well. In Islam, Hazrat Maryam^{as} is described as



a pious and righteous woman who symbolizes righteous believers blessed with Divine inspiration. She is mentioned by name in the Holy Quran and Allah the Almighty has declared her to be above all other women. So, as you can see, Hazrat Maryam^{as} is an inspiration to many people all over the world.

Hazrat Maryam^{as} was linked to a number of Prophets.

Do you know which ones?

Hazrat Isa^{as} - son

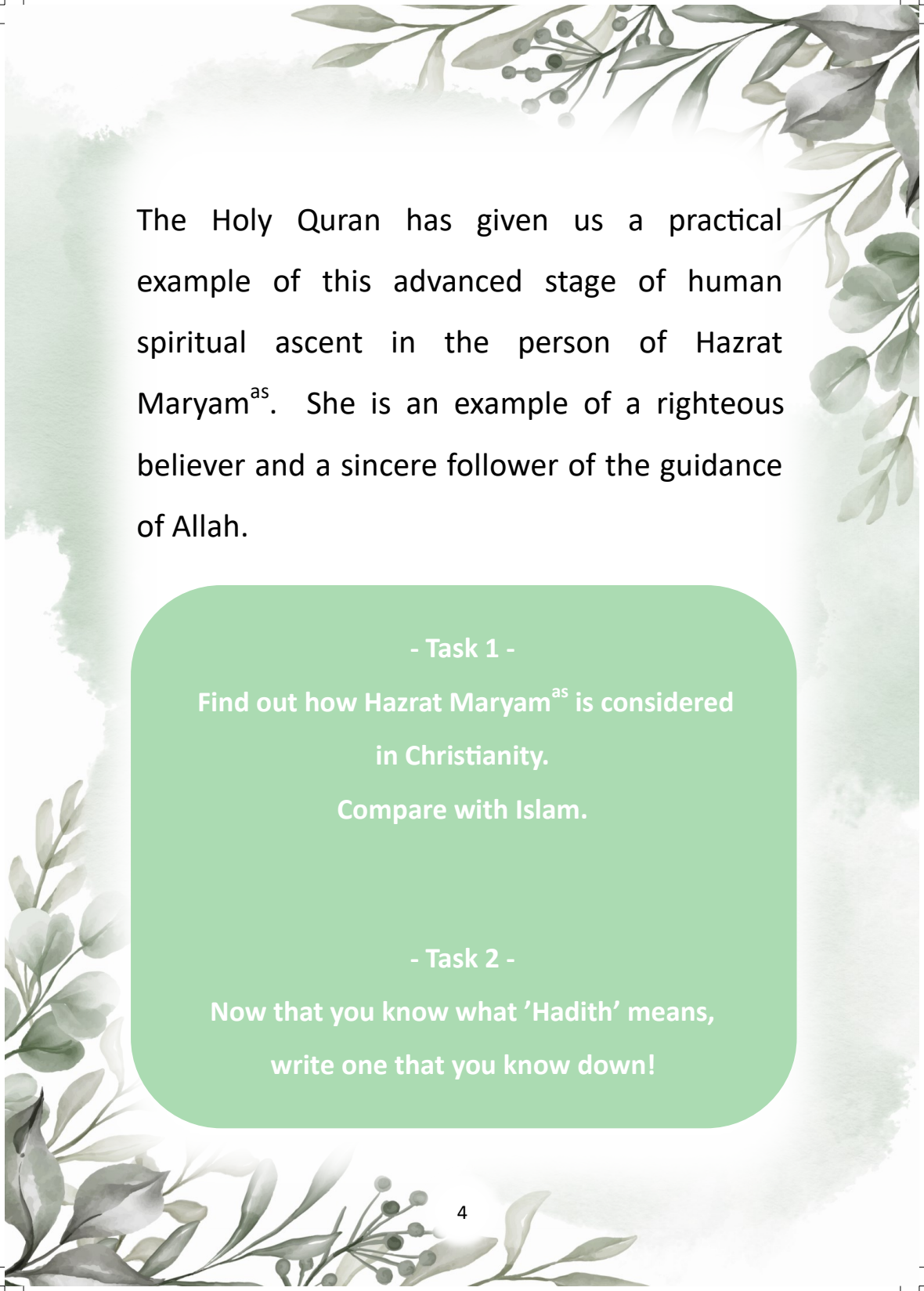
Hazrat Zakariya^{as} - teacher

Hazrat Yahya^{as} - son of Hazrat Zakariya^{as}

Women in the Holy Quran

Our Holy Book tells us about various women. This includes the virtuous wife of the Pharaoh during the time of Hazrat Musa^{as}. Hazrat Musa's dutiful mother and sister are also spoken of, and the Holy Quran also refers to women from Islamic history, whom we know through Ahadith.

A Hadith is a record of phrases and actions of our beloved Holy Prophet^{saw} conveyed through chains of narrators.



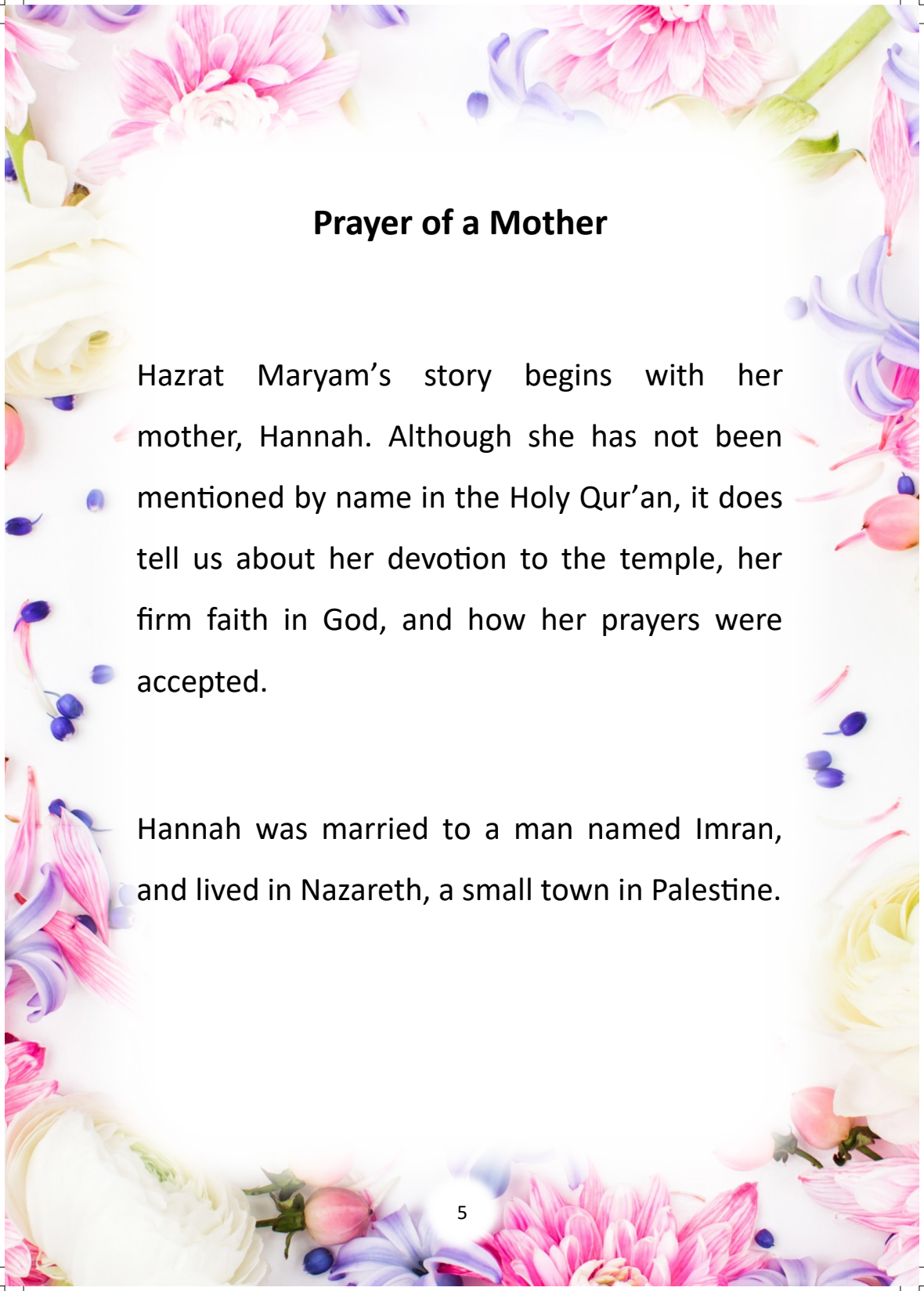
The Holy Quran has given us a practical example of this advanced stage of human spiritual ascent in the person of Hazrat Maryam^{as}. She is an example of a righteous believer and a sincere follower of the guidance of Allah.

- Task 1 -

Find out how Hazrat Maryam^{as} is considered
in Christianity.
Compare with Islam.

- Task 2 -

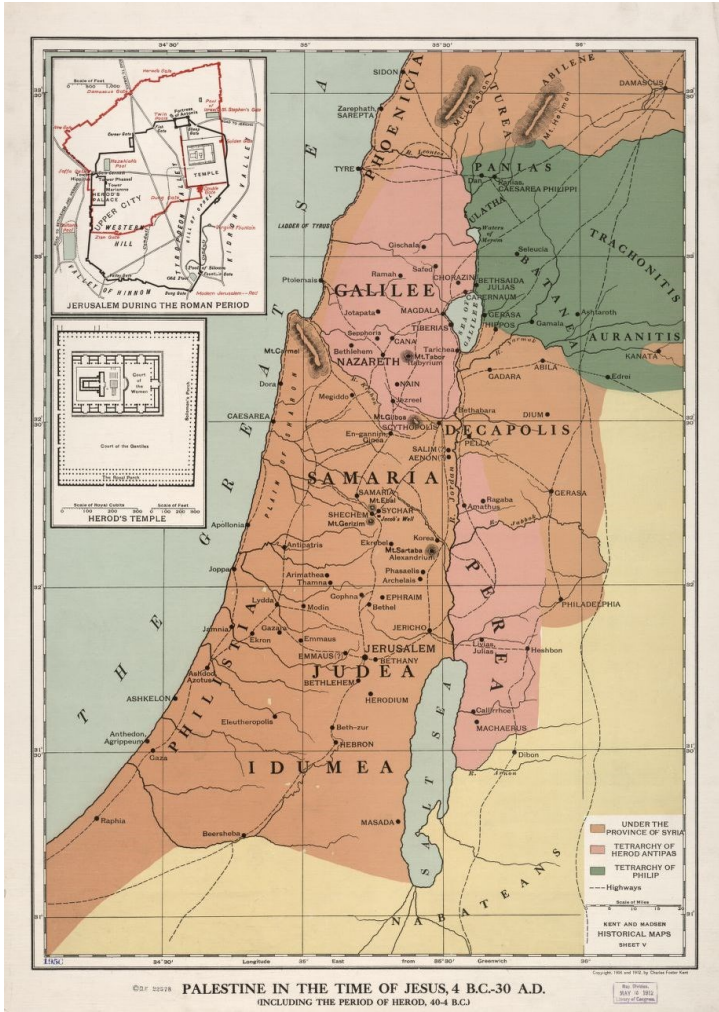
Now that you know what 'Hadith' means,
write one that you know down!



Prayer of a Mother

Hazrat Maryam's story begins with her mother, Hannah. Although she has not been mentioned by name in the Holy Qur'an, it does tell us about her devotion to the temple, her firm faith in God, and how her prayers were accepted.

Hannah was married to a man named Imran, and lived in Nazareth, a small town in Palestine.



A map of Palestine



Did you know?

The story of Hazrat Maryam^{as} is similar and as important in the Christian religion as it is in Islam. Her mother Hannah (Arabic) is known as Saint Anne according to Christianity. Hazrat Isa^{as}, is known as Jesus Christ in Christianity.

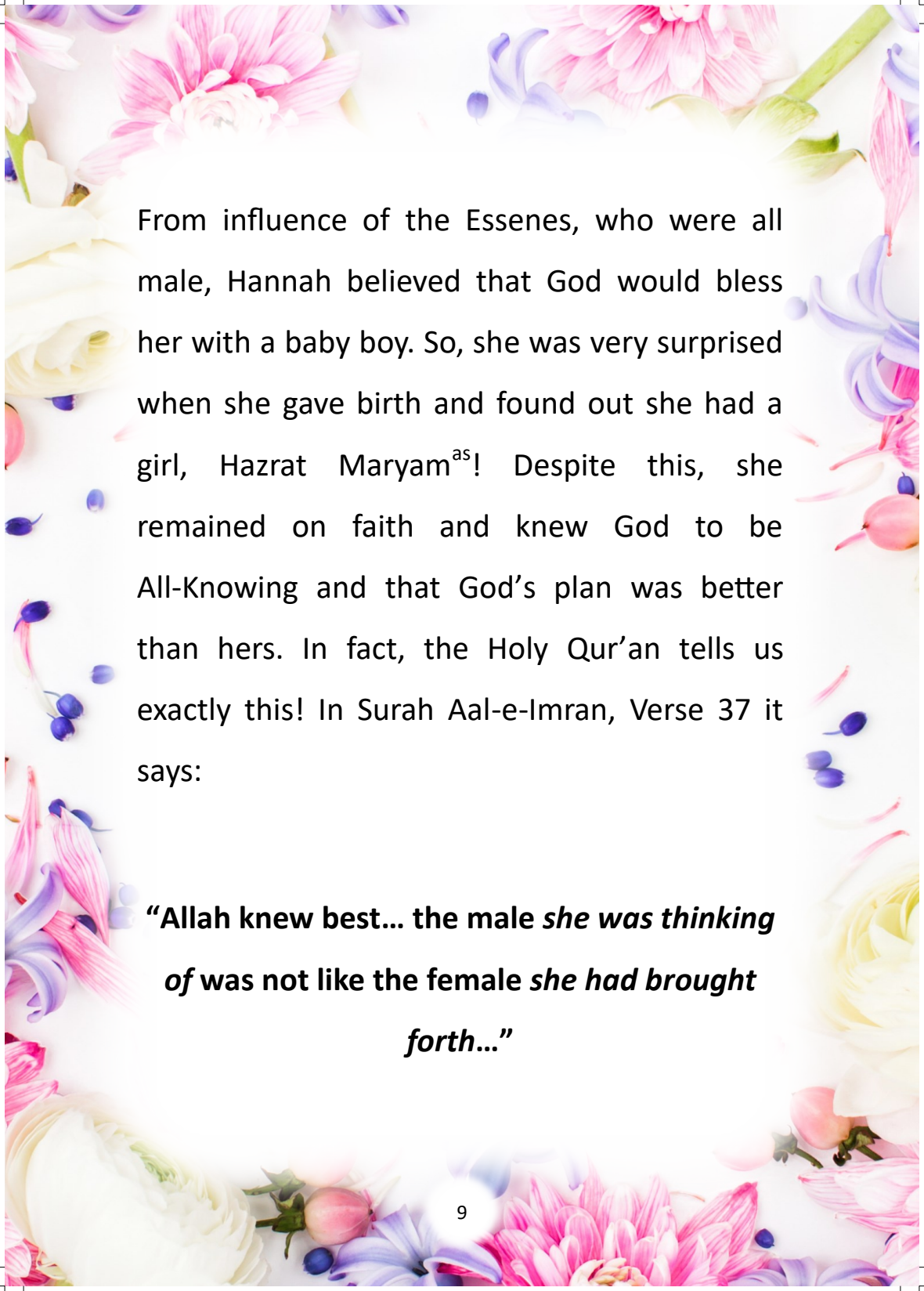
When Hannah found out she was expecting a baby, she decided to dedicate her unborn child to the Jewish temple for the service of God. This vow she made seems to be from influence of the Essenes.

The Essenes were people who dedicated their life to the service of their religion and their people - Hannah wanted this life for her child too. The prayer she made for this dedication is given in the Holy Qur'an, Surah Aal-e-Imran, verse 36:

رَبِّ إِنِّي نَدَرْتُ لَكَ مَا فِي بَطْنِي مُحَرَّرًا فَتَقَبَّلْ مِنِّي إِنَّكَ أَنْتَ

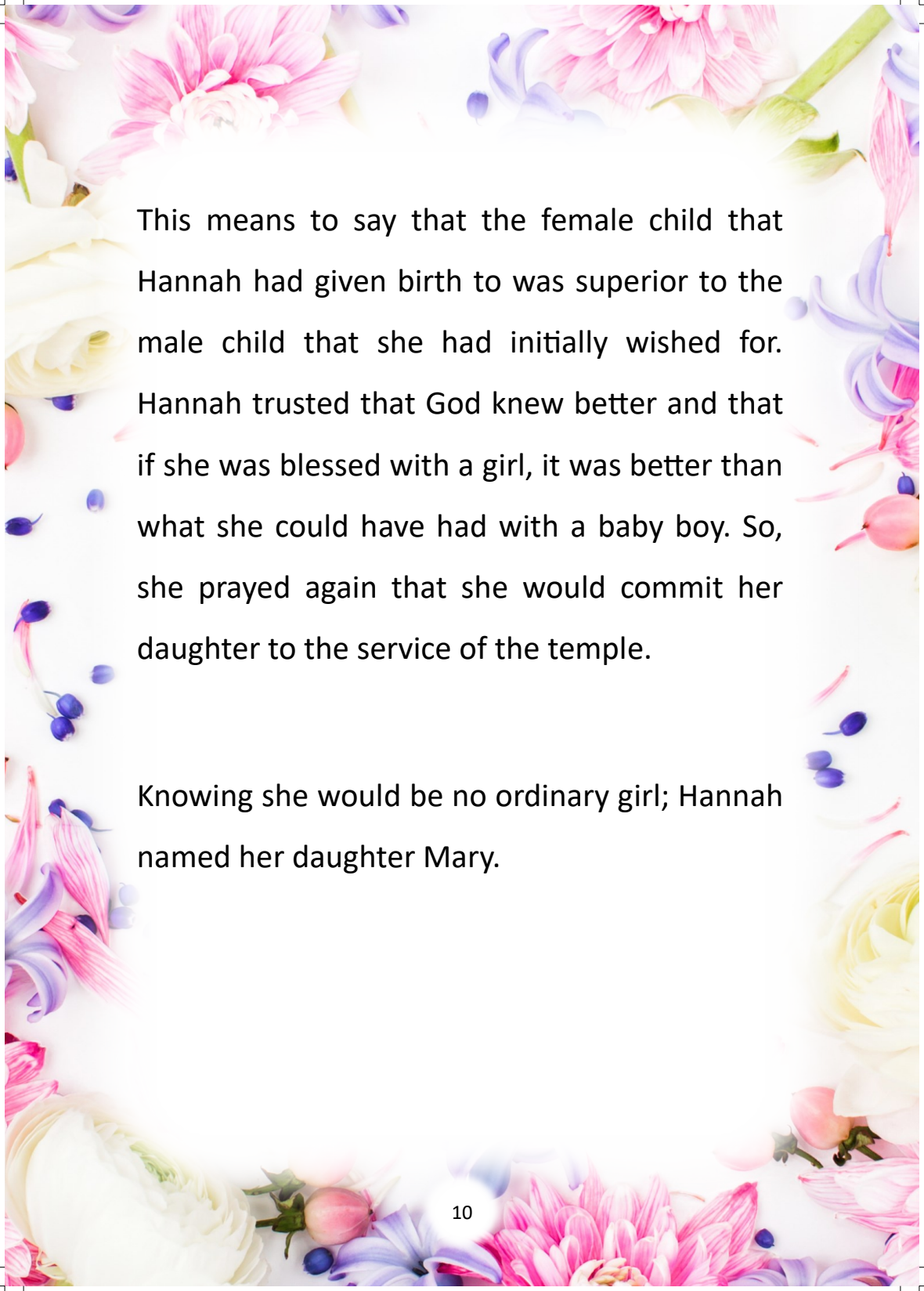
السَّمِيعُ الْعَلِيمُ ﴿٣٦﴾

**“My Lord, I have vowed to Thee what is in my
whom to be dedicated to Thy service. So do
accept *it* of me; verily, Thou alone art
All-Hearing, All-Knowing”.**



From influence of the Essenes, who were all male, Hannah believed that God would bless her with a baby boy. So, she was very surprised when she gave birth and found out she had a girl, Hazrat Maryam^{as}! Despite this, she remained on faith and knew God to be All-Knowing and that God's plan was better than hers. In fact, the Holy Qur'an tells us exactly this! In Surah Aal-e-Imran, Verse 37 it says:

“Allah knew best... the male *she was thinking of* was not like the female *she had brought forth...*”



This means to say that the female child that Hannah had given birth to was superior to the male child that she had initially wished for. Hannah trusted that God knew better and that if she was blessed with a girl, it was better than what she could have had with a baby boy. So, she prayed again that she would commit her daughter to the service of the temple.

Knowing she would be no ordinary girl; Hannah named her daughter Mary.

*What does the name
Mary mean?*



Mary, or Maryam as given in Arabic, comes from the Hebrew name (an ancient language) Miriam. It means 'exalted' or 'pious worshipper'.



Did you know?

Hazrat Maryam's story also relates to Hazrat Musa^{as}! Hazrat Musa^{as} had a sister called Miriam who walked with him as he floated down the river!

Hazrat Maryam^{as} was also dedicated to the Jewish temple - which followed and practised the teachings of Hazrat Musa^{as}.

- Task 3 -

Can you find the prayer of Hannah in the Holy Qur'an?

Hazrat Zakariya^{as}

Before she was born, Hazrat Maryam^{as} mother, Hannah, dedicated her child to the service of God. She was blessed with a daughter, Hazrat Maryam^{as}, who spent much of her time in worship. As explained in Surah Aal-e-Imran, verse 38, Allah accepted Hannah's prayer and caused Hazrat Maryam^{as} to have an excellent growth.

As her father, Imran, had passed away before she was born, Hazrat Zakariya^{as} became her guardian. So, although he had no children of

his own, he looked after her and visited her frequently. Hazrat Maryam^{as} was blessed to have a Prophet as a teacher, and the head of the Jewish temple. He taught her about her religion and how to serve God.

Hazrat Zakariya^{as} was a Prophet of God. He came to the Israelites and was a pious and steadfast man. As head of the Jewish temple, he spent a lot of time in prayer and eventually became the guardian of Hazrat Maryam^{as}. He was blessed with a son, Hazrat Yahya^{as} (also a prophet), despite his old age.

The story of Prophets given in the Quran is narrated in Arabic, but this story is written in English. Many names are different across the languages, but we are referring to the same person. Similarly, when we say Allah, we are referring to God in the Arabic Language.

الله

- Task 4 -

Some examples of the English and Arabic names of Prophets are given below, can you think of any more?

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|---------|
| Hazrat Ibrahim ^{as} | → | Abraham |
| Hazrat Ishaq ^{as} | → | Isaac |
| Hazrat Maryam ^{as} | → | Mary |
| Hazrat Isa ^{as} | → | Jesus |
| Hazrat Ishmael ^{as} | → | ? |
| Hazrat Musa ^{as} | → | ? |
| Hazrat Ilyas ^{as} | → | ? |
| Hazrat Yusuf ^{as} | → | ? |

In the Quran; Surah Maryam, a story is mentioned about an interaction between Hazrat Maryam^{as} and Hazrat Zakariya^{as}. It is explained as follows:

Once, when visiting her in her chambers, Hazrat Zakariya^{as} asked Hazrat Maryam^{as} about her provisions. She replied, 'It is from Allah'.

Often when people came for worship, they would bring gifts and food to give to Hazrat Maryam^{as}. These were her 'provisions'.

When Hazrat Maryam^{as} explains that these gifts are from Allah, she means that every good thing from man comes from Allah. It is Allah Who provides people with 'rizq' and kindness. She is obviously grateful to the people who bring her gifts, but she remains most grateful to Allah the Provider.

This reply made a deep impression on Hazrat Zakariya^{as} and showed her unwavering reliance on Allah. He found Hazrat Maryam^{as} piety inspiring and began to desire a similar virtuous child of his own.

*Hazrat Zakariya^{as}'s prayer
for a child*

In Surah Maryam, it says that Hazrat Zakariya^{as} began to call “upon his Lord, crying in secret”. This was because he desired for a child for a long time, but he knew he was too old and that his wife was barren. However, when speaking to Hazrat Maryam^{as}, he was reminded that all good things come from Allah.

This part of the story is also mentioned in Surah Aal-e-`Imran and Surah Al-Anbiya’.

What can we understand from this interaction?

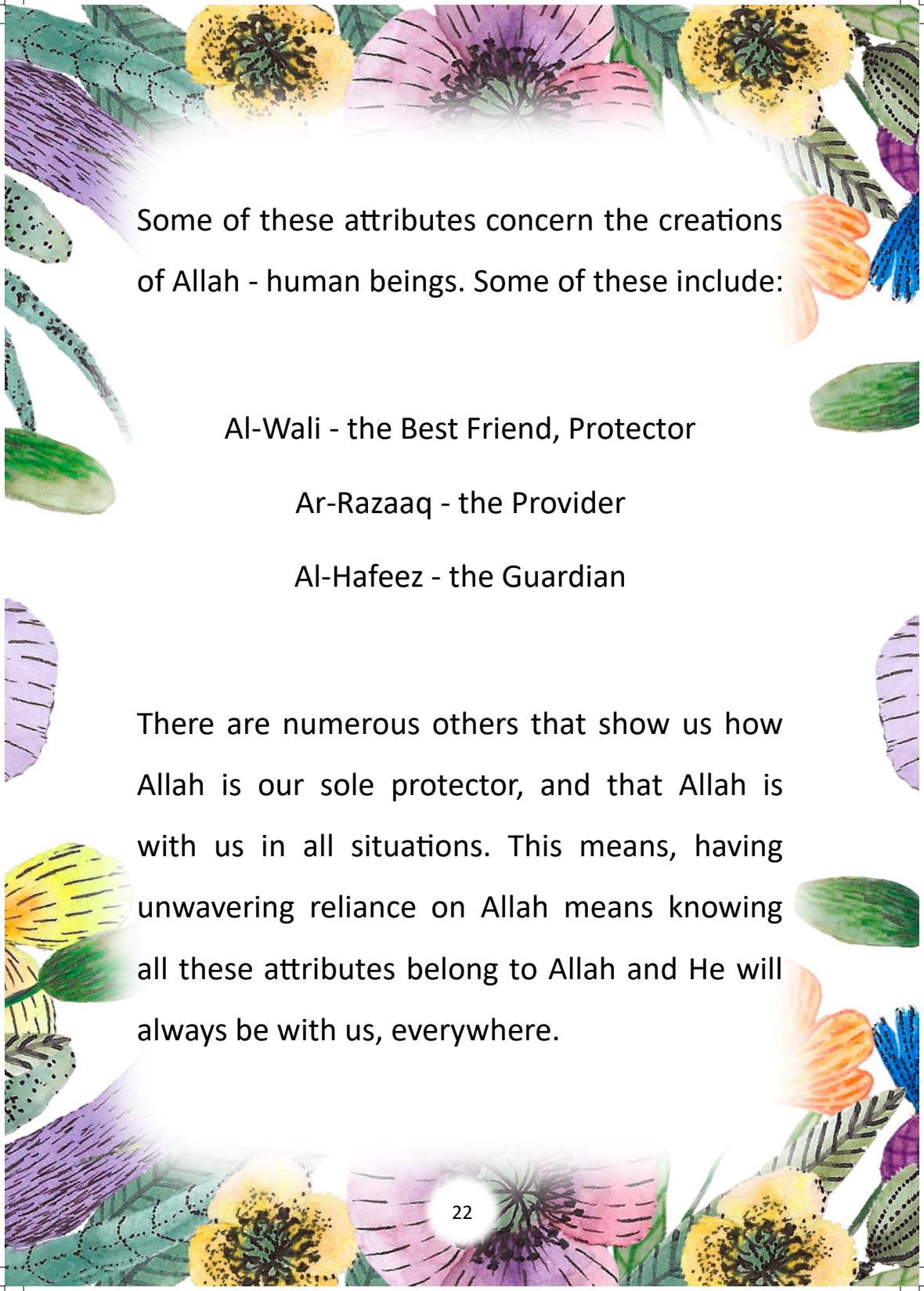
1. Chambers means a room at the top of the house and can sometimes be associated with places of worship. From this we learn that Hazrat Maryam^{as} lived in or near the Jewish temple.
2. Often when people came for worship, they would bring gifts and food to give to Hazrat Maryam^{as}. These are her 'provisions.'



Allah, the Provider

When Hazrat Maryam^{as} explains that these gifts are from Allah, she means that every good thing from man comes from Allah. It is Allah who provides people with 'rizq' and kindness. She is obviously grateful to the people who bring her gifts, but she remains most grateful to Allah the Provider.

In Islam, we are taught of the 99 names of Allah. These attributes help us understand the power and qualities of Allah the Almighty.



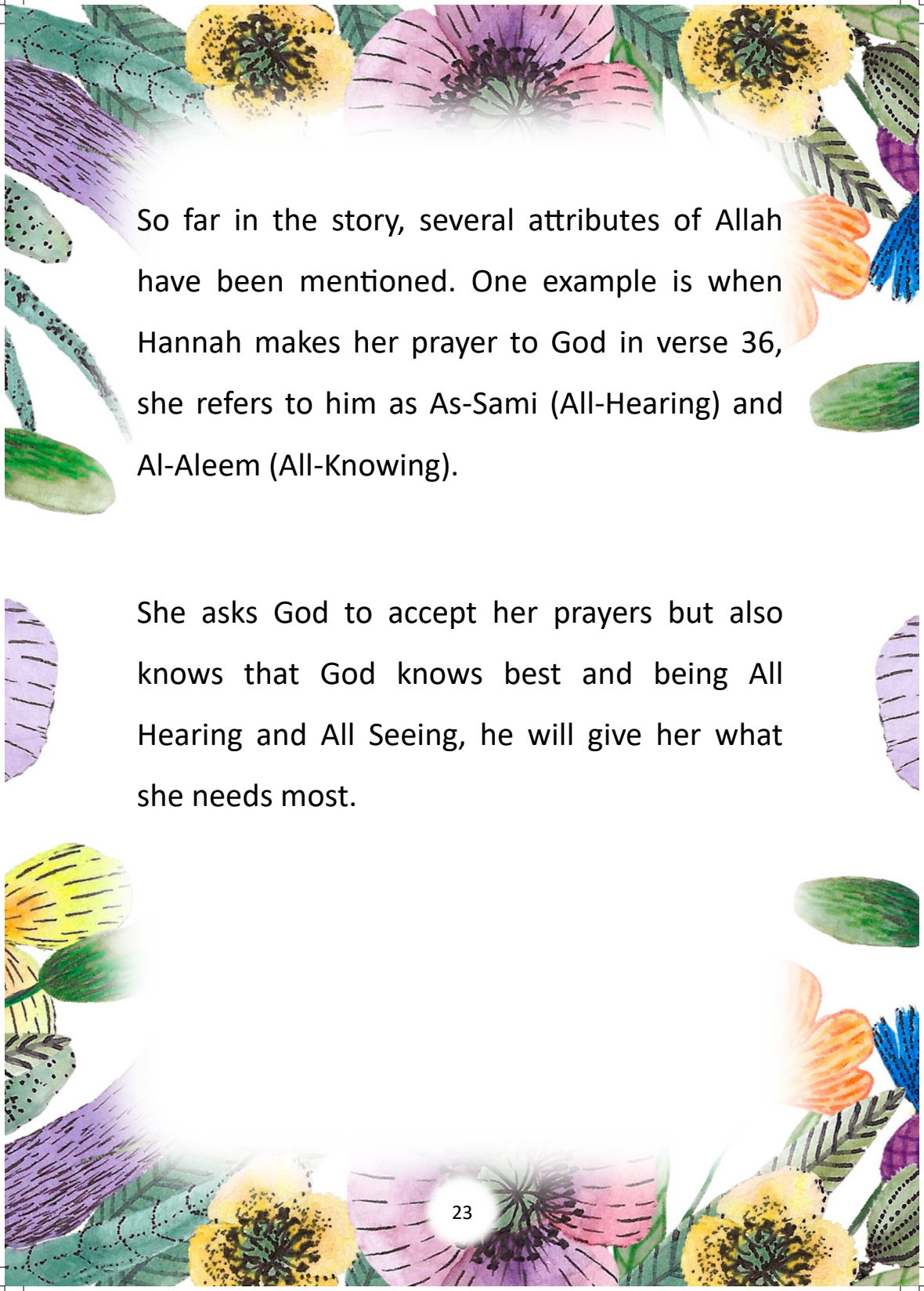
Some of these attributes concern the creations of Allah - human beings. Some of these include:

Al-Wali - the Best Friend, Protector

Ar-Razaaq - the Provider

Al-Hafeez - the Guardian

There are numerous others that show us how Allah is our sole protector, and that Allah is with us in all situations. This means, having unwavering reliance on Allah means knowing all these attributes belong to Allah and He will always be with us, everywhere.



So far in the story, several attributes of Allah have been mentioned. One example is when Hannah makes her prayer to God in verse 36, she refers to him as As-Sami (All-Hearing) and Al-Aleem (All-Knowing).

She asks God to accept her prayers but also knows that God knows best and being All Hearing and All Seeing, he will give her what she needs most.



- Task 5 -

Can you find some more attributes that have
been mentioned relating to this story in
Surah Aal-e-Imran?

What do you think they mean?

- Task 6 -

How many attributes of Allah do you know?

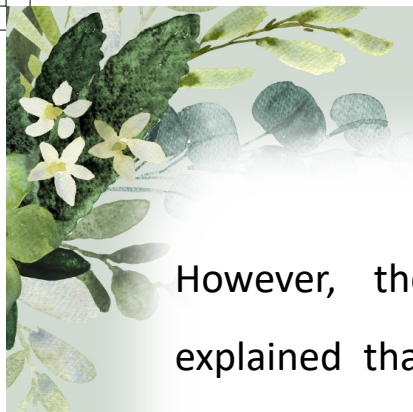


The Birth of Jesus^{as}

Time went by and Hazrat Maryam^{as} continued spending her time in the remembrance of God. One day, while worshipping in her room, Angel Gabriel appeared to her in the form of a man. Hazrat Maryam^{as} was afraid and began to seek help from Allah:

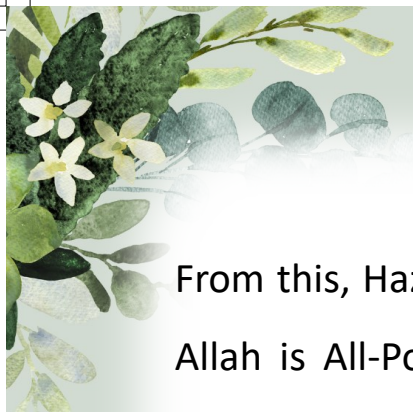
“I seek refuge with the Gracious *God* from thee if indeed thou dost fear *Him*”

(Surah Maryam, Verse 19).



However, the Angel reassured her - he explained that she would be blessed with a righteous son, a Messiah. But this confused Hazrat Maryam^{as} even more. As a devout member of the Jewish temple, she did not marry and therefore it wasn't possible for her to be carrying a child. But the Angel reminded her of the Power of Allah, Al-Muqtadir. In Surah Maryam, verse 22, the Angel tells her:

“...says thy Lord, ‘It is easy for Me; and *We shall do so* that *We* may make him a Sign unto men, and a mercy from Us, and it is a thing decreed.”



From this, Hazrat Maryam^{as} understood that as Allah is All-Powerful, he made it happen. But how can this really be possible and why would God go against the laws of nature?

Well, this is explained in the previous verse, if we look into the words used:

‘It is easy for Me’

This is God expressing his divine Power, even though it may seem impossible to us for a child to be born without a father, it is possible for God.



‘We may make him a Sign unto men’

This explains that a son born without a father was needed at the time, as a sign for the Israelites. The Israelites were the people in Palestine at the time who should have been following the teachings of Hazrat Musa^{as}, under the guidance of Hazrat Zakariya^{as}. However, many of them had gone astray and become corrupt - this was a sign that none of them deserved to be the father of a Prophet of God. Thus, Jesus was to be born to a pious Israelite mother, and no father.

'and it is a thing decreed'

A decree is an official order or command. Although it may seem impossible, once Allah has decreed for something to happen, it will happen.





What can we learn from this?

1. The Israelites had become so corrupt that none of them deserved to father a Prophet.
2. Although something seems impossible like a fatherless birth, God can make it happen.
3. Have faith that God knows more than you do, even when you don't understand what is going on. Hazarat Maryam^{as} was very confused but relied on Allah for reassurance.



Did you know?

This part of the story can be related to Hazrat Ibrahim^{as}. Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} was a Prophet of God who came many, many years before Hazrat Maryam^{as}.

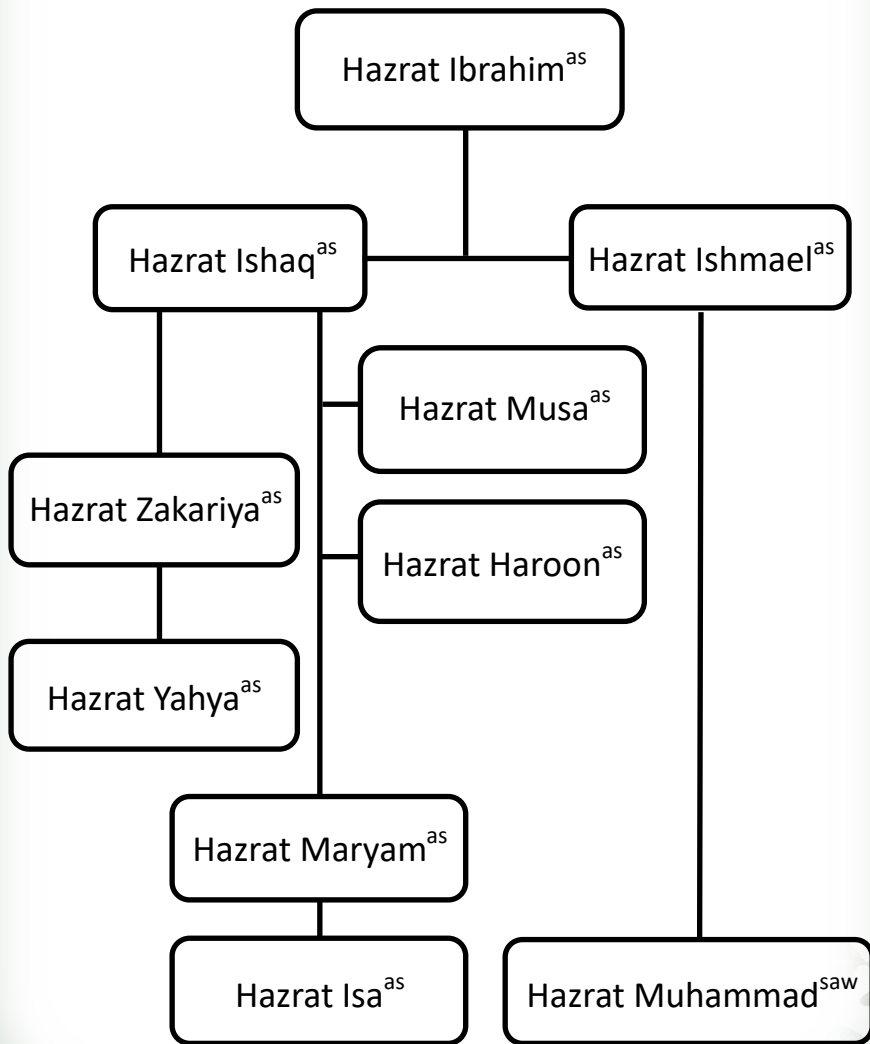
He had two sons - Hazrat Ishaq^{as} and Hazrat Ismael^{as}. Of their children, we see the line of prophets. The Prophets of God who came after Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} and before Hazrat Isa^{as}, were from the House of Ishaq^{as}.

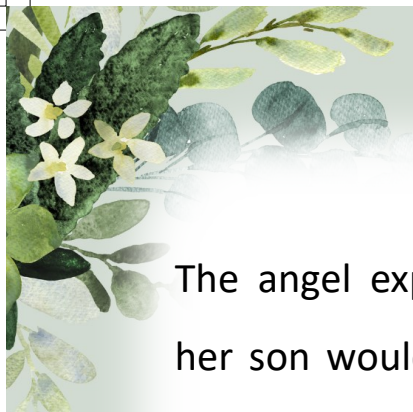
However, from this story we have learnt that none of the Israelites were worthy of being the father of a Prophet so the line of Prophethood was transferred to the House of Ismael^{as}.



The name 'Ibrahim' in Arabic calligraphy, followed by 'Peace be upon him'.

Hazrat Ibrahim^{as} - Father of Many

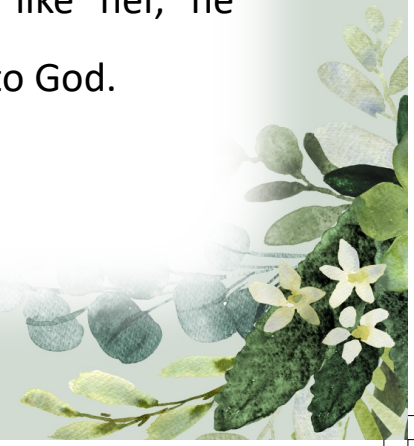


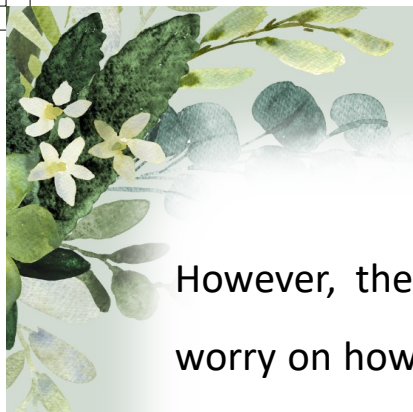


The angel explained to Hazrat Maryam^{as} that her son would be the Messiah who would be honoured in this world and in the next. In Surah Aal-e-Imran, verse 43, it says:

“...the angels said, ‘O Mary, Allah has chosen thee and purified thee and chosen thee above the women of all peoples’”

Hazrat Maryam^{as} was chosen for this task because of her piety and devotion to God. The angels also reassured her that like her, he would be granted great nearness to God.





However, the priests of the temple began to worry on how Hazrat Maryam^{as} would care and nurture a child alone. So, they arranged a marriage between her and Joseph, a carpenter.

Because of the situation, they decided it was best for her to leave her home in Nazareth and go to the hills around Bethlehem - a town surrounded by date palm trees and fountains of water. This is where Hazrat Isa^{as} was born.



Map of journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem

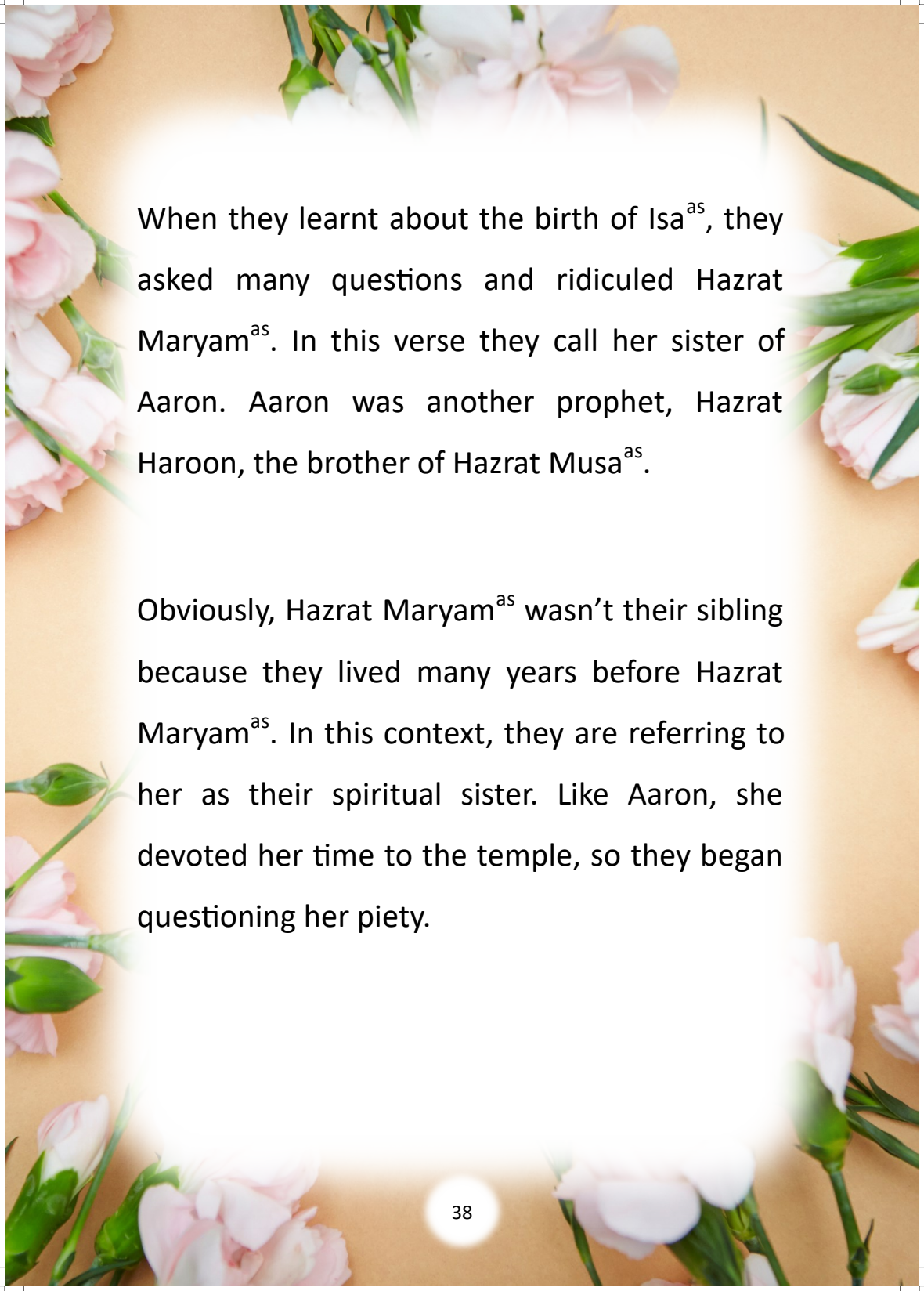
Did you know Jesus^{as} wasn't actually born in December? It is more likely that he was born in the hotter months of August/ September because the trees in Bethlehem had fruit on them!

Return to Nazareth

When Isa^{as} was still young, Hazrat Maryam^{as} decided to return to her hometown.

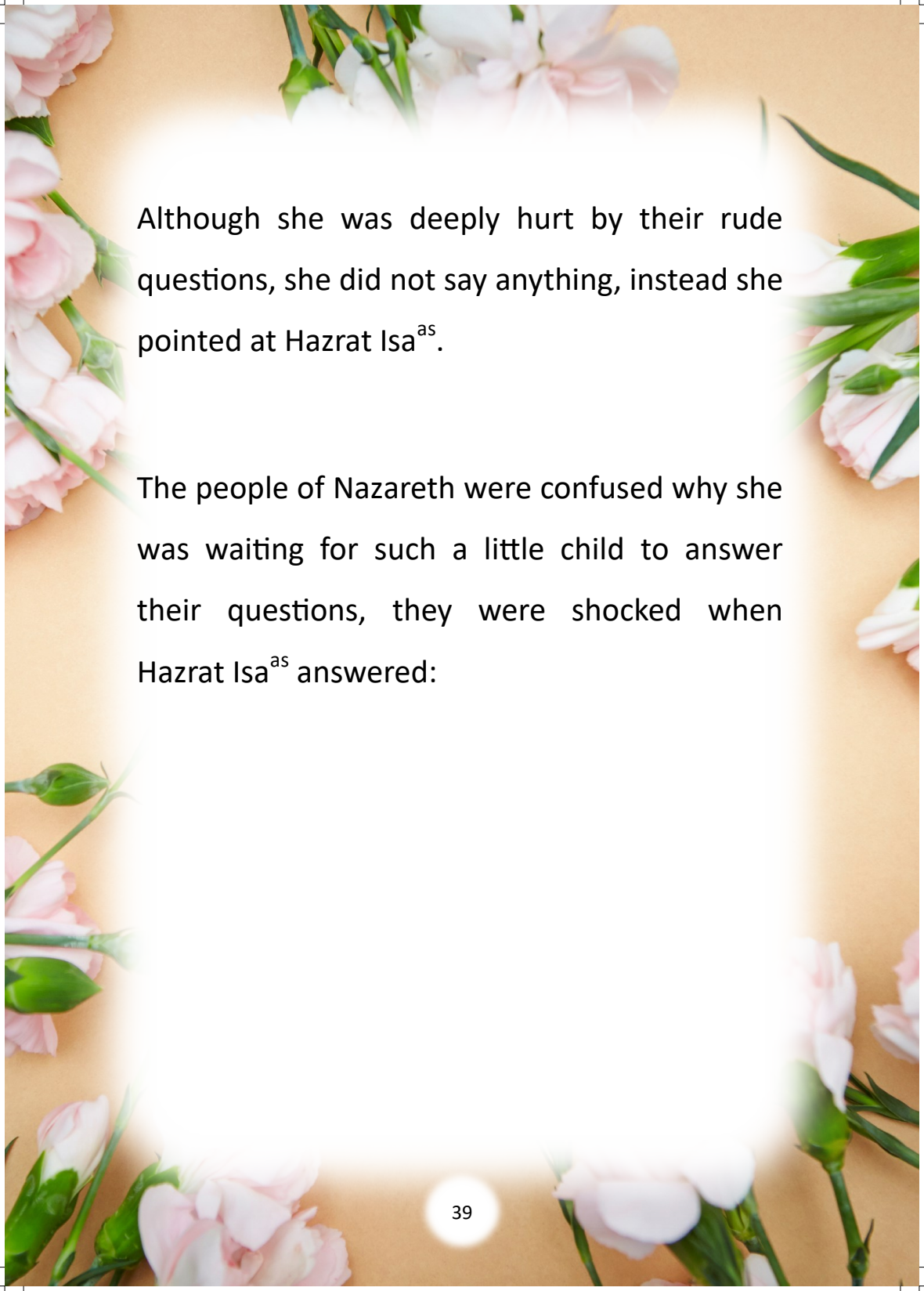
This part of the story is narrated in Surah Maryam, from verse 28:

“Then she brought him to her people, carrying him. They said ‘O Mary, thou hast done a strange thing. O sister of Aaron, thy father was not a wicked man nor was thy mother an unchaste woman!’”

The page features a light beige background with several pink carnations scattered around the edges. The flowers are in various stages of bloom, with some showing their characteristic ruffled petals and green stems with leaves. The text is centered in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

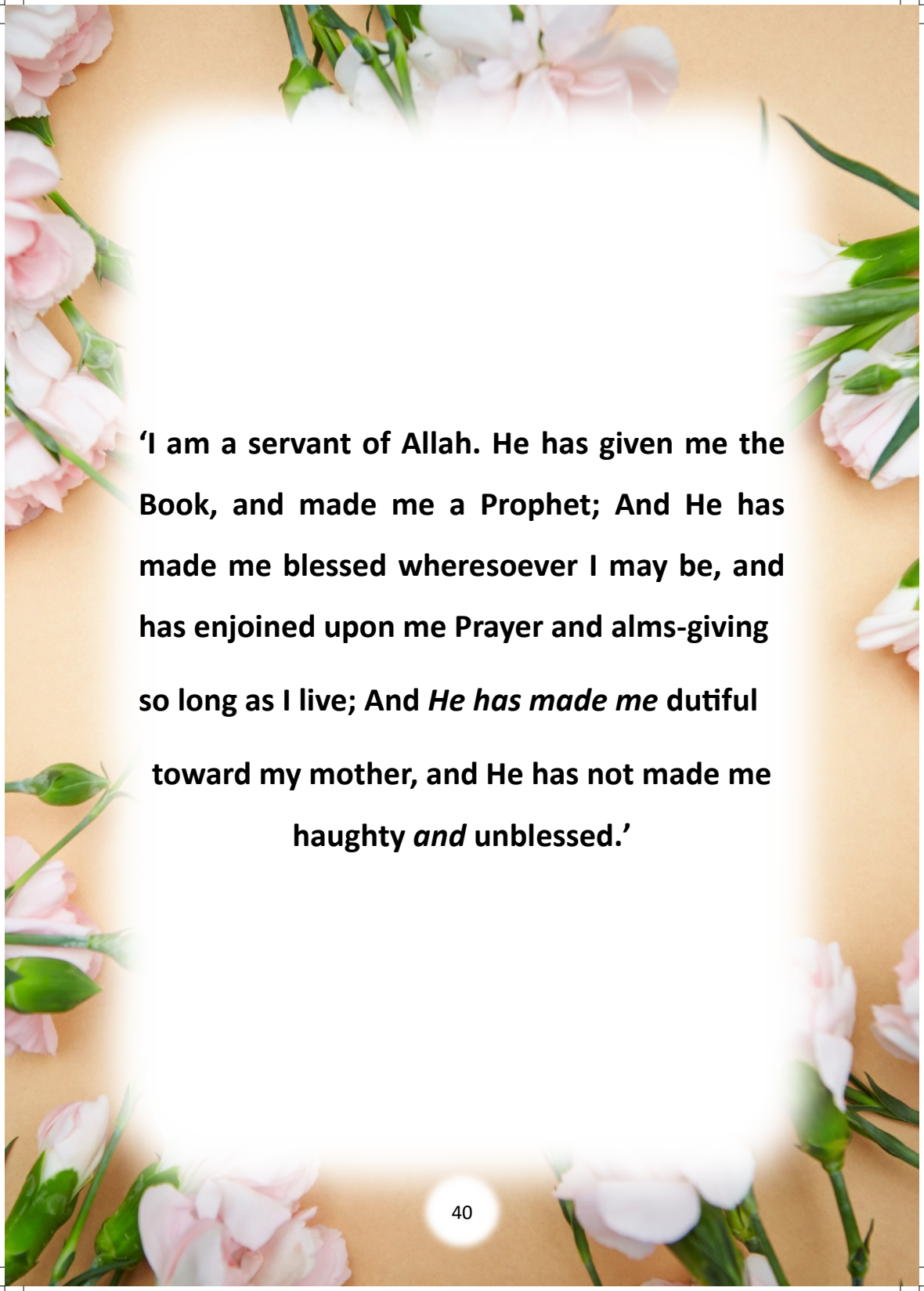
When they learnt about the birth of Isa^{as}, they asked many questions and ridiculed Hazrat Maryam^{as}. In this verse they call her sister of Aaron. Aaron was another prophet, Hazrat Haroon, the brother of Hazrat Musa^{as}.

Obviously, Hazrat Maryam^{as} wasn't their sibling because they lived many years before Hazrat Maryam^{as}. In this context, they are referring to her as their spiritual sister. Like Aaron, she devoted her time to the temple, so they began questioning her piety.

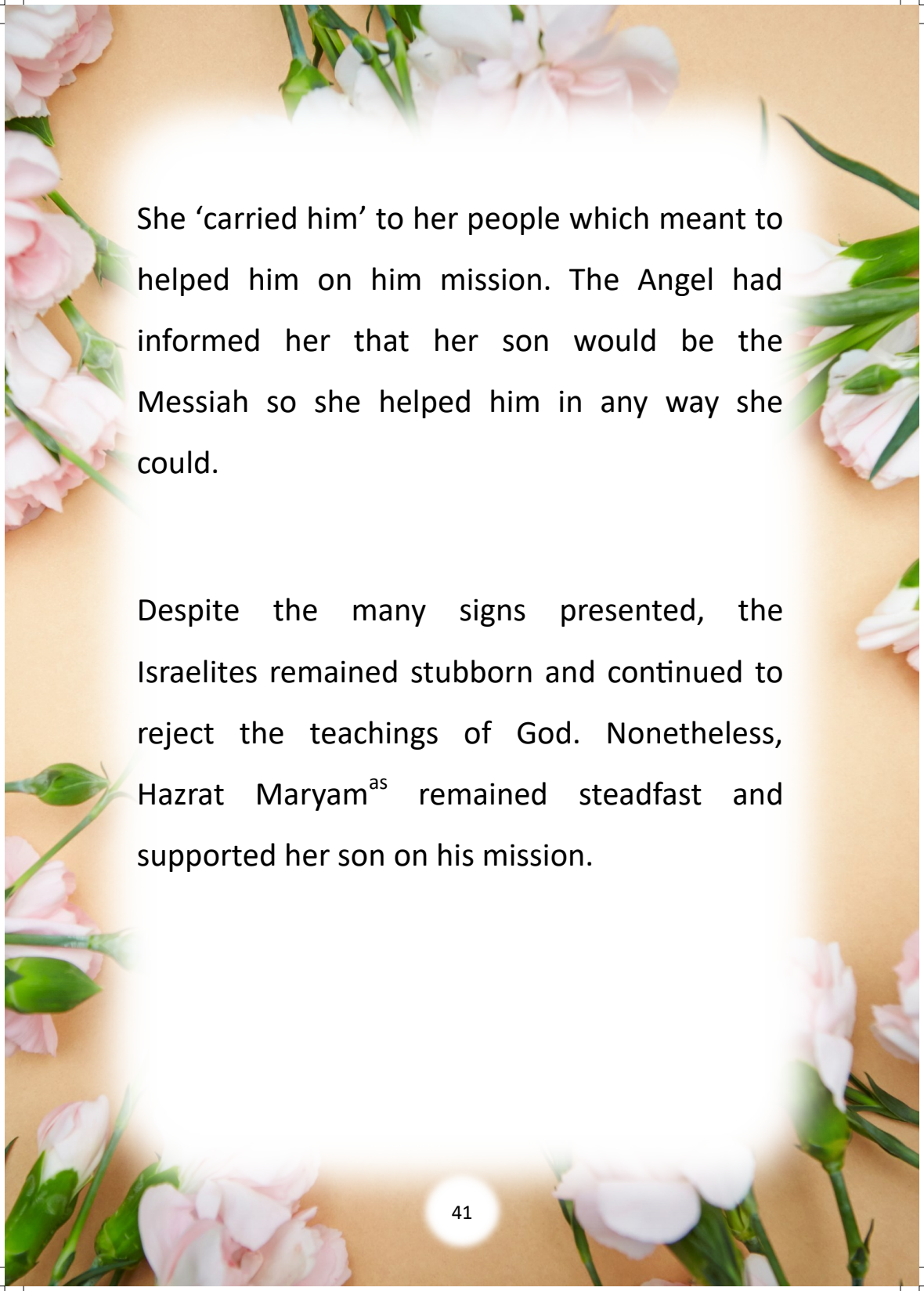
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Although she was deeply hurt by their rude questions, she did not say anything, instead she pointed at Hazrat Isa^{as}.

The people of Nazareth were confused why she was waiting for such a little child to answer their questions, they were shocked when Hazrat Isa^{as} answered:

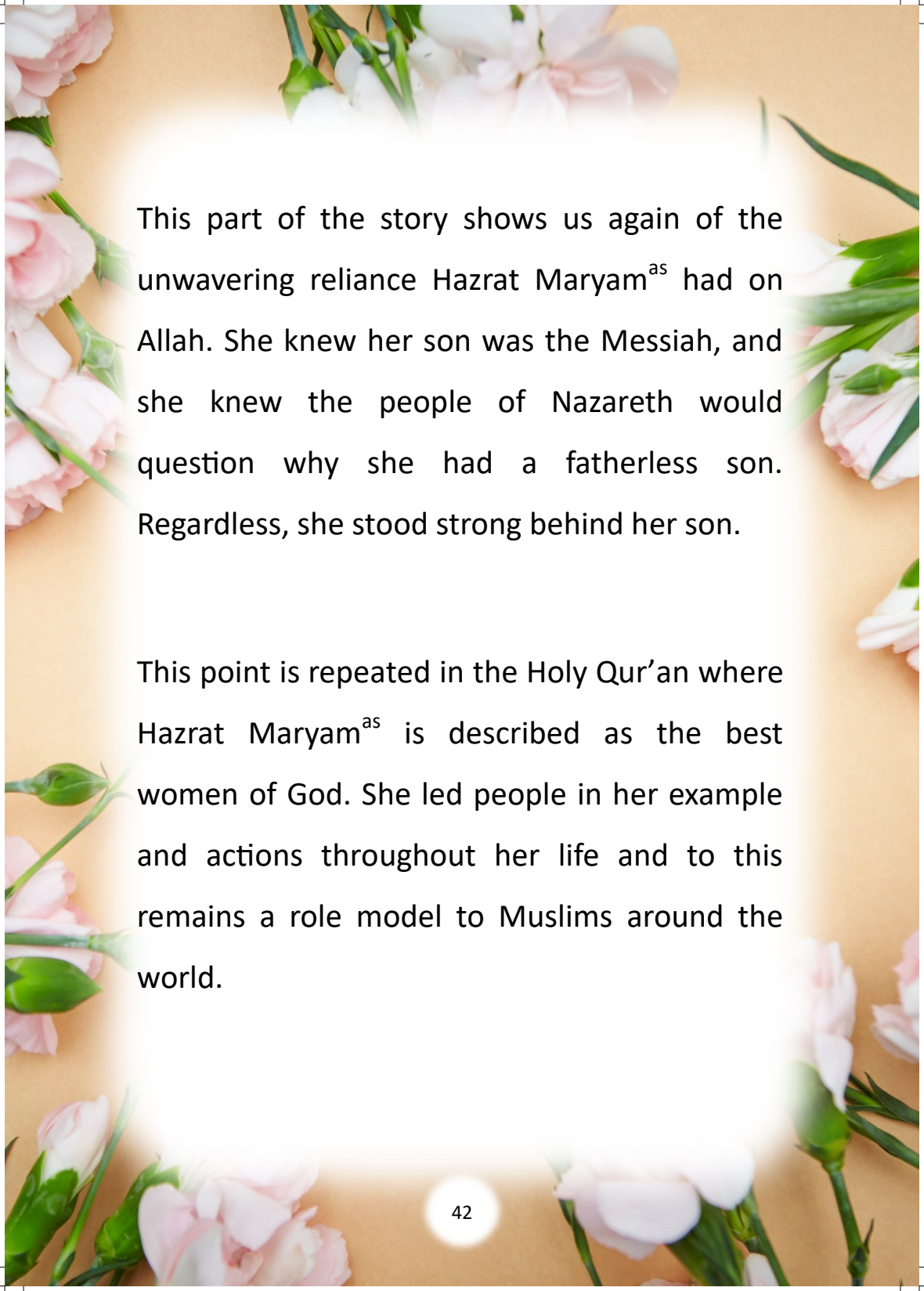


'I am a servant of Allah. He has given me the Book, and made me a Prophet; And He has made me blessed wheresoever I may be, and has enjoined upon me Prayer and alms-giving so long as I live; And *He has made me* dutiful toward my mother, and He has not made me haughty *and* unblessed.'

The page features a decorative border of pink carnations with green leaves, set against a light beige background. The flowers are arranged in a circular pattern around the central text area.

She 'carried him' to her people which meant to helped him on his mission. The Angel had informed her that her son would be the Messiah so she helped him in any way she could.

Despite the many signs presented, the Israelites remained stubborn and continued to reject the teachings of God. Nonetheless, Hazrat Maryam^{as} remained steadfast and supported her son on his mission.

The page features a decorative border of pink carnations with green leaves, set against a light beige background. The flowers are scattered around the edges of the page, framing the central text.

This part of the story shows us again of the unwavering reliance Hazrat Maryam^{as} had on Allah. She knew her son was the Messiah, and she knew the people of Nazareth would question why she had a fatherless son. Regardless, she stood strong behind her son.

This point is repeated in the Holy Qur'an where Hazrat Maryam^{as} is described as the best women of God. She led people in her example and actions throughout her life and to this remains a role model to Muslims around the world.



The Crucifixion

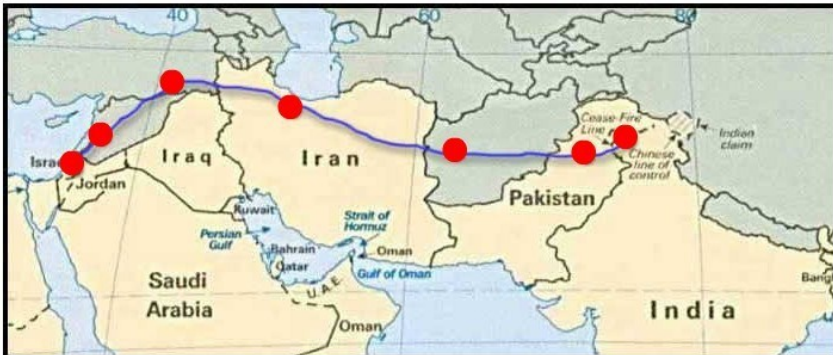
As Hazrat Isa^{as} grew older and began to preach to the Israelites, Hazrat Maryam^{as} supported him in his journey. He received a lot of backlash but remained determined on his mission. Even though Allah gave the Israelites a warning through the birth of Jesus, they remained ignorant. Eventually, they attempted to crucify him.



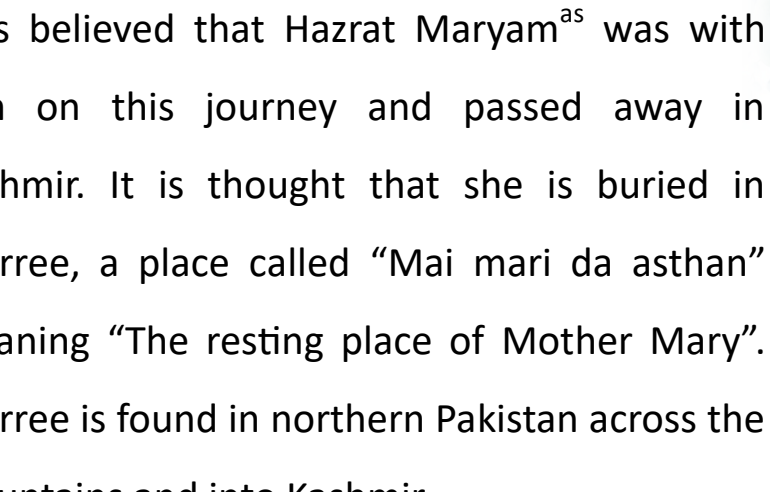
Why did the Israelites crucify Isa^{as}?

If Jesus had died on the cross it would have proved that he was not a real Prophet of God. As they did not want to believe in his message, they attempted to murder him by pinning him onto the cross. However, as he was a real Prophet, Allah saved him.

Hazrat Isa^{as} survived the crucifixion and understood that the Israelites would remain stubborn. He secretly left Palestine, through Persia, to Afghanistan and finally into Kashmir.



Map of journey from Palestine to India



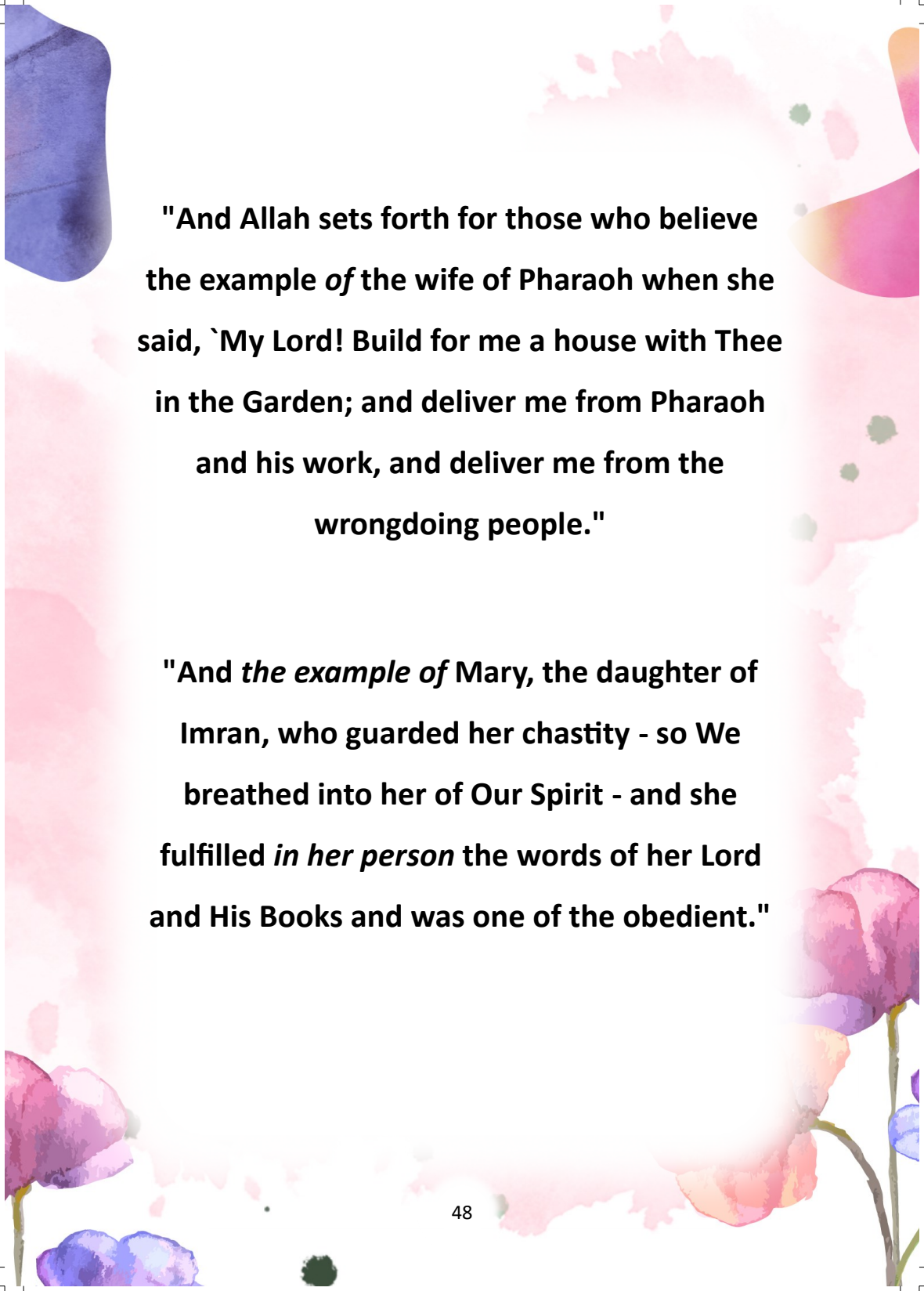
It is believed that Hazrat Maryam^{as} was with him on this journey and passed away in Kashmir. It is thought that she is buried in Murree, a place called “Mai mari da asthan” meaning “The resting place of Mother Mary”. Murree is found in northern Pakistan across the mountains and into Kashmir.



Hazrat Maryam's^{as} Tomb

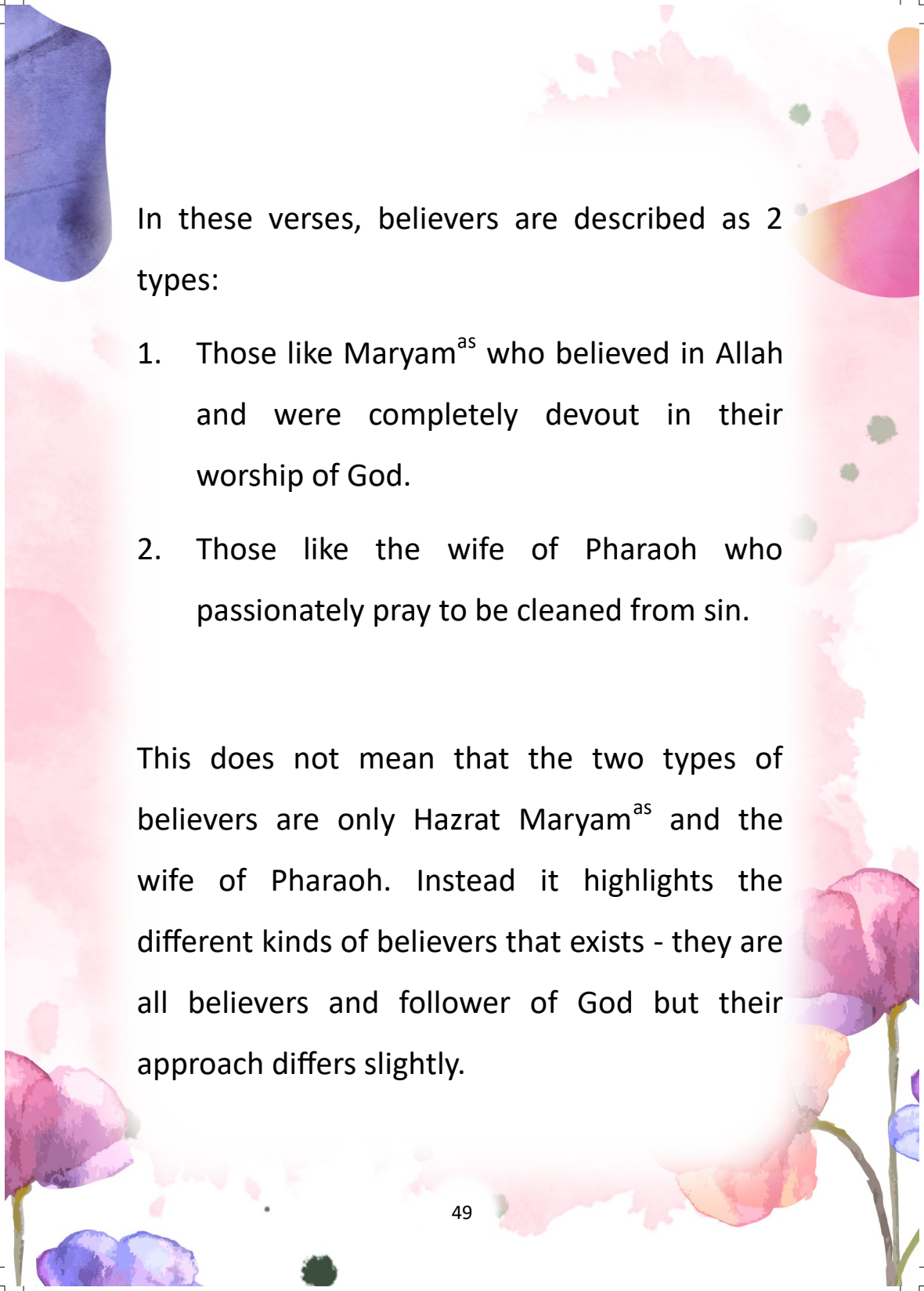
Jesus^{as}, The Messiah

When the Holy Quran was revealed to the Holy Prophet^{saw}, he was told that this would be for all people until the end of time. However, circumstances and peoples understanding of things change as we progress. Because of this, the Quran lays out metaphors to help us understand its teachings. For example, in Surah At-Tahrim, verses 12-13 it says:



"And Allah sets forth for those who believe the example of the wife of Pharaoh when she said, `My Lord! Build for me a house with Thee in the Garden; and deliver me from Pharaoh and his work, and deliver me from the wrongdoing people."

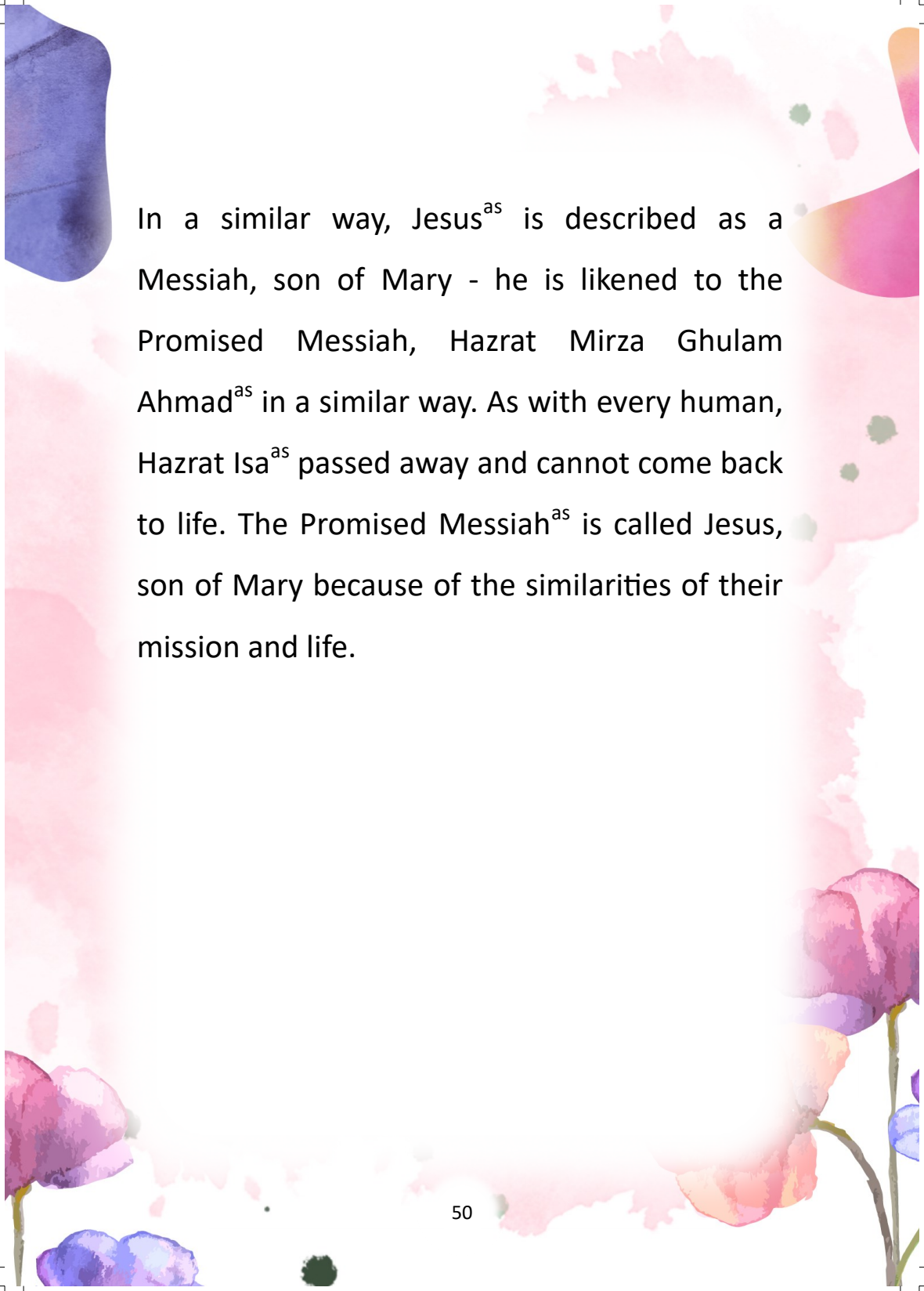
"And *the example of Mary*, the daughter of Imran, who guarded her chastity - so We breathed into her of Our Spirit - and she fulfilled *in her person* the words of her Lord and His Books and was one of the obedient."



In these verses, believers are described as 2 types:

1. Those like Maryam^{as} who believed in Allah and were completely devout in their worship of God.
2. Those like the wife of Pharaoh who passionately pray to be cleaned from sin.

This does not mean that the two types of believers are only Hazrat Maryam^{as} and the wife of Pharaoh. Instead it highlights the different kinds of believers that exists - they are all believers and follower of God but their approach differs slightly.



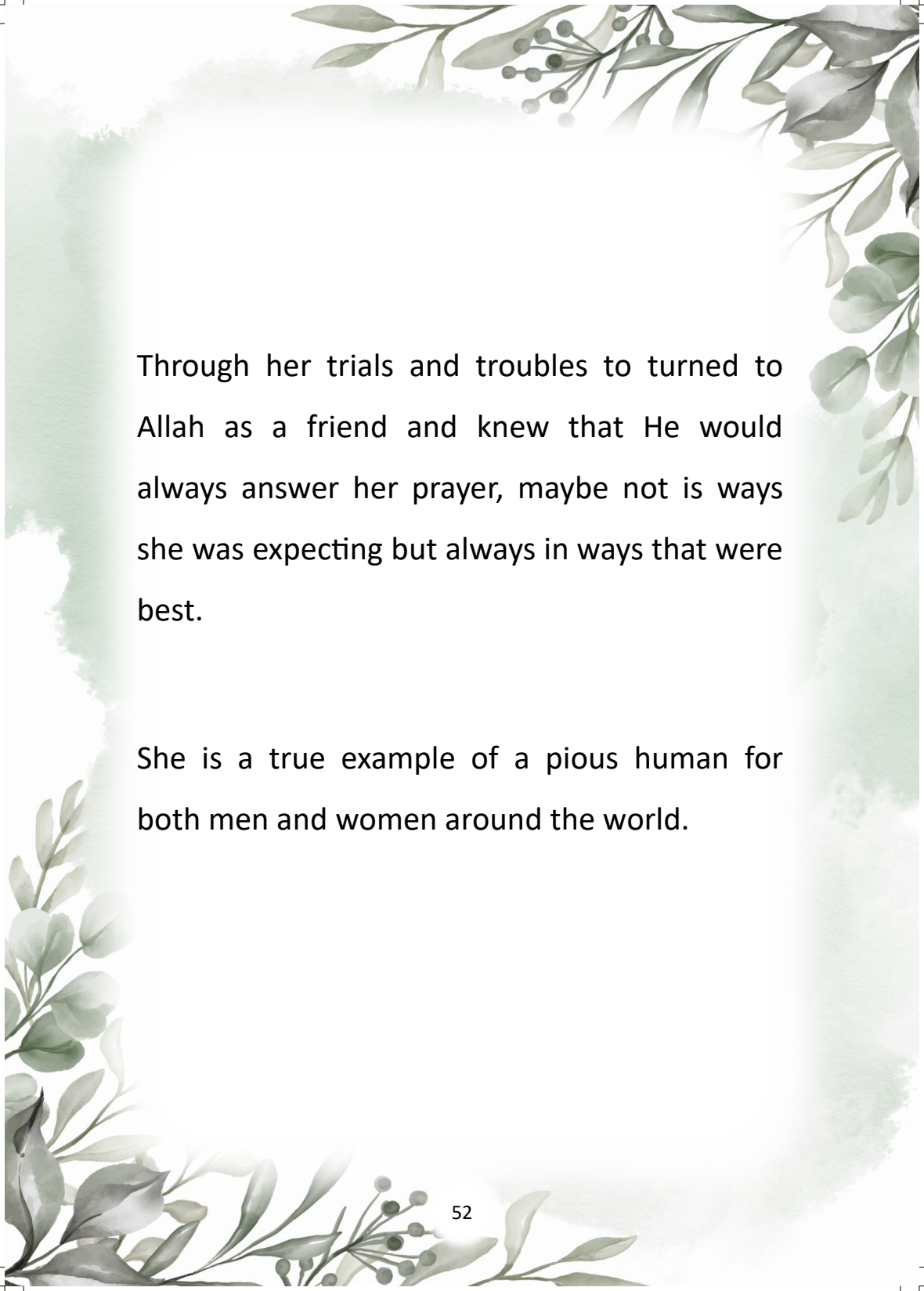
In a similar way, Jesus^{as} is described as a Messiah, son of Mary - he is likened to the Promised Messiah, Hazrat Mirza Ghulam Ahmad^{as} in a similar way. As with every human, Hazrat Isa^{as} passed away and cannot come back to life. The Promised Messiah^{as} is called Jesus, son of Mary because of the similarities of their mission and life.

The page is framed by a decorative border of green foliage, including leaves and small round berries, in the top, bottom, and right corners. The background has a soft, watercolor-like green wash.

The Moral

What have we learnt from this story?

Hazrat Maryam^{as} is someone who attained true submission to Allah. This means she was completely obedient to the teachings of God and spent most of her time in remembrance. This also means that she had complete ***tawaqal-e-Allah*** - Trust in God.

The page features a soft, watercolor-style green background with delicate illustrations of leaves and small berries in the corners. The text is centered in a clean, black, sans-serif font.

Through her trials and troubles to turned to Allah as a friend and knew that He would always answer her prayer, maybe not is ways she was expecting but always in ways that were best.

She is a true example of a pious human for both men and women around the world.

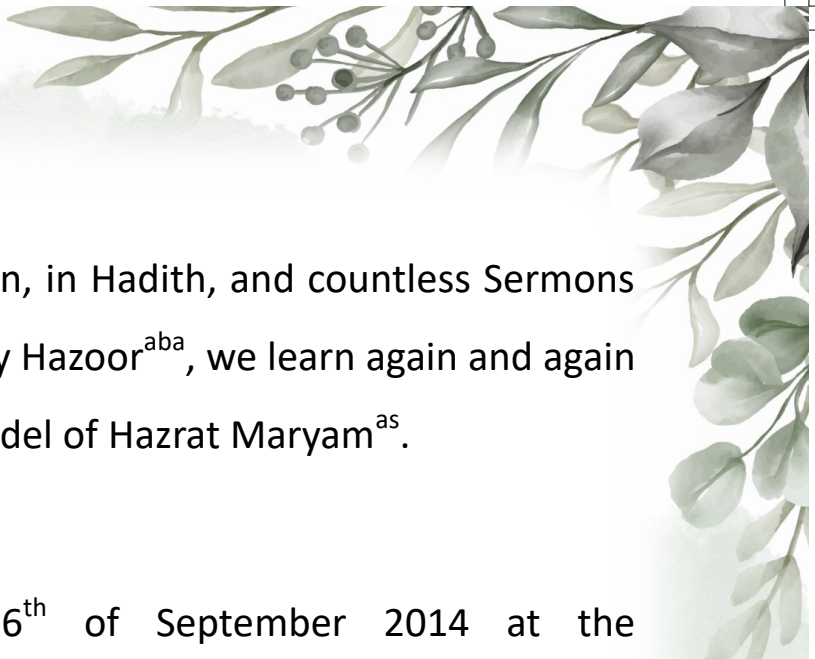


Did you know?

There is a whole chapter, chapter 19, in the Holy Qur'an which is named after Hazrat Maryam^{as}.

However, her story is mentioned throughout the Holy Quran, including Chapter 3, Surah Aal-e-Imran, which is named after her father! Also, when Hazrat Isa^{as} is mentioned, he is always mentioned as the son of Mary.

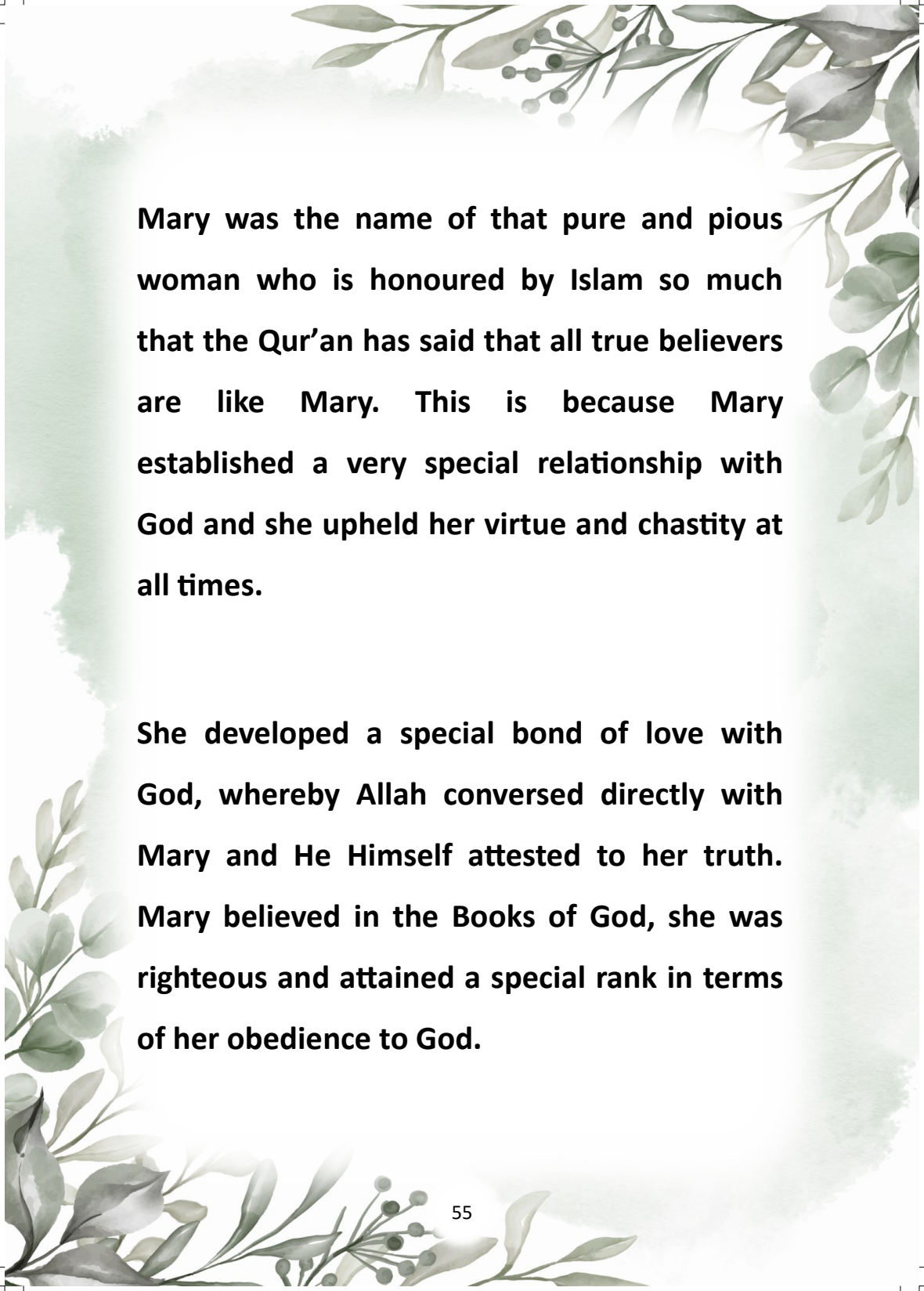
- Task 7 -
Write out why the Israelites tried to crucify
Hazrat Isa^{as}.



In the Quran, in Hadith, and countless Sermons delivered by Hazoor^{aba}, we learn again and again the role model of Hazrat Maryam^{as}.

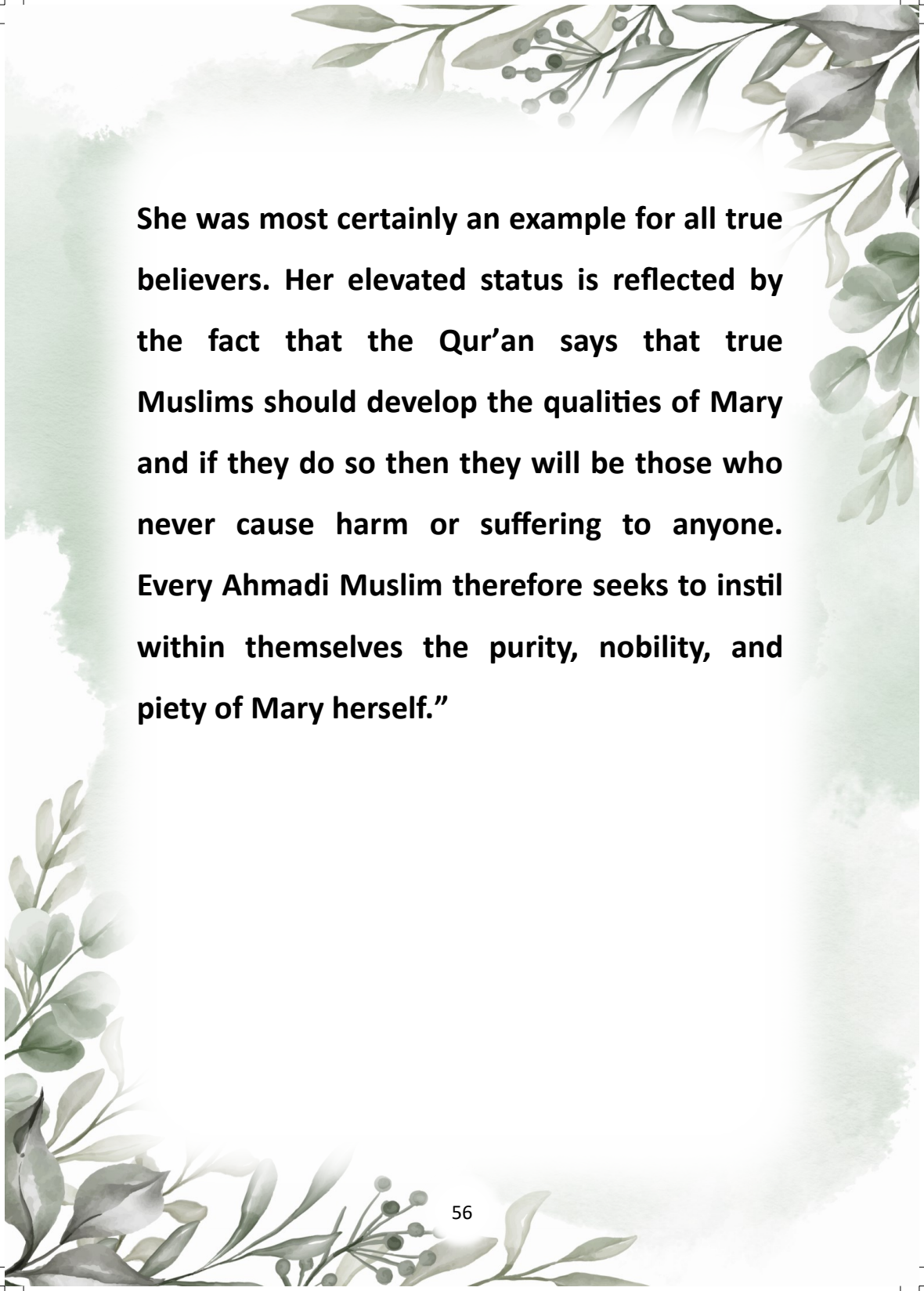
On the 26th of September 2014 at the inauguration of Masjid Maryam in Galway, Ireland, Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba} said addressing the guests:

“It has been named ‘Masjid Maryam’. Maryam, or Mary as known to you, is as greatly revered by Muslims as she is by Christians. In fact, in the Holy Qur’an, Allah has mentioned Mary at many instances and highlighted her esteemed status.

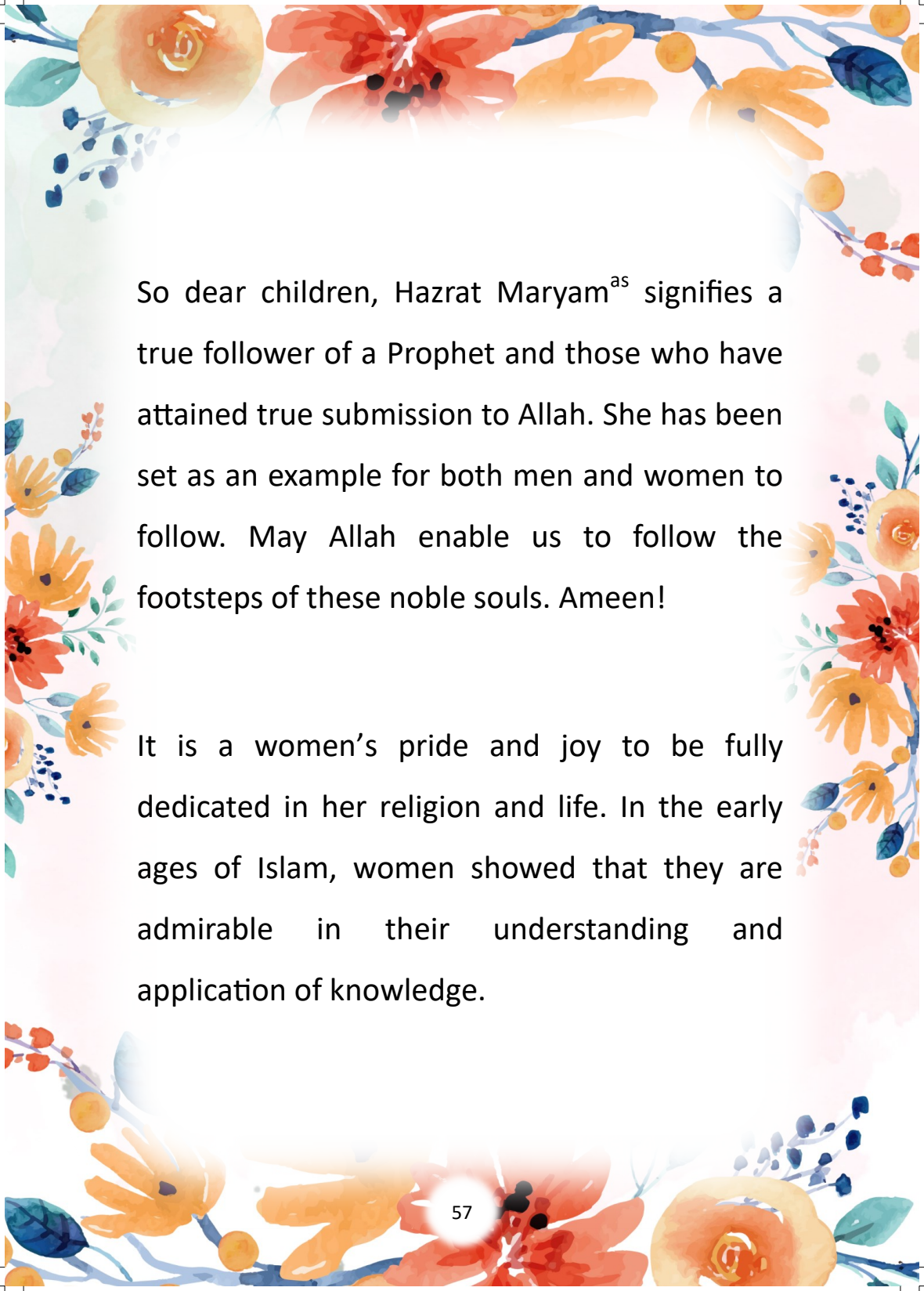


Mary was the name of that pure and pious woman who is honoured by Islam so much that the Qur'an has said that all true believers are like Mary. This is because Mary established a very special relationship with God and she upheld her virtue and chastity at all times.

She developed a special bond of love with God, whereby Allah conversed directly with Mary and He Himself attested to her truth. Mary believed in the Books of God, she was righteous and attained a special rank in terms of her obedience to God.

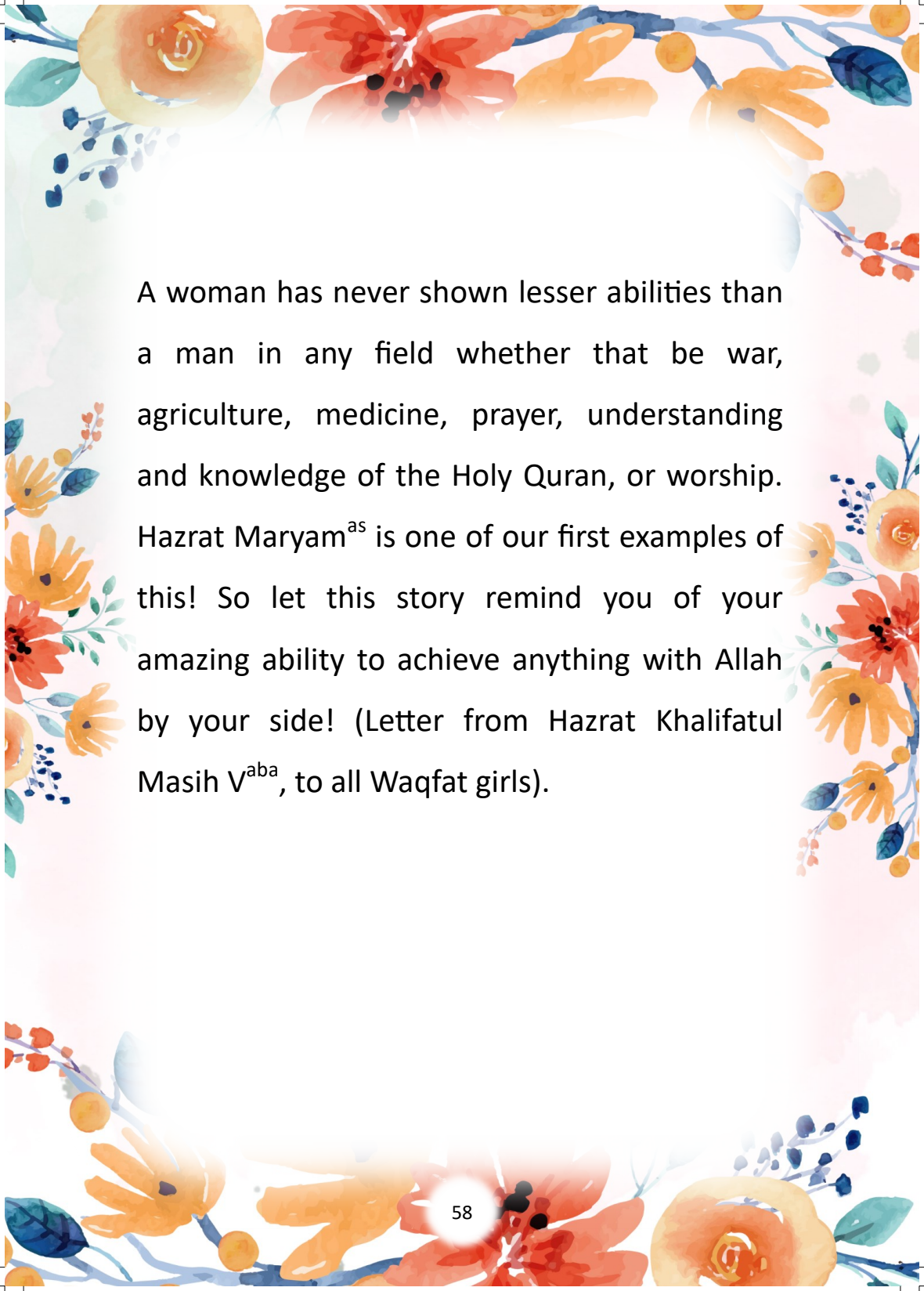
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She was most certainly an example for all true believers. Her elevated status is reflected by the fact that the Qur'an says that true Muslims should develop the qualities of Mary and if they do so then they will be those who never cause harm or suffering to anyone. Every Ahmadi Muslim therefore seeks to instil within themselves the purity, nobility, and piety of Mary herself."



So dear children, Hazrat Maryam^{as} signifies a true follower of a Prophet and those who have attained true submission to Allah. She has been set as an example for both men and women to follow. May Allah enable us to follow the footsteps of these noble souls. Ameen!

It is a women's pride and joy to be fully dedicated in her religion and life. In the early ages of Islam, women showed that they are admirable in their understanding and application of knowledge.



A woman has never shown lesser abilities than a man in any field whether that be war, agriculture, medicine, prayer, understanding and knowledge of the Holy Quran, or worship. Hazrat Maryam^{as} is one of our first examples of this! So let this story remind you of your amazing ability to achieve anything with Allah by your side! (Letter from Hazrat Khalifatul Masih V^{aba}, to all Waqfat girls).

Hazrat Maryam

(May Allah be pleased with her)

