

The Children's Book Of World Religions

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Animism



**All things have spirits.
Special rivers, trees, and rocks are
known to house many earth spirits.
People gather around these shrines
to pray, offer gifts, and hold rituals.**

Confucianism

**“Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it”
From Analects, 5th Cent. AC**



Daoism



Chuang Tzu fell asleep and dreamed that he was a butterfly happily flying about. He did not know he was Chuang Tzu, but instead he was certain he was a butterfly. When he woke up, he was Chuang Tzu again. He realized that you cannot be sure of reality.

Judaism

The Prophet Abraham had great faith.

**When Abraham was a boy,
he broke his father's idols because
Abraham worshipped only one God.
Later, Abraham left his home country
with his wife, Sarai,
because God promised him
a strong relationship,
a big family, and land.**



Judaism

**Every year during Passover,
Jews celebrate!
With the help of God,
Moses led the Jews
out of slavery in Egypt
by doing many things,
like parting the Red Sea.
When they reached
Mount Sinai,
God gave the Jews a
set of rules to live by.**



Hinduism



**There are 330 million gods,
but there is one ultimate reality:**

The Supreme One.

**The Supreme One is made of
Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.**

Brahma creates all things.

Vishnu makes sure that all things are secure.

Shiva erases all things.

Hinduism

**In Devi tradition,
gods do not have to be men:
they can be women.
Aditi is the mother
of kings and gods.
She is the goddess of
space and mystic speech,
watching over the sky
and the earth.**



Buddhism

**Bodhisattva was in heaven
but paid attention to those on earth.
Angadinna, the king of Videha,
thought that there was no afterlife
and made bad decisions
(he did not give to the poor),
so Bodhisattva came down
and gave him advice.
Angadinna then realized
that there is life after death
in rewards and punishments.**



Buddhism

Prince Siddhartha was raised in a palace, but he could see suffering all around him. One day, he met a man who was happy even in a world with much pain, and the prince decided to become a monk. He realized the truths of life and became “the Buddha.”



Christianity

A crowd brought Jesus a woman who broke the vows of marriage. They wanted to stone her, but Jesus said “he without sin can cast the first stone.” When they heard this, they realized that they all had sin, and one by one they slipped away without throwing a stone.



Christianity



**Francis of Assisi grew up in a wealthy family.
One day when he was sick,
he saw signs from God telling him to help the sick
and repair the church.
He gave all of his money to the church
to live among the poor.
Because of his humble life and preaching,
he became a saint.**

Islam



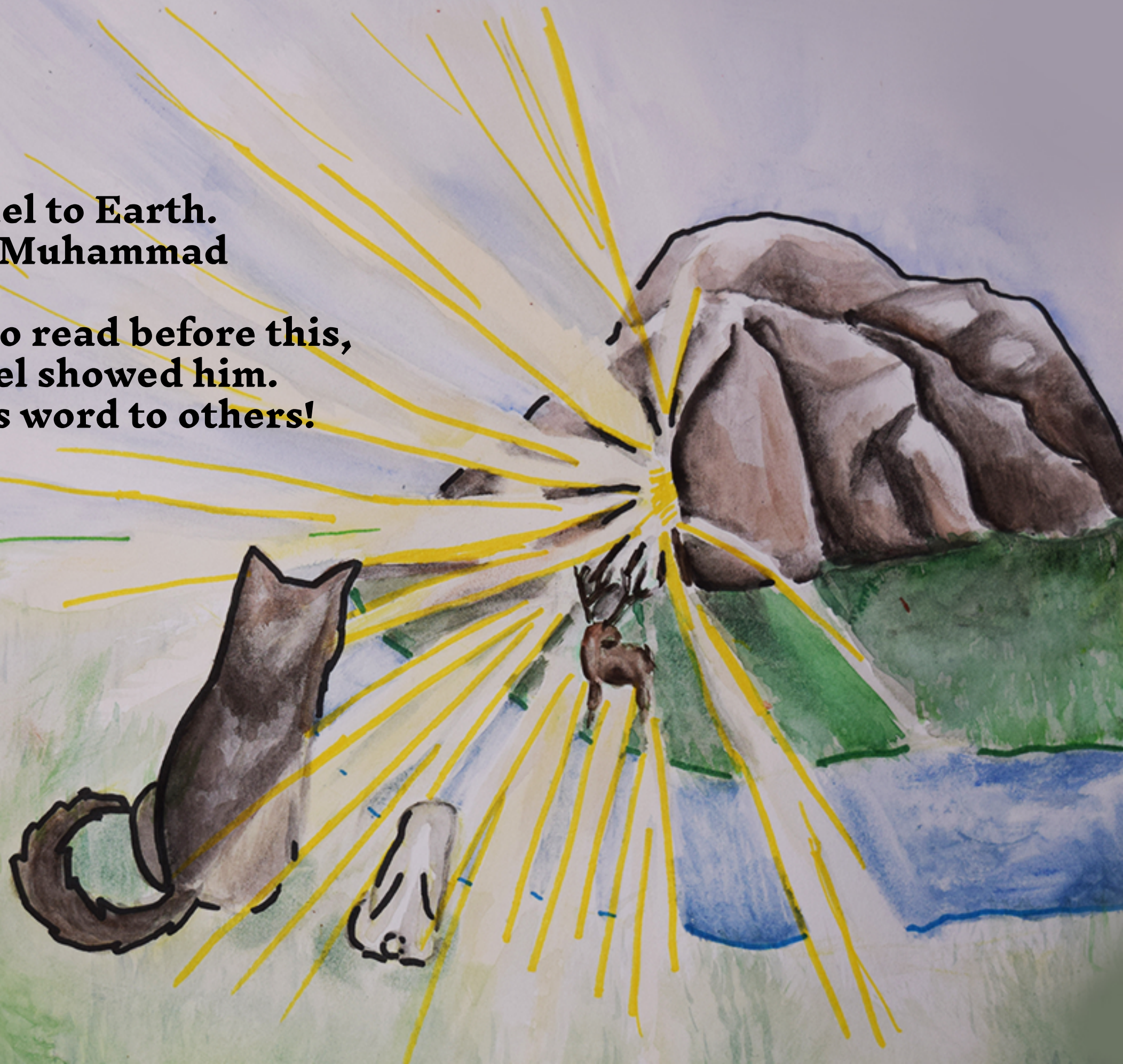
Muhammad sat near his followers.

**He asked a rich man why
he was holding his clothes
to not touch the poor man next to him.**

**To show that he was sorry,
the rich man gave half of
his wealth to the poor man.
But the poor man was afraid
he would act the same way as the rich man,
so he did not take the money.**

Islam

**Allah sent the angel Gabriel to Earth.
He surprised the Prophet Muhammad
and told him to read.
Muhammad was not able to read before this,
but he read words the angel showed him.
This let him spread Allah's word to others!**



Atheism

**Everything is a natural cycle.
We are born from those before us,
and when we die,
we will not go to another place.
Instead, we stay and become part of the ground.
All that we will ever experience
is what is happening right now.**



Agnosticism



Is there a god?
We do not know the answer to this question;
we only know that what happens today matters.

We want to be our own guides
in deciding what is right and wrong.

New Age



**Sometimes people go to a quiet place
and calm their minds
until they can only hear their breathing.
This is called meditation.
We can use meditation to understand
our own views and healing.**