

In the name of God

Manners of Pilgrimage

Razavi
Rose
Garden

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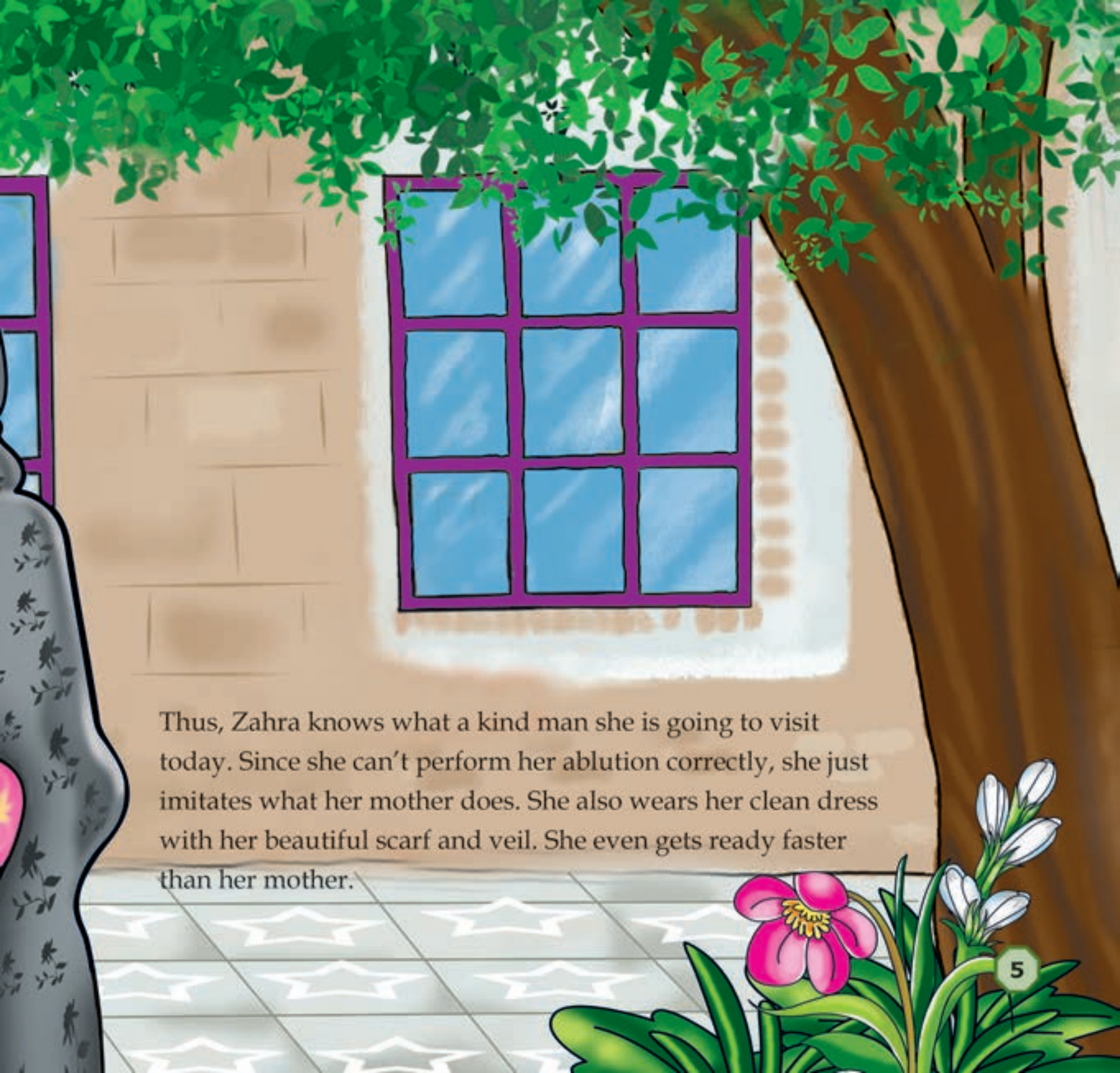
Illustrated by: Samira Sadat Shafiee





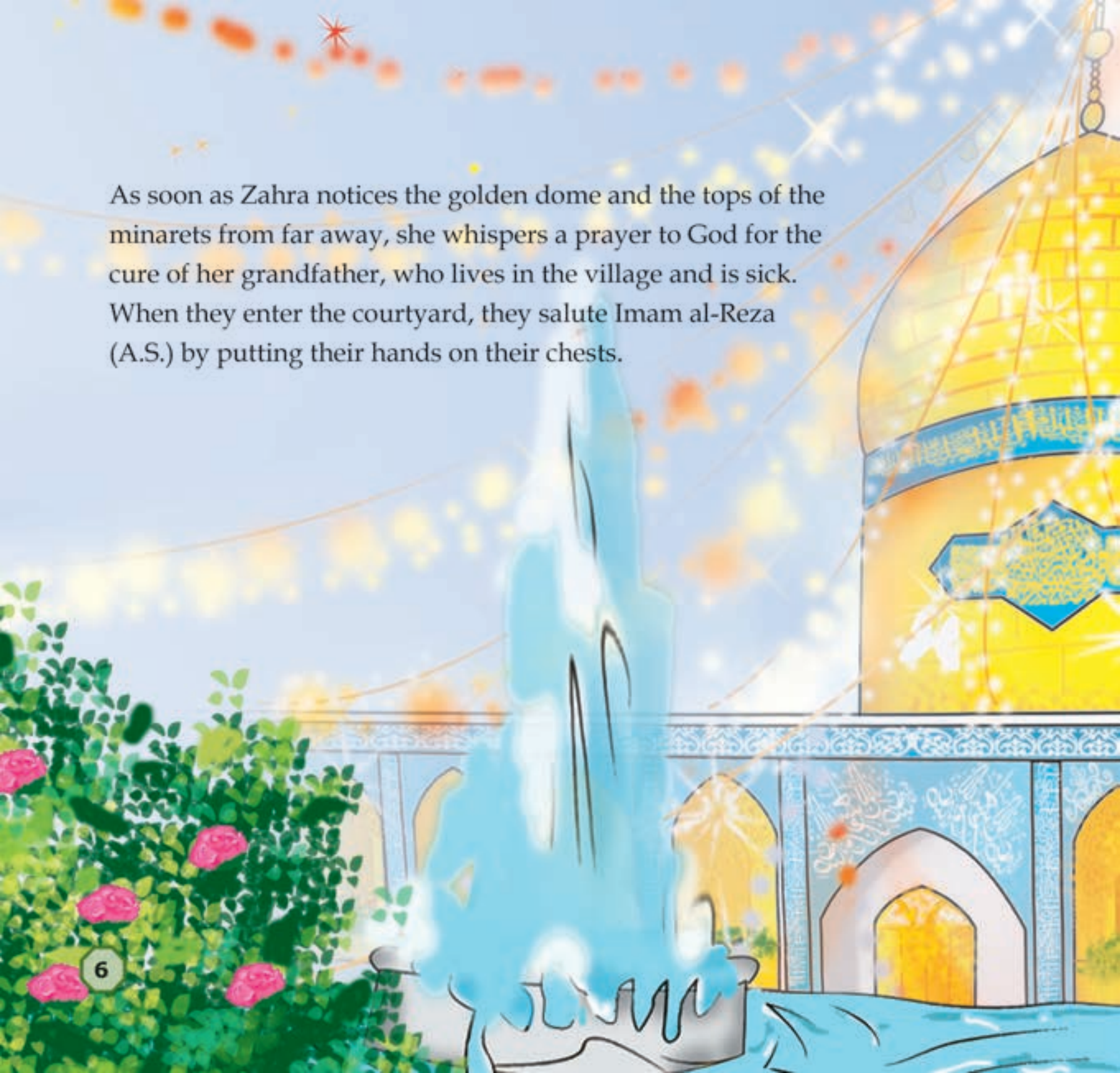
Zahra, a 5-year-old girl, has visited Imam al-Reza's (A.S.) Holy Shrine with her mother, Akram khanūm, many times. During this time, Zahra's mother has taught her the manners of pilgrimage. Zahra's father has also played a great role in making her interested and familiar with Imam al-Reza (A.S.) by giving her books on the biography of the immaculate Imams (A.S.).



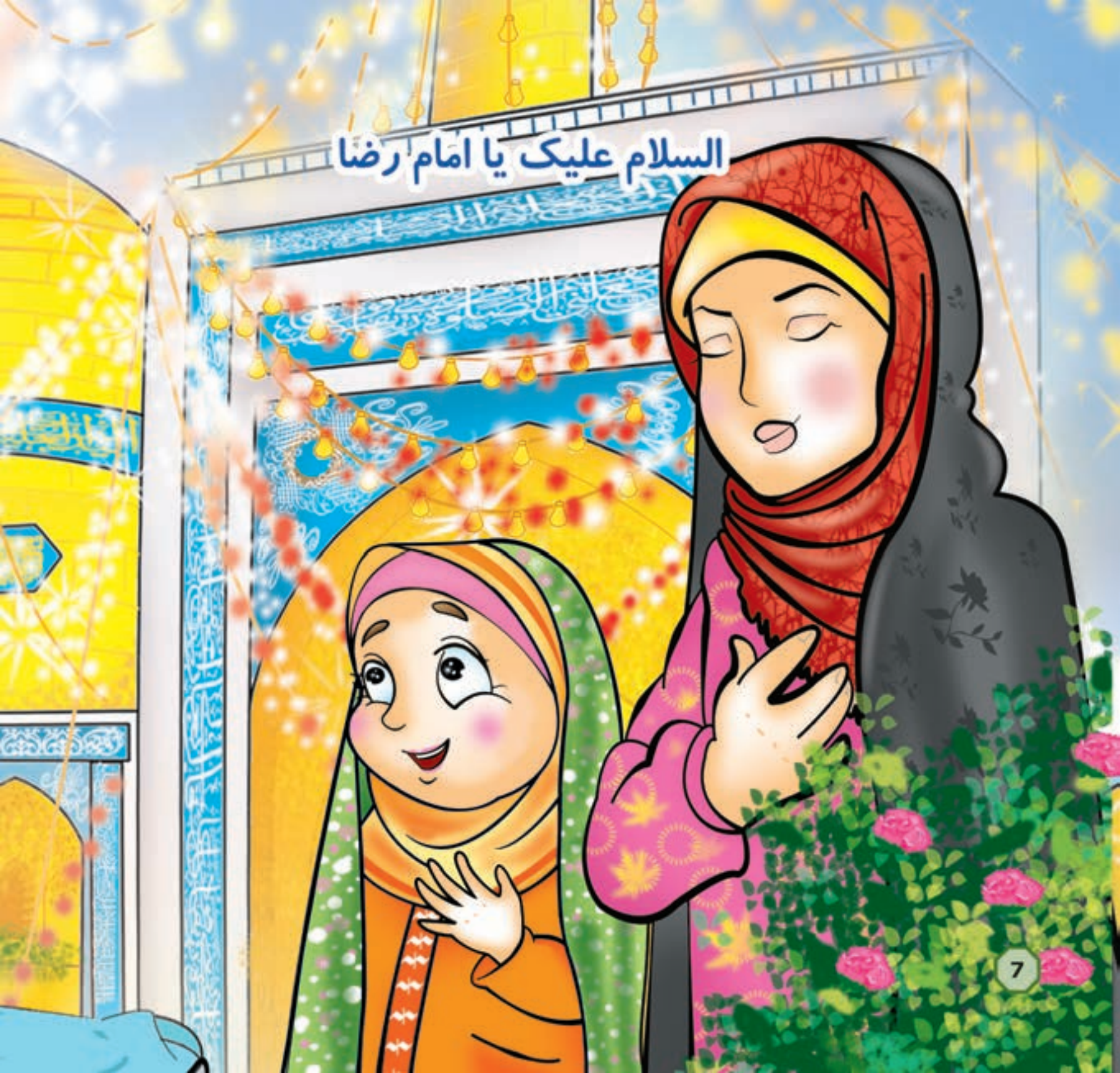
A vibrant illustration of a scene. In the center, a house with a tan brick wall features a large window with a purple frame, divided into nine panes. The window reflects a bright blue sky. To the right, a large tree with a thick brown trunk and lush green leaves stands prominently. In the foreground, there are several flowers: a bright pink one with a yellow center, and a cluster of white ones. The ground is paved with light-colored tiles, some of which have white star patterns. On the far left, a portion of a grey, patterned object, possibly a dress or veil, is visible. The overall style is that of a children's book illustration.

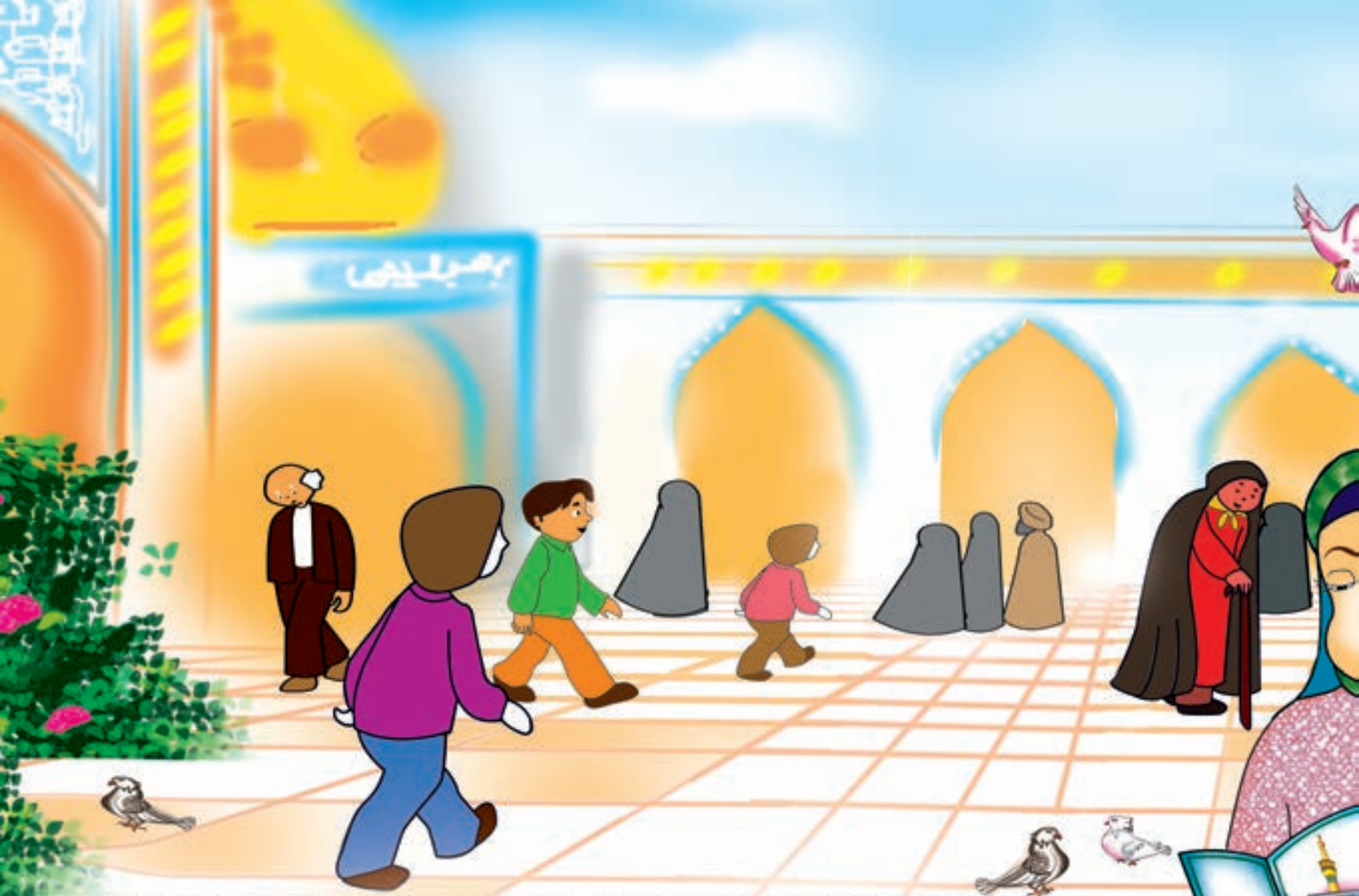
Thus, Zahra knows what a kind man she is going to visit today. Since she can't perform her ablution correctly, she just imitates what her mother does. She also wears her clean dress with her beautiful scarf and veil. She even gets ready faster than her mother.

As soon as Zahra notices the golden dome and the tops of the minarets from far away, she whispers a prayer to God for the cure of her grandfather, who lives in the village and is sick. When they enter the courtyard, they salute Imam al-Reza (A.S.) by putting their hands on their chests.



السلام عليك يا امام رضا





As usual, courtyards are crowded. Akram khanūm doesn't take Zahra to very crowded places because this may frighten her and may leave her with bad memory of the pilgrimage in the future. At the time of saying the ritual prayer (salat), Zahra just stands like her mother and only bows down and does the prostrations.





After saying the ritual prayer and reciting the pilgrimage prayer book for visiting the holy shrine, there comes the time of visiting Imam al-Reza (A.S.)'s burial chamber. Mother has told Zahra that they shouldn't hustle other pilgrims around the burial chamber. It is also not necessary to touch the holy chamber. We can offer our prayer to Imam al-Reza (A.S.) from wherever possible. We are also recommended to keep aside from the Holy Burial Chamber in order to let the other pilgrims to go on pilgrimage.





Akram khanūm doesn't prolong saying the ritual prayer and reciting the prayer book so that Zahra wouldn't get bored. She also takes Zahra to other interesting places in the Holy Shrine so that she may enjoy more of the pilgrimage.