

Read-along
Story book

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SAMARKAND AND THE MUSLIM ARMY



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Story book

SAMARKAND AND THE MUSLIM ARMY

Reference:

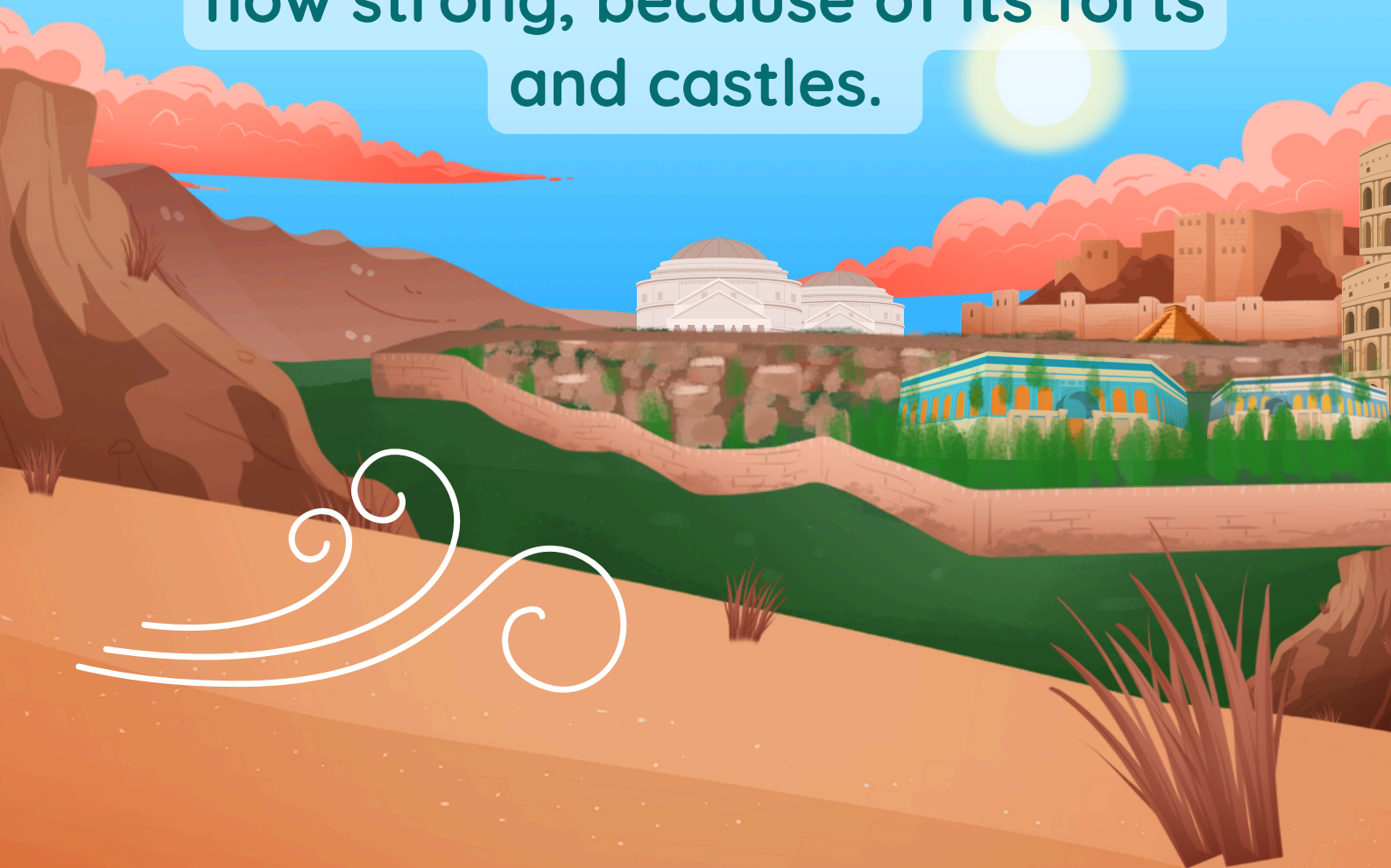
Al-Bidayah wa Al-Nihayah by Ibn Kathir



Long time ago, in a beautiful city called Samarkand, where big walls and tall castles sparkled in the sunlight.

The people of Samarkand loved their city and worked hard to keep it safe from any intruder.

It was difficult for any army to enter into the city, no matter how strong, because of its forts and castles.




One day, a brave Muslim army led by Qutaybah bin Muslim marched towards Samarkand.

They wore shiny armor and rode fast horses with their banners waving in the wind. They had come to open the city to become part of the Muslim nations.

When they reached Samarkand, they found it surrounded by high walls that seemed to touch the sky.






Qutaybah bin Muslim knew it wouldn't be easy to conquer such a strong city.

But he was clever. He came up with a plan!

Some of his soldiers dressed up as traveling merchants, carrying baskets of spices and colorful fabrics.



They sneaked into the city at night and pretended to be friendly travelers.

While everyone was sleeping, these sneaky soldiers quietly went to the forts and castles of Samarkand.



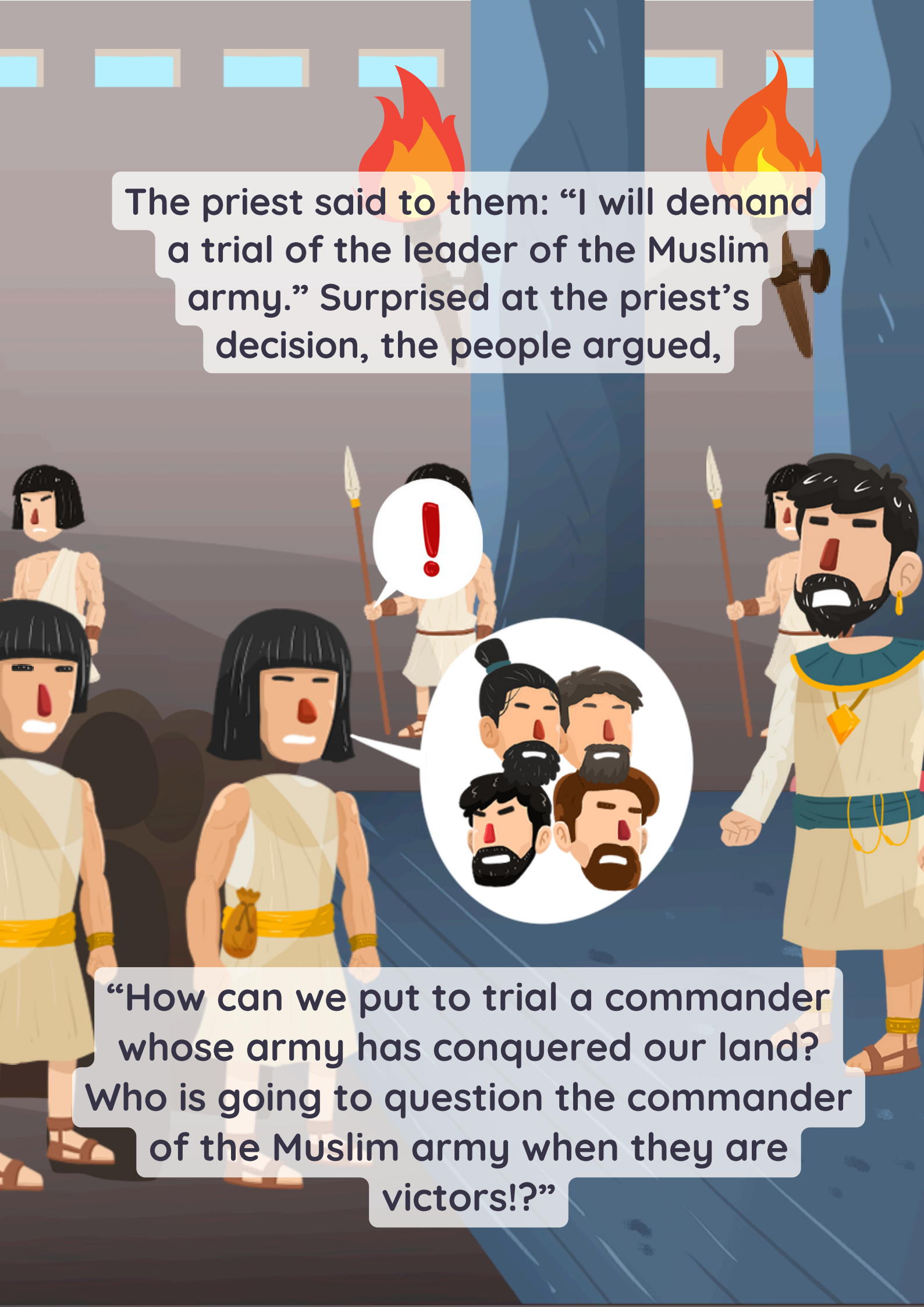
They surprised the guards with an attack, quickly taking over the city's defenses.

Soon, they opened the city gates,
and the rest of Qutaybah's army
rushed in like a river.

The people of Samarkand
were scared and surprised by
this unexpected attack.

They gathered at the grand
temple to seek advice from
their chief priest.



An illustration depicting a scene from a story. In the background, there is a city with blue walls and windows. Two large, stylized flames are visible, one on the left and one on the right. In the foreground, several characters are shown. On the left, there are three soldiers in white tunics and yellow belts, holding spears. In the center, a soldier is holding a spear, and a speech bubble with a red exclamation mark is next to him. On the right, a man with a black beard and a white tunic with a yellow belt is speaking. A circular inset shows four men's faces, two with beards and two without. The overall style is cartoonish and colorful.

The priest said to them: “I will demand a trial of the leader of the Muslim army.” Surprised at the priest’s decision, the people argued,

“How can we put to trial a commander whose army has conquered our land? Who is going to question the commander of the Muslim army when they are victors!?”

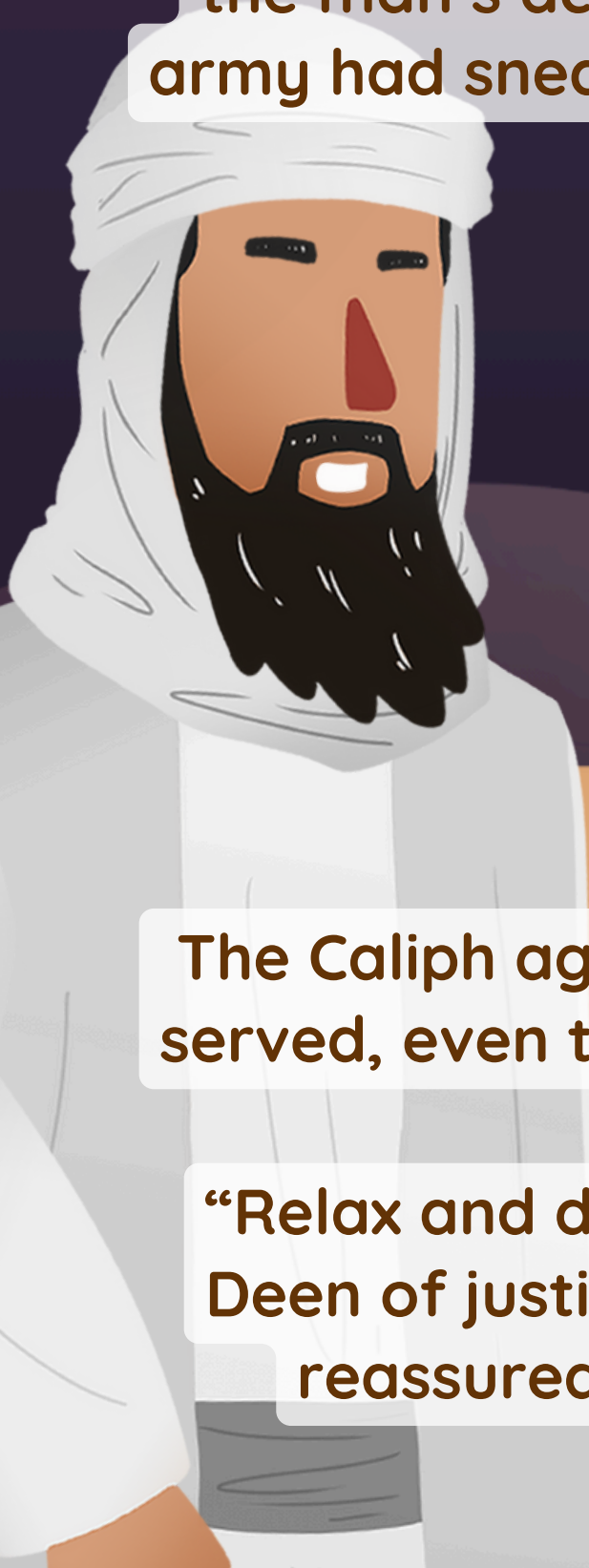
The chief priest replied, “the Caliph of the Muslims, Umar bin Abdul Aziz, is a just man. We will put our case before him.”



So, the chief priest sent one of his assistants to Damascus, where the Caliph lived.

The Caliph, Umar bin Abdul Aziz, received the priest's young assistant in a fine manner.

Umar bin Abdul Aziz listened carefully to the man's account of how the Muslim army had sneakily taken over their city.



The Caliph agreed that justice must be served, even though his army had won.

“Relax and do not fear, for Islam is a Deen of justice”, Umar bin Abdul Aziz reassured the young assistant.

A letter was delivered by the Caliph to the commander of the Muslim army, Qutaybah bin Muslim, who was now the governor of the city of Samarkand.



The Caliph had commanded him to choose one of the Muslim judges to rule on a complaint submitted against him, Qutaybah bin Muslim, by the priests of Samarkand!

Qutaybah was an honest man who respected Umar bin Abdul Aziz as the Caliph.

He did not for a moment think about how his position and respect as a governor might be looked down upon.



He immediately acted upon the orders of the Caliph and appointed a trusted Muslim judge to decide between him and the people of Samarkand.

During the trial, the chief priest stood tall and spoke passionately about the city's ordeal.

“We know that your religion has specified three things to spread its message, the first of which is: the invitation to the people to enter Islam, when the people refuse to accept, they must pay the Jizya - a tax that puts them under the protection of the Muslims and if they refuse to pay Jizya, only then they are then fought against.”



“However, this man entered our city by deception”, the priest exclaimed, pointing to Qutaybah.

The judge turned to Qutaybah bin Muslim and asked him if the Muslim army had offered the people of Samarkand these three options of accepting Islam, paying the jizya, or facing battle before taking over their land.

Qutaybah bin Muslim, honestly admitted they hadn't offered those choices.

The judge nodded thoughtfully, his wise eyes studying the faces in the room. Then, he made a decision that surprised everyone.



"I decree," declared the judge, "that the Muslim army must leave Samarkand and let its people decide their fate. They can choose to embrace Islam and join the Muslim community, pay the jizya for protection, or prepare for battle if they refuse both."

The Muslim army respected the judge's ruling and withdrew from Samarkand.

The people of Samarkand, now free to decide, gathered in the city square to discuss their options.

Many of them were curious about Islam and eager to learn more. They found the teachings of Islam peaceful and liked how the Muslims were fair and welcoming.



In the end, the people of Samarkand chose to embrace Islam willingly.

Now, they invited the Muslims into their city, not for battle but to celebrate their new friendship.

Each of the Muslims hugged his brother from the people of Samarkand and congratulated him on entering Islam.

The people of Samarkand who had now become Muslims also celebrated their new faith, sharing laughter and stories with the neighboring Muslim cities who they had once been enemies with but were now friends.

And so, Samarkand continued to be a colorful and busy city under its new Muslim rulers. It thrived with traders from faraway lands and its mosque echoed with the call to prayers.



Samarkand is in the present day
Uzbekistan, a Muslim country in
the Asia continent, all thanks to
the justice of Caliph Umar bin
Abdul Aziz.

This story shows how
fairness, honesty and the
desire to understand each
other can make a big
difference in our lives!



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