



Invitation to the Mysterious Palace

Illustrated Stories from the
Risale-i Nur for Children

AN ILLUSTRATED STORY FOR AGES 5-12



Treasures

Once upon a time, there was a sultan.

His treasures held sparkling diamonds, emeralds and all kinds of jewels.

He also had treasures that no one had ever seen.

The sultan knew everything and made beautiful works of art.



A Magnificent Palace

The sultan wanted to show people his treasures and the beautiful works he had made.

He wanted them to know his knowledge, skill and artistry.

So he built a great, magnificent palace.



Everything Had a Meaning

The palace had many sections.

The sultan decorated each section in a different way.

Everything had been considered so that the guests would be comfortable.



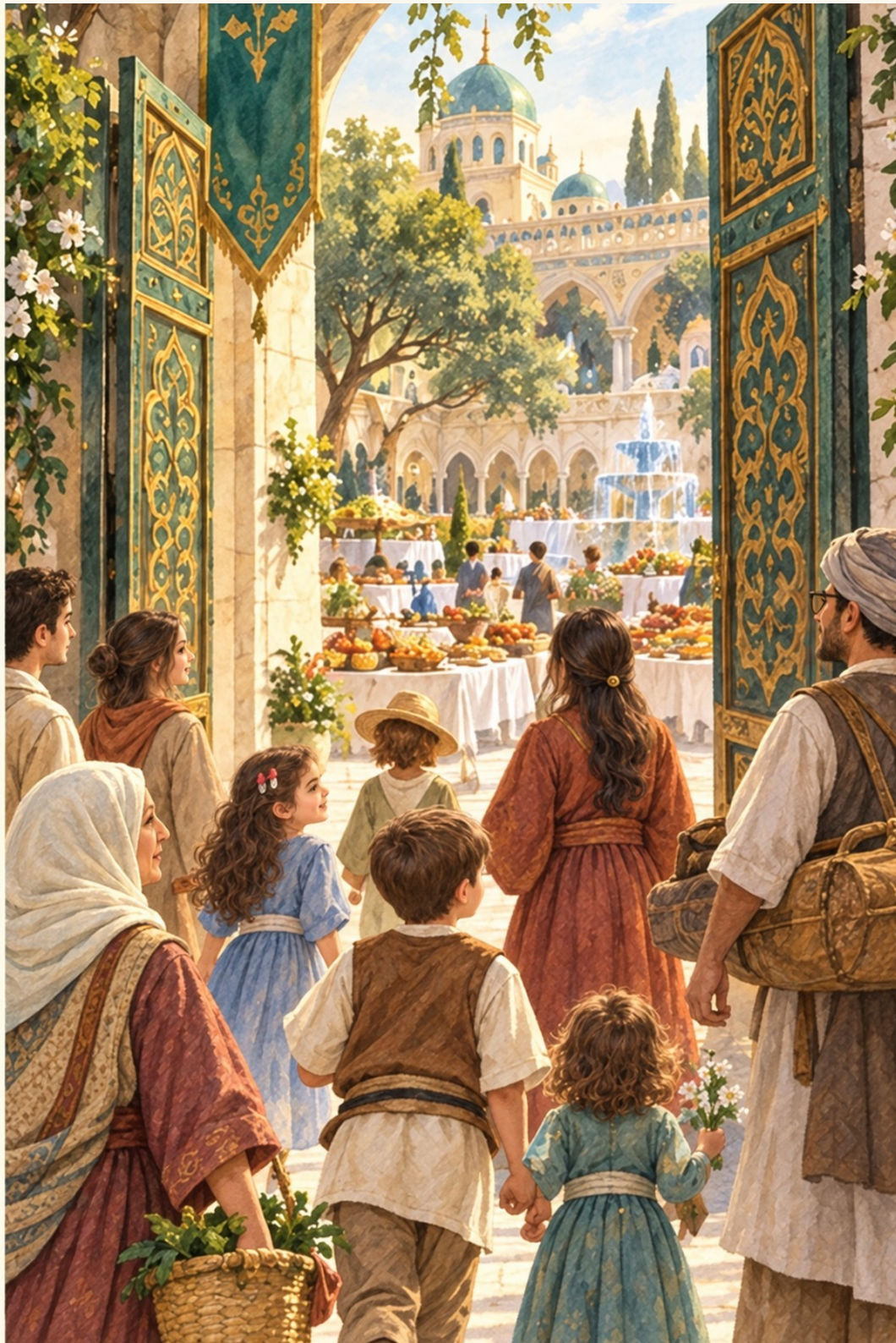
The Treats

Then he had tables laid out.

They were filled with delicious foods. Suitable treats had been prepared for every group of guests.

The food looked as wonderful as it tasted.

All this showed how generous and skilful the owner of the palace was.



The Invitation

The sultan invited the people to the palace.

The guests would explore the palace, see the beautiful works and taste the treats.

But who would explain the meaning of all the beauty they saw?

Who would tell them why these lovely treats had been offered to them?



The Guide

The sultan appointed a very special person as the guide.

He taught him why the palace had been built and what the works inside it meant.

The guide would explain the meaning of these beautiful things to the guests.

He would also tell them how they should behave in the palace.

The Guide's Words

The guide had helpers in every part of the palace.

In the great hall, the guide and his helpers welcomed the guests.

He said to them:

“The owner of this palace is introducing himself to you through the beautiful works he has made.

A lovely painting shows us how skilful its artist is.

A delicious meal shows us how skilful its cook is.

In the same way, all the works of art and treats in this palace show the owner's skill and wealth.

Look carefully at the works of art and taste the treats. Try to know the owner who made them.”





The Meaning of the Treats

The guide continued:

“The owner of the palace offers you these lovely treats because he loves you.

So thank him.

Show your love and respect by behaving as he wishes.”



A Sign in Every Work

“Every work you see contains a sign that tells you about the owner of the palace.

People cannot make anything exactly like these works.

All of them show that he knows everything and is wonderfully skilful.

He lights and warms the palace with this great chandelier. For the night, he has placed a night lamp and many small, sparkling lamps. He also keeps the palace clean.

Look: every day the carpets change, the lights in the ceiling change, and different foods and sweets are prepared for you.

People do not make any of these things.

They are all the work of the same sultan.

He alone is the owner of this palace.

His works show how great he is.”

Some guests listened carefully. Others looked only at the tables.



Searching for the Meaning

The guests who looked carefully admired the beauty and order of the palace.

“Why was such a beautiful palace built?”

“Why were all these beautiful works of art prepared?”

“Why are they being given to us?”

“What does the sultan want from us?” they wondered.

They were curious.



Listening and Learning

When they heard the guide, they went to him.

They greeted him and said:

“We have been wondering why this beautiful palace was built. We want to learn what these beautiful works of art mean.

Please tell us what the sultan has taught you.”

The guide explained, and they listened carefully.



A More Beautiful Palace

The guide taught them, and they learned.

They thanked the owner of the palace for his gifts and behaved as he wished.

They were kind to everyone.

The sultan was pleased with their behaviour.

He invited them to another palace that was far more beautiful.

There were even lovelier gifts there.

Those Interested Only in Food

The other guests looked only at the tables.

They ate the food but did not think about the one who had prepared it.

They never thanked the sultan.

They saw the beautiful works but did not want to know the one who made them.

They listened neither to the guide nor to his helpers.

They ate, drank and slept.



Those Who Ignored the Rules

They also drank things they had been told not to drink.

They became drunk, shouted and caused disorder in the palace.

They disturbed the other guests.

They ignored the rules of the palace owner.

At last, the sultan's soldiers took them away and imprisoned them.





Why Was the Palace Built?

This palace had not been built merely for eating, drinking and sleeping.

Through his works, the sultan was introducing himself to his guests.

Through his gifts, he was showing them his love and kindness.

The guests needed to look carefully, know him and give thanks.

The guide explained all of this.

Being a Guest

The guide taught what the beauty in the palace meant.

By listening to him, the guests learned how they should live in the palace.

The palace was only a small example showing the sultan's treasures and abilities.

It had been built for a purpose.

It would become clear who would do more good and who would give more thanks.

The sultan would invite those who did the most good and gave the most thanks to his own, greater palace.

The guests needed to remember this.





What the Story Means



What Is This Palace?

The palace in the story is the world in which we live.

Its ceiling is the sky. The sun lights and warms this palace. The moon is its night lamp.

The stars decorate the sky.

Its carpets are the many plants and flowers that cover the earth through the seasons - sometimes green, sometimes golden.

The owner and sultan of this palace is Allah.



Who Lights the Palace?

The sun lights and warms our world.

At night we see the moon; it is our night lamp.

The stars decorate the night sky and help to guide us.

Night and day follow one another.

Allah created all of these and established their order.

Allah knows everything. Allah has power over everything.

Changing Carpets and Prepared Tables

The seasons change, and the earth wears different colours.

Flowers bloom in one place while trees bear fruit in another.

Apples, grapes, strawberries... Each has a different taste, scent and colour.

Just like the tables in the palace, the world provides suitable food for its guests.

Allah gives us all these gifts.





Knowing the Maker Through His Works

When we look at a beautiful painting, we understand the artist's skill.

When we look at the flowers, trees and animals in the world, we see the artistry of Allah, who created them.

A bird's wings, a cat's eyes, the petals of a flower...

Every work of art tells us about the one who made it.

From the blessings He gives us, we learn of His goodness, generosity and love.

From the order He has established, we understand His knowledge and power.



A Sign in Every Work

Look at a flower - its colour, petals and scent.

Taste a fruit. Inside its peel is lovely food prepared for you.

Look at a bird. It has wings so that it can fly.

Just as an aeroplane and its wings have a maker, the bird also has a Maker. Yet the people who build aeroplanes cannot create a living bird from nothing.

People can build a car, but they cannot create a living horse from nothing.

A horse does not need a tarmac road. It can walk in many places. It needs no petrol; it eats grass and hay.

All this shows that the One who created them knows everything and is wonderfully skilful.

So many things serve people in this palace of the world!

Nothing has been made without meaning.

Who Is the Guide?

The guide in the story represents the prophets, especially our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him).

Allah taught the prophets, and they taught the people.

They introduced us to the Owner of this palace of the world.

They taught us how to thank Him for His blessings and how to live in this world.



The Guide's Helpers

The guide's students and helpers represent people who learn what he taught.

They live by what they learn and teach it to others.

The guests can also become helpers of the guide if they wish.

They can serve the Sultan of the palace and explain the palace to other guests.





We Are Guests

People, animals and other guests that we cannot see with our eyes all live in this world.

The invitation in the story represents their arrival in this world.

We too are guests in this palace.

We did not make the sun. We did not prepare the water, the soil or the trees.

Nor do we make the beautiful fruits that grow from the earth.

When we arrived in this palace, we found them ready for us.

Knowing and Giving Thanks

Like the guests who listened to the guide, we can learn the meaning of what we see.

We can ask, “Who made this beautiful flower? Who gave us this delicious fruit?”

We come to know Allah, who created them, and we love Him.

We thank Him for the blessings He gives us.

That is what it means to be grateful to Allah.





How Do We Show Our Thanks?

We thank someone who does something kind for us.

Allah has given us life. We have eyes, ears and minds.

We have good food to eat and water to drink.

We thank Allah for all of these.

We say, “Alhamdulillah” - all praise and thanks belong to Allah.

We pray and ask Him for help.

We perform salah, showing Him our love, respect and gratitude.

Our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught us how to do these things.

Putting What We Learn into Practice

The guests who listened to the guide acted on what they had learned.

We too try to follow what our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) taught.

We tell the truth and do not take what belongs to someone else.

We treat people kindly and help those in need.

We also show compassion to animals.

We do not waste the food, water and other blessings given to us.

In this way, we show our love and respect for Allah not only through our words, but also through our actions.





Where Is the More Beautiful Palace?

The sultan invited the guests who listened to the guide and followed what they learned to a more beautiful palace.

In the story, this palace represents Paradise.

Our stay in this world does not last forever.

But our life is not limited to this world. After this life comes the life of the Hereafter.

The gifts Allah has prepared in Paradise are more beautiful than this palace and more wonderful than we can imagine.



Our Actions Have Consequences

The other guests ate the treats but did not think about the One who gave them.

They never gave thanks.

They did not listen to the guide and broke the rules of the palace.

They also disturbed the other guests.

In the end, they faced the consequences of what they had done.

We too are responsible for what we do in this world.

We do good to others. We do not treat anyone unfairly or cause harm.

Allah knows everything we do.



What Was Our Life Given For?

Life was not given to us only for eating, drinking and sleeping.

We have eyes; we see beauty.

We have ears; we hear beautiful sounds.

We have minds; we think and try to understand.

We have hearts; we love.

With all these gifts, we look at Allah's works and come to know Him.

We notice His blessings, love Him and thank Him.

We learn how to be good guests in this beautiful palace of the world.



What Kind of Guest Will We Be?

Now we know:

This world is a beautiful palace.

Allah invited us to this palace and gives us every blessing.

Our Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) is our guide, teaching us why this palace was created and how we should live here.

Our task is to know Allah, love Him, thank Him for His blessings and be kind to people.

So let us look carefully around us.

Let us think about how beautiful, well made and useful every work of art is.

Let us thank Allah, who shows them to us and places them at our service.

And let us be good guests in this beautiful palace.

The End

Our stay as guests in the palace continues.

Every morning the sun rises again. It gives us light and warmth and helps our food to grow.

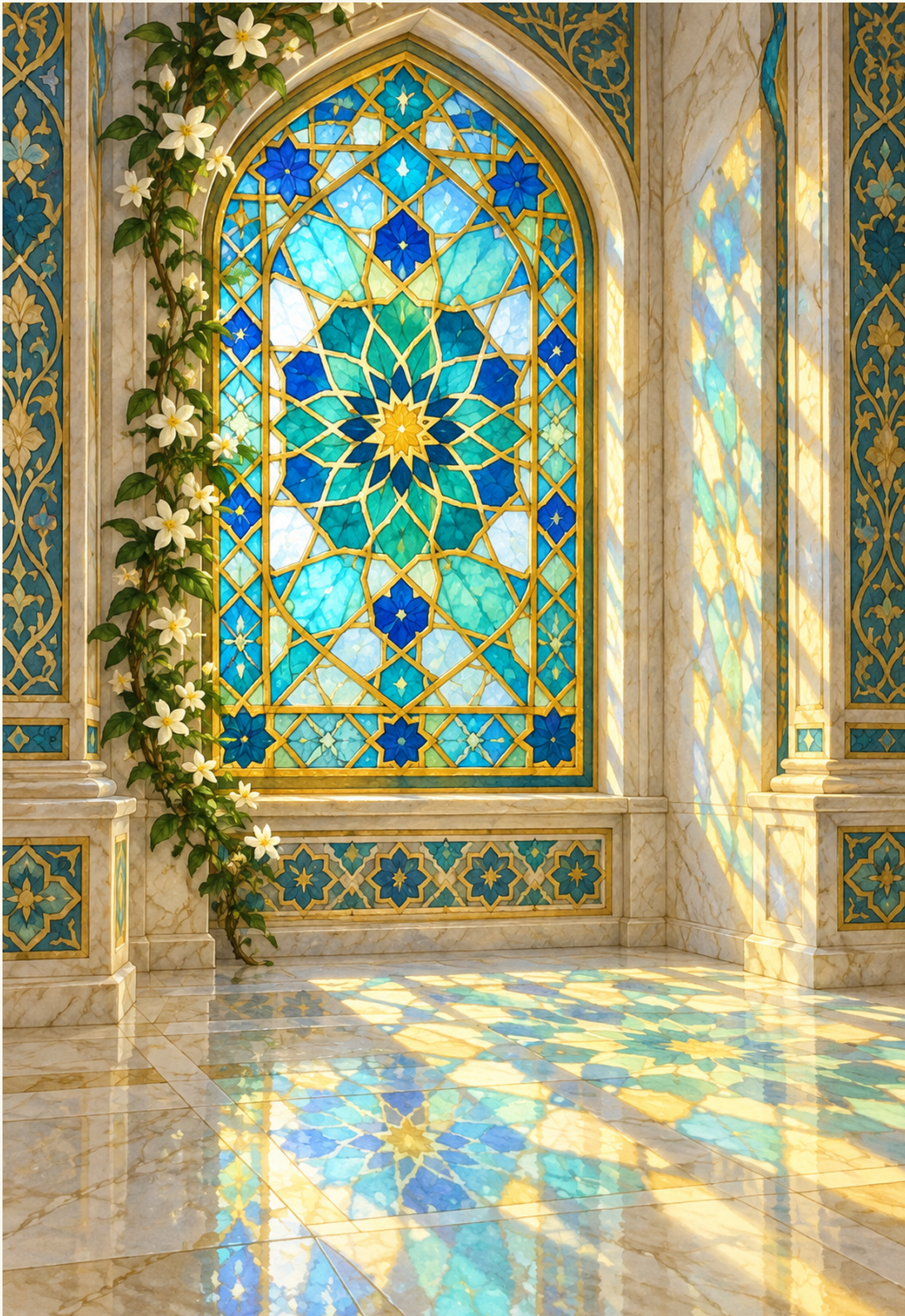
New foods keep growing from the earth.

Birds fly, flowers bloom, trees offer us their fruit, and bees make honey for us.

All these beautiful gifts tell us about the Most High Sultan.

So let us listen to our guide, know Allah and love Him very much.





Source Note

This story was prepared for children, inspired by the palace parable in the Eleventh Word in The Words by Bediüzzaman Said Nursî.

It is not the Master's original text.