

Read-along  
Story book



# IMAM AHMAD BIN HANBAL AND THE BAKER



KIDS LOVE THE WAY



WE TEACH QURAN


# IMAM AHMAD BIN HANBAL AND THE BAKER

Reference:

Manaqib Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal (The Virtues of Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal) by Ibn al Jawzi

Ahmad had been traveling all day.  
It was still a long way to Syria.



An illustration of a man named Ahmad at night. He is wearing a white thobe and ghutra, with a black beard. He is holding a bundle of sticks over his shoulder. In the background, there are purple buildings and a crescent moon in a dark blue sky. To the right, there is a large, golden-brown archway, likely the entrance to a mosque. Two other men are visible near the archway: one in a green thobe and another in a brown thobe.

At night, Ahmad reached a town where he had no friends or relatives he could stay with.

He came to a mosque and walked inside.




Ahmad prayed  
the night prayer...




...and decided  
to sleep in the  
masjid.

He laid down on  
the floor and  
closed his eyes.

An illustration of a scene in a library. A man in a purple robe and turban stands on the left, holding a lit oil lamp. He is looking towards an older man with a white beard and head covering who is lying on the floor on the right. A large red starburst shape contains the text of the man's dialogue. The background shows bookshelves filled with books and a brown bag on the floor.

Hey, old man! What are you doing here? I've never seen you around before. Get out of here!



I am a traveler dear  
and have nowhere  
to go. I'm just here  
for the night.

Go and stay  
somewhere else. The  
mosque is closing. I  
have to lock it


Ahmad did not argue. He simply picked up his bag...




An illustration of a man with a black beard and white head covering, wearing a white robe, sleeping on the steps of a mosque at night. The scene is set against a dark blue night sky with a crescent moon and stars. In the background, there are stylized buildings in shades of purple and pink, and a green palm tree. The man is lying on his side on a brown wooden step, with his head resting on his hand. A teal speech bubble is positioned above him, containing the text "...and went to sleep on the steps of the mosque."

...and went to sleep on the steps of the mosque.




An illustration showing a man in a purple turban and purple robe shouting at a man in white robes who is lying on the ground. A large red starburst contains the text. A blue exclamation mark is above the man on the ground. A white starburst is near the man in purple. The background shows a night scene with a palm tree and a building.

Haven't I told you  
to go and stay  
somewhere else?  
Go away!



But I don't know  
anyone in this  
town. I have  
nowhere to go!

That's none  
of my  
business.



The guard grabbed Ahmad by his legs, dragged him to the middle of the street and stomped away.

Ahmad stood up and looked around, thinking what to do next.



“Assalam u alaikum,  
here, come with me.  
You can stay at my  
place... right there.



Ahmad thanked Allah, and he thanked the man and followed him to his house.

جَزَاكَ اللهُ



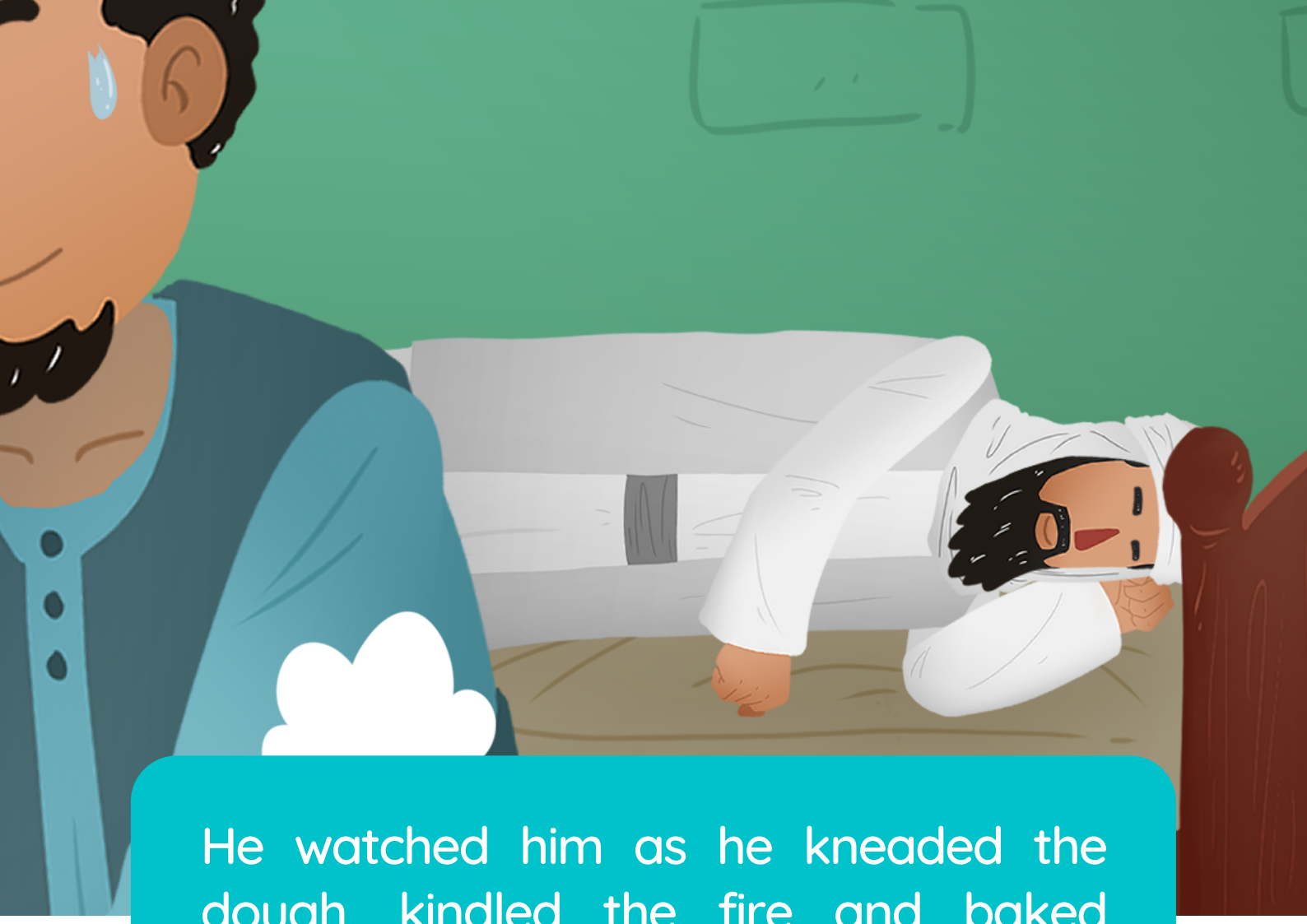
I am a baker, you see. I have work to do right now, but you can sleep on that bed.



Ahmad stayed awake for some time and watched the baker as he went about doing his work.







He watched him as he kneaded the dough, kindled the fire and baked bread in the oven.



And while the baker  
worked, he kept reciting.

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ



Ahmad was amazed. When people make tasbeeh, they get tired after some time, or they simply forget about it and their mind drifts away.



But this man kept making tasbeeh constantly as he worked.

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ


أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ





How long have you been doing this, young man?

In the morning, Ahmad asked him.

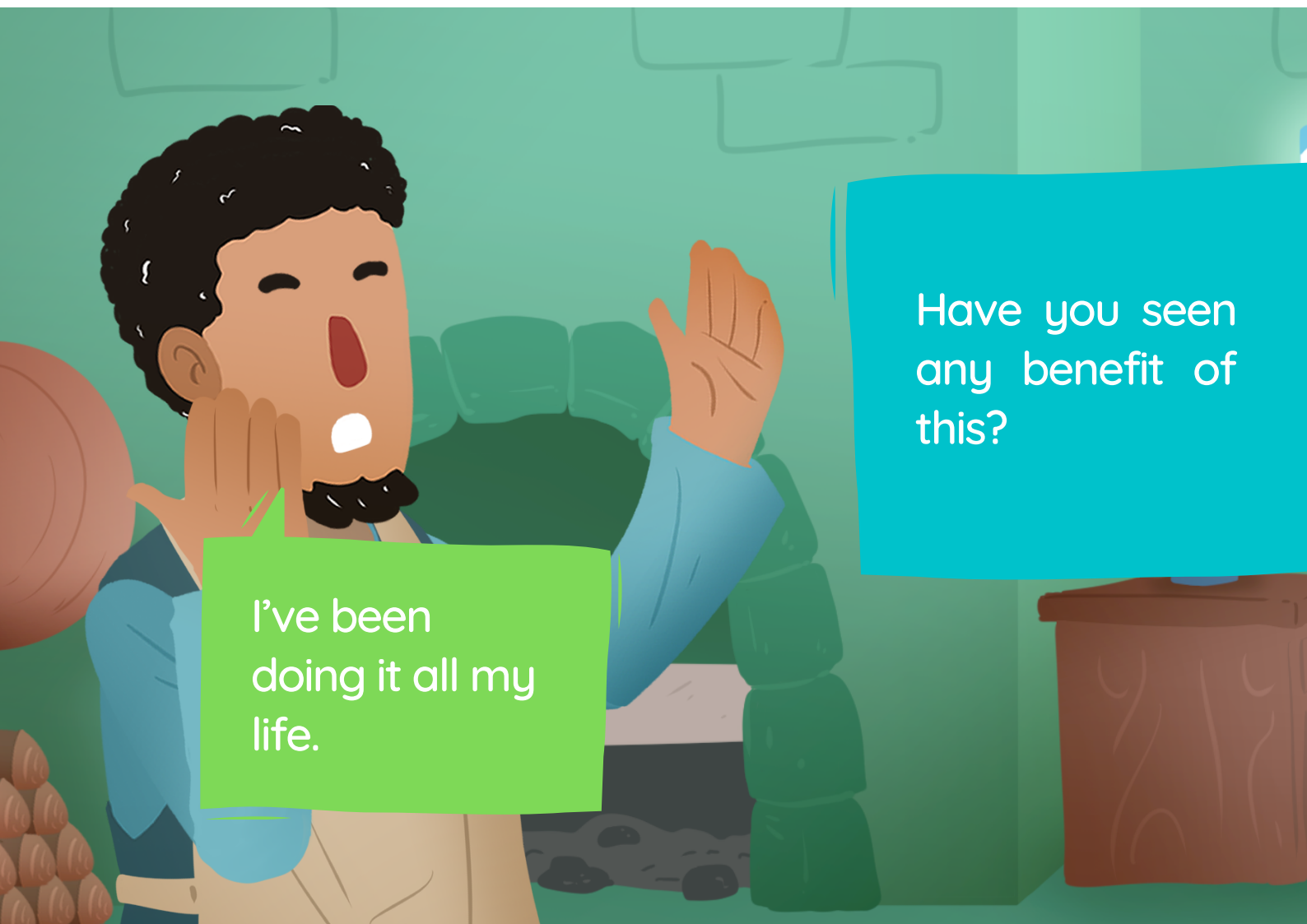


What? The bakery business?



الله

No, praising Allah and asking for His forgiveness.



Have you seen any benefit of this?

I've been doing it all my life.



Oh yes! Allah accepts all my duas. Whenever I ask for something, Allah gives it to me. All of my prayers have come true except one.



Amazing! What did you pray for?

I want to meet Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal. You must've heard of him. Everybody knows him - he's the famous scholar of hadeeth.





Ahmad could not believe his ears.  
Tears rolled down his eyes as he  
hugged the baker.



I am Imam Ahmad bin Hanbal, Allah has brought me here to you, dragging me by the feet!



Do you want Allah to remember  
you and accept your prayers?

Just remember Allah and He'll  
remember you!

سُبْحَانَ اللَّهِ

أَسْتَغْفِرُ اللَّهَ

الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ

اللَّهُ أَكْبَرُ

لَا إِلَهَ إِلَّا اللَّهُ



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