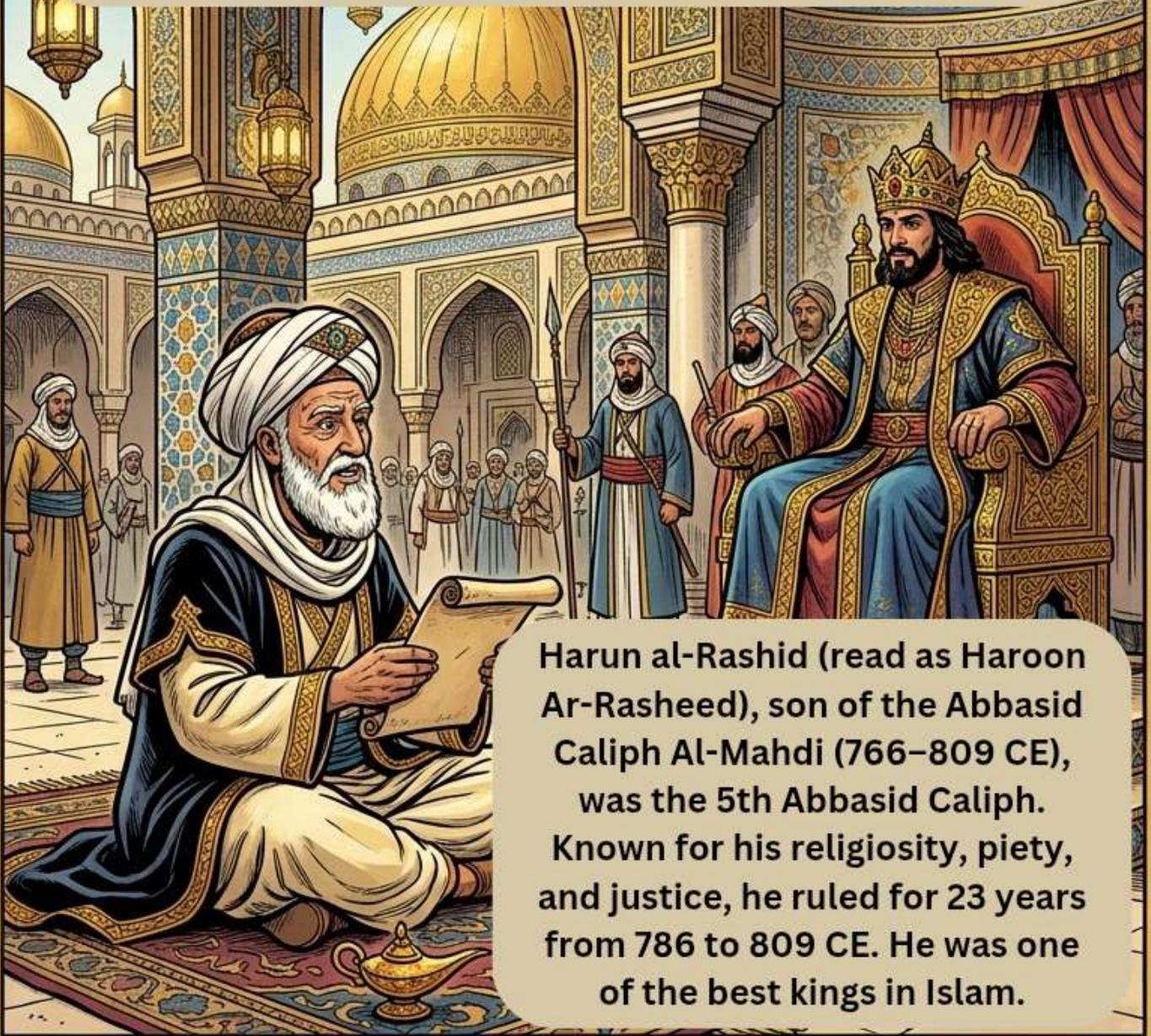


THE WISDOM OF Ibn Sammak

*He reminded The Caliph of the transience
of the temporary life.*



Ibn al-Sammak (died 183 A.H./800 C.E.) was a renowned 8th-century Muslim scholar, orator, and preacher from Kufa, Iraq, recognized as one of the pious predecessors (salaf). Known for his profound eloquence and wisdom, he was a respected figure who frequently offered spiritual reminders regarding the afterlife and piety to Caliph Harun al-Rashid.



Harun al-Rashid (read as Haroon Ar-Rasheed), son of the Abbasid Caliph Al-Mahdi (766–809 CE), was the 5th Abbasid Caliph. Known for his religiosity, piety, and justice, he ruled for 23 years from 786 to 809 CE. He was one of the best kings in Islam.

One day Sheikh Ibn Sammak rahimahullah was sitting with Khalifa Harun al-Rashid. Haroon felt thirsty and he asked for water and water was brought. When he wanted to drink Ibn Sammak said,

**O AMIR AL-MUMININ!
STOP FOR A
MOMENT!**



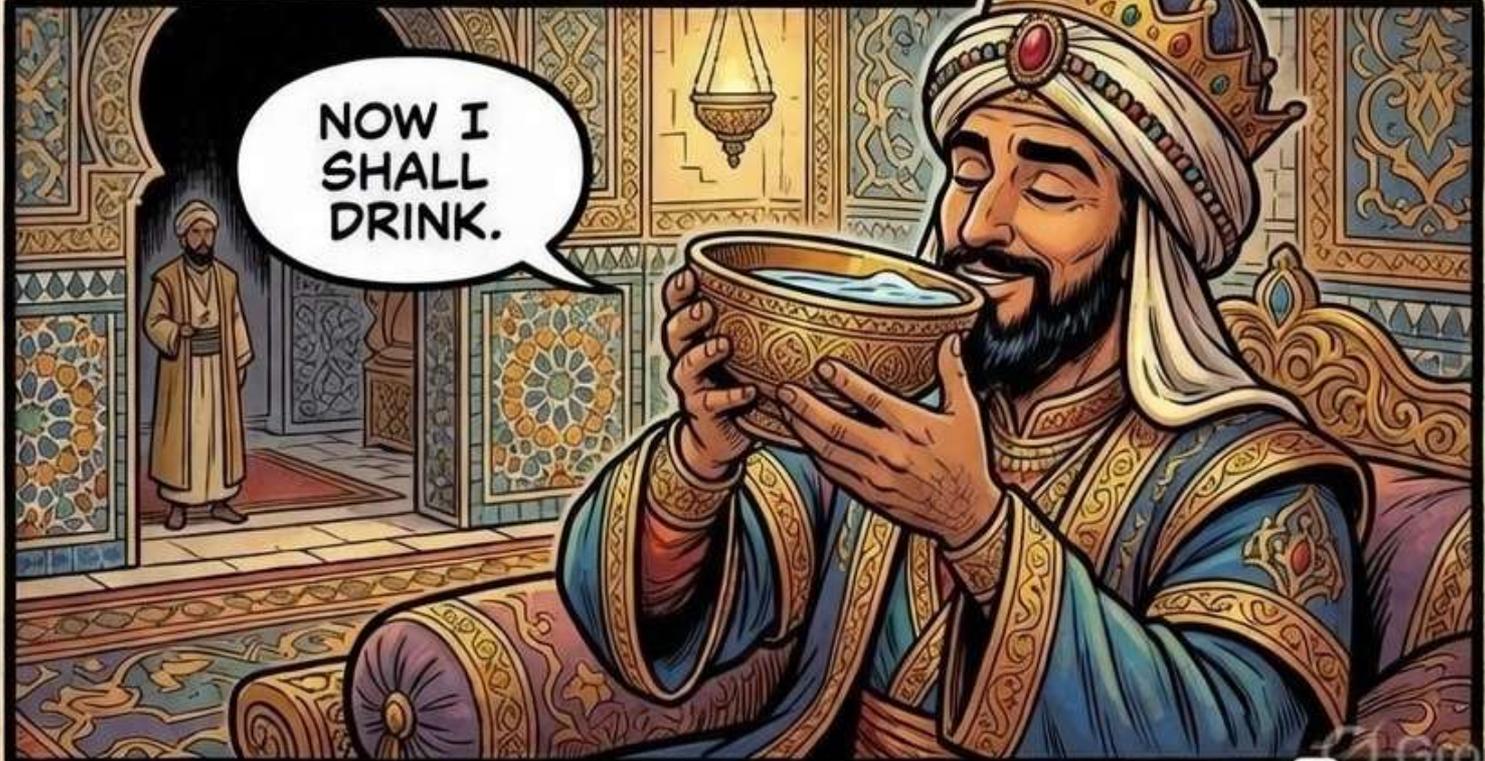
IF YOU COULD NOT GET THIS WATER WHEN MOST THIRSTY...

HOW MUCH WOULD YOU PAY FOR IT?



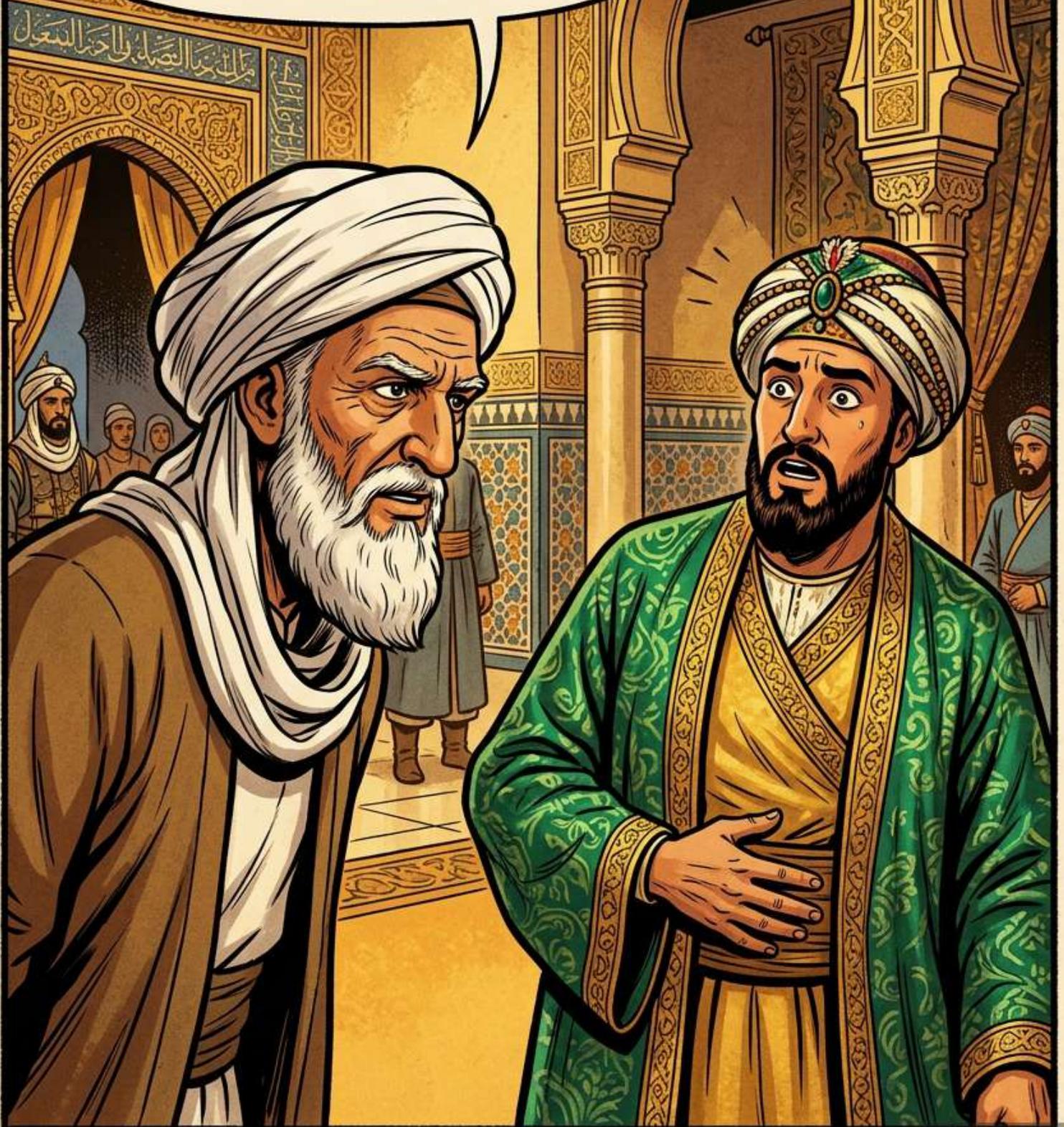
I WOULD GIVE
HALF OF MY ENTIRE
KINGDOM FOR IT!

Sheikh Ibn Sammak said,
"Now, you may drink."



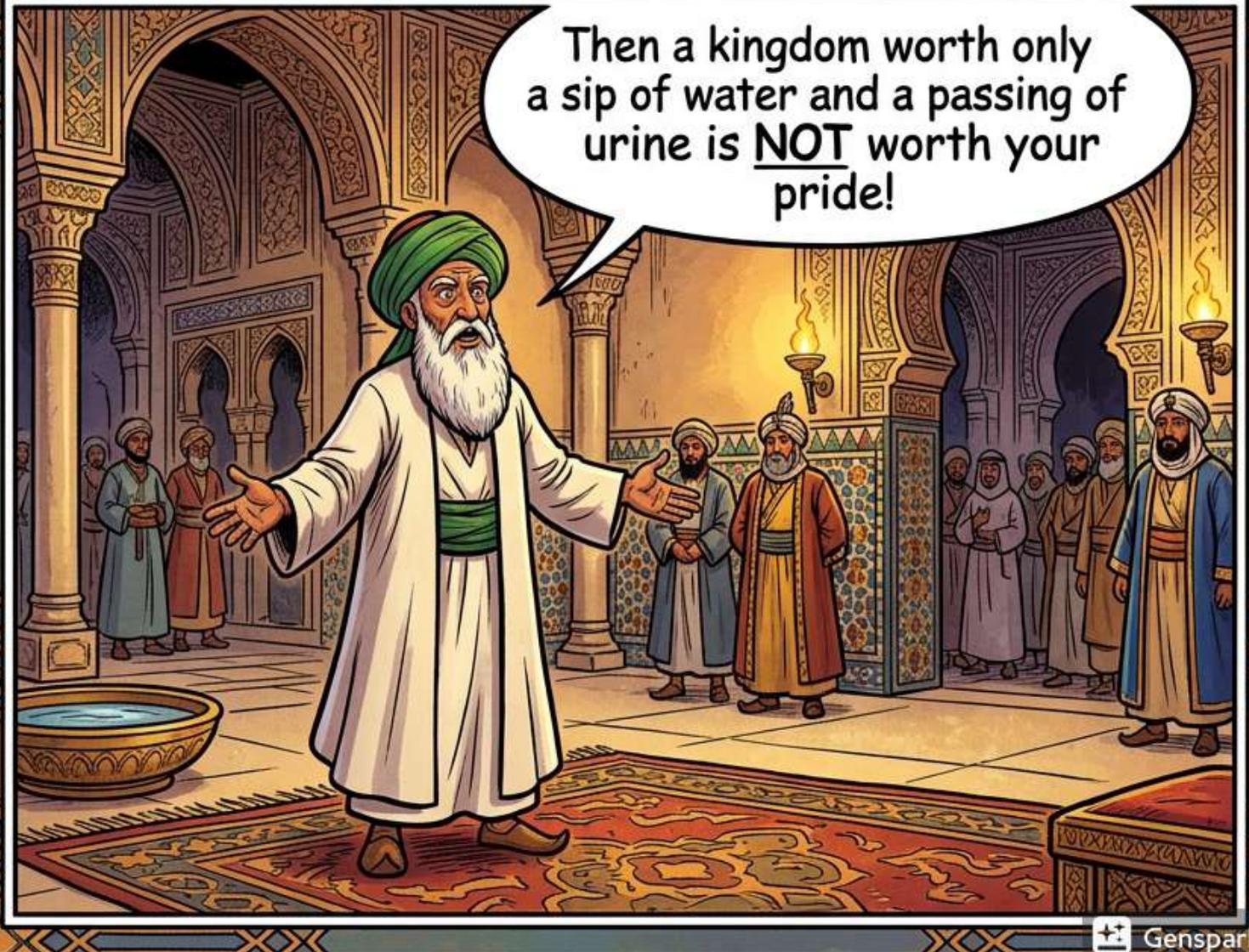
NOW I
SHALL
DRINK.

O Amir al-Muminin! Now tell me... if this water became stuck inside your body and could not come out... how much would you pay to relieve yourself?





I would give
the other **HALF** of
my kingdom!

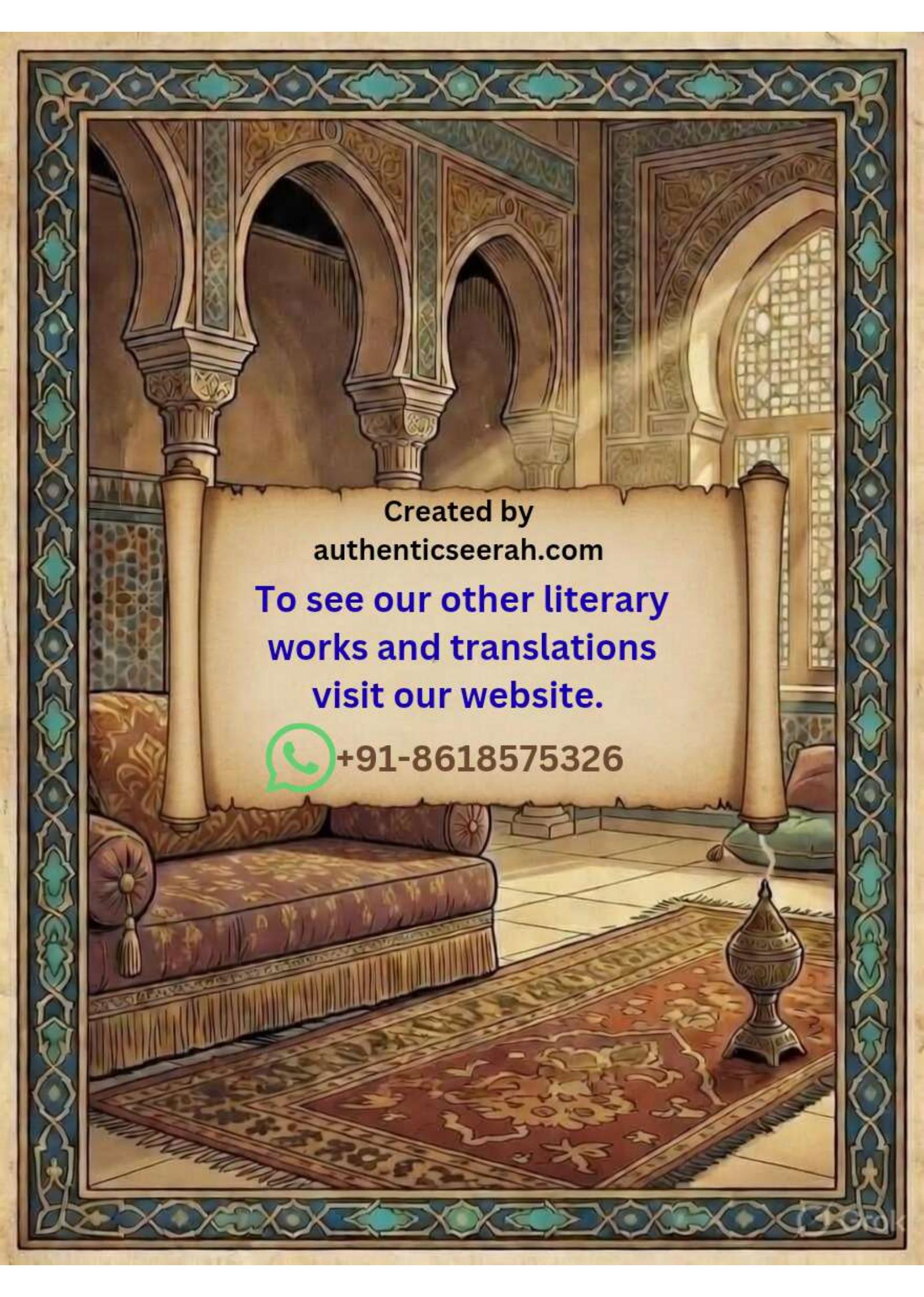


Then a kingdom worth only
a sip of water and a passing of
urine is **NOT** worth your
pride!

Thereupon Ibn al-Sammak said, “Truly a realm (a kingdom) that weighs not in the balance against a draught of water or a voiding of urine is not worth the striving for, you must not be proud of it.” and Harun al-Rashid burst into tears and continued to weep for a long time. May Allah reward Sheikh Ibn al-Sammak for his sincere advice and bestow His forgiveness upon the noble Caliph Harun al-Rashid.



And Harun al-Rashid wept for a long time...
Source: History of Al-Tabari



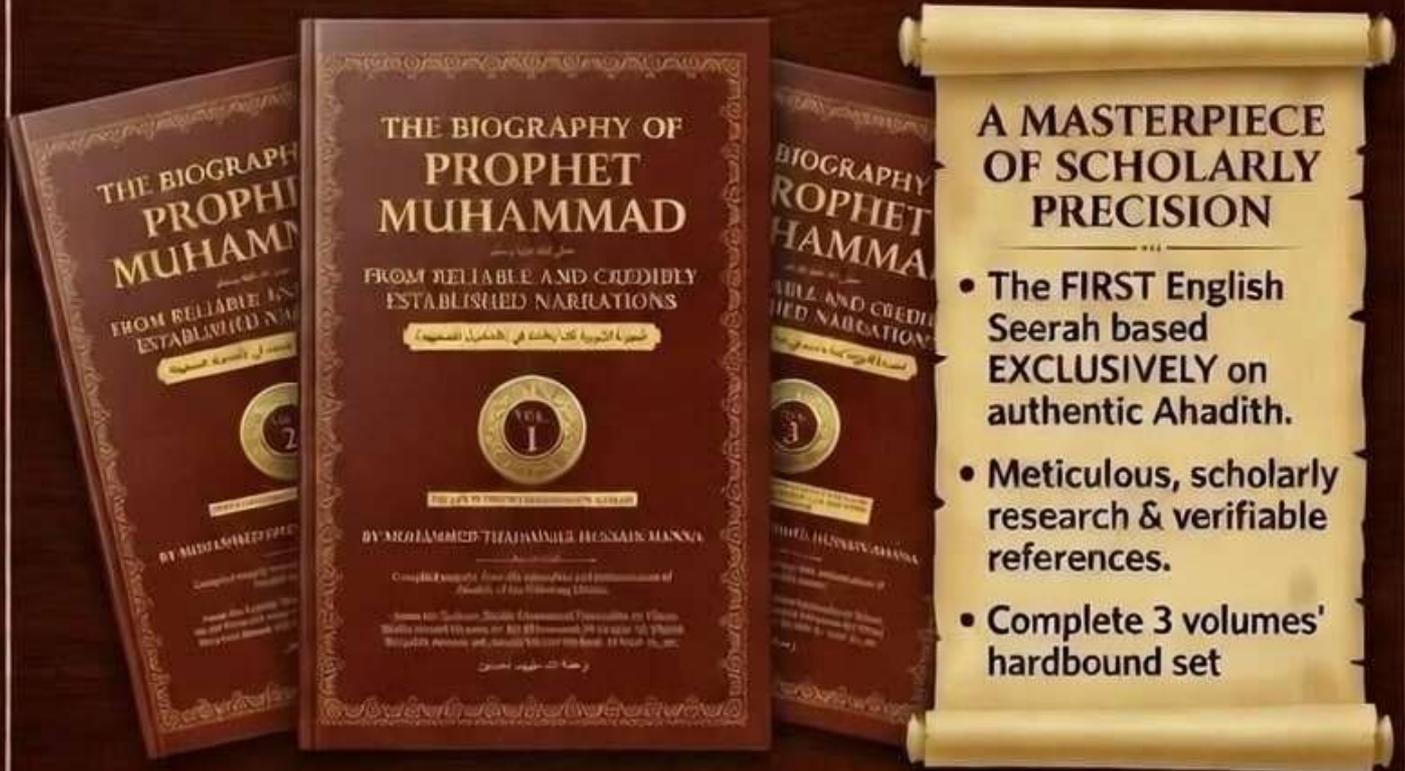
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