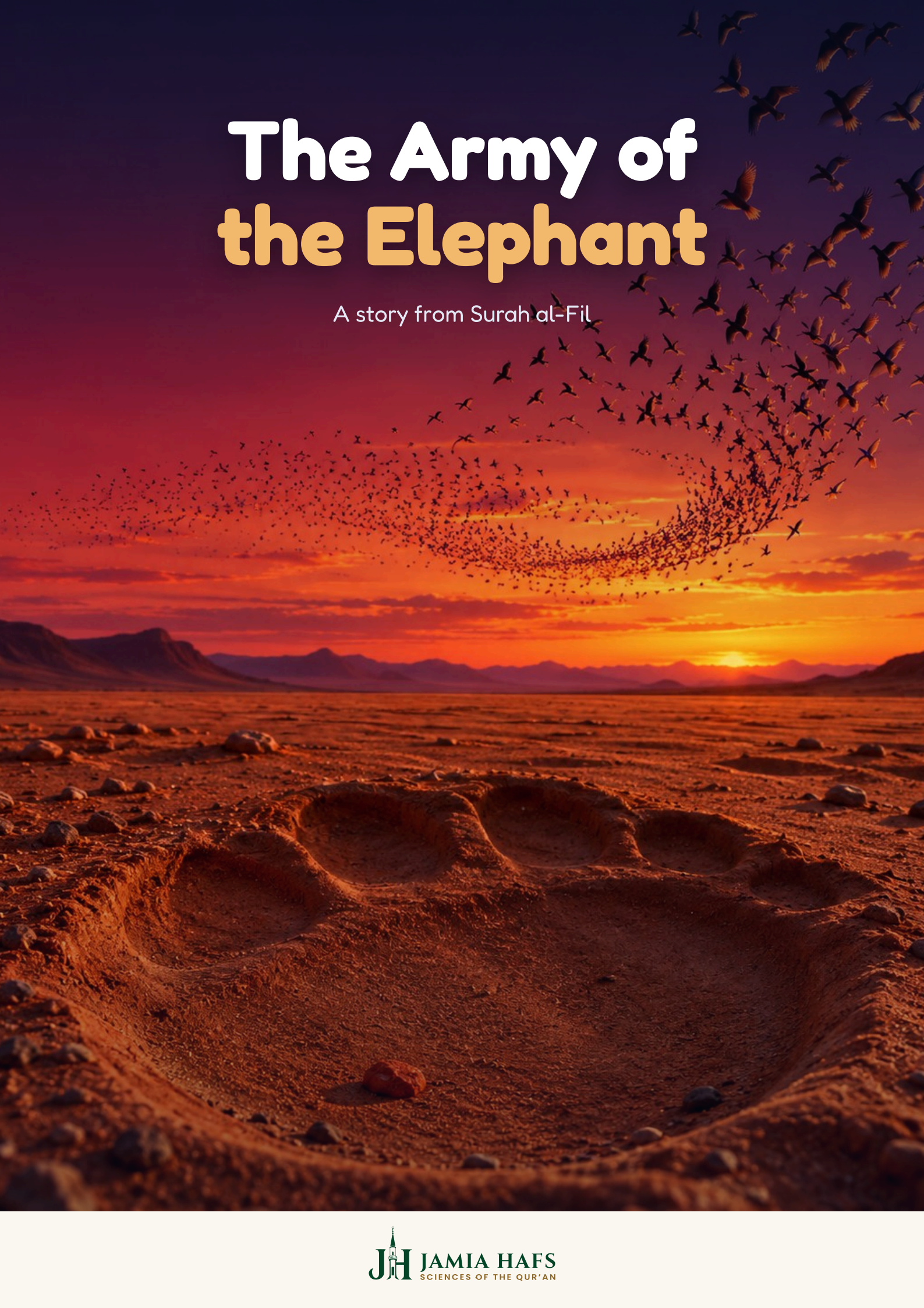




The Army of the Elephant

A story from Surah al-Fil



Long ago, in the valley of Makkah, stood the Ka'bah, the House of Allah. Prophet Ibrahim عليه السلام and his son Prophet Isma'il عليه السلام had built it, and people came from far away to visit it.



Far away in Yemen, a proud ruler named Abrahah built a huge, grand building. He wanted everyone to go there instead of the Ka'bah. But the people still went to the Ka'bah.



Abraham became very angry. He gathered a great army, with big, strong elephants, and set off across the desert to destroy the Ka'bah.



**At the front of the army walked the biggest elephant of all.
Abraham was sure that nothing could stop him.**



**But near Makkah, the great elephant knelt down in the sand.
When it was turned towards the Ka'bah, it would not move.
Allah had stopped it.**



Then Allah sent flocks of birds. Allah tells us what happened in Surah al-Fil:

أَلَمْ تَرَ كَيْفَ فَعَلَ رَبُّكَ بِأَصْحَابِ الْفِيلِ ﴿١﴾ أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ كَيْدَهُمْ فِي تَضْلِيلٍ
 ﴿٢﴾ وَأَرْسَلَ عَلَيْهِمْ طَيْرًا أَبَابِيلَ ﴿٣﴾ تَرْمِيهِمْ بِحِجَارَةٍ مِّن سِجِّيلٍ ﴿٤﴾ فَجَعَلَهُمْ
 كَعَصْفٍ مَّأْكُولٍ ﴿٥﴾

**Alam tara kayfa fa'ala rabbuka bi-as-habil-fil. Alam yaj'al kaydahum fi tadlil. Wa
 arsala 'alayhim tayran ababil. Tarmihim bi-hijaratin min sijjil. Fa ja'alahum ka-'asfin
 ma'kul.**

"Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the people of the elephant? Did He not make their plan fail? He sent against them birds in flocks, striking them with stones of baked clay, and He made them like eaten straw."



Each bird carried three small stones of baked clay: one in its beak, and one in each foot.



The birds threw the stones down on the army, like rain falling from the sky. The great army could not stand against them.



**Allah made them like dry, broken straw that has been eaten.
Abraham's big plan had come to nothing.**



The Ka'bah was safe. Allah protected His House, and the people of Makkah were safe too.



People called that year the Year of the Elephant. And in that very same year, our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was born in Makkah.

Talk about it

Read the story together, then talk about these

1

Who protected the Ka'bah from Abrahah's army?

2

What did the birds carry? How many stones did each bird have?

3

Abrahah was proud of his big army. Why is it better to trust Allah than to be proud?

LEARN SURAH AL-FIL

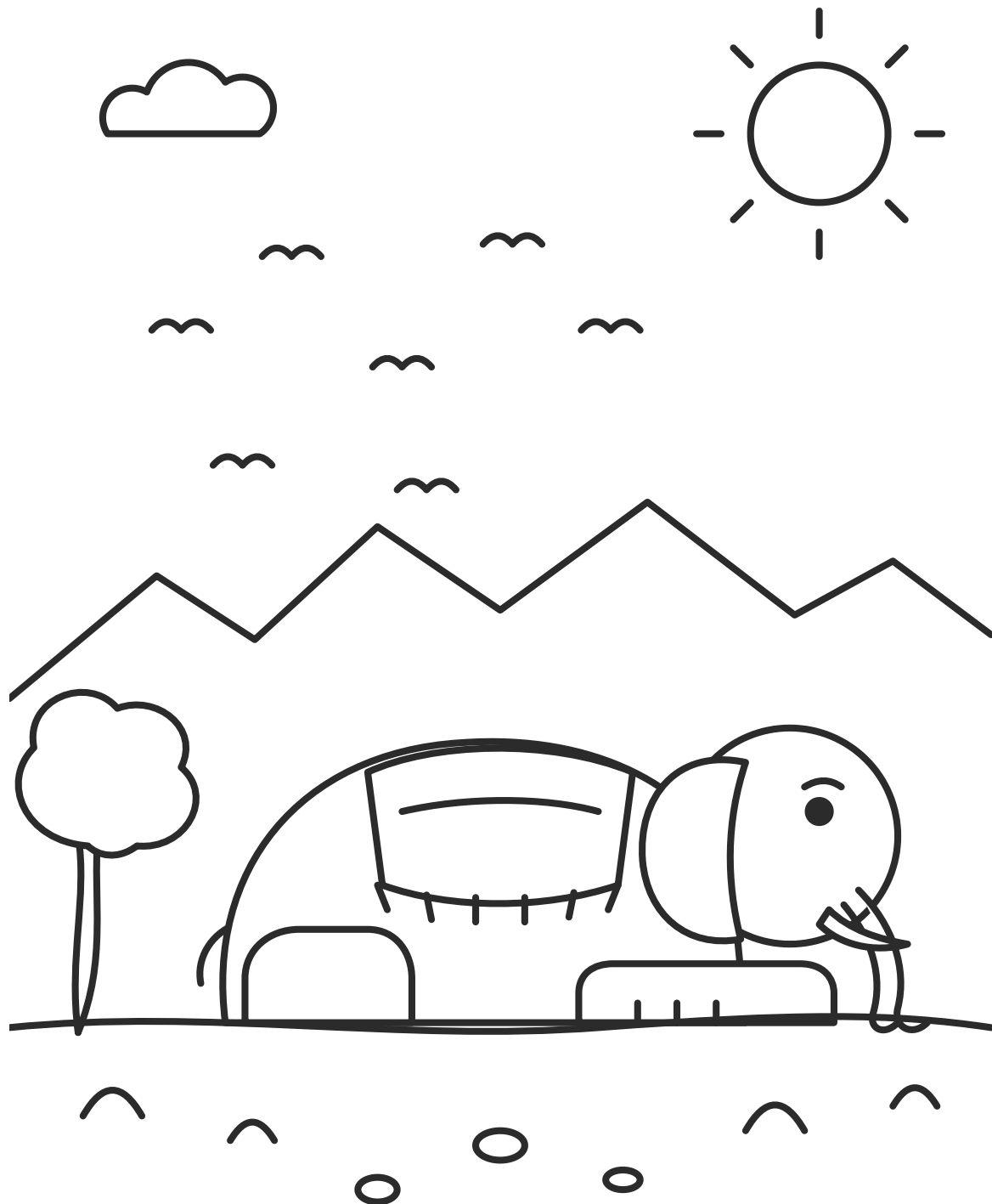
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مَّا كُولٍ ﴿٥﴾

Alam tara kayfa fa'ala rabbuka bi-as-habil-fil. Alam yaj'al kaydahum fi tadril. Wa arsala 'alayhim
tayran ababil. Tarmihim bi-hijaratun min sijjil. Fa ja'alahum ka-'asfin ma'kul.

"Have you not seen how your Lord dealt with the people of the elephant? Did He not make their plan fail? He sent against them birds in flocks, striking them with stones of baked clay, and He made them like eaten straw."

Colour me in!

Colour the kneeling elephant, the birds and the sun





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