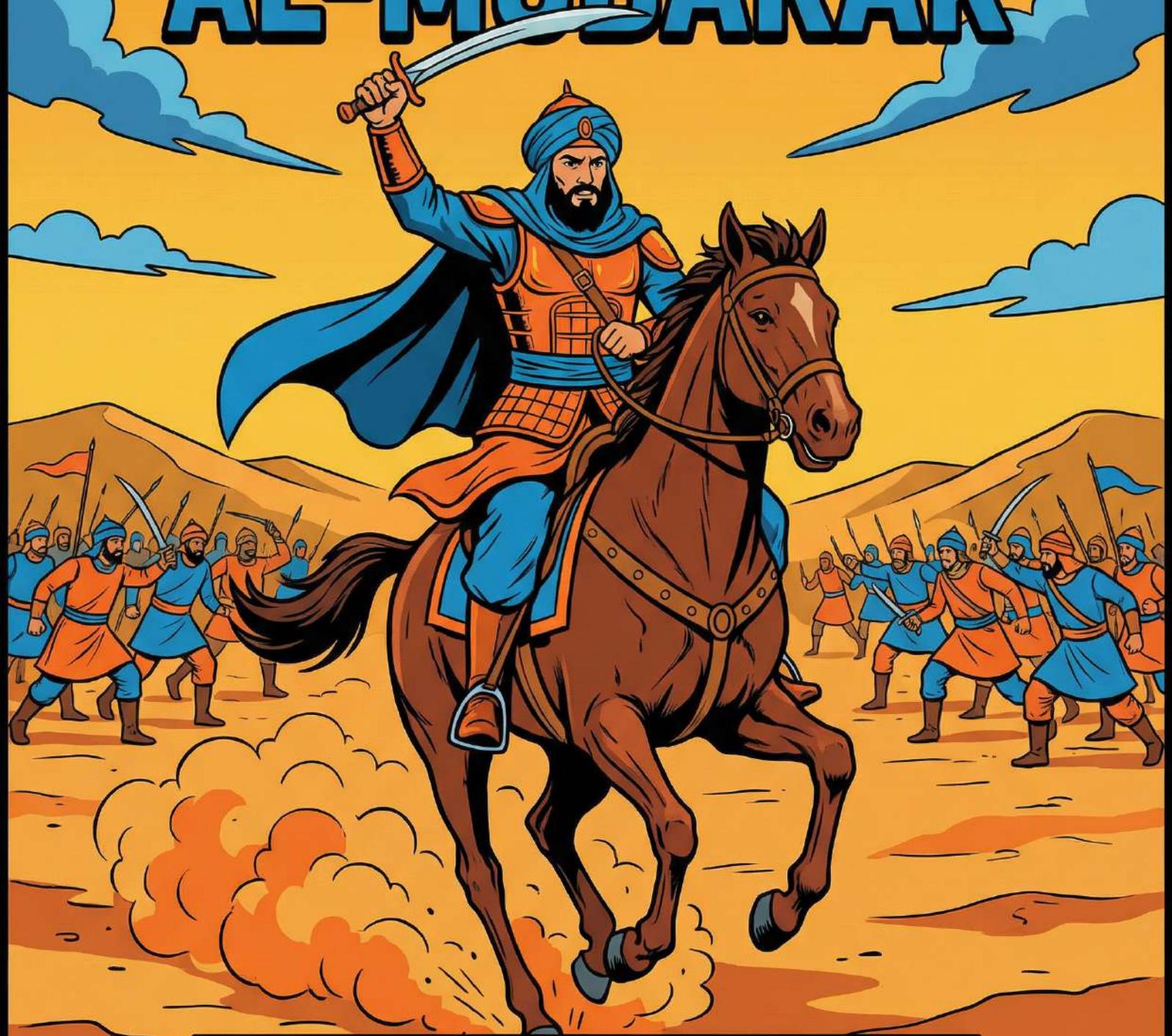


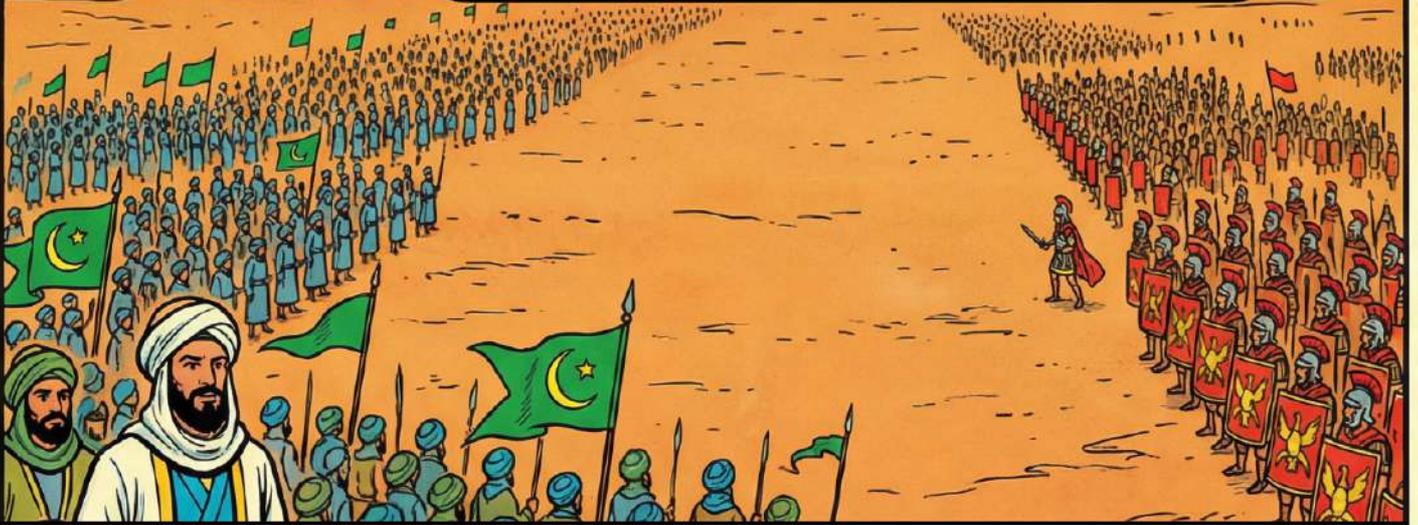
THE SINCERITY OF ABDULLAH IBN AL-MUBARAK



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170 AH

The Muslims and Romans were facing each other in battle...



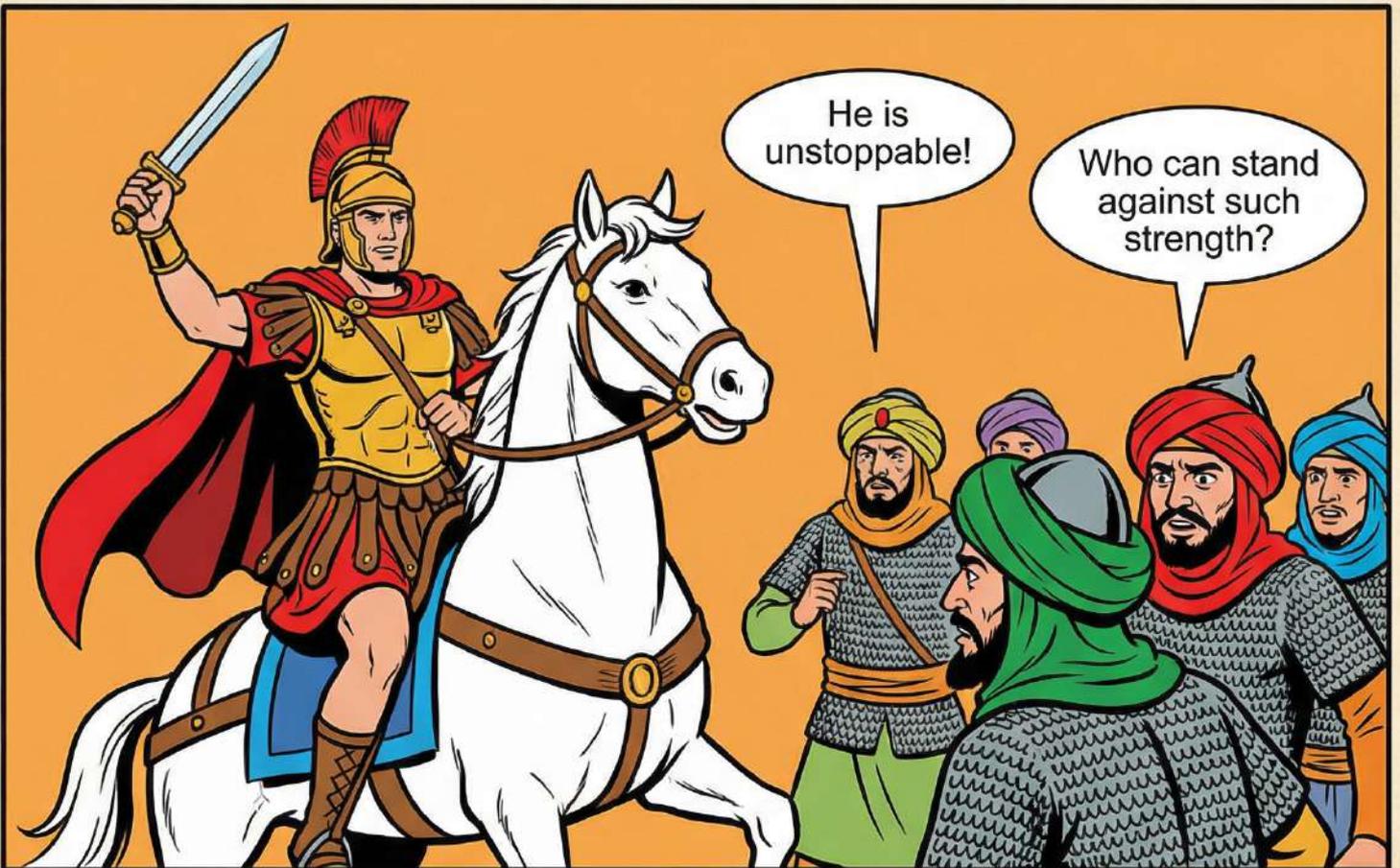
Abdullah ibn al-Mubarak (118–181 AH / 726–797 CE) was a renowned 8th-century Muslim scholar, hadith master, jurist, and ascetic from Khurasan. Known as Amir al-Mu'minin fi al-Hadith (Leader of the Faithful in Hadith), one of the most prominent scholars of the Atba' at-Tabi'een (the generation following the Tabi'een). He was a part of the Muslim army here...



A Roman soldier comes forward and invites the Muslims for an individual duel, as was the traditional way of beginning a battle in those days...

THE CHALLENGE OF THE GIANT

One by one, six brave volunteers stepped forward... and one by one, the Roman giant defeated them all!

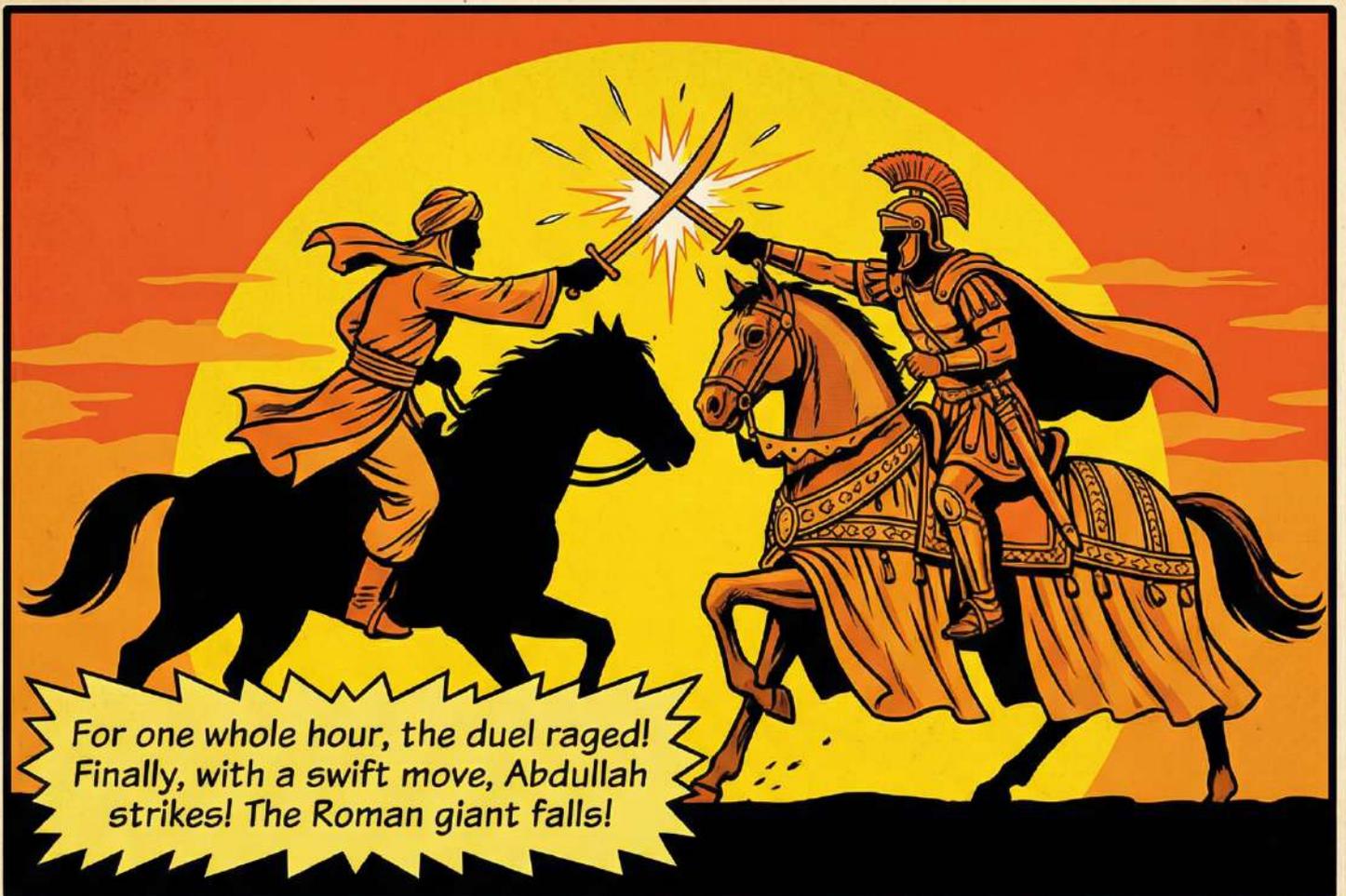


Mu'tamir, listen closely. I am going out. If I should fall today, please ensure my affairs are handled as we discussed.

Abdullah? But you are a scholar of Hadith! You don't have to—

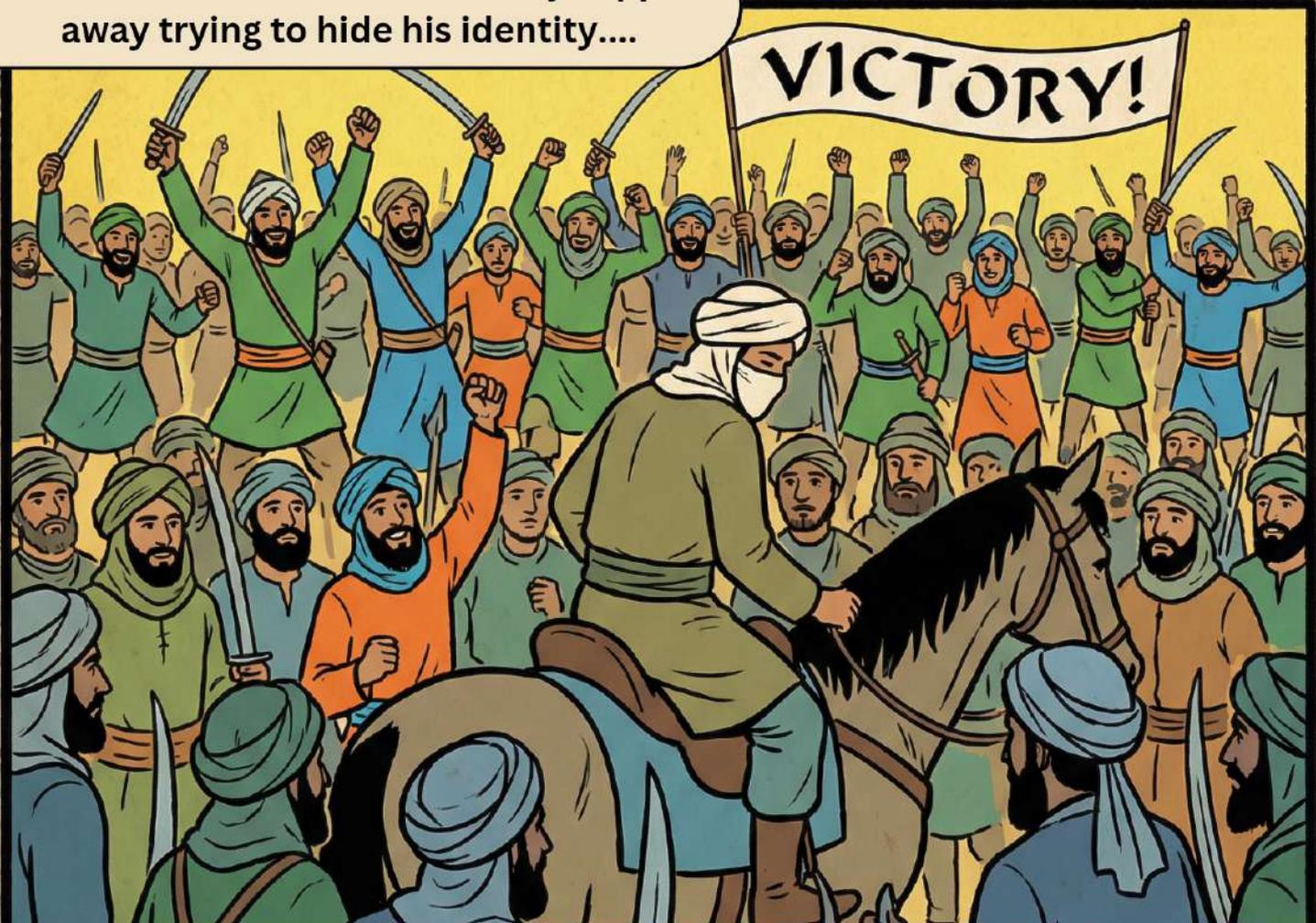
After the martyrdom of six Muslim warriors, Abdullah ibn al-Mubarak decided to step in to duel the Roman soldier...





Abdullah ibn al-Mubarak silently slipped away trying to hide his identity....

VICTORY!

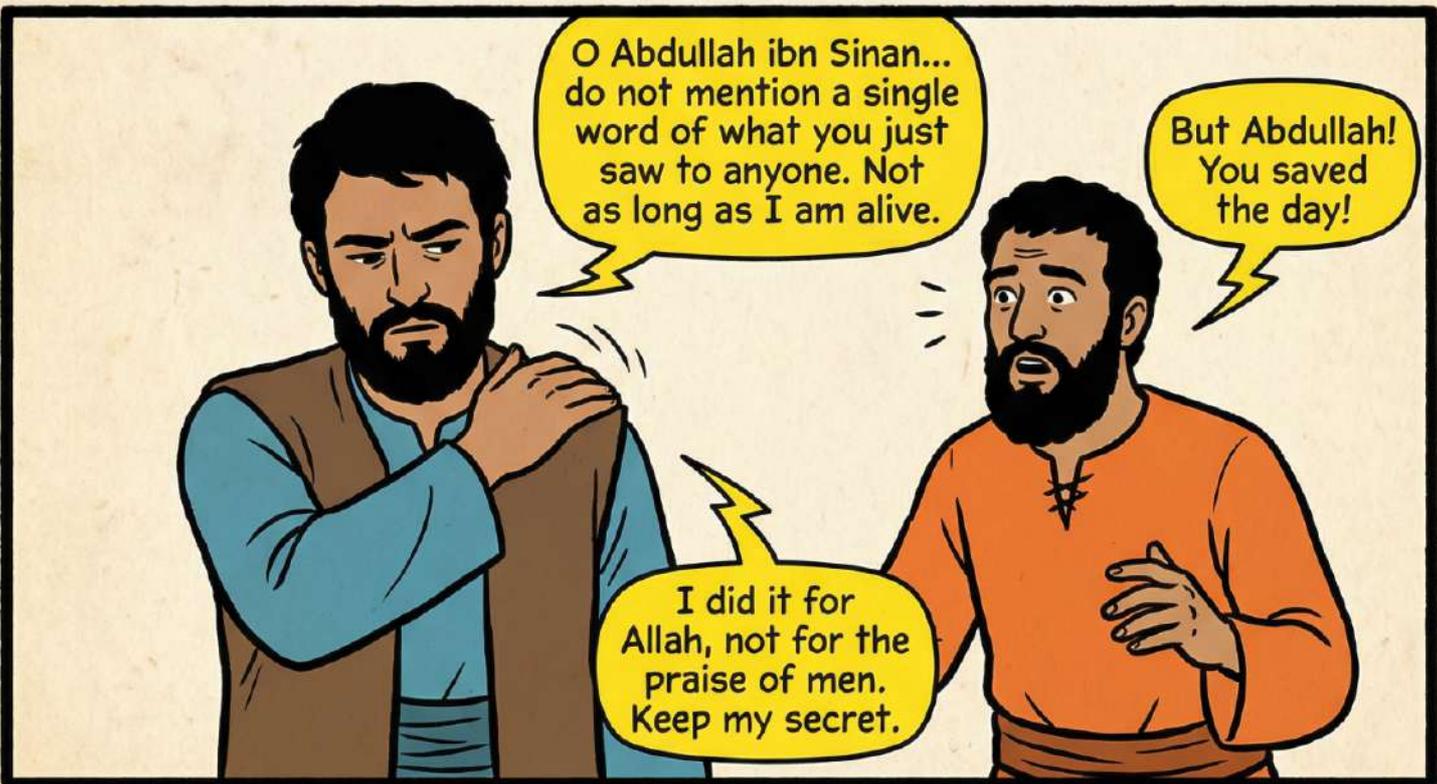


The Muslims were soon victorious over the Romans. Abdullah ibn al-Mubarak was however worried about his good deeds being exposed...

O Abdullah ibn Sinan... do not mention a single word of what you just saw to anyone. Not as long as I am alive.

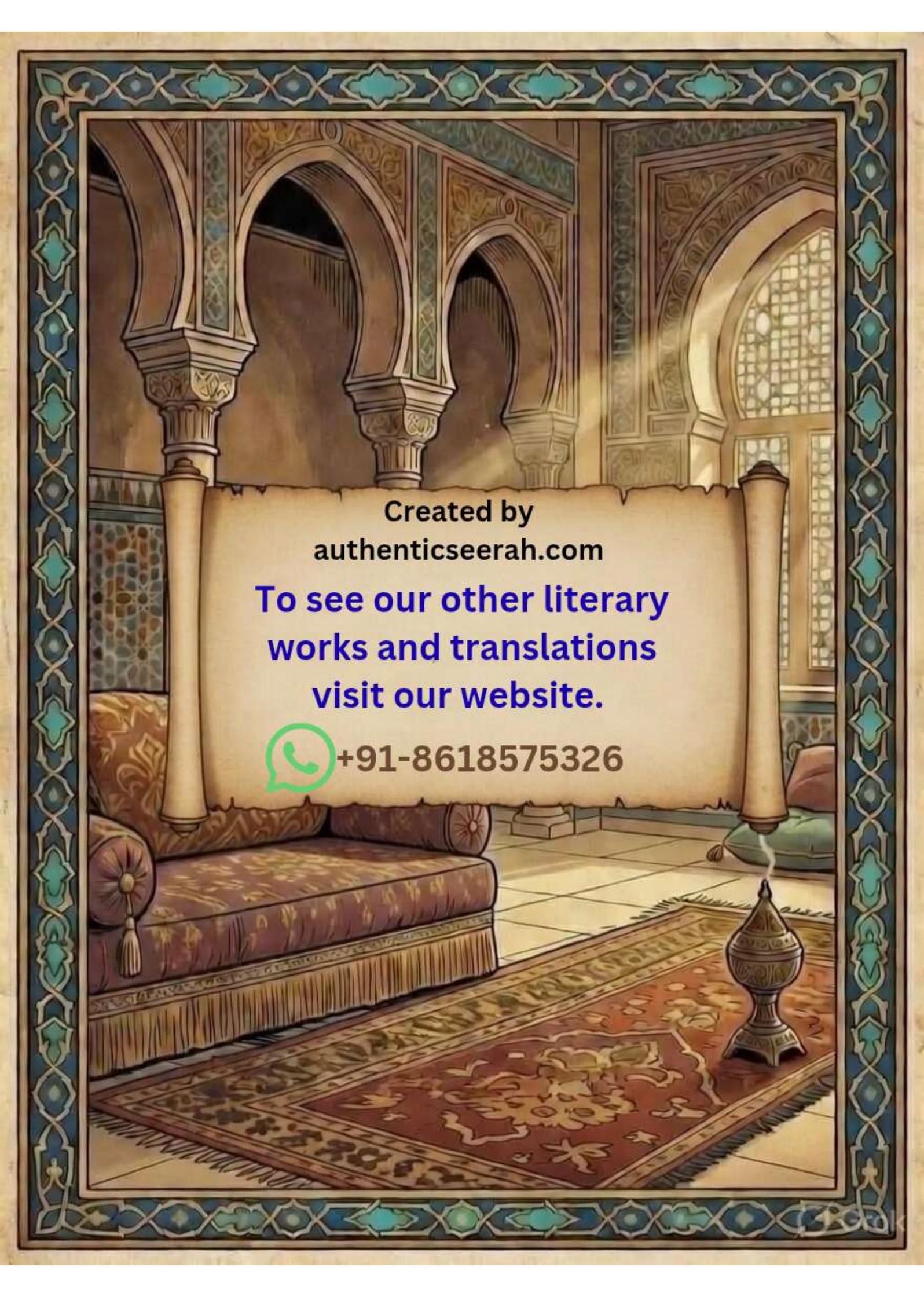
But Abdullah! You saved the day!

I did it for Allah, not for the praise of men. Keep my secret.



In 'Sifat as-Safwah' (2/329), 'Abdah bin Sulayman said: "We were on an expedition in the lands of the Romans with 'Abdullah bin al-Mubarak. We met the enemy, and when the two armies met, a man came out from their side calling for a duel. One of our men went out to him and dueled with him for an hour, injuring him and killing him. Another came out, and he killed him. He called for another duel, and another man came out. They dueled for an hour, and he injured and killed him as well. The people gathered around this man, and I was with them, and saw that he was covering his face with his sleeve. I took the edge of his sleeve and pulled it away to find that it was 'Abdullah bin al-Mubarak," and in the version reported by adh-Dhahabi, he made him swear not to reveal his identity until the day he died.

**A summarized rendition of the story
from Sifat As-Safwa.**



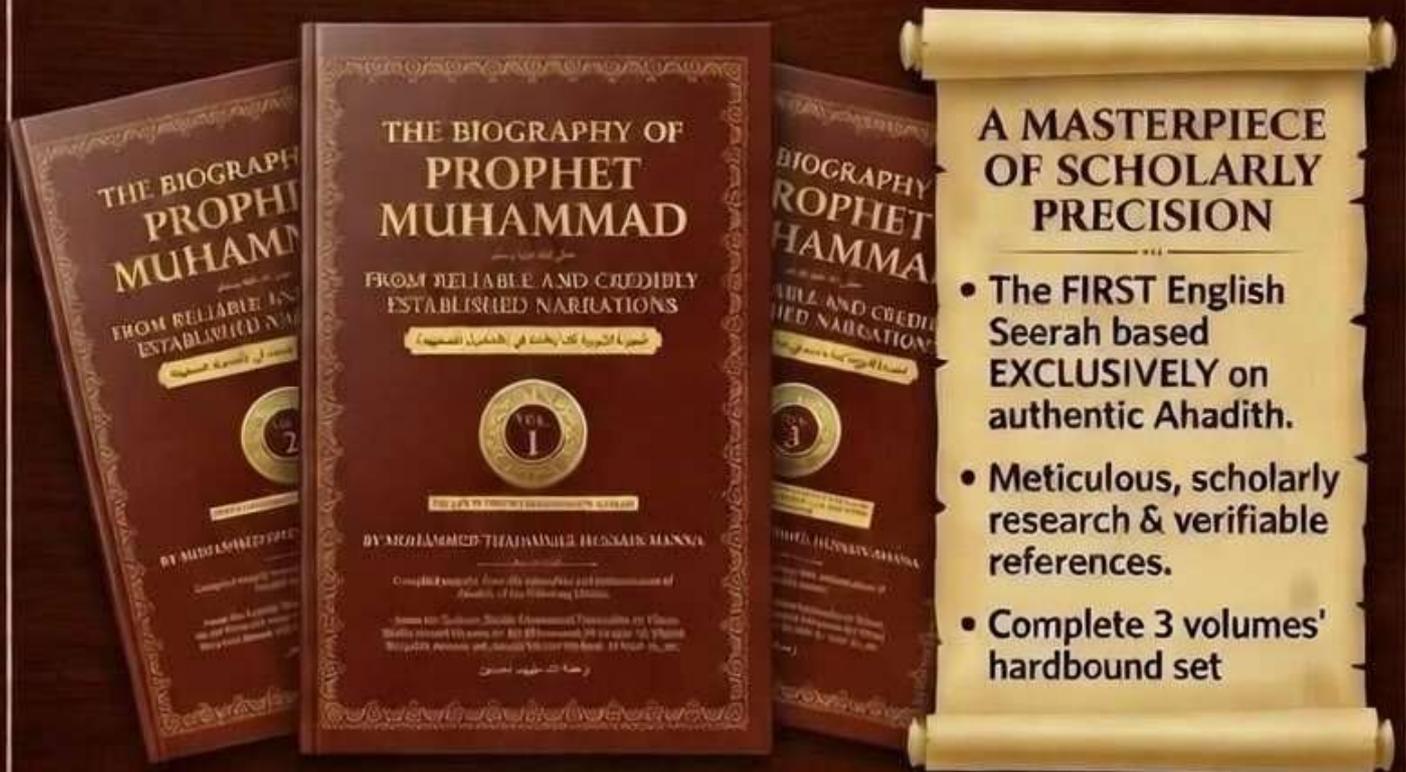
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