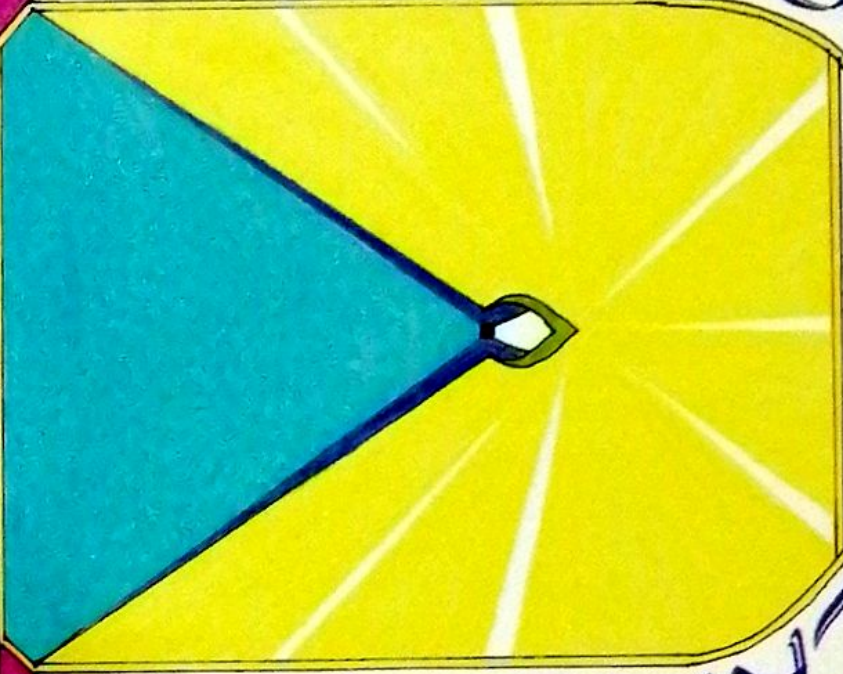


contains
Quranic
Quotations

Colourings in

DOORWAYS TO ISLAMIC ART

BOOK ONE



includes
Islamic
art interpretations

for Children

Mahmudah Begum Jaffer
salha design series

In the Name of Allah, the Compassionate, the Merciful, the Creator, the Maker of Perfect Harmony, the Shaper of Unique Beauty.

All Praise is due to Allah (SWT), and we offer Salam and Salutations on our most Beloved Nabi Muhammad (SAW) for whom all of creation was created, his family, his companions and his friends (may Allah be pleased with them all).

Note to Parents and Teachers...

This book covers mainly symbolism in Islamic Art. Pictures and their possible interpretations are presented as declarations of confidence in, and gratitude for, the Love and Mercy of Allah (SWT), so that children can develop their own sense of spirituality.

The attempt is to nurture the 'Allah consciousness' with which they are born. They can identify these symbols in their everyday surroundings, and then remember or be reminded of the interpretations given here or an extended one given by yourselves...Ameen.

You are encouraged to *supervise and assist your children* when they work with this book so that the maximum benefit may be achieved. They may prefer to 'fill in with patterns' rather than to colour in (see page v for ideas).

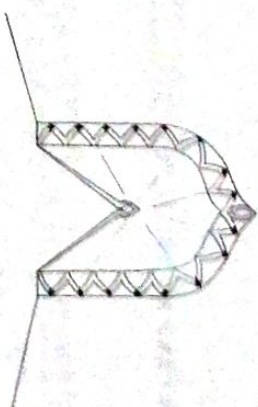
After the seven concepts have been explored, try to identify where these were used in the *Doorways to Islamic Art* picture on page 42. It would then be useful to attempt further interpretations of the designs and patterns in this book.

The pages reflecting Qur'anic Ayaat (verses) consolidate the learning process and serve as a reminder of what we have learnt. These pages can be carefully cut out, coloured in, laminated and mounted on a bedroom wall!

I hope that *Doorways to Islamic Art* will provide many hours of fun and discovery to be enjoyed by both children and adults...Ameen.

Salam

Mahmudah Begum Jaffer



DOORWAYS TO ISLAMIC ART

by
MAHMUDAH BEGUM JAFFER

EDITOR : Yunus Omar
ARTWORK and LAYOUT : Mahmudah Begum Jaffer
COVER CALLIGRAPHY : Marwaan Lodewyk

Printed and Bound - FORMESET PRINTERS, CAPE TOWN

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

❖ *This book is dedicated to my late parents of blessed memory, Mr. and Mrs. Sulaiman and Ayisha Rawoot (née Essa), my dear children, Saleemah, Hauwa and Aayshah, and my husband, Mr Gulam Sabir SA Jaffer.*

❖ I thank my honourable teachers:

SAVED Mehboob Ali Shah Chisti-Nizami

Sheikh Abduragman ALEXANDER

Mr M Faadial ARNOLD

Sheikh Saadullah KHAN

Ustaad Muhammad Is-haaq S RAWOOT

Imaam Hassan WALELE

and all those before and after them.

❖ For suggesting the inclusion of Qur'anic Aayaat (verses), his kind comments and encouragement, I thank Moulana Imran Nazar HOSEIN (Trinidad).

❖ For verifying the appropriateness of the Qur'anic Aayaat (verses) selected, for simplifying the translations for the benefit of younger readers, for his time and unstinting support, I thank Moulana Ahmed MUKADDAM (South Africa).

❖ For their wisdom and thought-provoking explanations, I thank Mr Khalid GOLATH, Dr. Yacoub S JAFFER, and Mr Abdul K LATIEF.

❖ For their encouragement, and delicate criticism, I thank Prof. Yusuf S DA COSTA and Moulana Ahmed MUKADDAM.

❖ For believing in the need for this book and for all the assistance till its completion, I thank Yunus A OMAR.

❖ For their trust and assistance, I thank Aqeela, Nathiera and Toughiea of the ISLAMIC LIBRARY, Gatesville, and Mahmood SANGALAY and Farid SAVED of MUSLIM VIEWS, Rylands Estate.

❖ For their dedication and uplifting programmes, I thank our Community Radio Stations, RADIO 786 and VOICE OF THE CAPE.

❖ *My gratitude to my family and friends, especially Appajam, Tozia, Goolam Mohidien, Ilaam, Khalaana, Khadija, Kulsun, my sister Maymunah Osman, Meljabeen, Mehtaab, Parween, Pyari, Qasim (Tohar), Rafiq, Rashida, Razia, Riyaz Ahmed, Rosie, and Zubeida, all of whose interest and support have encouraged me to complete this project; Sheikh Shaheed SULAIMAN for assisting with the Hadith (Prophetic narration) reference, and Ustaad M Is-haaq S RAWOOT of KHANA-e-ADAB SCHOOL OF URDU for the translation (from Urdu) of the du'a on page 44. My appreciation to Fiona of UZUKO ART STUDIO and Gabby of FRANK JOURBART CENTRE for their time and interest, to Shameerah HAMDULLAY for her valued opinion, to Mrs Nural Huda NOHAMED and Fatimah RAHBENI of NURAL HUDA NURSERY SCHOOL for emphasising the need to expose children to new learning areas from a very young age; to Shireen NOOR-MOHAMED of Durban for her guidance, advice, and critical assessment, and to Qasim A OMAR who believes that thoughts serve a better purpose when put to paper!*

Any errors in this book are solely mine and do not in any way reflect their influence on my work.

FOREWORD

Islamic artistic expressions can only be impressions of faith. The sounds of the Qur'an, the eloquence of its various scripts, the mystery of a single dot; all of these convey the levels of interaction the believer experiences with Allah's word.

Mahmudah Begum Jaffer (née Rawoot), in *Doorways to Islamic Art*, explores the infinite possibilities of calligraphic and geometric expressions inspired by the timeless meaning of the Qur'an.

Doorways to Islamic Art could be a deeper spiritual exploration, but it is also simply fulfilling and enjoyable art-activity. In this way both parent and child, educator and learner, can enjoy developing faith and practice together.

Moulana Ahmed Mukaddam

Deputy Rector ICOSA (Islamic College of Southern Africa)

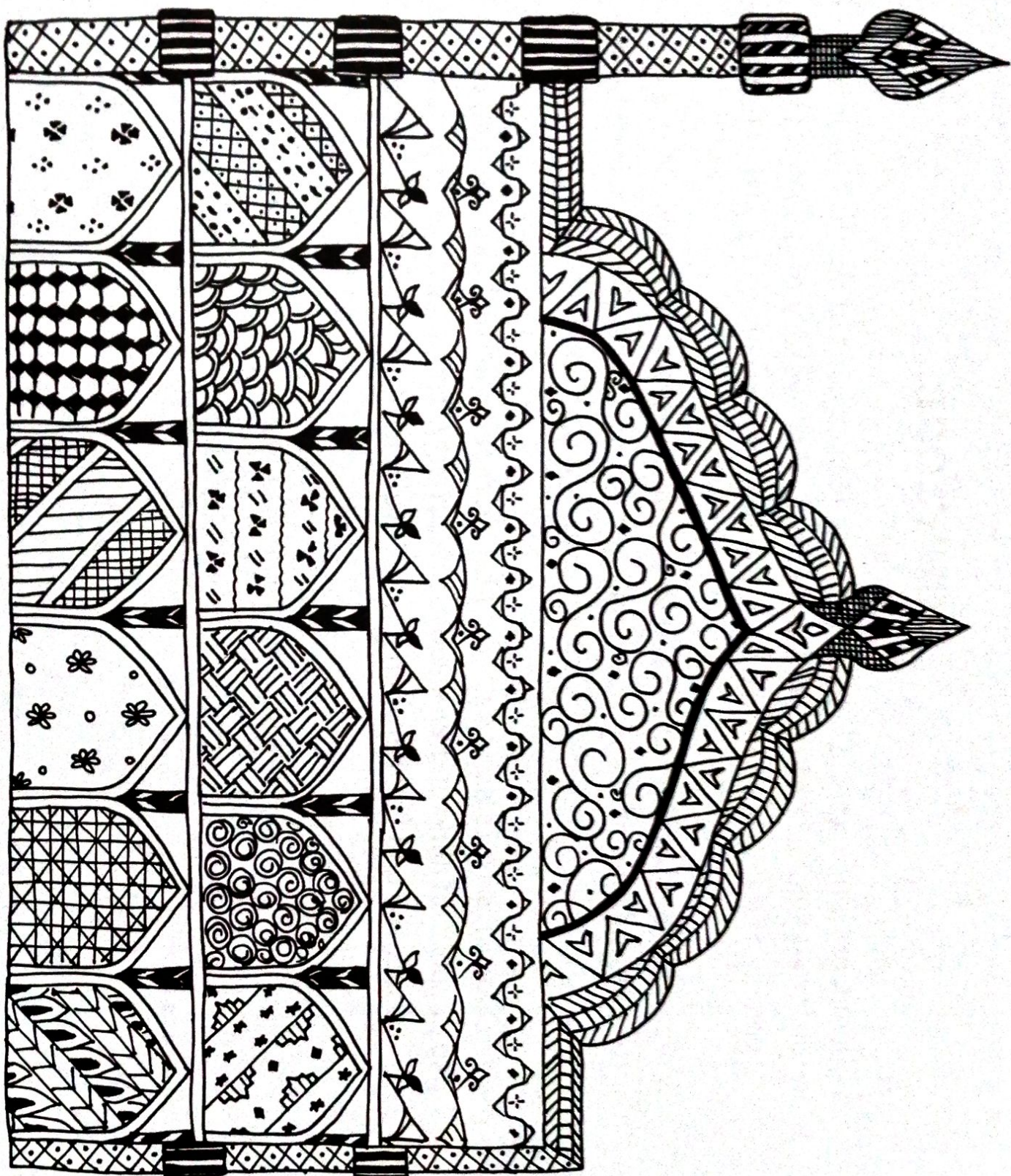
Theol. BLY BA UDW MA UCT

22 Ramadan 1422 / 8 December 2001

Cape Town, South Africa



The
beauty
of
pattern
brings
out
the
pattern
of
beauty



CONTENTS

Note to Parents and Teachers.....	i
Acknowledgements.....	iii
Foreword.....	iv
Pattern of Beauty.....	v
 The Palmette Bud.....	 1
Borders.....	7
Intertwining Designs.....	13
Tree of Life.....	19
The Up / Down Pattern.....	25
Doorways.....	31
Star Patterns	37
<i>Doorways to Islamic Art</i> picture.....	42
Books / Lecture notes / Videos.....	43
Du'a (invocation).....	44

All creativity comes from Allah (SWT) alone, and all praise and gratitude is for Him (SWT) alone.
May Allah Almighty guide us all..Ameen.



*In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent,
the Merciful.*

And among them are men
who listen to you (O Prophet
[SAW]),

but in the end, when they part
from you, they say to those who
have received Knowledge
(understanding), "What is it
he said just then?" (so as to cause
confusion) -

Such are men whose hearts Allah
has sealed,
and who follow their own wants.

While as for those who walk aright
(live correctly),

He adds to their (light of)
guidance, and gives them
their protection (against evil) -
(so that they remain steadfast and
resist temptation).

Qur'an 47: 16 -17

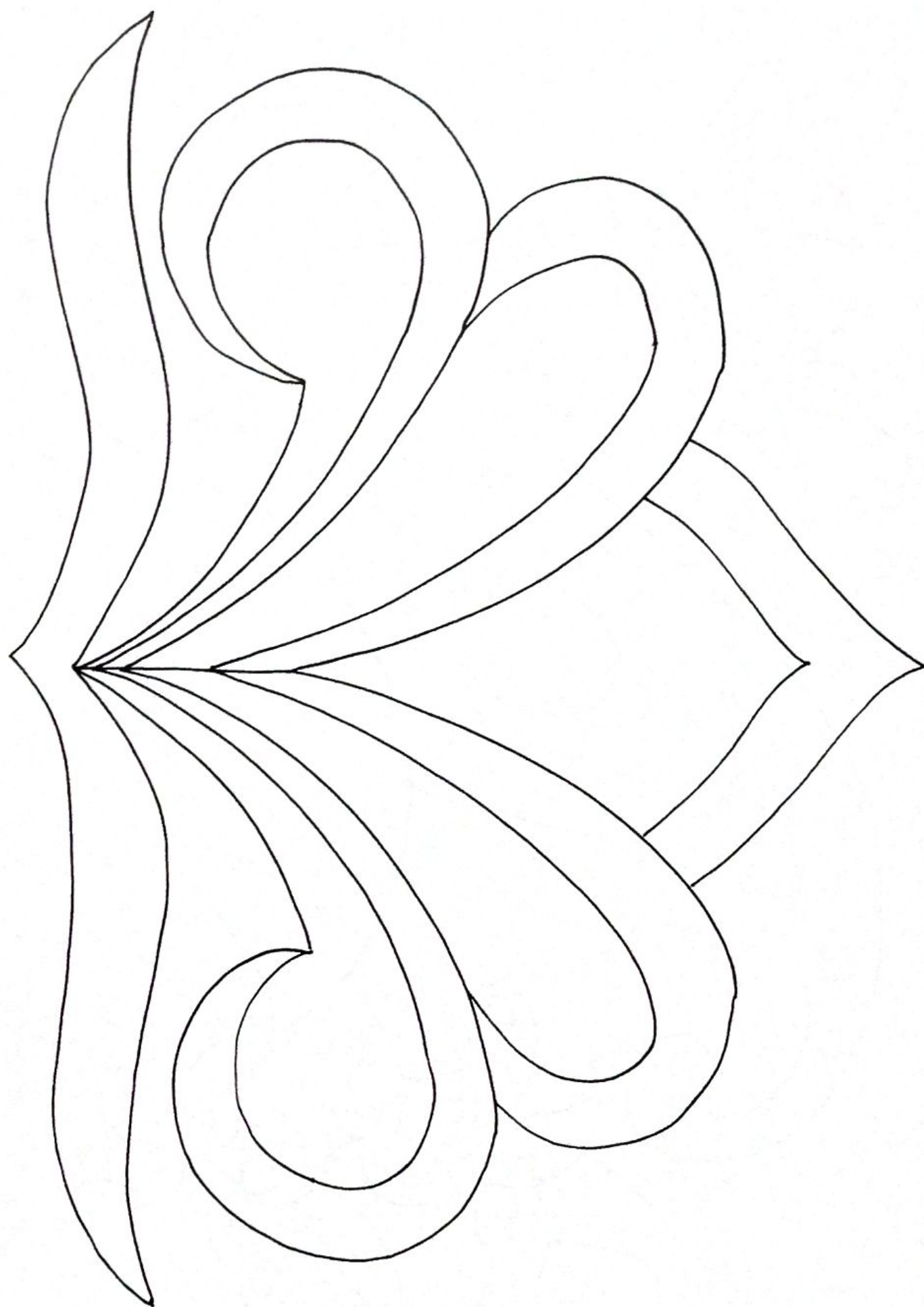
THE PALMETTE BUD

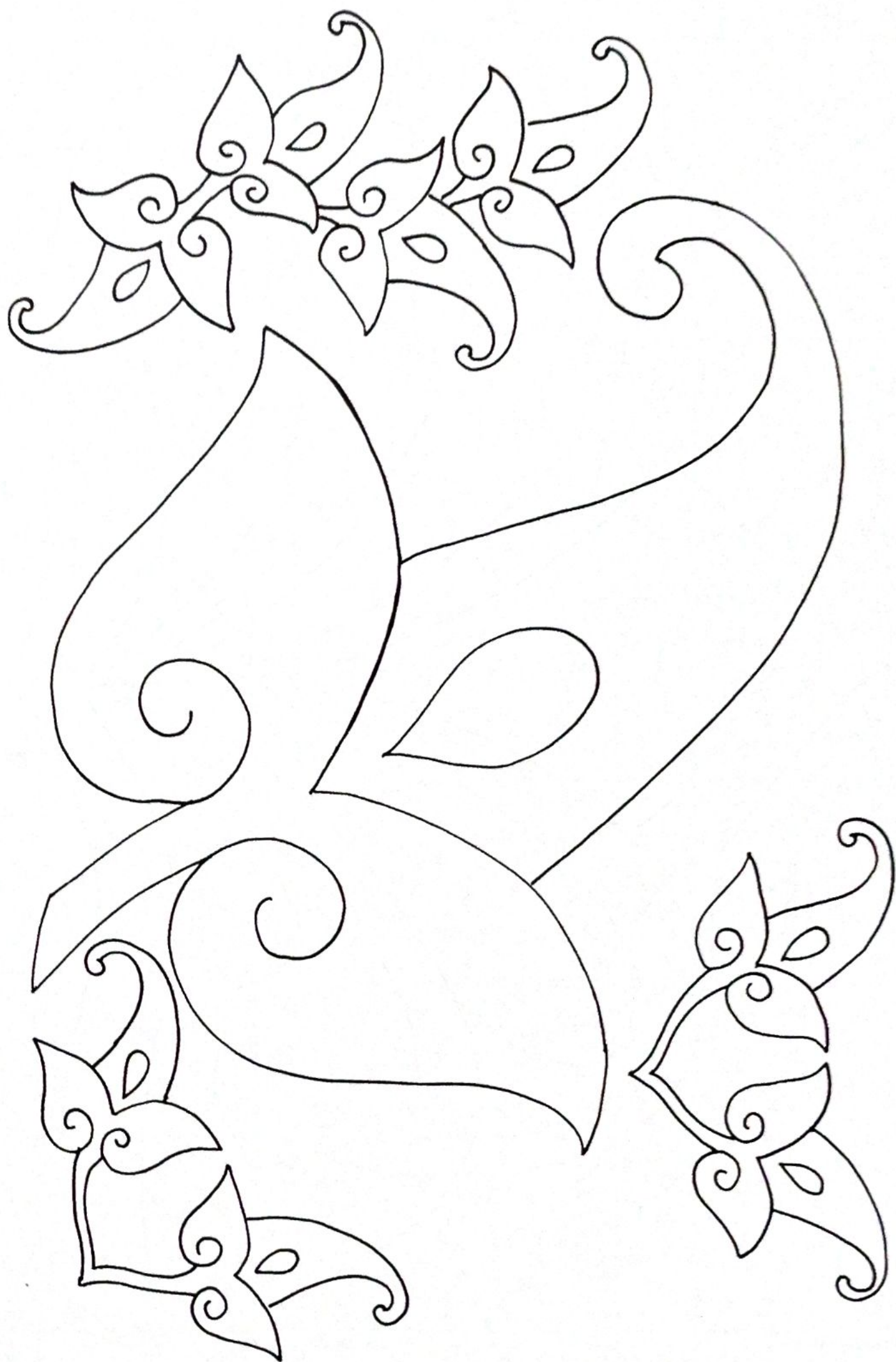
*(symbol of potential, growth, progress)
striving to have the mind of the beginner*

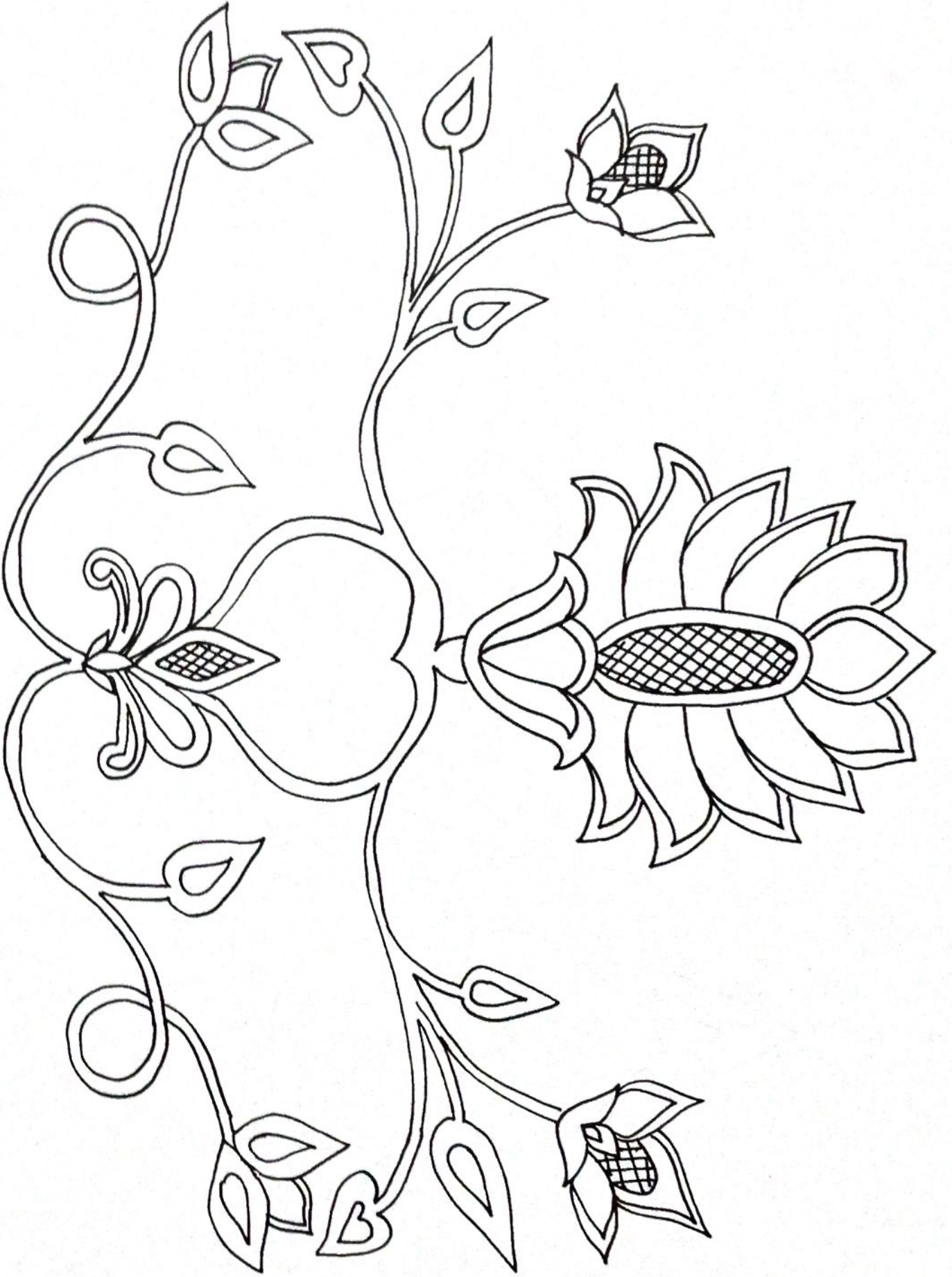
The flower bud is always ready to receive the light of the sun in
order to grow.

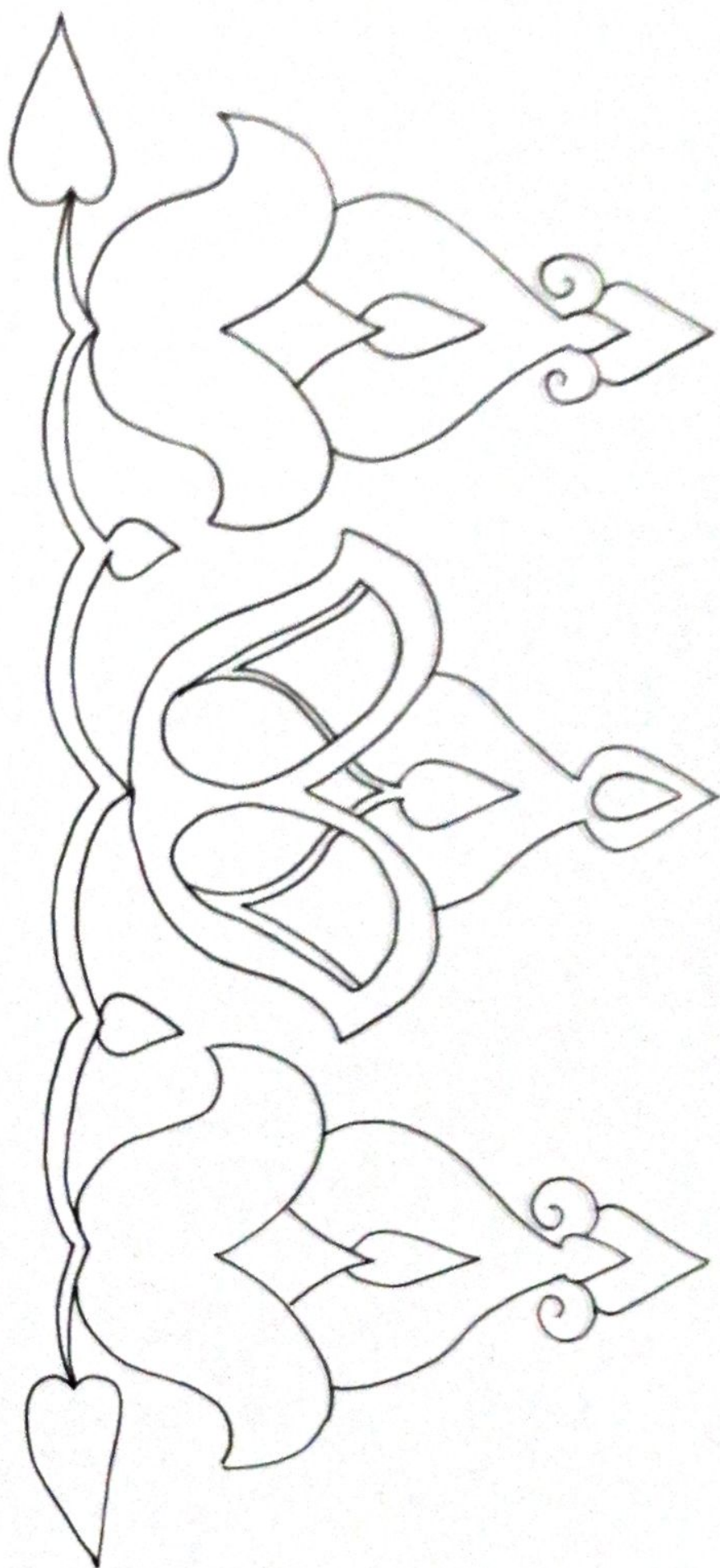
If we have the mind of the beginner, we will always want to learn.
Let us all be ready to receive the Divine Light of Guidance by
following the Path of Truth so that we can progress in our
understanding and our devotedness to Allah (SWT).

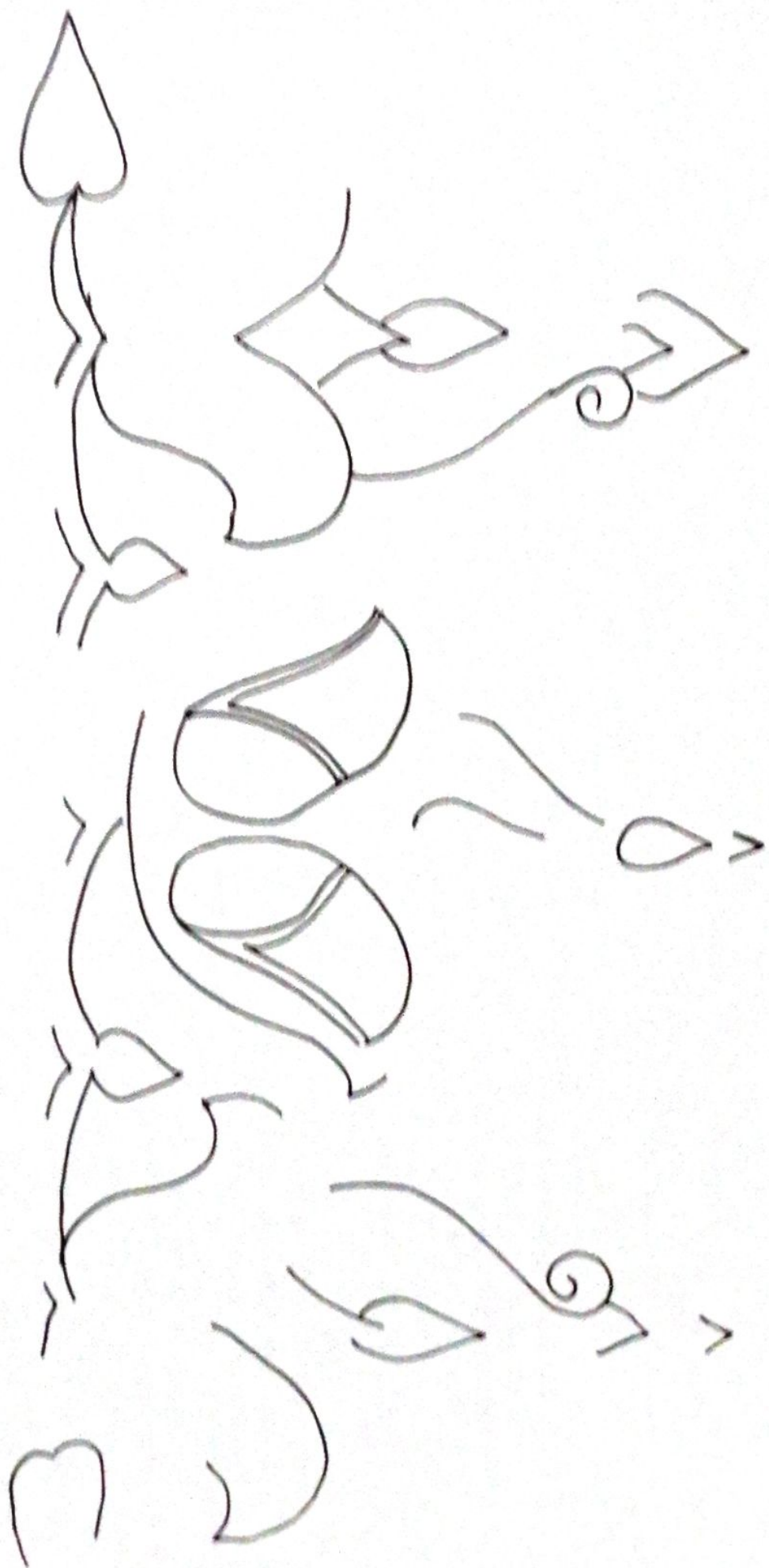
When little children grow into fine young adults, using our
sincere and beloved Nabi Muhammad (SAW), his family,
companions and friends (RA) as examples, they are just
like flower buds which bloom into beautiful flowers.











*In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent,
the Merciful.*

(O mankind), call on Your Lord
humbly and in secret:
for Allah loves not those who cross
over boundaries.

Qur'an 7: 55

Those are *Limits* set by Allah: those
who obey Allah and His
Messenger will be admitted to
gardens
with rivers flowing beneath, to
remain therein (forever), and that
will be the great success.

Qur'an 4: 13

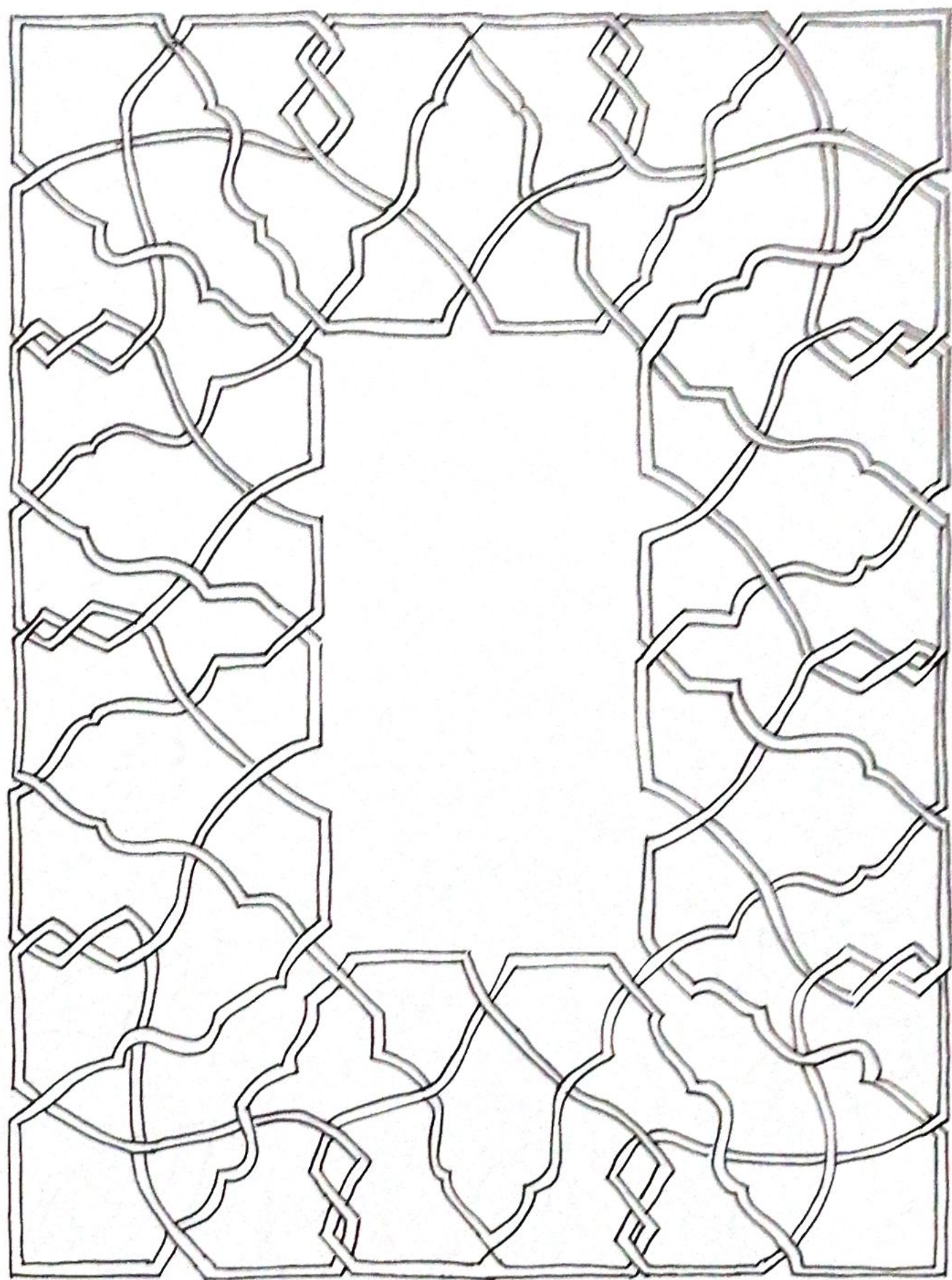
BORDERS

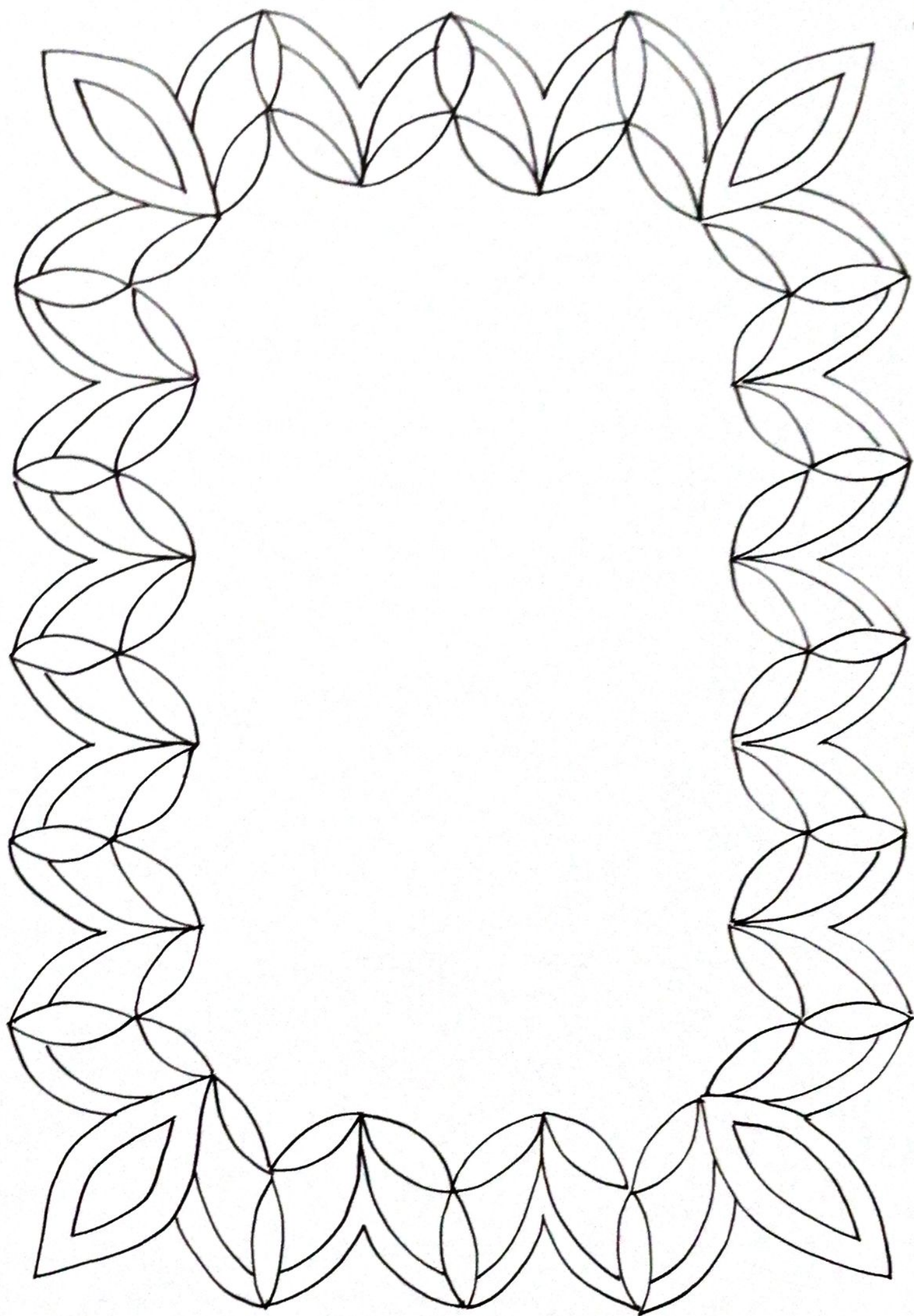
*(limits and restraints)
freedom, not imprisonment*

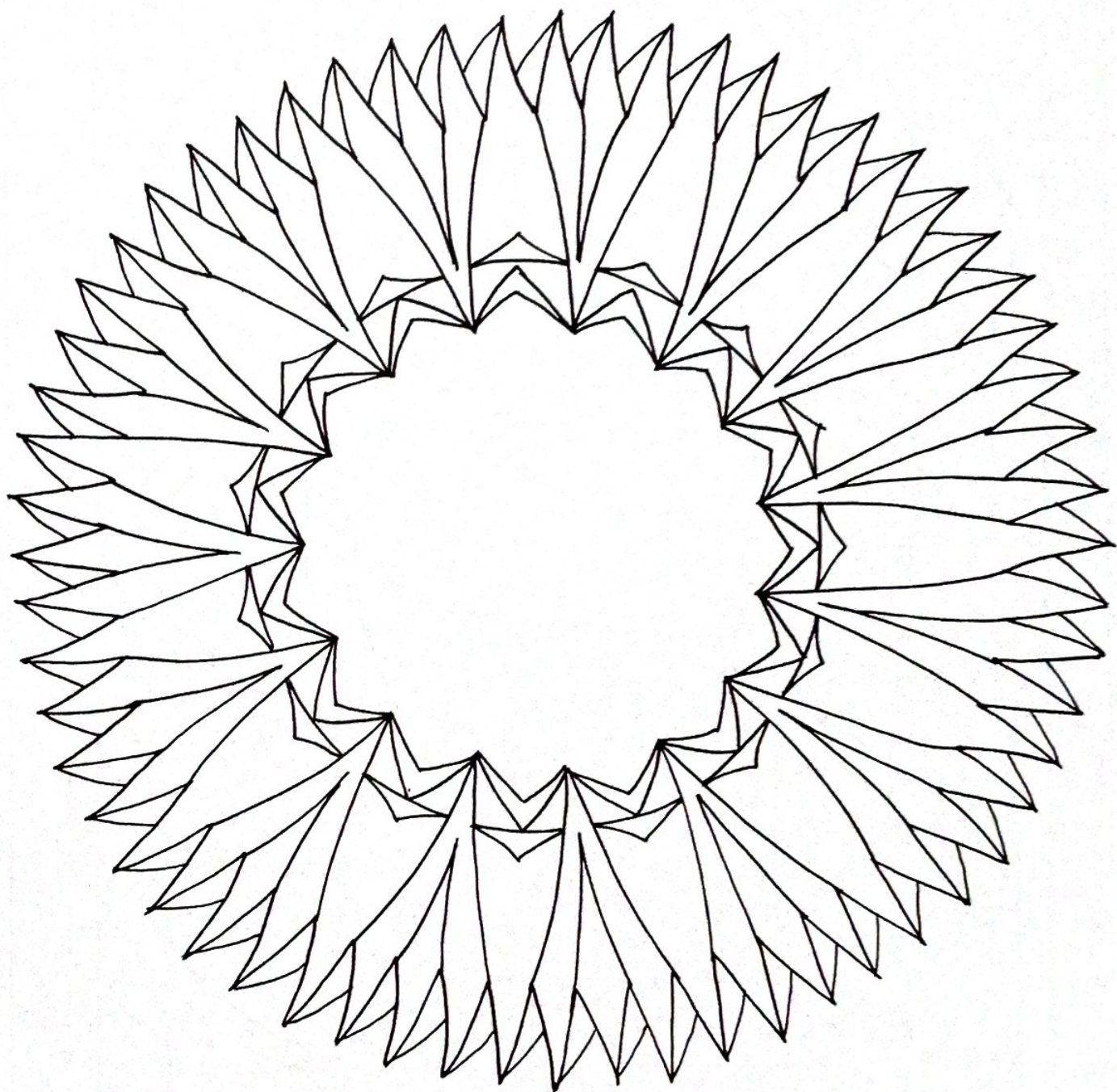
A border beautifies the picture it frames.

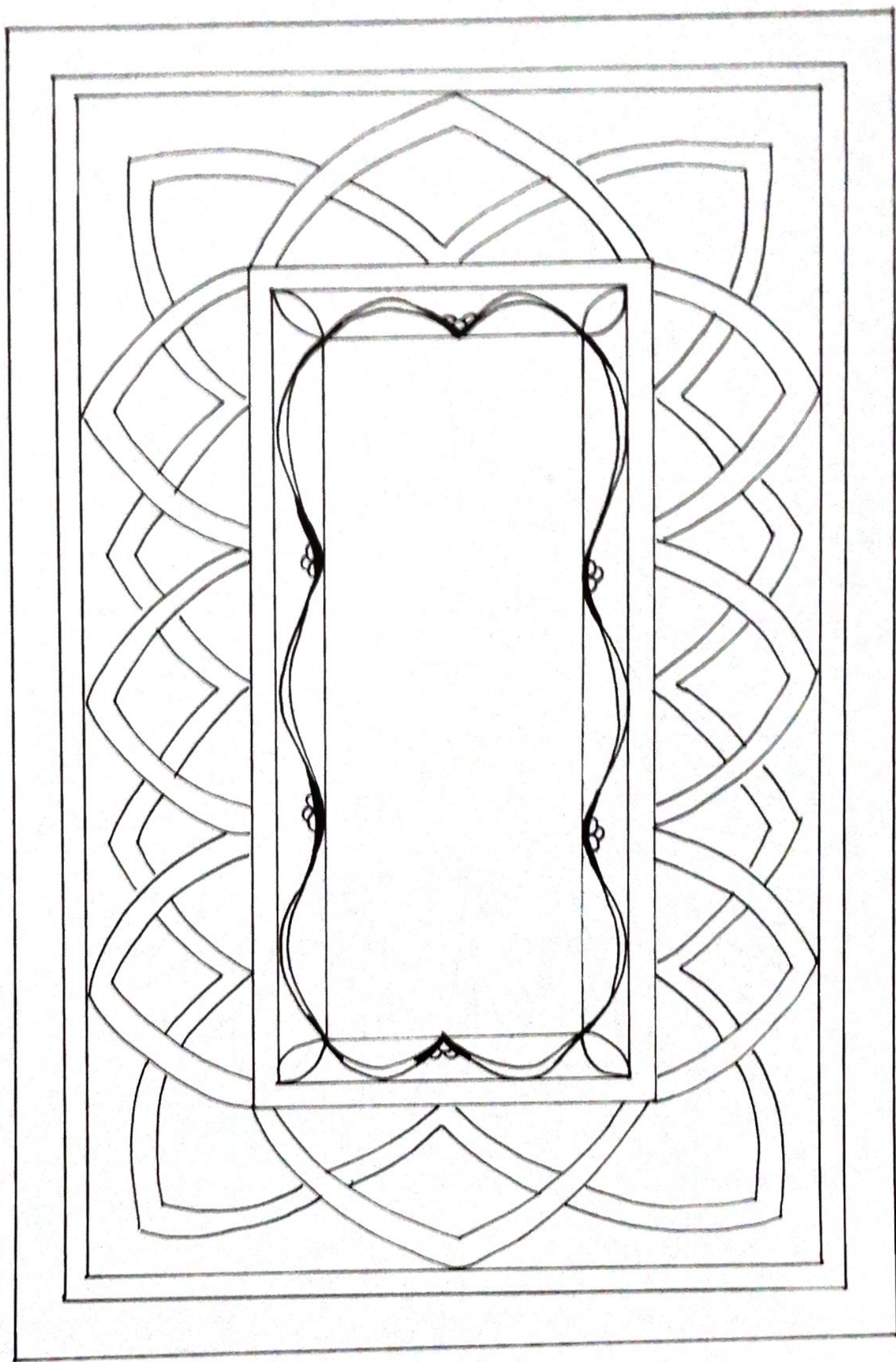
Let us glow with inner and outer beauty and contentment when we
accept that borders and limits are good for us, that it is Allah
(SWT)'s way of protecting us.

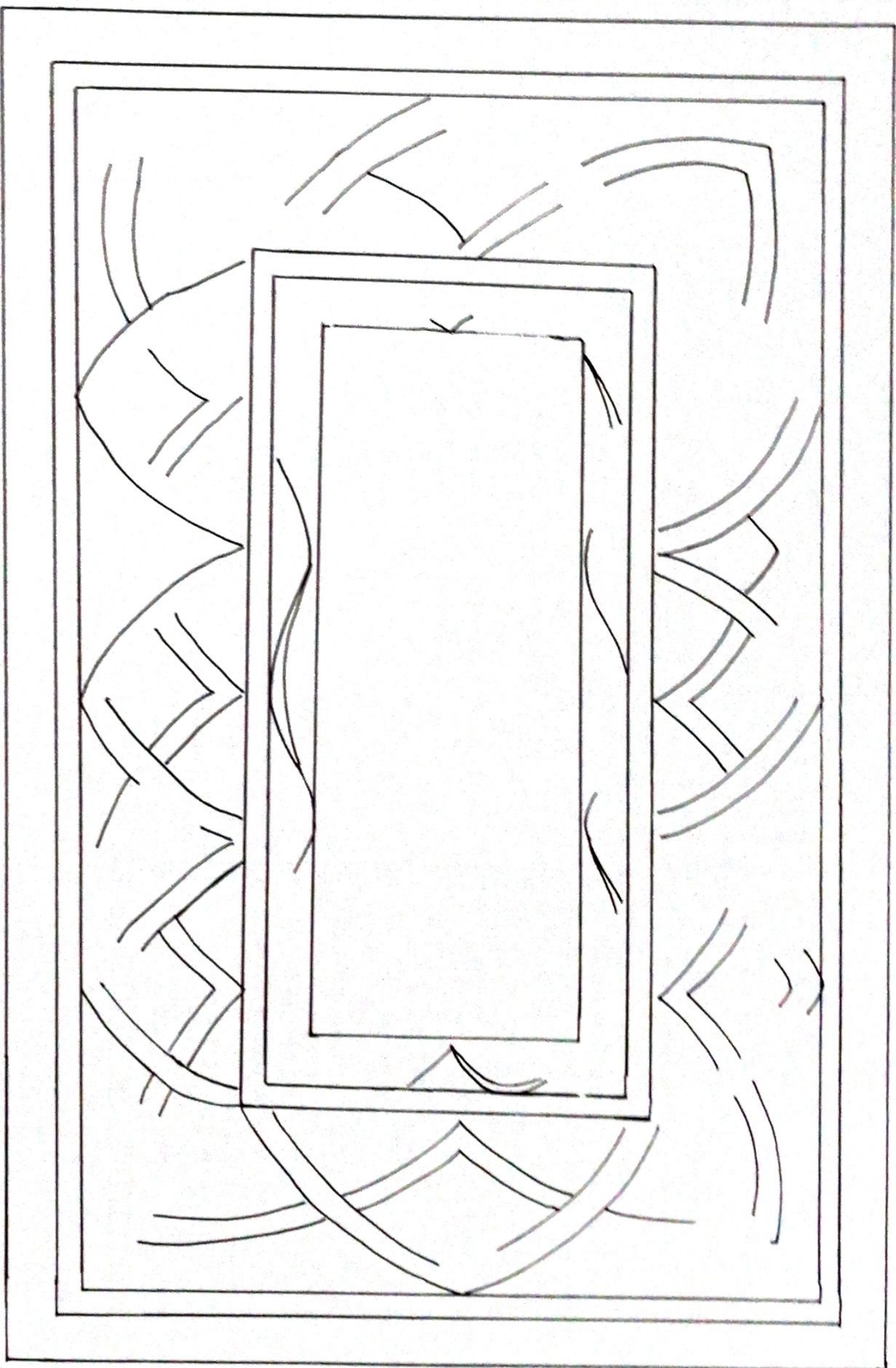
When we obey the rules of Allah (SWT), which our Nabi
Muhammad (SAW) has taught us, we are part of a pretty
picture which has a beautiful frame. Within this
protective frame we feel safe and secure, but when we
are disobedient, we end up on the outside looking in.











*In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent,
the Merciful.*

Those who spend of their wealth
by night and day, in secret and in
public,
their reward is with their Lord:
they will have no fear, nor will they
have sorrow.

Qur'an 2: 274

... We shall make you recite so that
you will not forget,
except as Allah wills: for He knows
what is open and what is hidden.

Qur'an 87: 6-7

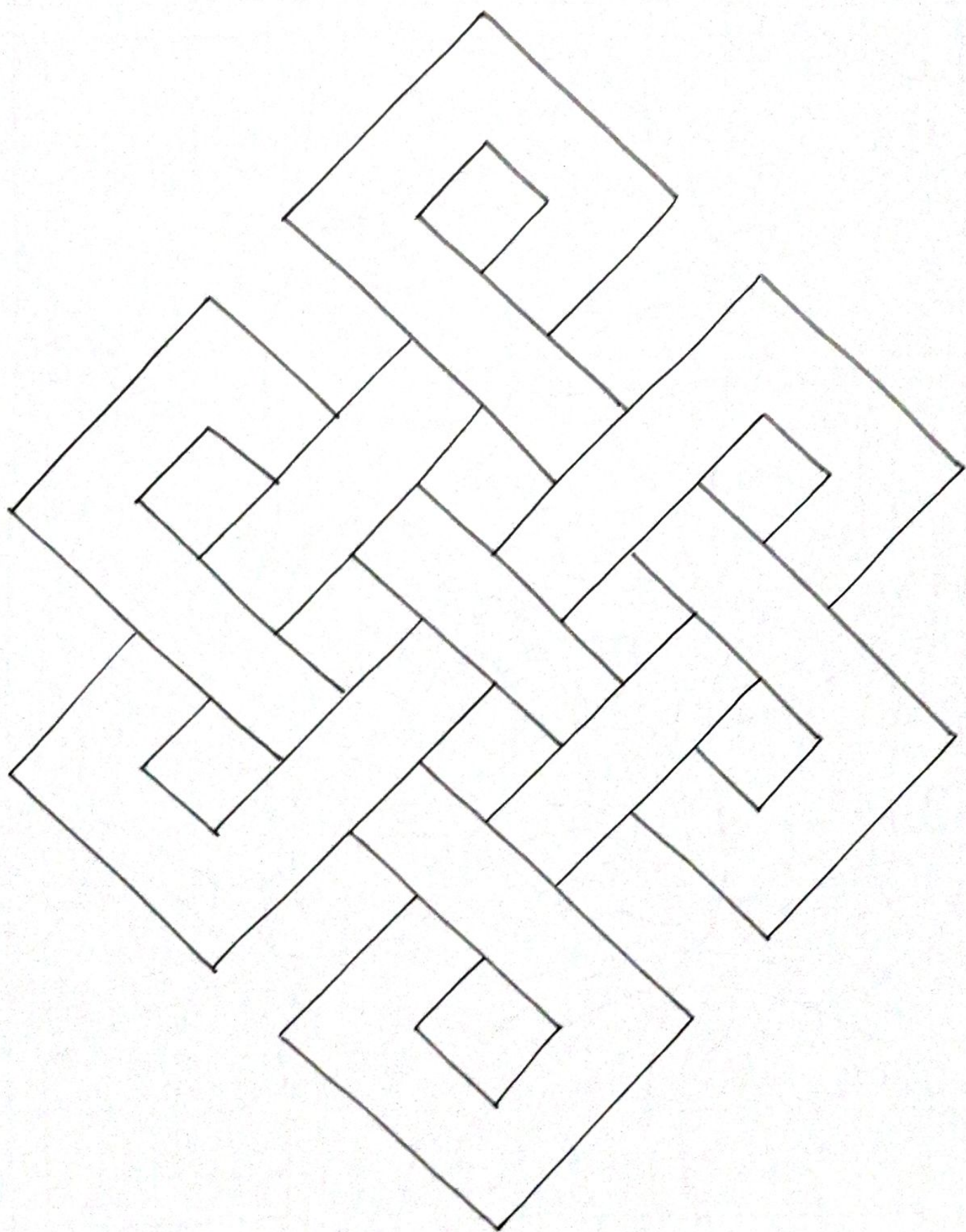
INTERTWINING DESIGNS

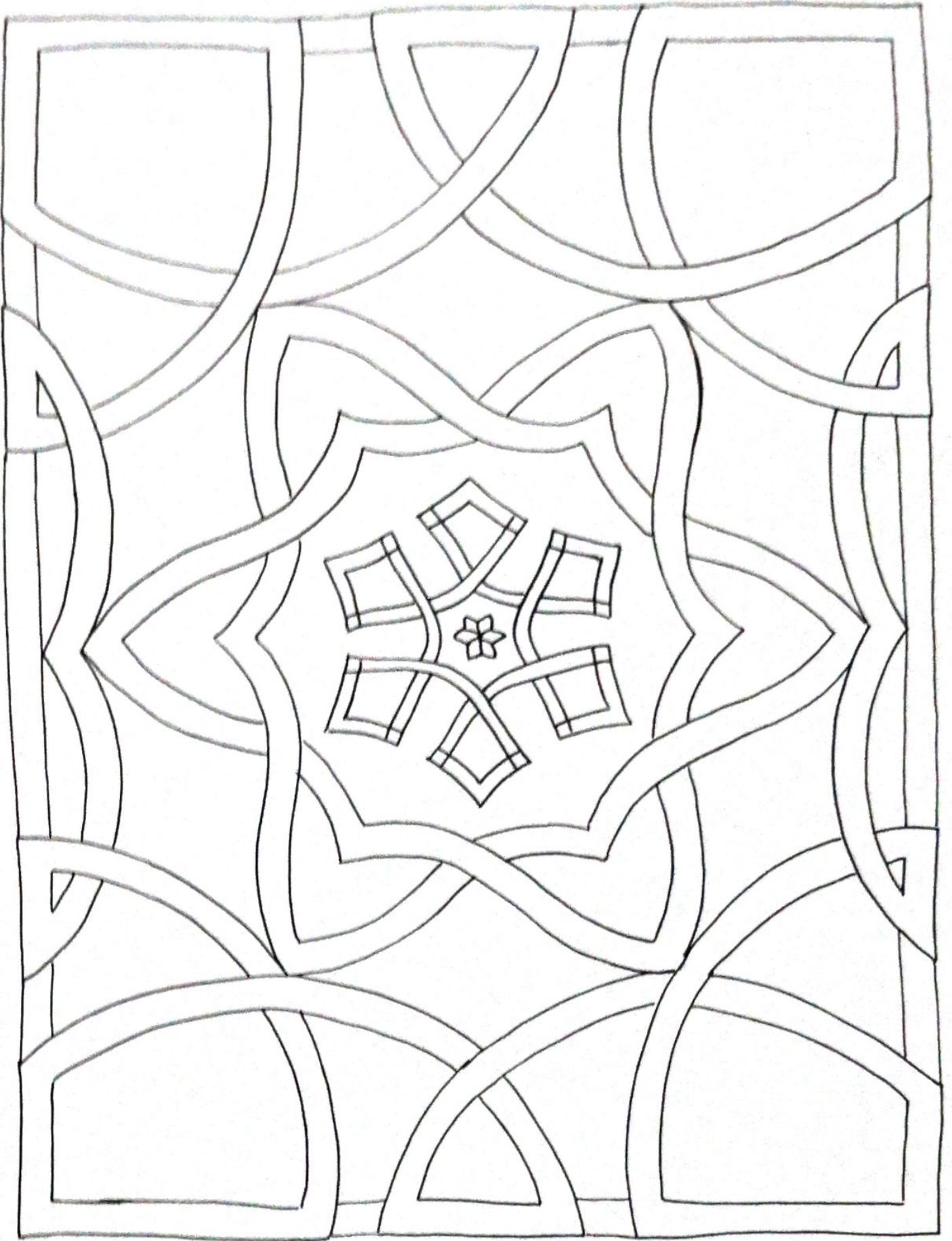
*[Over and under designs e.g. Weaving]
absence and presence - we see, then we do not see,
but we are always seen*

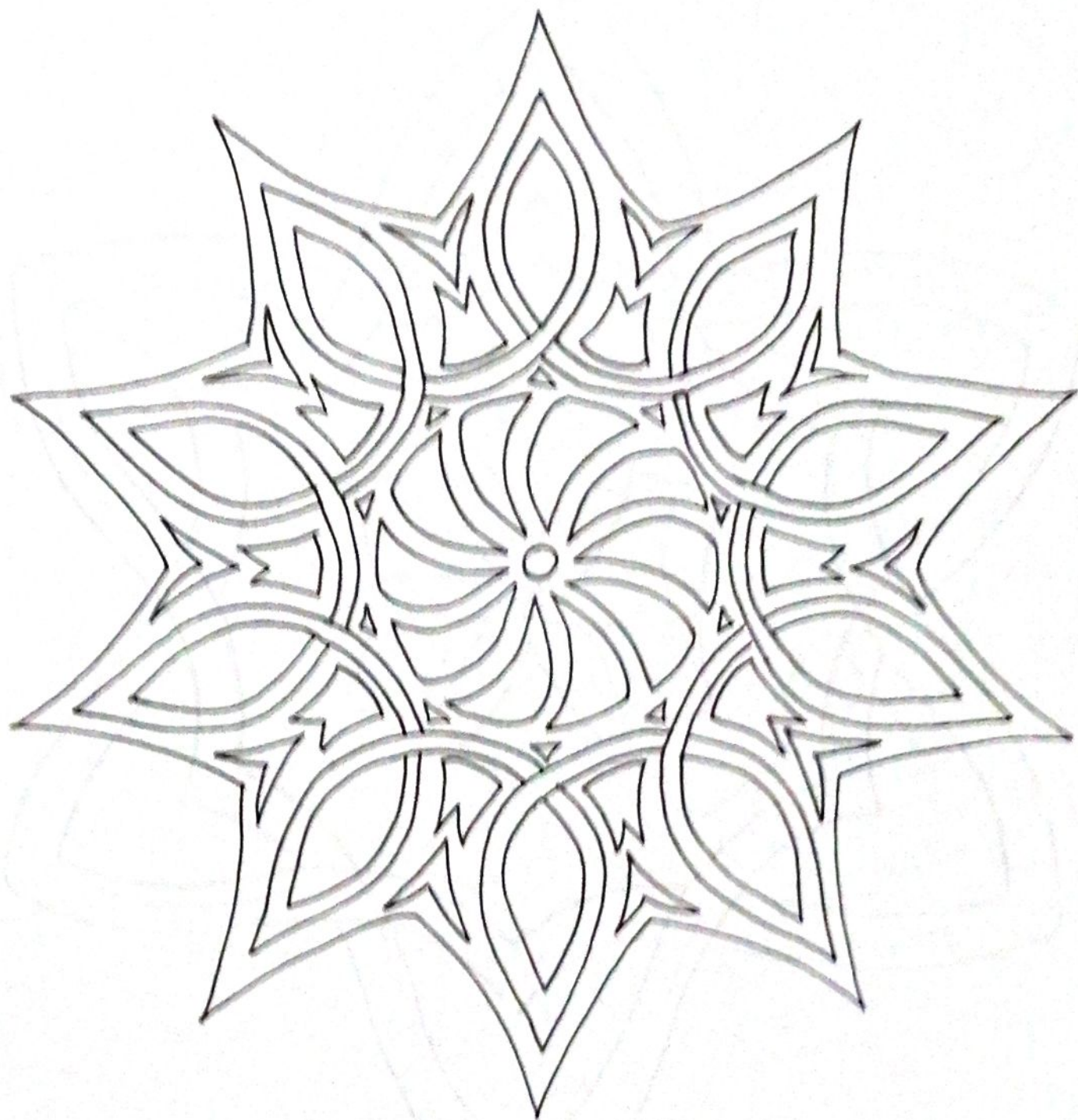
We are never absent in Allah (SWT)'s Presence.

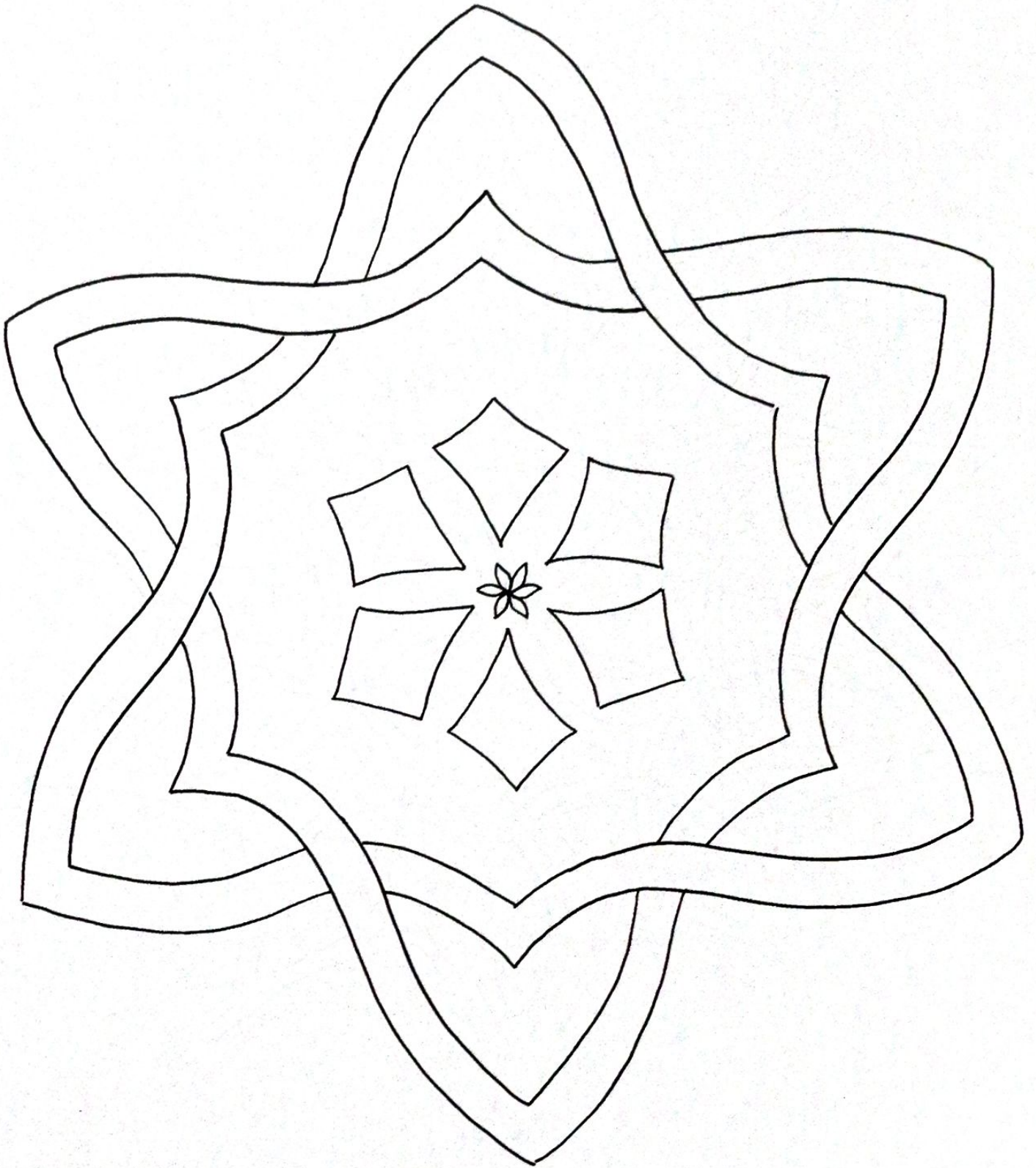
Let us remember that the Loving and Merciful Gaze of Allah (SWT) is
always on us - no matter where we are -
under a bridge or behind a wall.

Our Nabi Muhammad (SAW) has explained to us over and
over how Allah (SWT) is watching lovingly over all of us.
He protects us no matter where we are, with His Helping
Hand always near - we just have to reach for it - all of us.

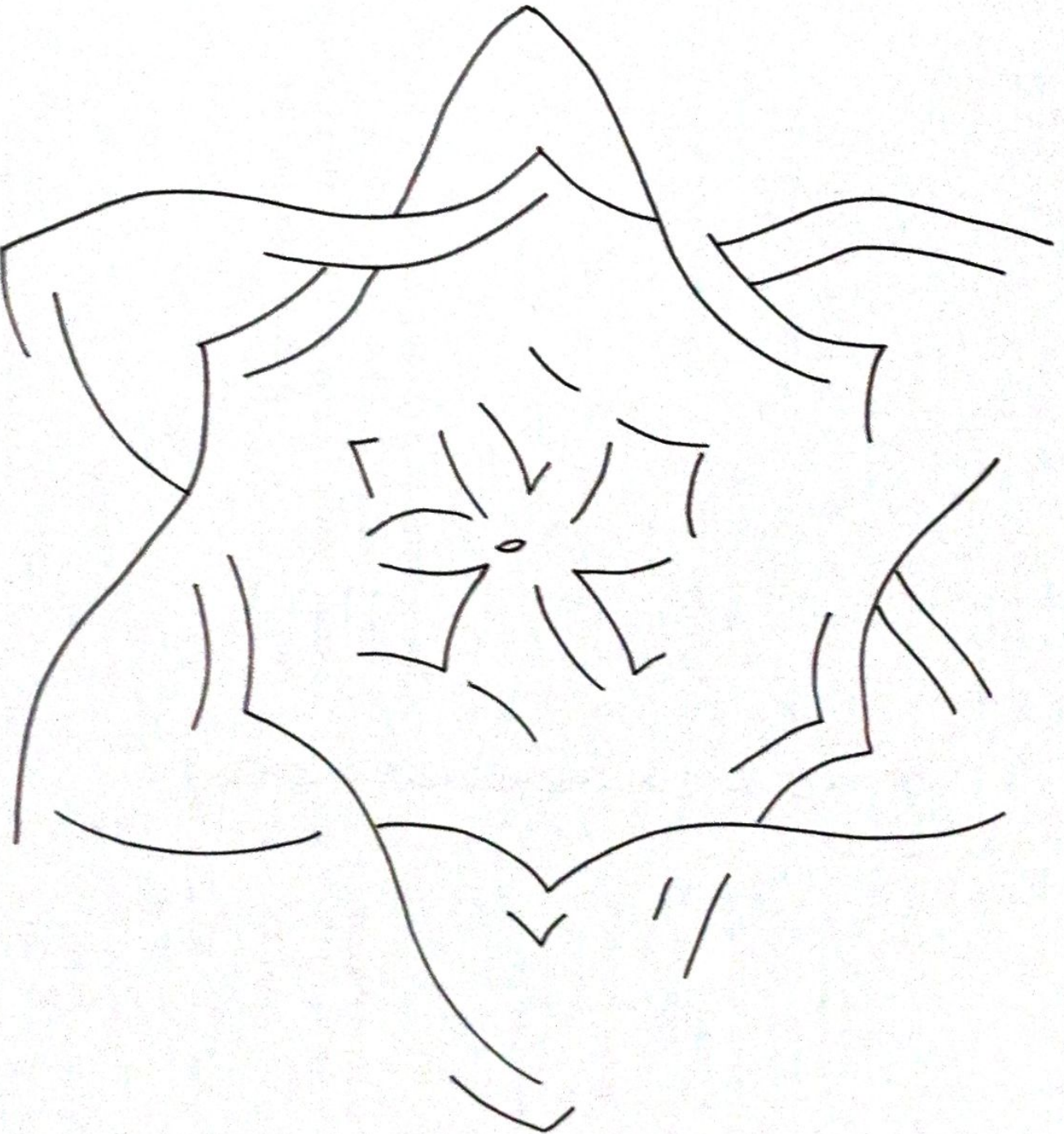








Complete this picture by filling in the missing lines - see opposite page!



*In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent,
the Merciful.*

Do you not see how Allah gives an
example?

A good word is like a good tree,
whose root is firmly fixed,
and its branches (reach)
to the Heavens...

Qur'an 14: 24

And the example of a bad word
is like a bad tree:
uprooted from the Earth:
having no stability (firm hold).

Qur'an 14: 26

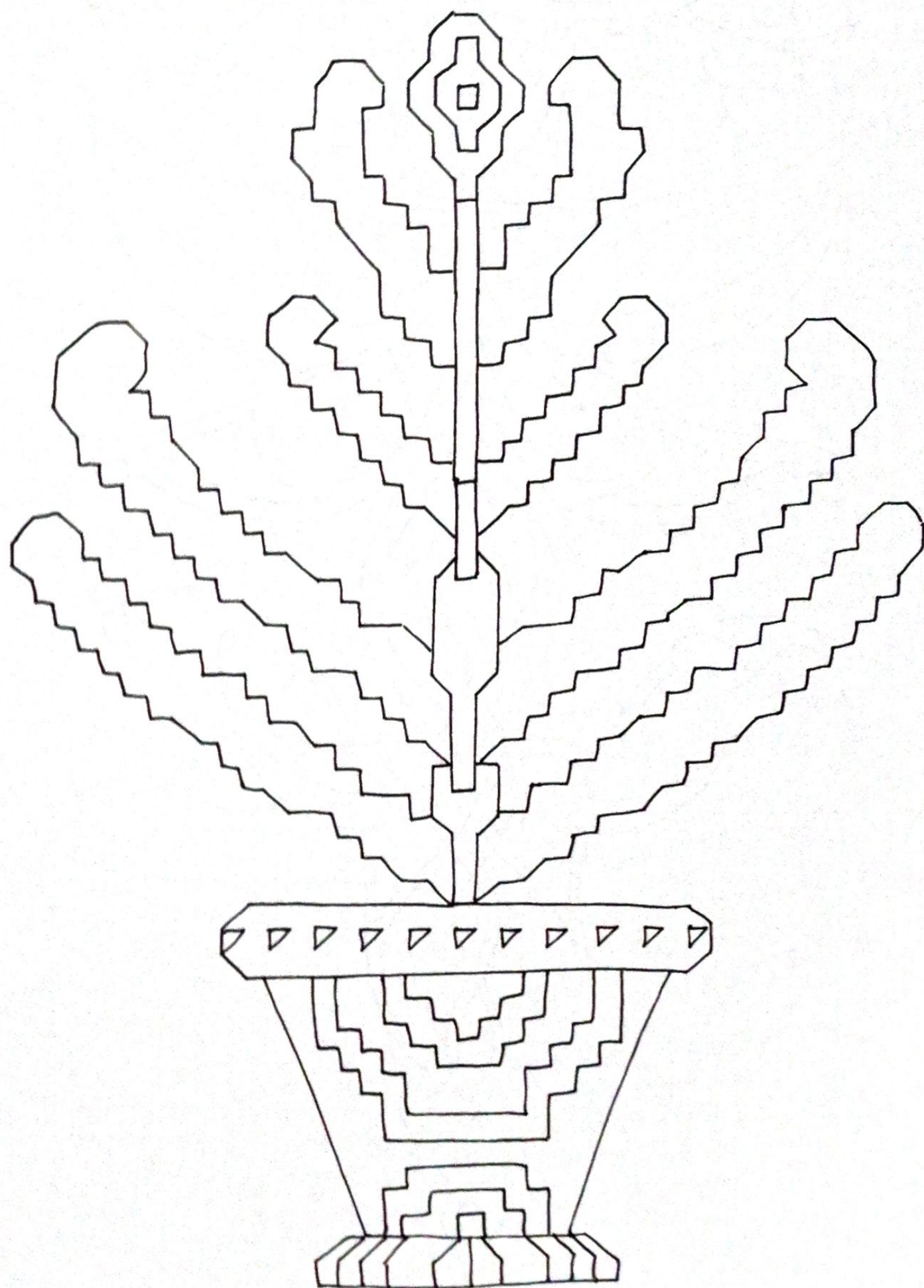
TREE OF LIFE

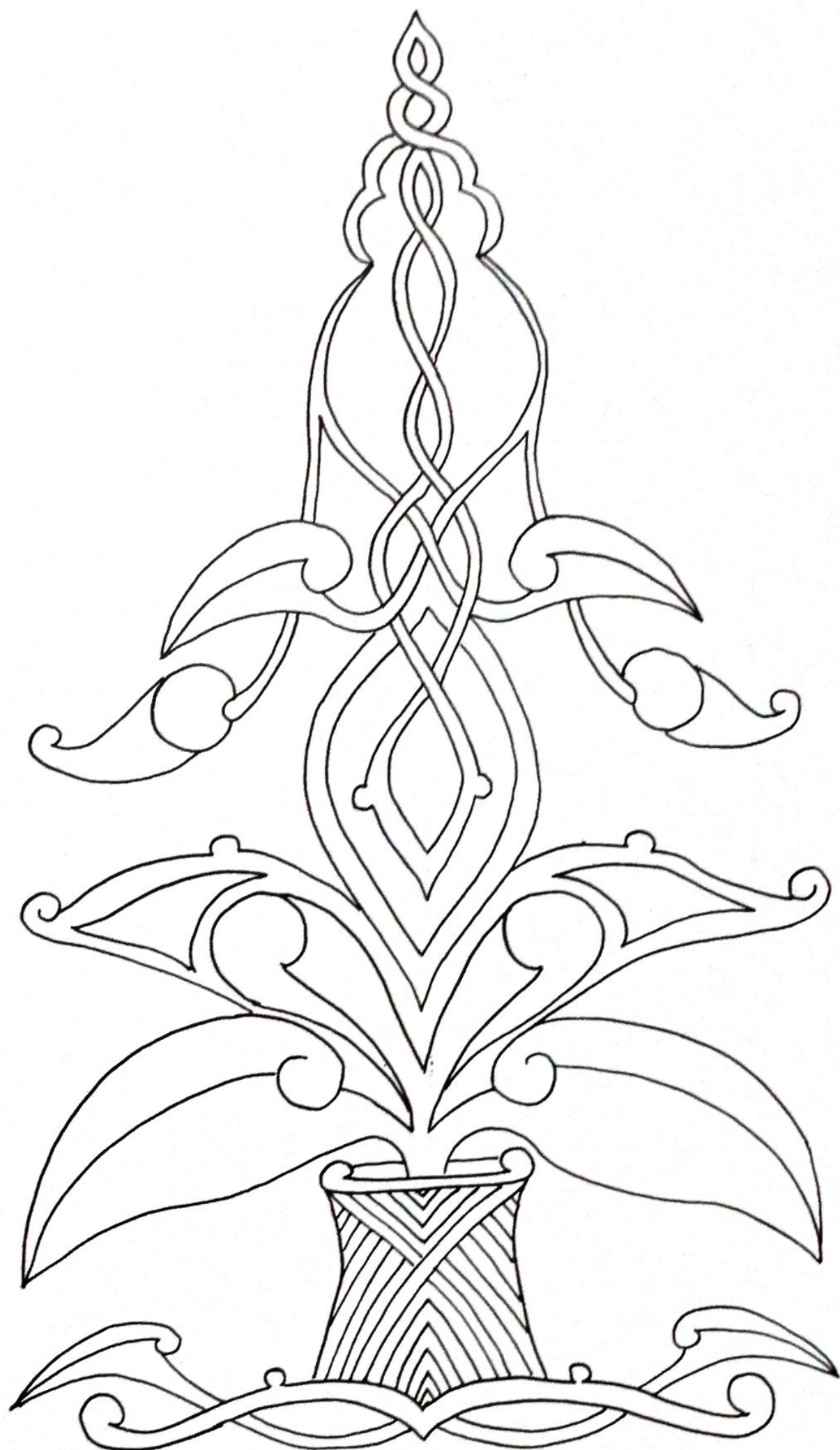
*(strength, stability, balance)
output depends on input*

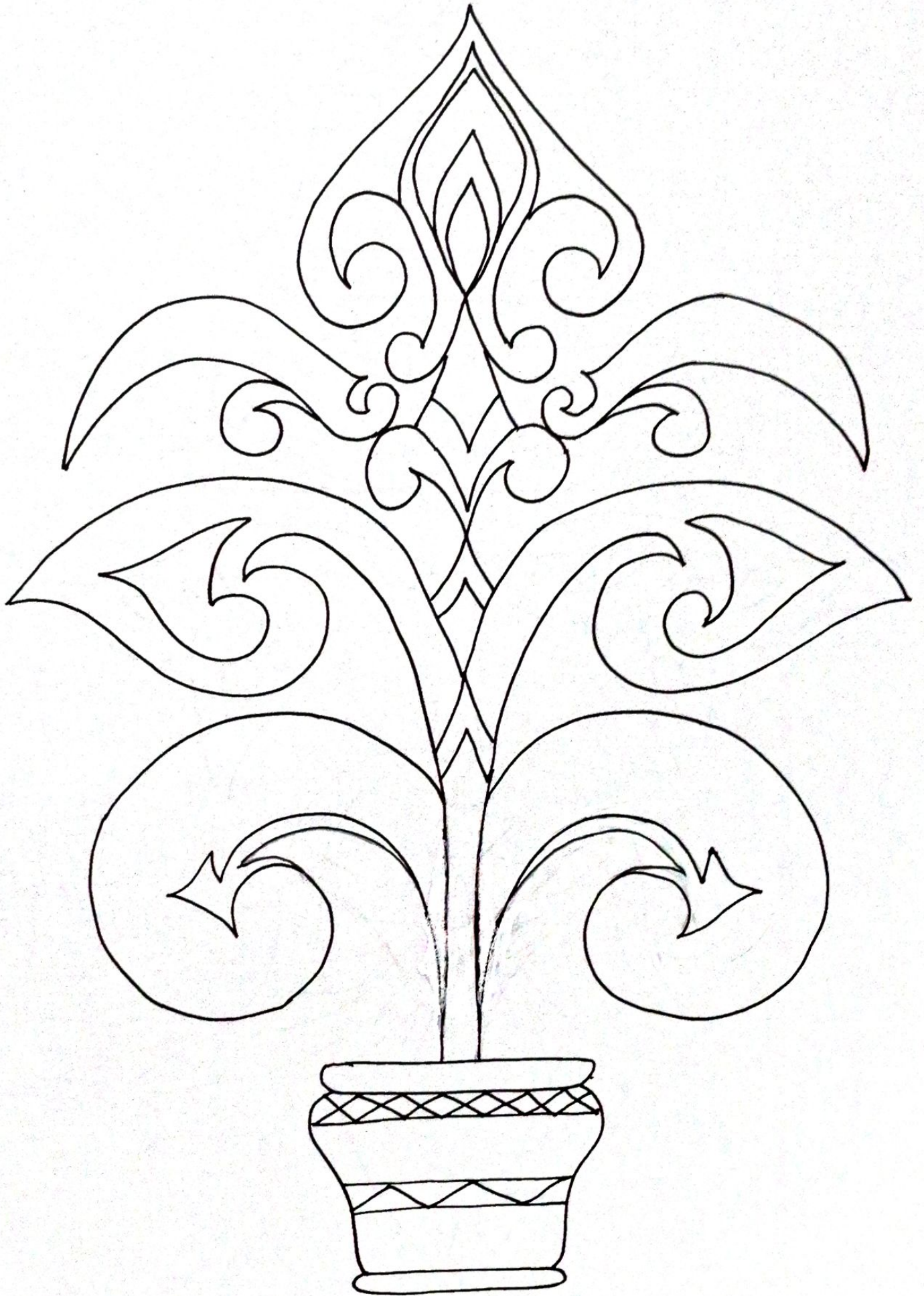
Shining leaves and pretty flowers on healthy branches mean the
tree is well cared for.

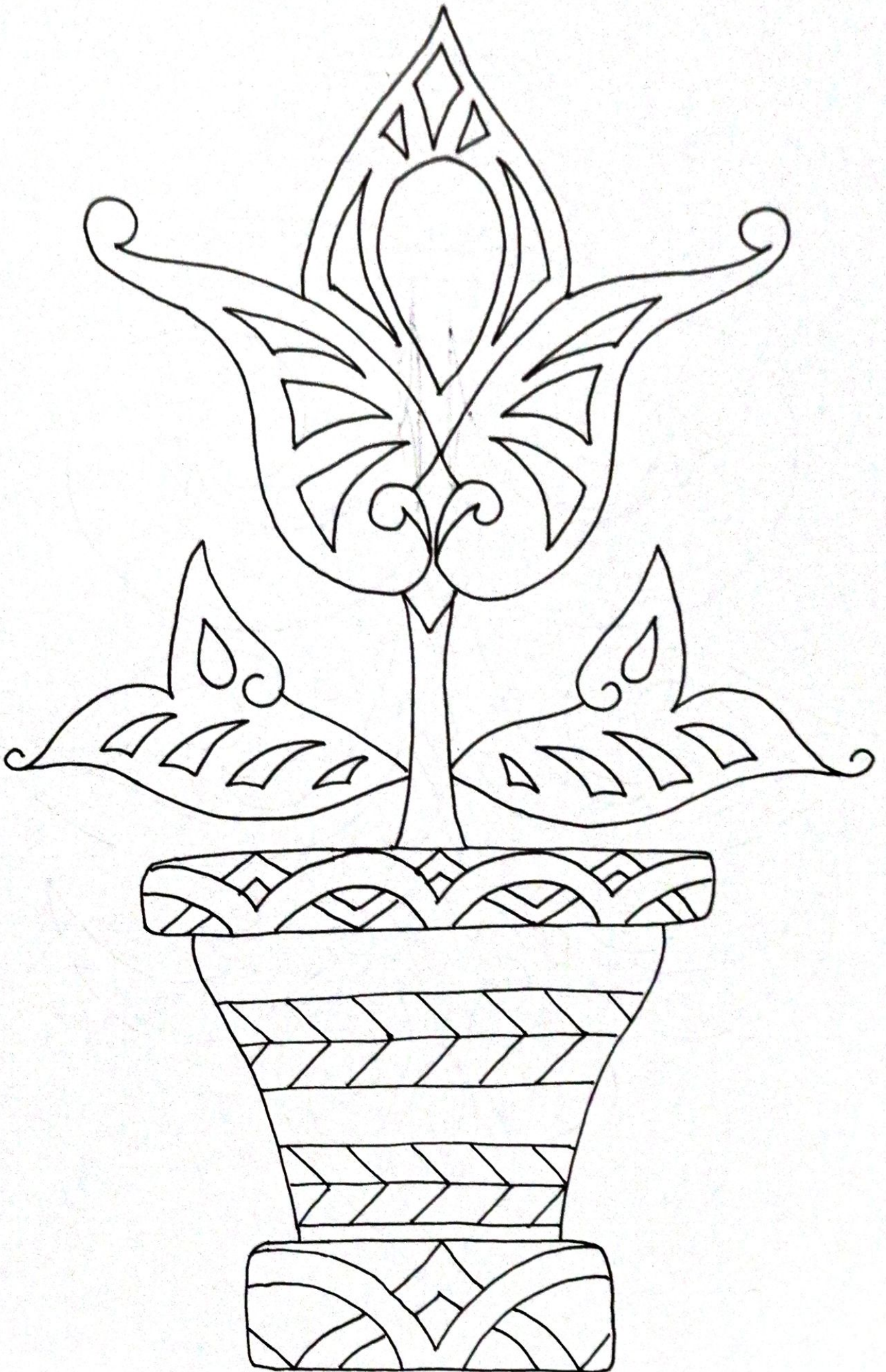
Let us always feed our tree of life with hard work and good deeds,
always showing consideration for others.

Nabi Muhammad (SAW) always spoke the truth, and he did
not like speaking harshly to anyone. If all his goodness
could be the flowers on a tree, what a beautiful tree that
would be! Ma sha Allah.

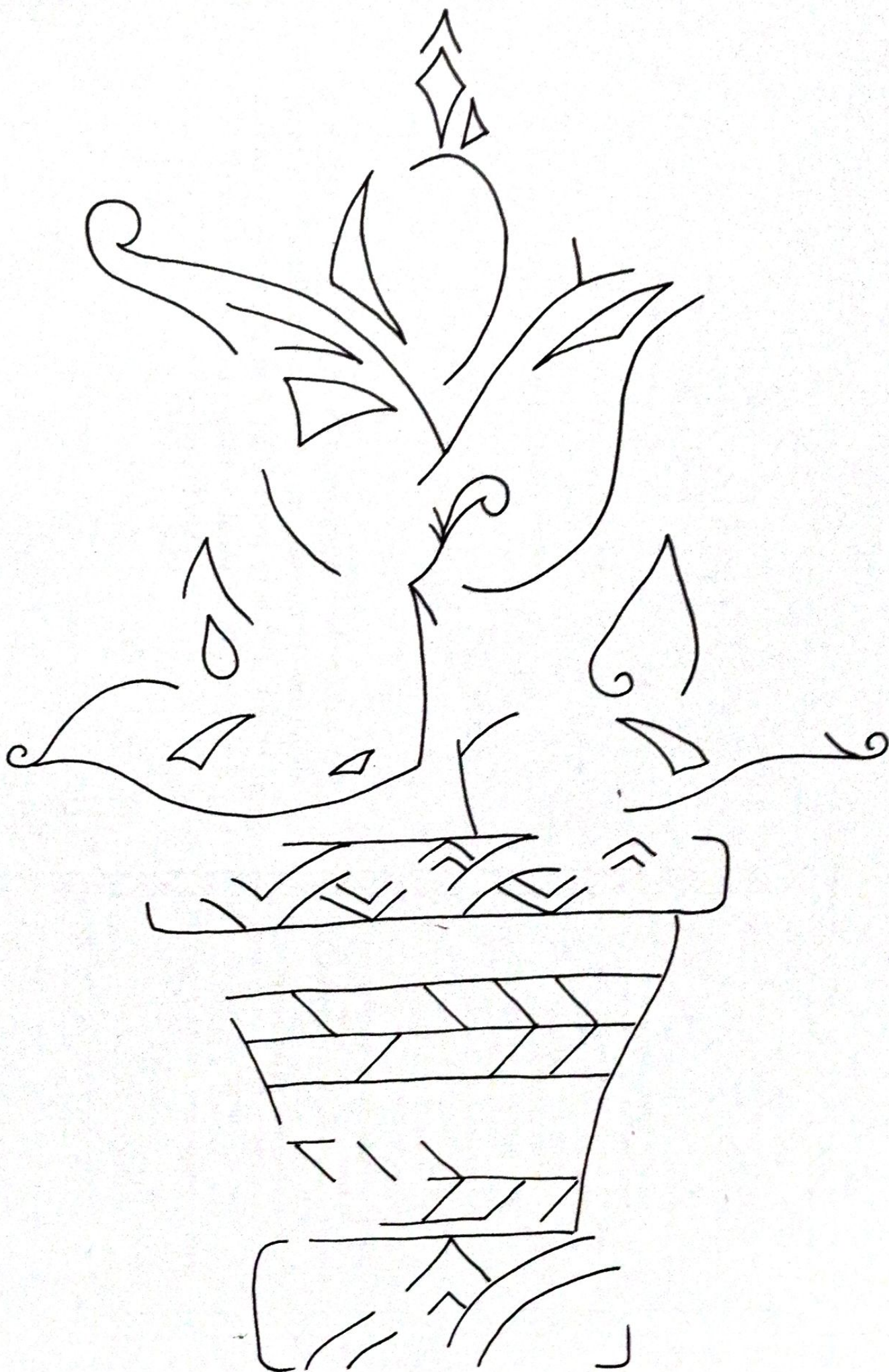








Complete this picture by filling in the missing lines - see opposite page!



In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent,
the Merciful.

Praise is for Allah, Lord of the worlds;
The Kindest and Most Merciful;
King of the Day of Judgement.
You alone are The One we worship,
You alone are The One we ask for help.
Show us the Straight Path,
The path of those whom
You are pleased with,
not the path of those who deserve Your
anger,
nor of those who go astray.

Qur'an 1: 1-7

...and that those who have been given
knowledge may know
that (the Qur'an) is the truth from your
Lord,
so that they may believe therein,
and their hearts may submit humbly unto
Him:
for verily Allah is the Guide
(of those who believe), unto the Straight
Way.

Qur'an 22: 54

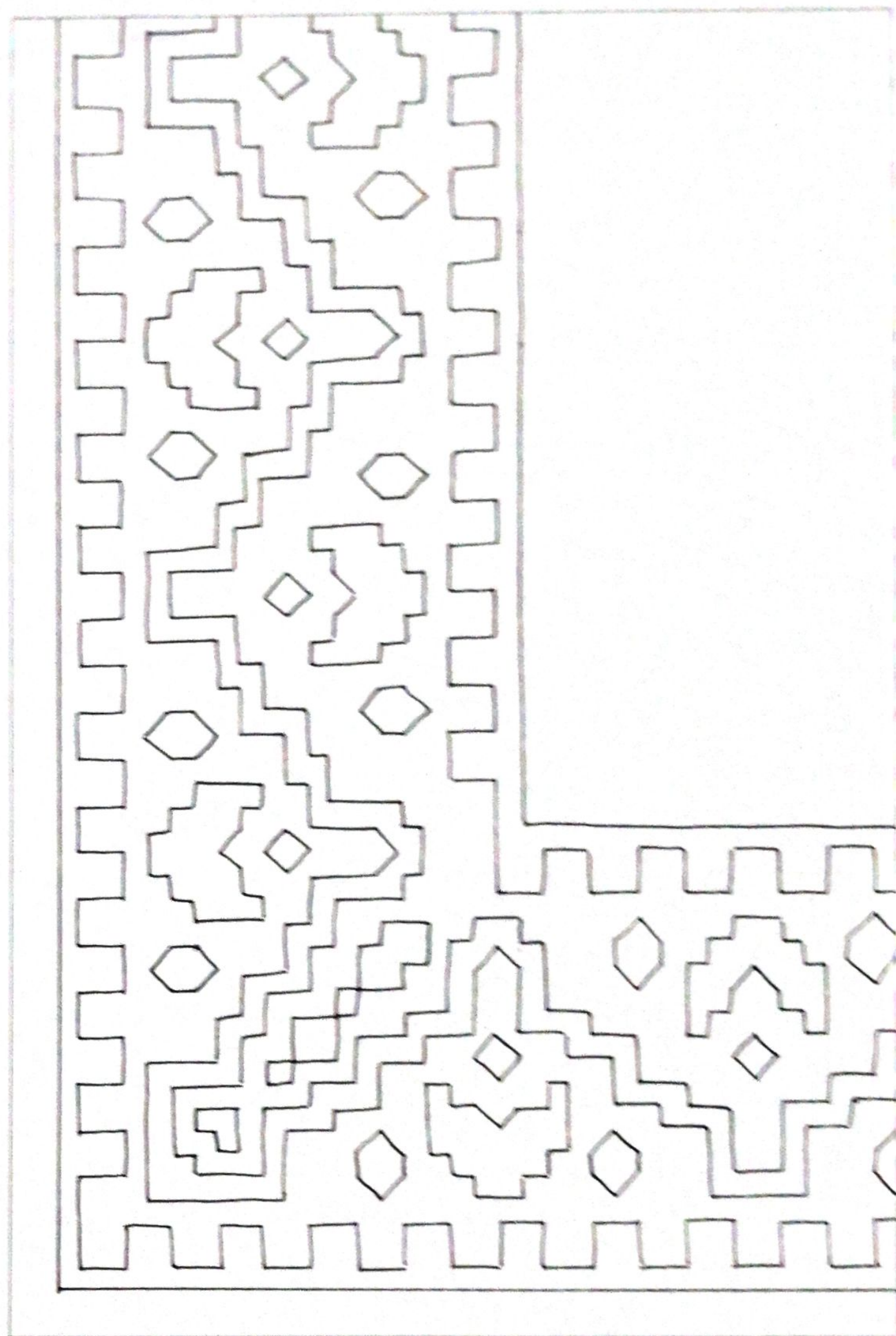
THE UP / DOWN PATTERN

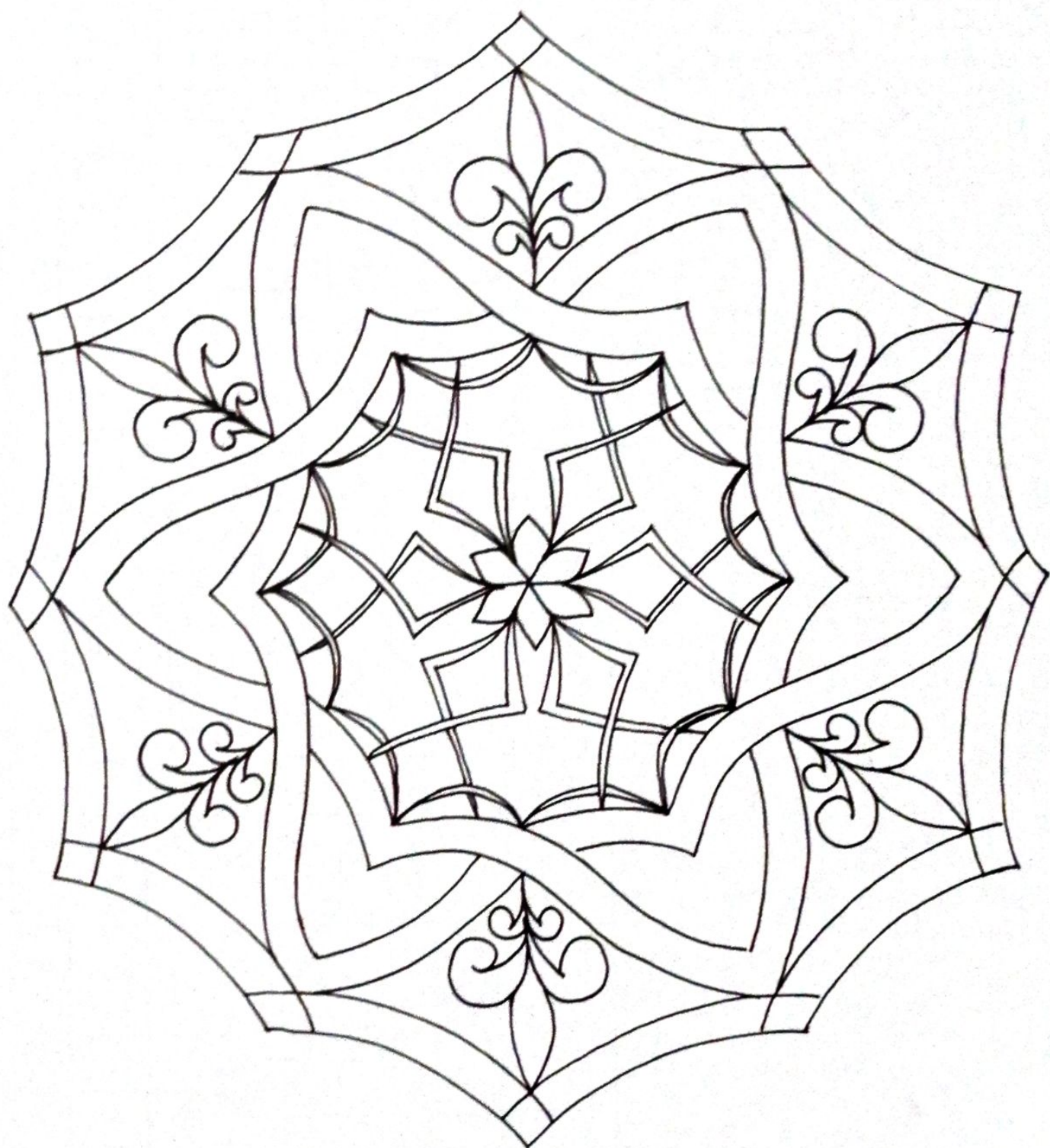
*(seeking the straight path)
facing the ups and downs in life*

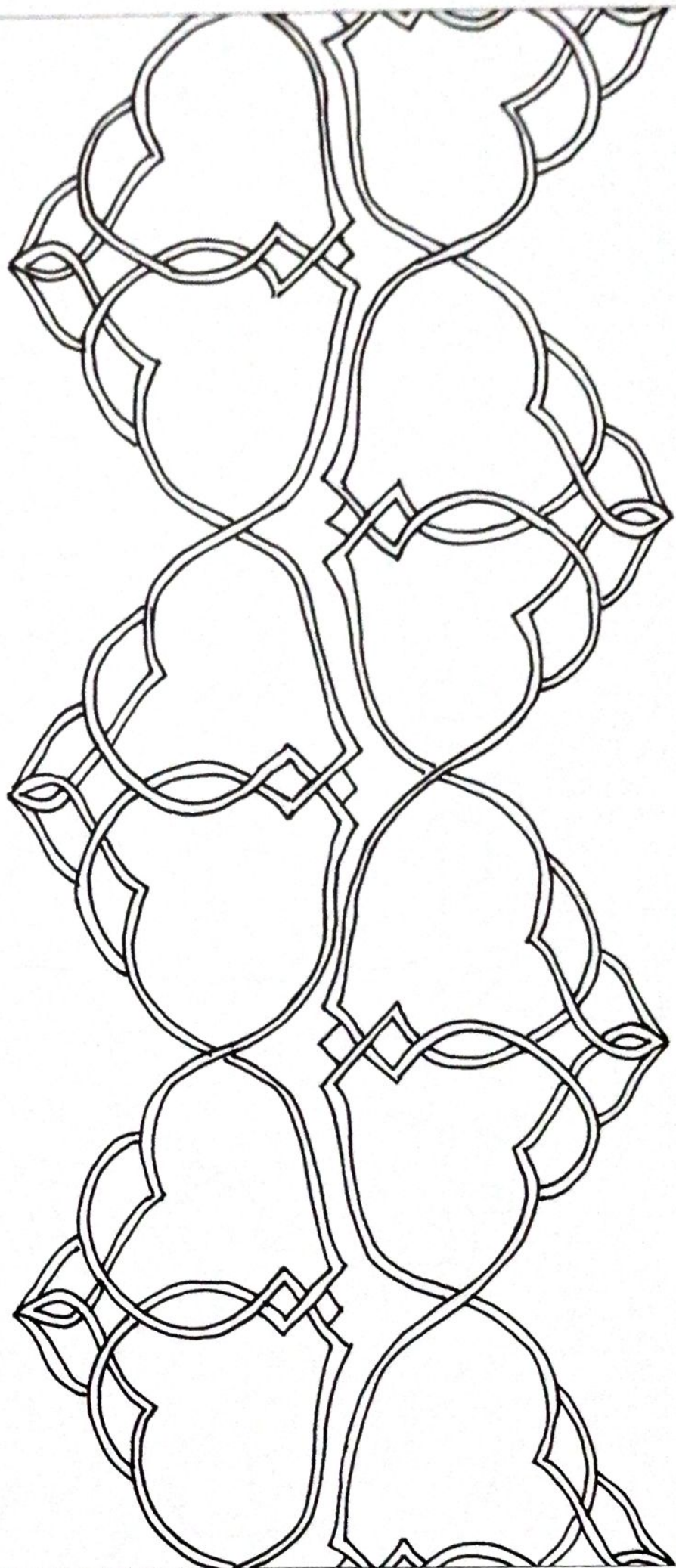
There are times when we have a really
up and down day -
one minute we are sad, the next glad.

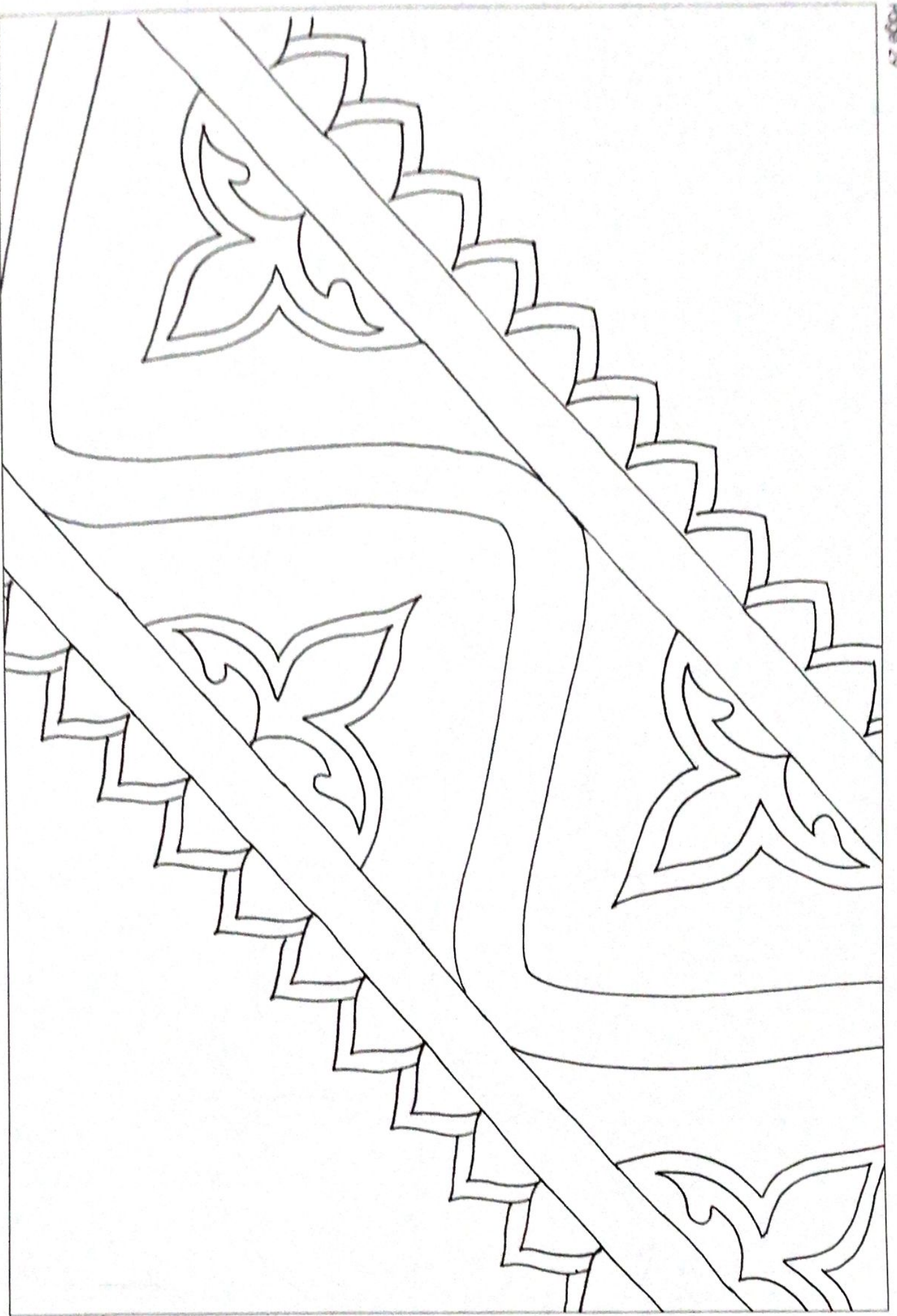
Let us remember that Allah (SWT) is always there to keep us safe
and steady on the Straight Path.

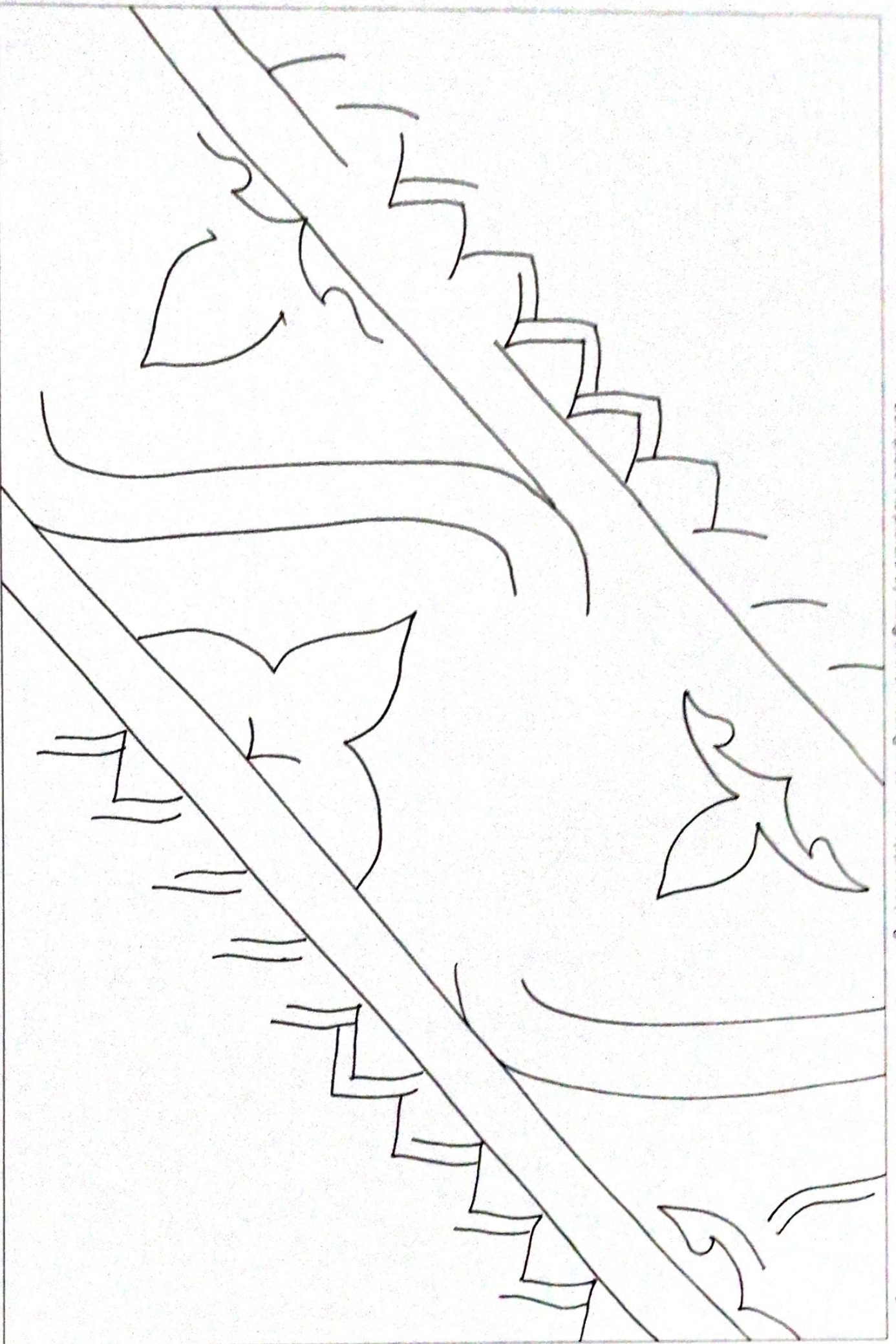
Our beloved Nabi Muhammad (SAW) is the most noble of
Allah (SWT)'s messengers. He explained all the rules that
we have to follow so that we can find, and then stay on the
Straight Path. If we obey these rules, we will earn Allah
(SWT)'s pleasure.











In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent,
the Merciful.

The righteous (will be)
amid gardens
and fountains
(of clean flowing water).

(Their greeting will be):
"Enter you here
in Peace and Security".

Gur'an 15: 45-46

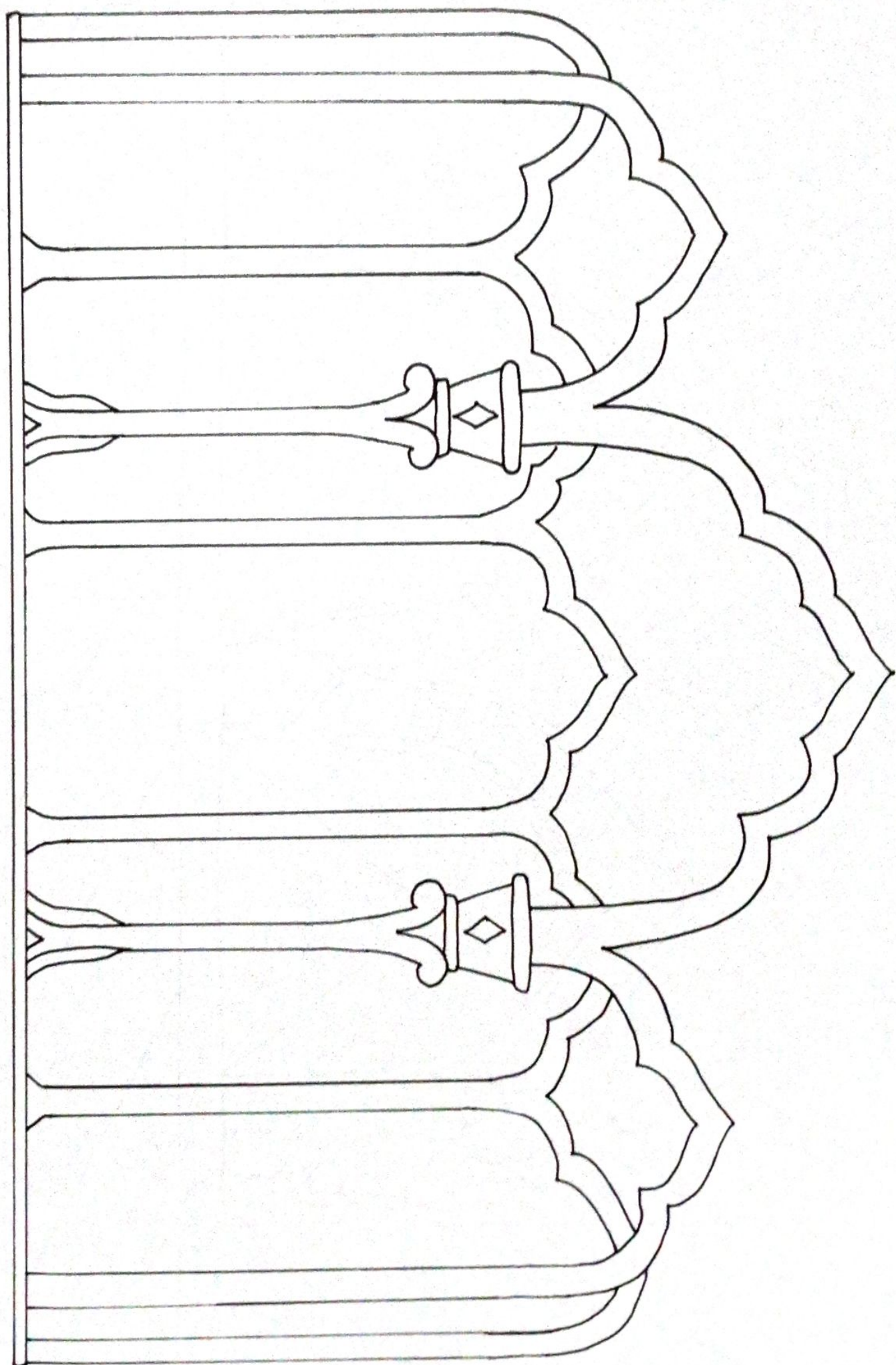
DOORWAYS

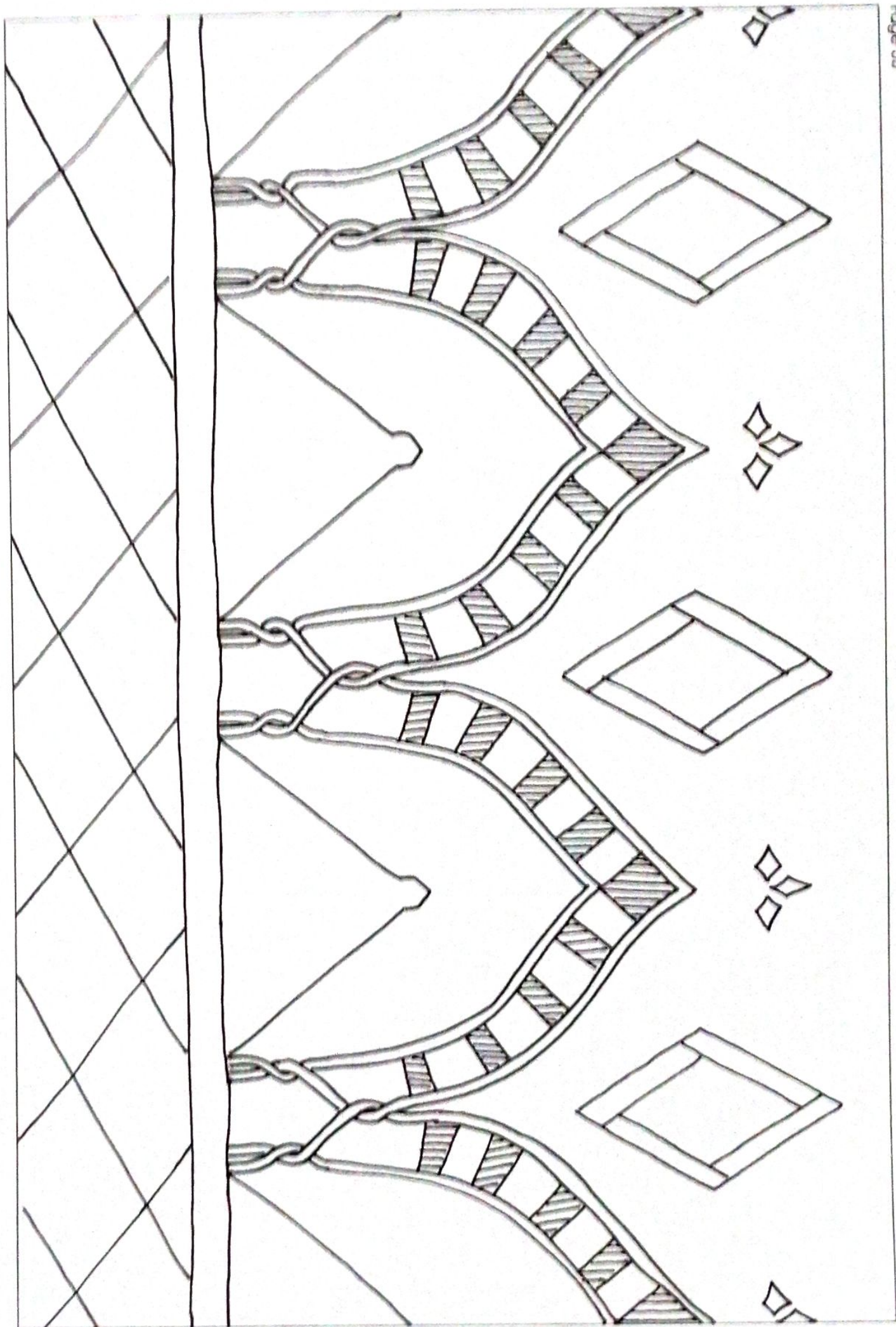
*(on the threshold of new beginnings)
starting a new chapter - use Allah (SWT)'s Name*

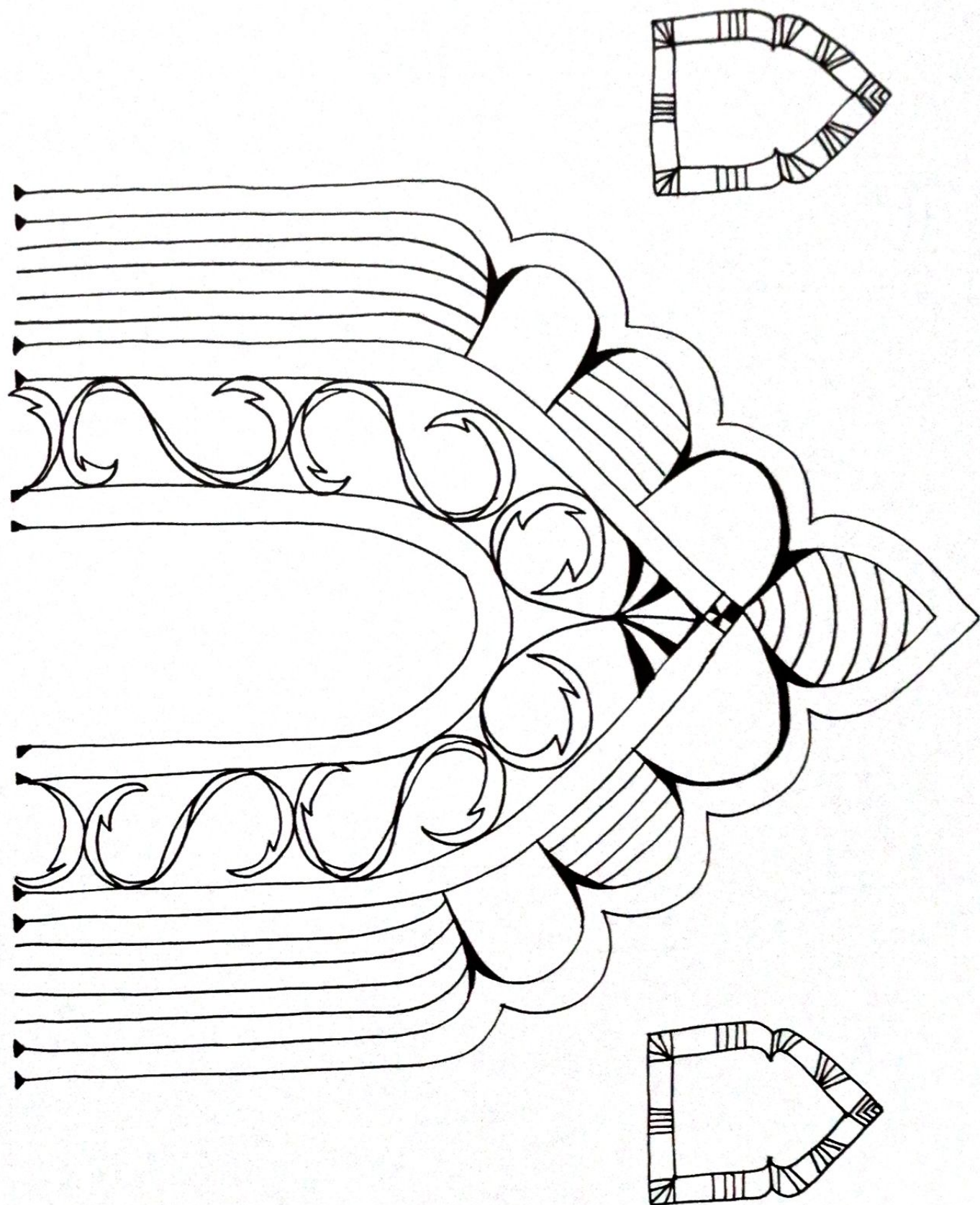
A doorway is like a mystery waiting to be discovered as we pass
through.

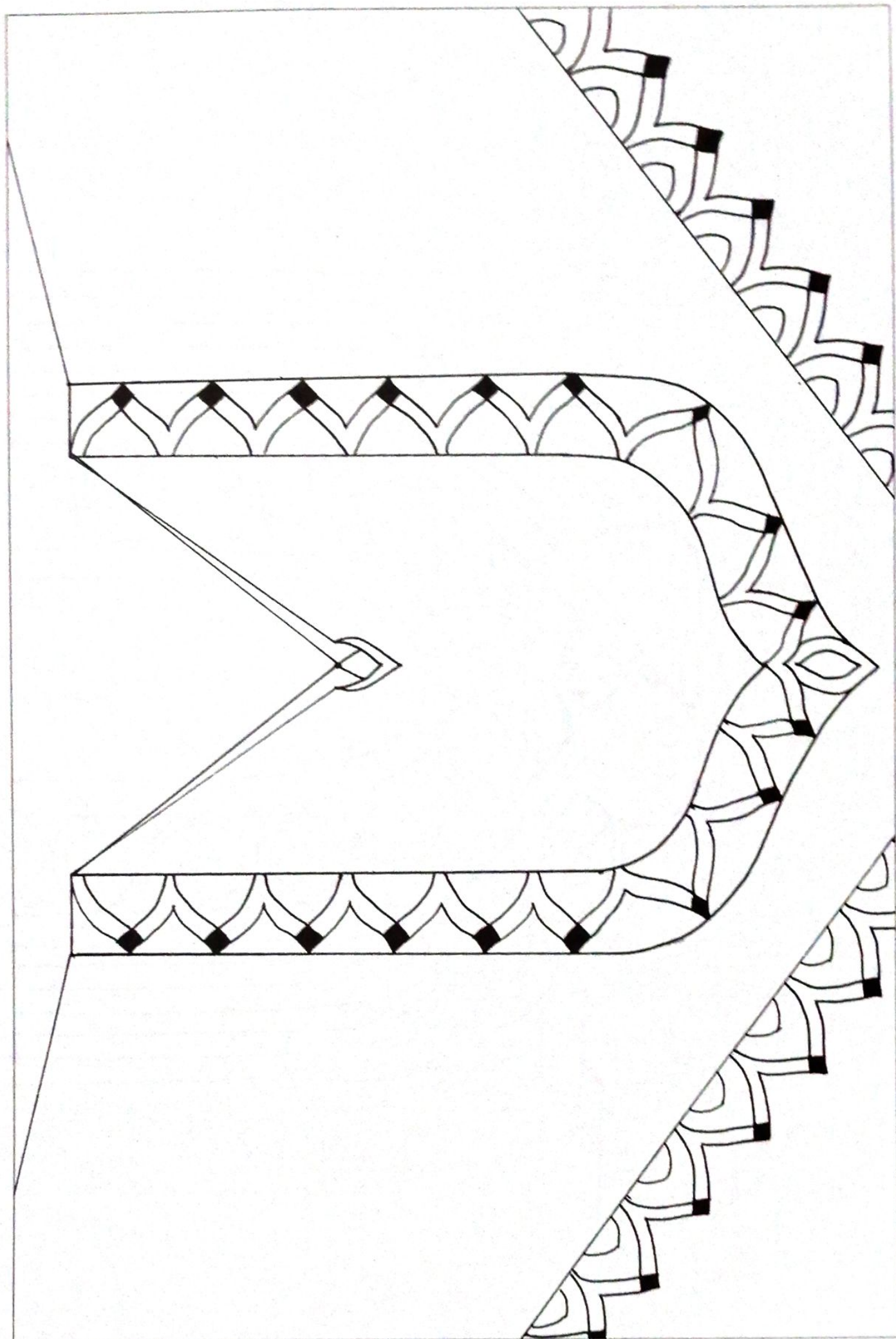
Let us seek Allah (SWT)'s Guidance when we choose to pass
through new doorways so that they may lead us to safe places.

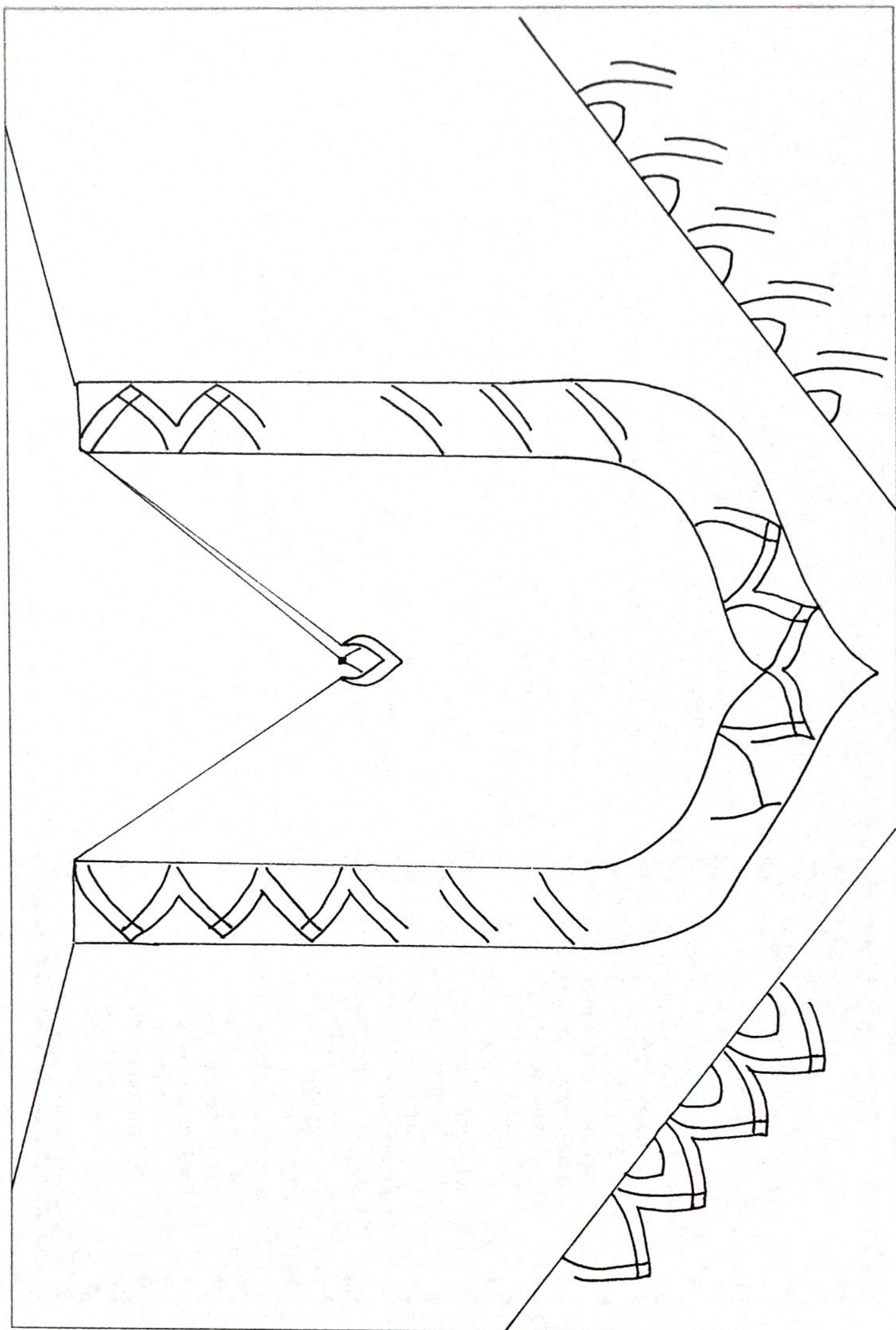
Whenever Nabi Muhammad (SAW) started anything, he
always did so in Allah's Name. If we follow his example,
new doors of opportunity, and new chapters of learning
will open up for us. We will be able to serve our Creator
(SWT) in a way that will please Him.











*In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent,
the Merciful.*

Verily, all things have We created
in proportion and measurement.

Qur'an 54: 49

...and marks and sign-posts;
And by the stars (men) guide
themselves.

Qur'an 16: 16

The number of months in the Sight
of Allah is twelve
(in a year) -

thus ordained (decided) by Him
the day He created the Heavens
and the Earth ...
Qur'an 9: 36

To Allah belongs the East and the
West: whichever way you turn,
Allah's Mercy is present.
For Allah is All-Embracing,
All-Knowing.

Qur'an 2: 115

Star Patterns

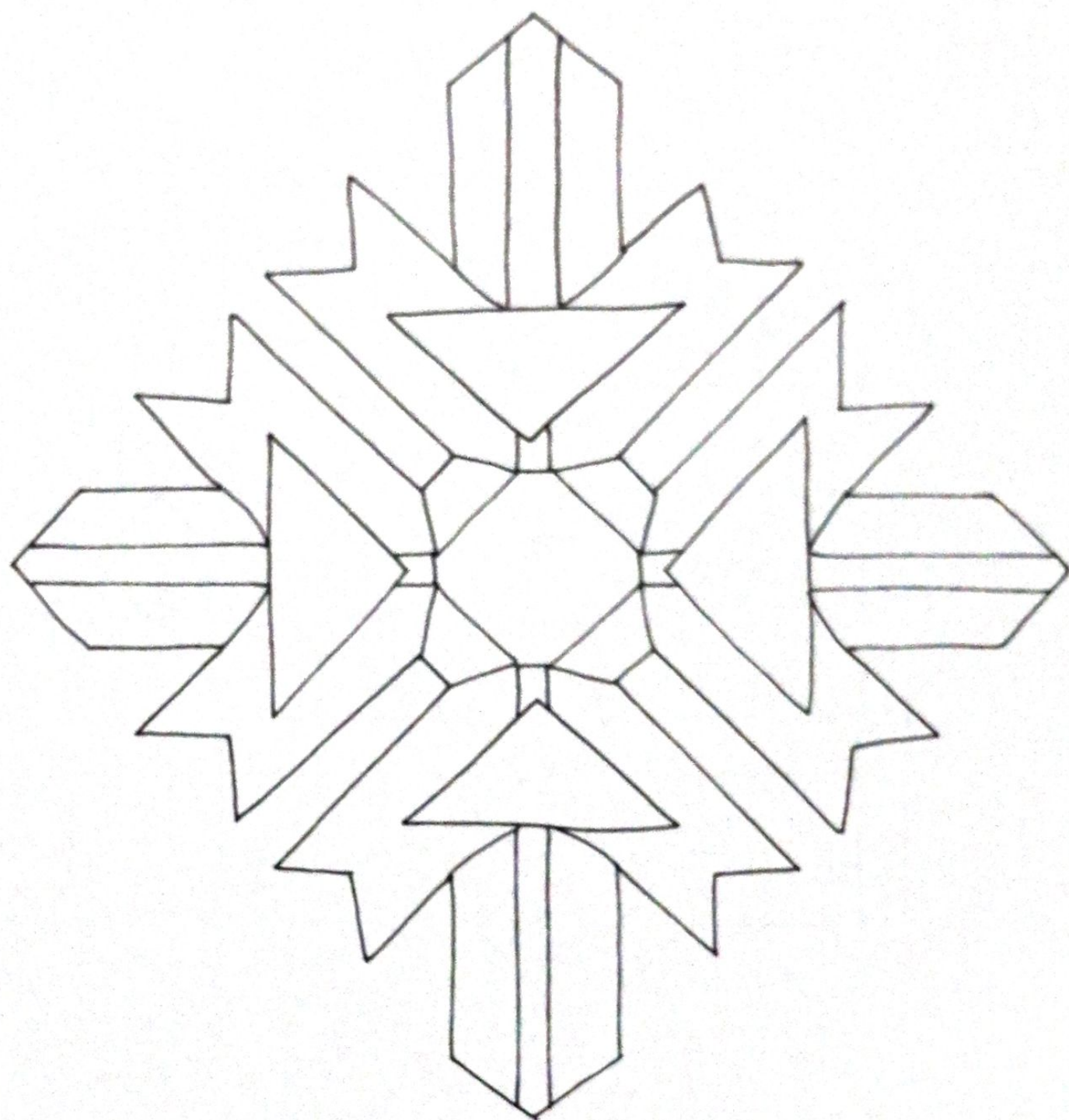
*(Guiding stars)
points of measurement*

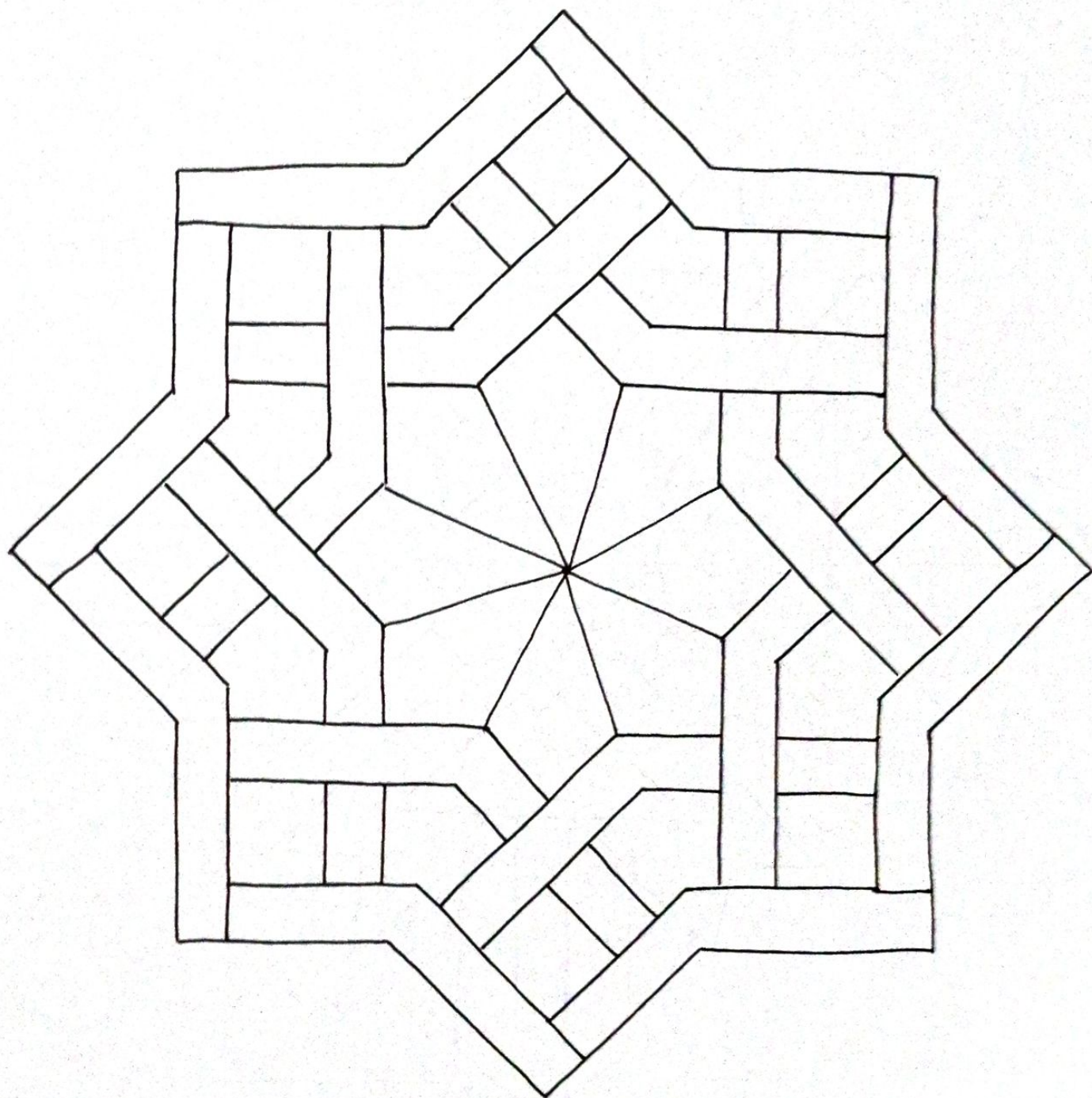
Being able to measure time, direction and distance, means we can plan
our lives well.

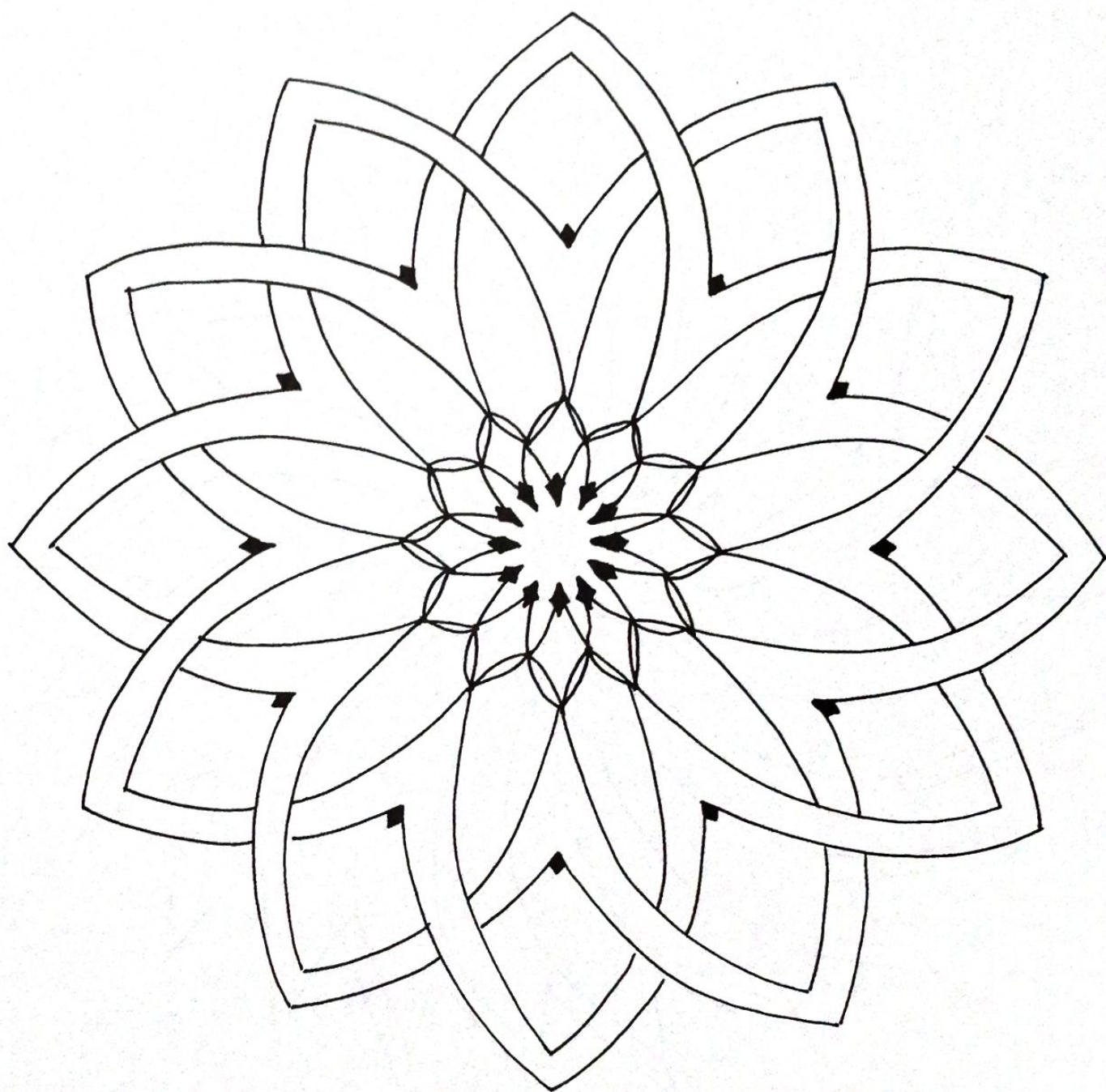
Using the blessing of measurement to serve our Creator (SWT), will give
stability to our lives - in the way we spend our time, the distance we
travel, and the direction we choose to move in.

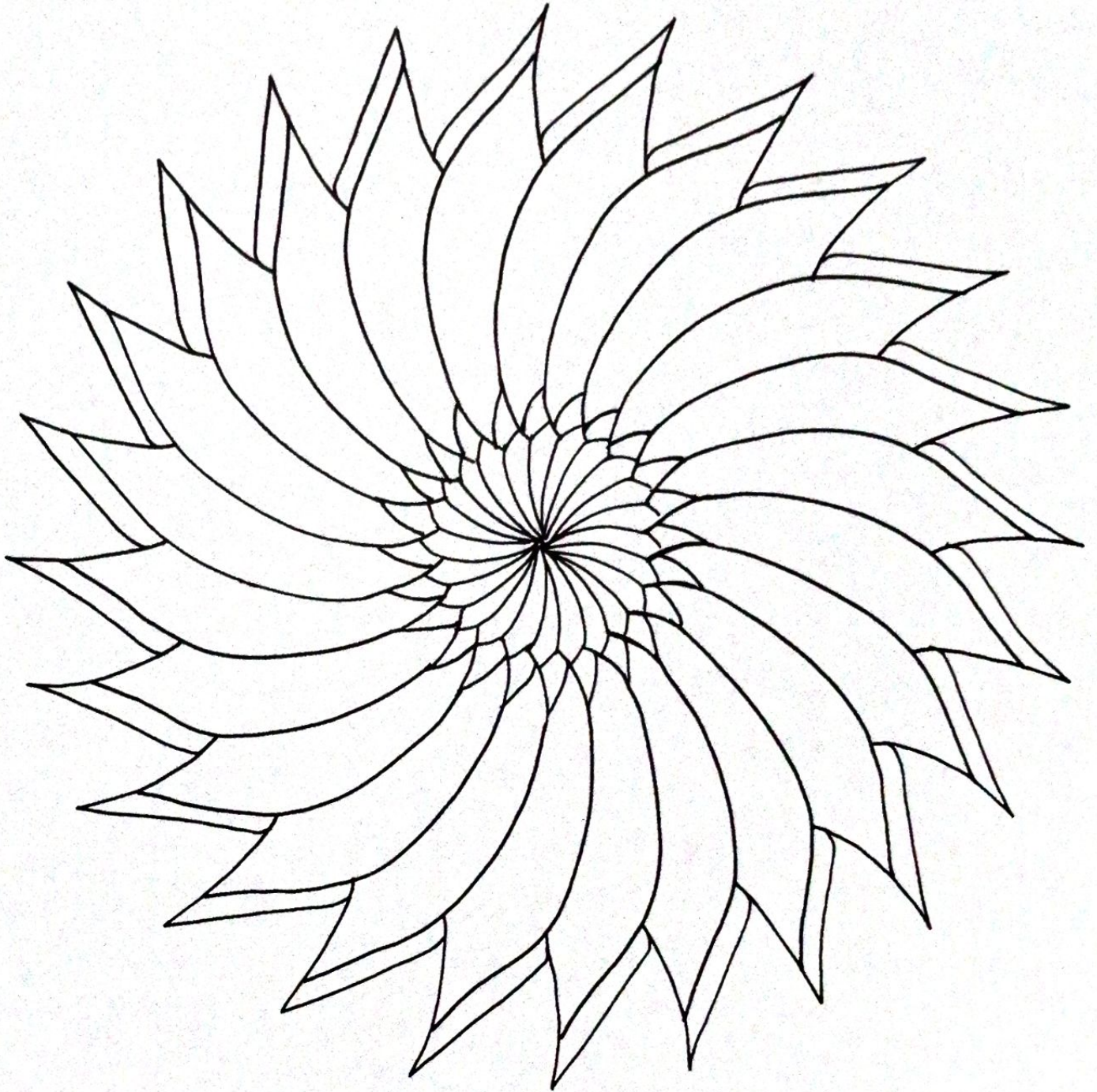
The number of points of a star pattern reminds us of the many gifts
bestowed on us by Allah (SWT), e.g. a 4-pointed star shows
gratitude for the guidance of *directions*, North, South, East,
West - by which we can find our *Qibla*, or
an 8-pointed star shows gratitude for Allah (SWT)'s gifts
everywhere - right, left, above, below, inside, outside, behind and in
front.

AlHamdu Lillah



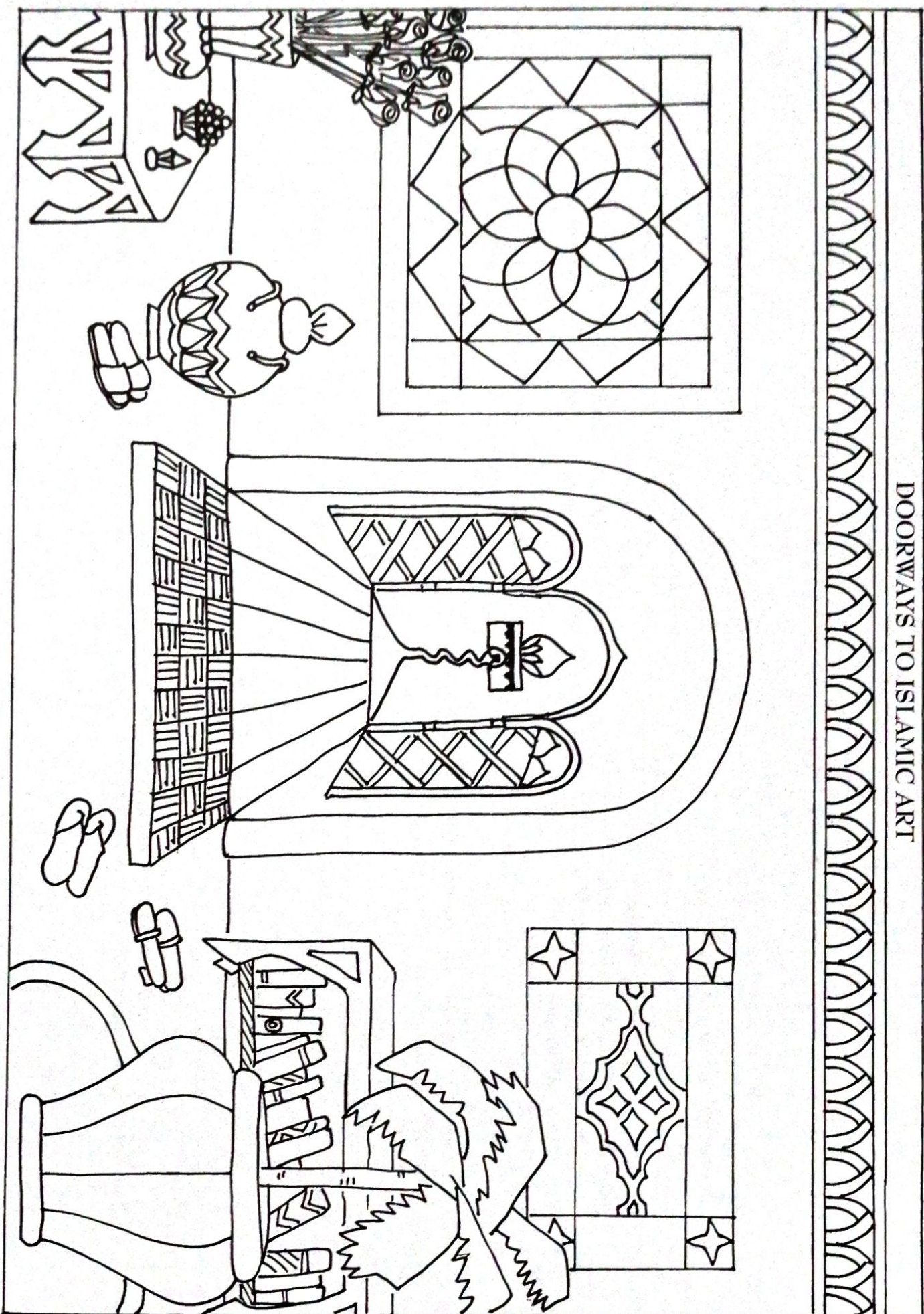






While you colour in this picture, point out where you see a bud, a border, a star, up/down or intertwining design, a tree (or life), or a doorway! Why do you think there are shoes at the doorway?

DOORWAYS TO ISLAMIC ART



BOOKS / LECTURE NOTES / VIDEOS

◆ THE NOBLE QUR'AN

Translation and Tafseer (commentary) by:

Yusuf Ali (RA)

Mohammed Marmaduke Pickthall (RA)

Imam Ahmed Raza Khan (RA) (Urdu) -

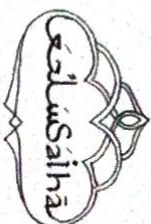
English by Mohamed Hoosein Mukaddam

Iman Torres - Al Haneef

Mohammad Ashfaq Ahmad

- ◆ *Concordance of the Qur'an* - Hanna E Kassis - foreword by Fazlur Rahman

- ◆ *Islamic Concept of Nature* - Moulana Imran Nazar Hosein - (Trinidad) Video lecture 1987 in Durban, SA



- ◆ *Islamic Art lecture notes* - M Fadiel Arnold

- ◆ *An Islamic Approach to the Environment* - Prof. Ibrahim Ozdemir (Turkey) - Lecture Notes - Islamic Unity Convention Winter University / University of Cape Town 1998

- ◆ *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain* - Betty Edwards
- ◆ *Islamic Art and Spirituality* - Seyed Hossein Nasr
- ◆ *Islamic Patterns* - Keith Critchlow
- ◆ *Moral Healing Through The Most Beautiful Names* - Laleh Bakhtiar
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I am grateful to Allah Almighty for the opportunity to attend Khoana-e-Addab School of Urdu Grammar (est. 1978) - Cape Town, South Africa, to learn the Urdu language, which came about as a result of Islam, with its natural teaching of the concept of addab (respect) and the fine-tuning of expression in its poetry which is usually fragranced with Islamic thought.

In the Name of Allah, The Beneficent, The Merciful

Glorify The Name of your Lord the Most High
Who Creates, then Shapes (creation)
Who Measures, and then Guides

Qur'an 87: 1 - 3

**ALLAH IS BEAUTIFUL
AND**

LOVES BEAUTY

Hadith - Sahih Muslim

*O Allah, grant us a sight so complete that we may see You in every particle.
Please grant that we follow and obey Your final Messenger,
and may we reach our end using Your Name...Ameen.*

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سائحه
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