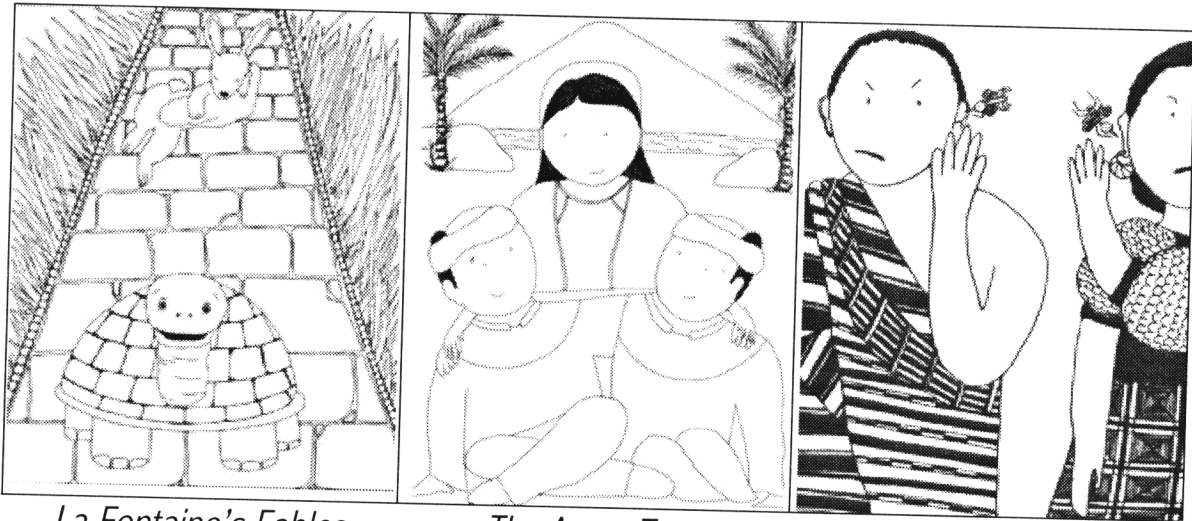


“Storytellers of the French- speaking World”

**A literature-based curriculum unit
with Internet connections**



La Fontaine's Fables

The Areca Tree

The Hand's Secret

This unit includes:

- Black-and-white copy masters for creating your own picturebooks
- Sites with hyper-linked picture dictionaries and full-color illustrations
 - Geographical and cultural connections with realia
 - Pre-reading, reading and post-reading activities
 - Culminating project ideas and suggestions

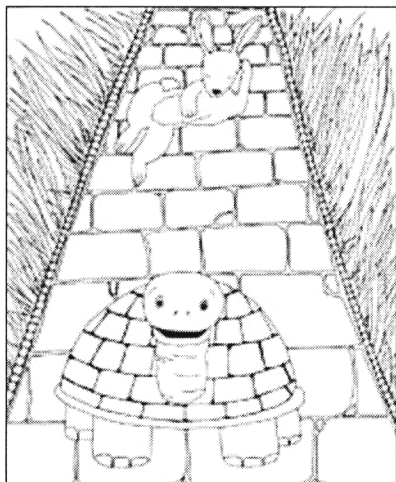
by Lori Langer de Ramirez, Ed.D.

Storytellers of the French-speaking World

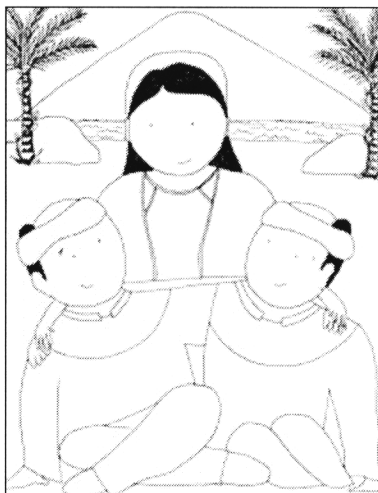
Curriculum Suggestions

Introduction

The stories in this unit are tales from different regions of the Francophone world – Europe (France), Asia (Vietnam), and Africa (Gabon). The main themes that might be explored in a curriculum unit linked to these tales are: poetry, oral storytelling, fables, and the Francophone world (history, geography, etc.).



In **"La Fontaine's Fables"**, ten fables from French author Jean de la Fontaine teach lessons through animal characters. Included are summaries of favorites such as "The Crow and the Fox", "The Hare and the Tortoise" and "The Lion and the Gnat"



"The Areca Tree" is the story of Thao, & brothers Tan & Lang. Both Tan and Lang are in love with Thao, and Tan marries her. The story ends with the magical transformation of all three friends and the explanation of the origin of the traditional Vietnamese marriage offering.



The Gabonese tale, **"The Hand's Secret"**, tells why mosquitoes buzz in people's ears. Hand decides to go to market and Mosquito joins him. Ear asks Hand to buy him something. When Hand spends Ear's money, Mosquito is the only witness with the secret.

Story #1: “La Fontaine’s fables”



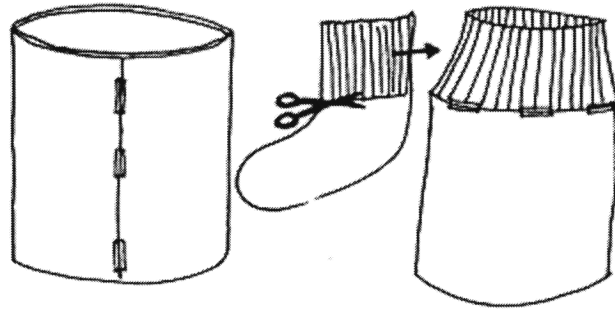
Vocabulary:

1. Copy the vocabulary cards onto card stock and cut each one out. Have students (or pairs of students) illustrate each vocabulary word in the space provided (Note: there are blank vocabulary cards available for you to add vocabulary words to the list if needed).
 - beg (to): to ask for something
 - bold: without fear
 - cicada (a/the): a large insect with transparent wings
 - compliment (to): to say something nice about someone
 - deed (a/the): an act or action
 - freedom (some/the): ability to do what you want; free from another's control
 - furious: very angry
 - harm (to): to cause damage
 - honeycomb (some/the): place where bees keep honey
 - hoof (a/the): hard covering on the feet of some animals
 - jealous: envious; wanting what someone else has
 - persistence (some/the): act of trying for a period of time
 - plump: chubby; fat
 - respond (to): to answer
 - rest (to): to relax and do no work
 - rotten: spoiled
 - spider web (a/the): the web made by a spider
 - thirsty: wanting something to drink
 - ungrateful: unappreciative; not being thankful
 - well (a/the): a hole in the ground in which water is stored

2. Pre-teach the vocabulary by using a magic box*.
 - Place the vocabulary cards into the magic box.
 - Ask for volunteers to pull the cards from the magic box.
 - As each card is pulled from the box, ask students to act out the vocabulary word.

***How to make a magic box:**

Cover an oatmeal container or other cylindrical container with colored or contact paper. Attach the top part of a large sock or leg warmer to the top portion of the container. Decorate as you like.



Pre-reading activities:

1. Have students read the introduction and discuss the origin of the story.



Weblink: You can have students read the introduction on the website:

www.miscositas.com/fableseng.html

2. Divide the students into pair groups. Provide each pair with three black-and-white illustrations and three text pages from the story. Ask the students to try to match the text with the pictures.




Reading:

Copy the story text and illustrations for your students. You might want to create a booklet with the pages by photocopying the text and pictures so that the image is on the left and the story on the right.



Weblink: You can have students read the story on the website: www.miscositas.com/fableseng1.html

(click  through story)*

** NOTE: the fables are summarized on the “pages” of the “virtual storybook”. In order to access La Fontaine’s actual*

texts, click on the title of each story. Full text for all fables is also available at the end of this lesson.

LA FONTAINE'S FABLES summary texts:

1) The Wolf and the Stork

The wolf was choking on a bone and asked the stork to help him. The stork used his long beak to help him get the bone out of his throat, but the ungrateful wolf threatened to eat him in return for his good deed.

2) The Cicada and the Ant

During the summer, the ants worked hard to gather food for the coming winter. The cicada, on the other hand, sang and made fun of the ants for working so hard. When the winter came, the cicada had nothing to eat and had to beg the ants for food.

3) The Crow and the Fox

The fox wanted some cheese that the crow had in his mouth, so he complimented the crow. When the crow opened his mouth to respond, he let the cheese fall. When the cheese hit the ground, the fox ate it and was very happy

4) The Donkey and the Little Dog

The donkey was jealous of the dog because he was the master's best friend. So the donkey tried to do things that the dog would do and he put his big hoof on the master's chin. The master was furious and punished the donkey for being so silly.

5) The Wolf and the Lamb

A lamb was drinking water when a wolf appeared. He was furious that the lamb would be so bold as to drink near him. He asked the lamb if he was the same one who had bothered him last year. The lamb said "no" because he hadn't even been born yet. But the wolf was so angry that he ate the lamb anyway - just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.

6) The Fox and the Goat

The fox and the goat were thirsty and so they climbed into a well to get something to drink. When they were finished, the fox climbed on top of the goat to get out. The goat was left behind with no way to get out and the fox just walked away.

7) The Wolf and the Dog

One day the wolf was very hungry. He saw the dog all healthy and plump and decided to speak to him. The dog tried to convince the wolf that he had everything he wanted. But when the wolf saw the chains around the dog's neck, he realized that he had everything except for his freedom.

8) The Hare and the Tortoise

One day the hare challenged the tortoise to a race. The hare was

so sure that he would win that he rested during the race. The tortoise didn't rest at all and slowly but surely won the race with his persistence.

9) **The Hornets and the Honey Bees**

The hornets and the honey bees couldn't decide who owned some honeycomb. The judge in the case ordered the two sides to wait six months for a decision. But after the six months were over, the honeycomb was rotten and then no one wanted it!

10) **The Lion and the Gnat**

The lion couldn't believe that a little gnat could do him any harm. So the gnat buzzed and buzzed in the lion's ear to prove him wrong. He flew around telling everyone how he bothered the lion but when he wasn't looking, he flew straight into a spider web and there he stayed!



Post-reading activities:

1. Check for understanding by asking comprehension questions:

- What happened to the cicada after he spent the whole summer singing? [*He had nothing to eat during the winter.*]
- Why was the donkey so unhappy? [*He was jealous of the dog.*]
- How did the hare lose the race? [*He rested on the road during the race.*]

2. Discuss the story with students by asking their opinions about the events:

- Which is your favorite story? Why?
- Choose one story and explain its moral. Say if you agree with the ending, or not and explain why.
- Choose one story that you think is fair, and one that seems unfair. Explain why you've chosen each story.

LA FONTAINE'S FABLES

full texts:

The Wolf and the Stork

Wolves can out eat anyone;
Indeed at a festivity,
Such gluttony second to none
Almost ended fatally
When a bone choked a wolf as he gulped what
he ate;
But happily since he was inarticulate,
A stork who chanced to hear him groan,
Was besought by frowns to run and peer,
And, ah, had soon relieved the beast of the bone;
Then, having done him a service, had no fear,
So asked him now to compensate her.
"Compensate?" he inquired with bared teeth,
"A humorist, I infer!
You should be glad that you draw breath.
Thrust your beak down my throat and you
somehow escaped death?
Be off. You are unappreciative;
Shun my paws if you care to live.

The Cicada and the Ants

Cicada, having sung her song
All summer long,
Found herself without a crumb
When winter winds did come.
Not a scrap was there to find
Of fly or earthworm, any kind.
Hungry, she ran off to cry
To neighbor Ant, and specify:
Asking for a loan of grist,
A seed or two so she'd subsist
Just until the coming spring.
She said, "I'll pay you everything
Before fall, my word as animal,
Interest and principal."
Well, no hasty lender is the Ant;
It's her finest virtue by a lot.
"And what did you do when it was hot?"
She then asked this mendicant.
"To all comers, night and day,
I sang. I hope you don't mind."
"You sang?" Why, my joy is unconfined.
Now dance the winter away."

The Crow and The Fox

At the top of a tree perched Master Crow;
In his beak he was holding a cheese.
Drawn by the smell, Master Fox spoke, below.
The words, more or less, were these:
"Hey, now, Sir Crow! Good day, good day!
How very handsome you do look, how grandly
distinguished!
No lie, if those songs you sing
Match the plumage of your wing,
You're the phoenix of these woods, our choice."
Hearing this, the Crow was all rapture and
wonder.

To show off his handsome voice,
He opened beak wide and let go of his plunder.
The Fox snapped it up and then said, "My Good
Sir,
Learn that each flatterer
Lives at the cost of those who heed.
This lesson is well worth the cheese, indeed."
The Crow, ashamed and sick,
Swore, a bit late, not to fall again for that trick.

The Donkey and the Small Dog

Let's not force our talent,
As nothing would be performed gracefully:
Never has a dolt, no matter how much he tries,
Could ever be taken for a gentleman.
Few people blessed by the Heavens,
Possess the inborn gift to seduce in life.
"This a matter one has to allow them,
So as not resemble the Donkey in the Fable,
Who in order to ingratiate himself to his master,
Went over to caress him. "How come? in his soul
said he,
This pup, because of his cute ways,
Will continue to live as a companion
With Milord and Milady;
And I will get blows with a stick?
What does he do? he gives his paw;
At once he is kissed;
If need be, I'll act the same way to be petted,
It is not difficult at all."
With such a tender thought in mind,
Seeing his master in a jovial mood, he comes up
clumsily,
Raises a very battered paw,
Puts it on his master's chin lovingly,
Adding as an extra expression of love,
His most gracious braying to this bold action.
"Oh ! oh ! what a caress ! and what a melody !
Said the Master at once. Hey there, *Martin
stick!"
Martin stick comes running; the donkey changes
his tune.
Thus ended the little comic drama.
Beware, another's talent may not
necessarily be yours.

The Wolf and the Lamb

The strong are always best at proving they're
right.
Witness the case we're now going to cite.
A Lamb was drinking, serene,
At a brook running clear all the way.
A ravenous Wolf happened by, on the lookout for
the prey,
Whose sharp hunger drew him to the scene.
"What makes you so bold as to muck up my
beverage?"
This creature snarled in rage.
"You will pay for your temerity!"
"Sire," replied the Lamb, "let not Your Majesty
Now give in to unjust ire,
But rather do consider, Sire:

I'm drinking just look
In the brook
Twenty feet farther down, if not more,
And therefore in no way at all, I think,
Can I be muddying what you drink."
"You're muddying it!" insisted the cruel carnivore.
"And I know that, last year, you spoke ill of me."
"How could I do that? Why I'd not yet even come
to be,"
Said the Lamb. "At my dam's teat I still nurse."
"If not you, then your brother. All the worse."
"I don't have one." "Then it's someone else in
your clan,
For to me you're all of you a curse:
You, your dogs, your shepherds to a man.
So I've been told; I have to pay you all back."
With that, deep into the wood,
The Wolf dragged and ate his midday snack.
So trial and judgment stood.

The Fox and the Goat

A fox one day fell into a deep well and could find
no means of escape. A Goat, overcome with
thirst, came to the same well, and seeing the
Fox, inquired if the water was good. Concealing
his sad plight under a merry guise, the Fox
indulged in a lavish praise of the water, saying it
was excellent beyond measure, and encouraging
him to descend. The Goat, mindful only of his
thirst, thoughtlessly jumped down, but just as he
drank, the Fox informed him of the difficulty they
were both in and suggested a scheme for their
common escape. "If," said he, "you will place
your forefeet upon the wall and bend your head, I
will run up your back and escape, and will help
you out afterwards." The Goat readily assented
and the Fox leaped upon his back. Steadying
himself with the Goat's horns, he safely reached
the mouth of the well and made off as fast as he
could. When the Goat upbraided him for
breaking his promise, he turned around and cried
out, "You foolish old fellow! If you had as many
brains in your head as you have hairs in your
beard, you would never have gone down before
you had inspected the way up, nor have exposed
yourself to dangers from which you had no
means of escape." - Look before you leap.

The Fox and the Dog

A gaunt Wolf was almost dead with hunger when
he happened to meet a House-dog who was
passing by.
—"Ah, Cousin," said the Dog. "I knew how it
would be; your irregular life will soon be the ruin
of you. Why do you not work steadily as I do,
and get your food regularly given to you?"
—"I would have no objection," said the Wolf, "if I
could only get a place."
—"I will easily arrange that for you," said the Dog;
"come with me to my master and you shall share
my work." So the Wolf and the Dog went towards
the town together. On the way there the Wolf

noticed that the hair on a certain part of the Dog's
neck was very much worn away, so he asked him
how that had come about.

—"Oh, it is nothing," said the Dog. "That is only
the place where the collar is put on at night to
keep me chained up; it chafes a bit, but one soon
gets used to it."

—"Is that all?" said the Wolf. "Then good-bye to
you, Master Dog."

Better starve free than be a fat slave.

The Hare and the Tortoise

Rushing is useless; one has to leave on time.
To such Truth witness is given by the Tortoise
and the Hare.

"Let's make a bet," the former once said, "that
you won't touch That line as soon as I."
"As soon? Are you all there, Neighbor?" said the
rapid beast. "You need a purge: four grains at
least of hellebore, you're now so far gone."
"All there or not, the bet's still on."

So it was done; the wagers of the two
Were placed at the finish, in view.
It doesn't matter what was down at stake,
Nor who was the judge that they got.
Our Hare had, at most, four steps or so to take.
I mean the kind he takes when, on the verge of
being caught,
He outruns dogs sent to the calends for their
pains,
Making them run all over the plains.
Having, I say, time to spare, sleep, browse
around,
Listen to where the wind was bound,
He let the Tortoise leave the starting place
In stately steps, wide-spaced.

Straining, she commenced the race:
Going slow was how she made haste.
He, meanwhile, thought such a win derogatory,
Judged the bet to be devoid of glory,
Believed his honor was all based
On leaving late. He browsed, lolled like a king,
Amused himself with everything
But the bet. When at last he took a look,
Saw that she'd almost arrived at the end of the
course,
He shot off like a bolt. But all of the leaps he took
Were in vain; the Tortoise was first perforce.
"Well, now!" she cried out to him. "Was I wrong?
What good is all your speed to you?
The winner is me! And how would you do
If you also carried a house along?"

The Hornets and the Honey Bees

One can tell craftsmen's work with ease.
Their owner having left a few honeycombs
without any heirs,
Some Hornets claimed they were theirs.
On an opposing plea by Honeybees,
To a certain Judge Wasp they then assigned the
case,

Which was no easy matter to decide on its face.
 Witnesses deposed: around the combs, before
 their eyes,
 Some winged creatures, buzzing, somewhat long
 in size,
 Quite tan in color, and looking very much like
 honeybees,
 Had long appeared. So what? To compare the
 Hornets' guise,
 These signs were the same, if you please.
 Such evidence no proof, the Wasp could but
 temporize,
 Continue to investigate and hear, to break the
 impasse,
 A colony of ants en masse.
 But no more light did anyone see.
 "Please, what use can all this be?"
 A very wise Honeybee then said.
 "After nearly six months that the case has been
 pled,
 We're still just where we always were.
 Honey, meanwhile, goes to waste.
 It's now past time for the judge to make haste.
 Hasn't he amply licked the bear's fur?
 Without so many interlocutors, opposite
 positions,
 These interrogatories, depositions,
 Let's get down to work, Hornets and we.
 We'll see who can make nectar, so sweet and
 savory,
 And these fine cells, who cannot."
 The Hornets' outright refusal then
 Showed this art surpassed their ken,
 And Wasp adjudged honey to plaintiffs on the
 spot.
 Would to God we could settle all our lawsuits this
 way,
 And that, so doing, we might follow the Turkish
 mode!
 Simple common sense would replace our present
 legal code,
 And we'd have far fewer fees to pay.
 Whereas we're devoured, just can't budge,
 Sapped, sucked dry to continuance.

So much so, that in the end the oyster belongs to
 the judge,
 And the shells go to the litigants.

The Lion and the Mosquito

Once upon a time ...a tiny mosquito started to
 buzz round a lion he met.
 —"Go away!" grumbled the sleepy lion, smacking
 his own cheek in an attempt to drive the insect
 away. "Why should I?" demanded the mosquito.
 "You're king of the jungle, not of the air! I'll fly
 wherever I want and land wherever I please."
 And so saying, he tickled the lion's ear. In the
 hope of crushing the insect, the lion boxed his
 own ears, but the mosquito slipped away from the
 now dazed lion.
 —"I don't feel it any more. Either it's squashed or
 it's gone away." But at that very moment, the
 irritating buzz began again, and the mosquito
 flew into the lion's nose. Wild with rage, the lion
 leapt to his hind legs and started to rain punches
 on his own nose. But the insect, safe inside,
 refused to budge. With a swollen nose and
 watery eyes, the lion gave a terrific sneeze,
 blasting the mosquito out. Angry at being
 dislodged so abruptly, the mosquito returned to
 the attack: BUZZ . . . BUZZZ! . . . it whizzed
 round the lion's head. Large and tough as the
 lion was, he could not rid himself of his tiny
 tormenter. This made him angrier still, and he
 roared fiercely. At the sound of his terrible voice,
 all the forest creatures fled in fear, but paying no
 heed to the exhausted lion, the mosquito said
 triumphantly: "There you are, king of the jungle!
 Foiled by a tiny mosquito like me!" And highly
 delighted with his victory, off he buzzed. But he
 did not notice a spider's web hanging close by,
 and soon he was turning and twisting, trying to
 escape from the trap set by a large spider. "Bah!"
 said the spider in disgust, as he ate it. "Another
 tiny mosquito. Not much to get excited about, but
 better than nothing. I was hoping for something
 more substantial..." And that's what became of
 the mosquito that foiled the lion!

Story #2: "The Areca Tree"



Vocabulary:

1. Copy the vocabulary cards onto card stock and cut each one out. Have students (or pairs of students) illustrate each

vocabulary word in the space provided (Note: there are blank vocabulary cards available for you to add vocabulary words to the list if needed).

- admire (to): to look up to someone
- alone: on your own
- boulder (a/the): a large rock
- brother-in-law (a/the): brother of one's husband or wife
- ceremony (a/the): actions performed for an occasion
- crash (to): to hit with great force and noise
- dress (to): to wear clothes
- fierce: wild; ferocious
- identical: the same
- join (to): to bring together
- offering (an/the): a contribution or gift
- rage (to): to be violent and intense
- replace (to): to change
- respect (to): to admire
- symbolize (to): to represent
- transformation (a/the): a change
- unique: different; special
- vine (a/the): the stem of a plant
- worry (to): to feel anxious; to be uneasy
- wrap (to): to cover by winding around something

2. Pre-teach the vocabulary by using the cards as flash cards.



Pre-reading activities:

1. Have students read the introduction and discuss the origin of the story.



Weblink: *You can have students read the introduction on the website: www.miscositas.com/tree.html*

2. Divide students into small groups. Have the students predict the story by arranging the black-and-white illustrations into the correct order. Ask one member of each group to tell their


version of the story to the class. Vote on whose version of the story might be right.



Reading:

Copy the story text and illustrations for your students. You might want to create a booklet with the pages by photocopying the text and pictures so that the image is on the left and the story on the right.



Weblink: *You can have students read the story on the website: www.miscositas.com/tree1.html (click  through story)*

THE ARECA TREE Story text:

1. Tan, Lang and Thao were best friends. Tan and Lang were identical brothers - they dressed in the same clothes, spoke in the same way and they both had the same love for Thao.
2. Thao knew each boy's unique identity. She noticed how Tan loved to talk a lot and spend time with his friends. Lang preferred to stay quiet and spend time alone. Thao knew that Tan loved her. She didn't realize that Lang loved her too.
3. One day, Tan's parents brought the traditional marriage offering to Thao's parents. They agreed to the wedding and Tan and Thao were married in a beautiful ceremony.
4. When Tan and Thao went for walks or rode horses, they still always invited Lang. One day Lang announced that he couldn't join them because he needed to take a short trip. But really Lang had decided to go away to be alone.
5. Lang walked for days until he came to a river. There he sat down and thought about Thao and how much he loved her. He also thought about his brother Tan and how much he loved and respected him.
6. Suddenly a fierce storm came. Lightening crashed and the winds raged. Lang wrapped his long white robe around his body and stayed the night by the river. In the morning, Lang was gone and there was a white boulder in his place.
7. Tan was worried about his brother and he announced to Thao that he was going to look for him. Tan walked for days until he came to a river. There he sat down and thought about Thao and how much he loved her. He also thought about his brother Lang and how much he loved and respected him.

8. Suddenly a fierce storm came. Lightning crashed and the winds raged. Tan wrapped his long green robe around his body and stayed the night by the river. In the morning, Tan was gone and there was a green palm tree next to the white boulder.
9. Thao was worried about Tan and Lang and decided that she was going to look for them. Thao walked for days until she came to a river. There she sat down and thought about Thao and how much she loved him. She also thought about her brother-in-law Lang and how much she respected him.
10. Suddenly a fierce storm came. Lightning crashed and the winds raged. Thao wrapped her long dark green robe around her body and stayed the night by the river. In the morning, Thao was gone and there was a beautiful green vine wrapped around the palm tree next to the white boulder.
11. Many years later, King Vuong II Hung was traveling past the river. As he stopped to rest by the white boulder, he admired the lovely vine and palm tree. A farmer who had witnessed the transformations of Lang, Tan and Thao, told the whole story to the king.
12. Touched by the story of the three friends, the king announced that the palm fruit, vine and stone would replace the traditional marriage offering. These three elements forever symbolize the love that Lang, Tan and Thao had for each other.



Post-reading activities:

1. Check for understanding by asking comprehension questions:
 - What type of person is Tan? and Lang? [*Tan is talkative and Land is quiet.*]
 - Who married Thao? [*Tan married Thao.*]
 - What happened to Thao, Tan and Lang? [*Lang turned into a rock, Tan turned into a tree and Thao turned into a vine.*]
2. Discuss the story with students by asking their opinions about the events:
 - Have you ever heard of two people being in love with the same person? Who was it? What happened in your story?

- Do you think that what happened to Lang, Tan and Thao was fair? Why, or why not?
- Why do you think that Tan went in search of Lang? Why did Thao search for Tan?

Story #3: “The Hand’s Secret”



Vocabulary:

1. Copy the vocabulary cards onto card stock and cut each one out. Have students (or pairs of students) illustrate each vocabulary word in the space provided (Note: there are blank vocabulary cards available for you to add vocabulary words to the list if needed).

- chase (to): to run after someone or something
- close: nearby; not far
- cowrie (a/the): a smooth shell used as money in some parts of Africa
- join (to): to bring together
- market (a/the): a place where you buy or sell things
- refuse (to): to say "no"
- revealed: shown; exposed
- spend (to): to use money to buy something
- trip (a/the): journey; voyage
- truth (a/the): fact or facts; not a lie

2. Pre-teach the vocabulary by asking students to predict each word based on the accompanying illustrations.



Pre-reading activities:

1. Have students read the introduction and discuss the origin of the story.



Weblink: You can have students read the introduction on the website:
www.miscositas.com/hand.html


2. Show students the illustrations from the story. In a round, ask each student to name an object that they see in the market photo.



Reading:

Copy the story text and illustrations for your students. You might want to create a booklet with the pages by photocopying the text and pictures back-to-back.



Weblink: You can have students read the story on the website: www.miscositas.com/hand1.html
(click  through story)

THE HAND'S SECRET Story text:

1. Once upon a time, the ear needed to buy some things at the market. Since the hand was already heading that way, he offered to buy the items for the ear and the ear gave the hand some money in the form of cowrie shells.
2. The mosquito, who had nothing better to do, decided to join the hand on his trip to the market.
3. At the market, the hand bought everything in sight. Before he knew it, he had spent all his money - including the money the ear gave him.
4. When they returned, the ear asked the hand for his things. But the hand refused to answer him.
5. The mosquito decided to tell the ear everything that had happened at the market.
6. But every time the mosquito tries to get close to the ear to tell him, the hand chases him away because he's afraid of the truth.
7. That's why, even today, when a mosquito gets close to your ear, your hand chases it away. The hand is still afraid that his secret will one day be revealed.



Post-reading activities:

1. Check for understanding by asking comprehension questions:

- Who went to the market? [*the hand and the mosquito*]
- What did the ear give to the hand? [*some money – cowrie shells*]
- Why was the ear upset? [*because the hand wouldn't tell him what happened to his money*]

2. Discuss the story with students by asking their opinions:

- Why do you think the ear trusted the hand with his money?
- Was it fair that the hand spent the ear's money? Why, or why not?
- Have you ever lost money? How did you feel?

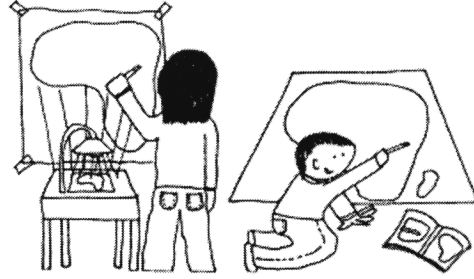


Culminating activity suggestions:

1. Have each student choose four black-line drawings from their favorite story. Ask them to color them and arrange them onto a piece of oak tag to create their own short story. After a rough draft on scrap paper, they can write their text directly onto the oak tag below the drawings and put a title to the story above.
2. Have students write and illustrate original fables or “pourquoi” tales.
3. Ask students to find fables or “pourquoi” tales from other French-speaking countries. Have a “tell-off” in which students tell their stories to the class. Using a floor map of the French-speaking world*, have students tell their story standing on their story's country of origin.

*How to make a floor map

Using a shower curtain liner, trace the shape of the French-speaking world – or of individual regions such as Africa, Europe or Asia - freehand, or project the image onto the sheet using an overhead projector and trace. Be sure to use permanent markers!



4. Take a “fantasy trip” to the countries featured in this unit. Use the realia provided as you “visit” sites of interest.



Weblink: You can have students view the realia on the website: www.miscositas.com/vietnamrealia.html and www.miscositas.com/francerealiam.html

Vocabulary Cards

VOCABULARY CARDS – *Storytellers of the French-speaking World*

beg (to):
to ask for something

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

bold:
without fear

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

cicada (a/the):
a large insect with transparent wings

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

compliment (to): to say
something nice about someone

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

deed (a/the):
an act or action

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

freedom (some/the):
ability to do what you want;
free from another's control

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

furious:
very angry

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

harm (to):
to cause damage

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

VOCABULARY CARDS – *Storytellers of the French-speaking World*

honeycomb (some/the):
place where bees keep honey

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “La Fontaine’s Fables”

hoof (a/the): hard covering
on the feet of some animals

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “La Fontaine’s Fables”

jealous: envious;
wanting what someone else has

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “La Fontaine’s Fables”

persistence (some/the):
act of trying for a period of time

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “La Fontaine’s Fables”

plump:
chubby; fat

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “La Fontaine’s Fables”

respond (to):
to answer

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “La Fontaine’s Fables”

rest (to):
to relax and do no work

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “La Fontaine’s Fables”

rotten:
spoiled

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “La Fontaine’s Fables”

VOCABULARY CARDS – *Storytellers of the French-speaking World*

spider web (a/the):
the web made by a spider

thirsty:
wanting something to drink

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

ungrateful:
unappreciative; not being thankful

well (a/the): a hole in
the ground in which water is stored

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "La Fontaine's Fables"

VOCABULARY CARDS – *Storytellers of the French-speaking World*

admire (to):
to look up to someone

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

alone:
on your own

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

boulder (a/the):
a large rock

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

brother-in-law (a/the):
brother of one's husband or wife

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

ceremony (a/the):
actions performed for an occasion

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

crash (to):
to hit with great force and noise

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

dress (to):
to wear clothes

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

fierce:
wild; ferocious

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

VOCABULARY CARDS – *Storytellers of the French-speaking World*

identical:
the same

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

join (to):
to bring together

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

offering (an/the):
a contribution or gift

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

rage (to):
to be violent and intense

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

replace (to):
to change

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

respect (to):
to admire

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

symbolize (to):
to represent

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

transformation (a/the):
a change

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

VOCABULARY CARDS – *Storytellers of the French-speaking World*

unique:
different; special

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

vine (a/the):
the stem of a plant

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

worry (to):
to feel anxious; to be uneasy

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

wrap (to): to cover
by winding around something

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Areca Tree”

VOCABULARY CARDS – *Storytellers of the French-speaking World*

chase (to): to run
after someone or something

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "The Hand's Secret"

close:
nearby; not far

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "The Hand's Secret"

cowrie (a/the): a smooth shell used
as money in some parts of Africa

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "The Hand's Secret"

join (to):
to bring together

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "The Hand's Secret"

market (a/the):
a place where you buy or sell things

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "The Hand's Secret"

refuse (to):
to say "no"

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "The Hand's Secret"

revealed:
shown; exposed

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "The Hand's Secret"

spend (to):
to use money to buy something

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – "The Hand's Secret"

VOCABULARY CARDS – *Storytellers of the French-speaking World*

trip (a/the):
journey; voyage

truth (a/the):
fact or facts; not a lie

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Hand’s Secret”

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Hand’s Secret”

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Hand’s Secret”

Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Hand’s Secret”

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Storytellers of the French-speaking World – “The Hand’s Secret”

Realia

REALIA – Storytellers of the French-speaking World

For color versions of this realia, visit
www.miscositas.com

REALIA from France



*** UNIPRIX SOLDAT LABOUREUR ***
 *** UNIPRIX VOUS LIÈRE À DOMICILE ***

BOUCHE LION	24,95
PARTER 3A	14,50
EVIAN 150CL	2,95
EVIAN 150CL	2,95
EVIAN 150CL	2,95
EVIAN 150CL	2,95
NAPOULITAIN	4,20
REZ BEAUMONT	10,50
TORSABE 500	3,95
CHICK PEA 3H	21,30
PETITE POISS	2,95
PUL. CROCHY 72	2,90
INCEBON LES	3,30
MALIS GRAIN	3,90
CONCENT TOMA	4,00
****	TOT 110,20
ESPECES	110,20
4 RENGE	,20

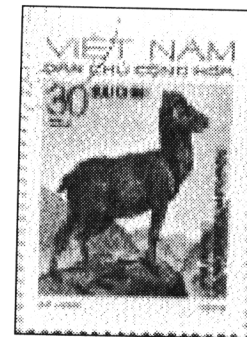
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REALIA – Storytellers of the French-speaking World

For color versions of this realia, visit
www.miscositas.com

REALIA from Vietnam

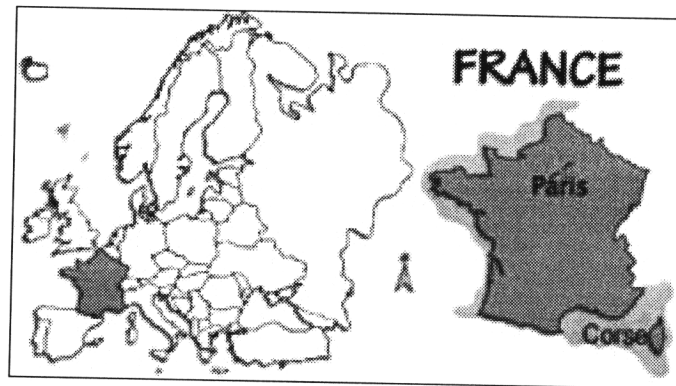


Copymasters

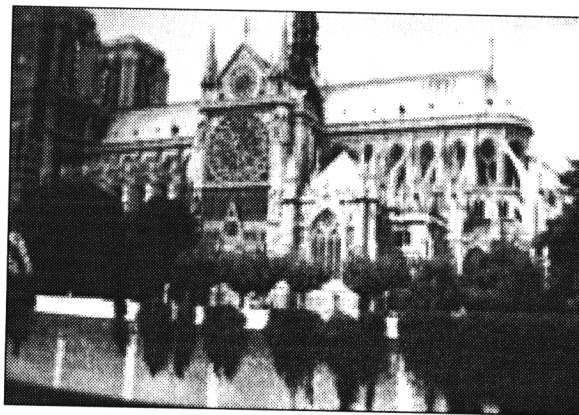
Introduction: "La Fontaine's Fables"

This collection of fables was written by the French author Jean de la Fontaine in the seventeenth century. Each story includes animal characters and tries to teach a moral.

Do you know any stories like that?



What follows are summaries of La Fontaine's most popular fables. Which one is your favorite?





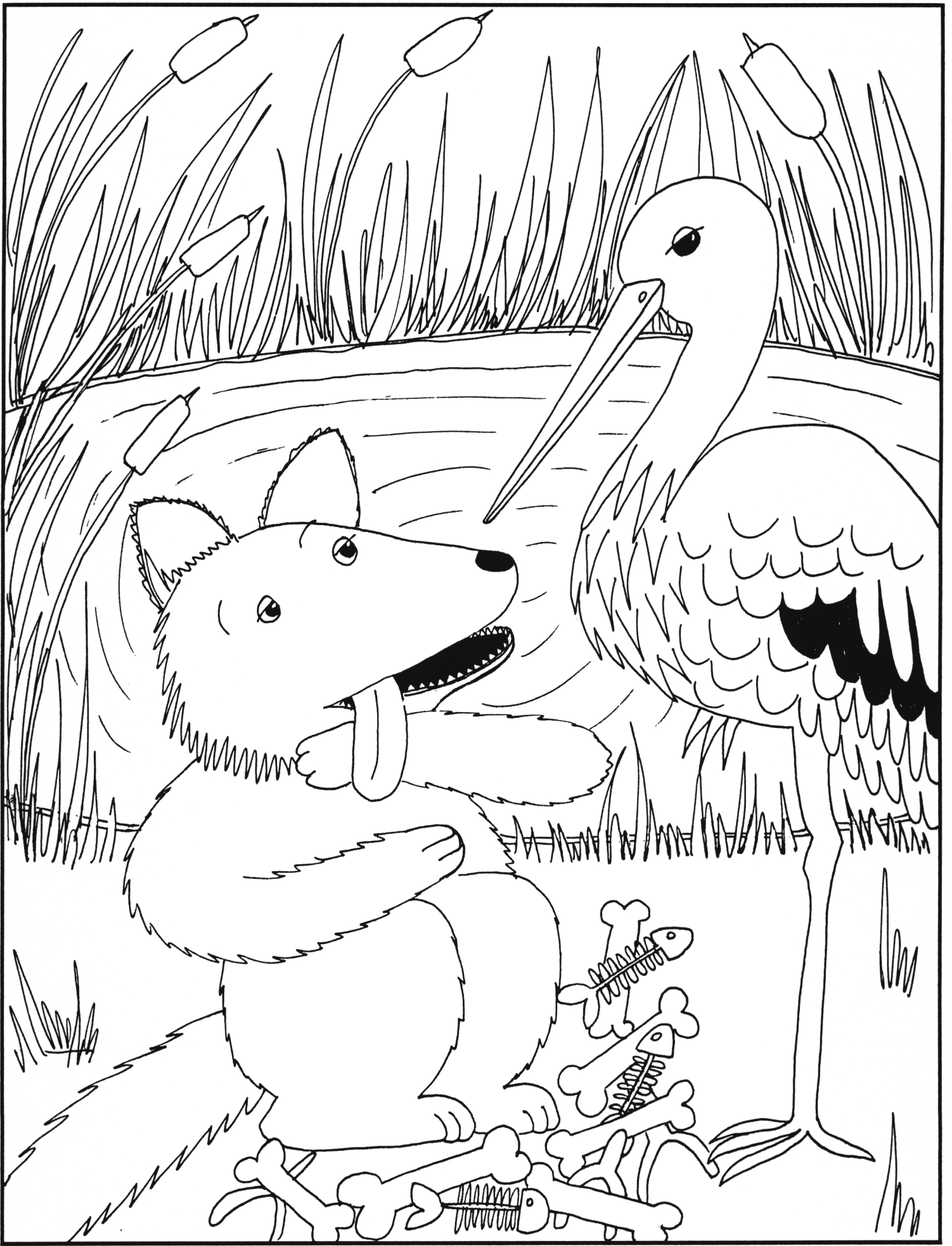
*La
Fontaine's
Fables*

*Summaries by
Lori Langer de Ramirez*



The Wolf and the Stork

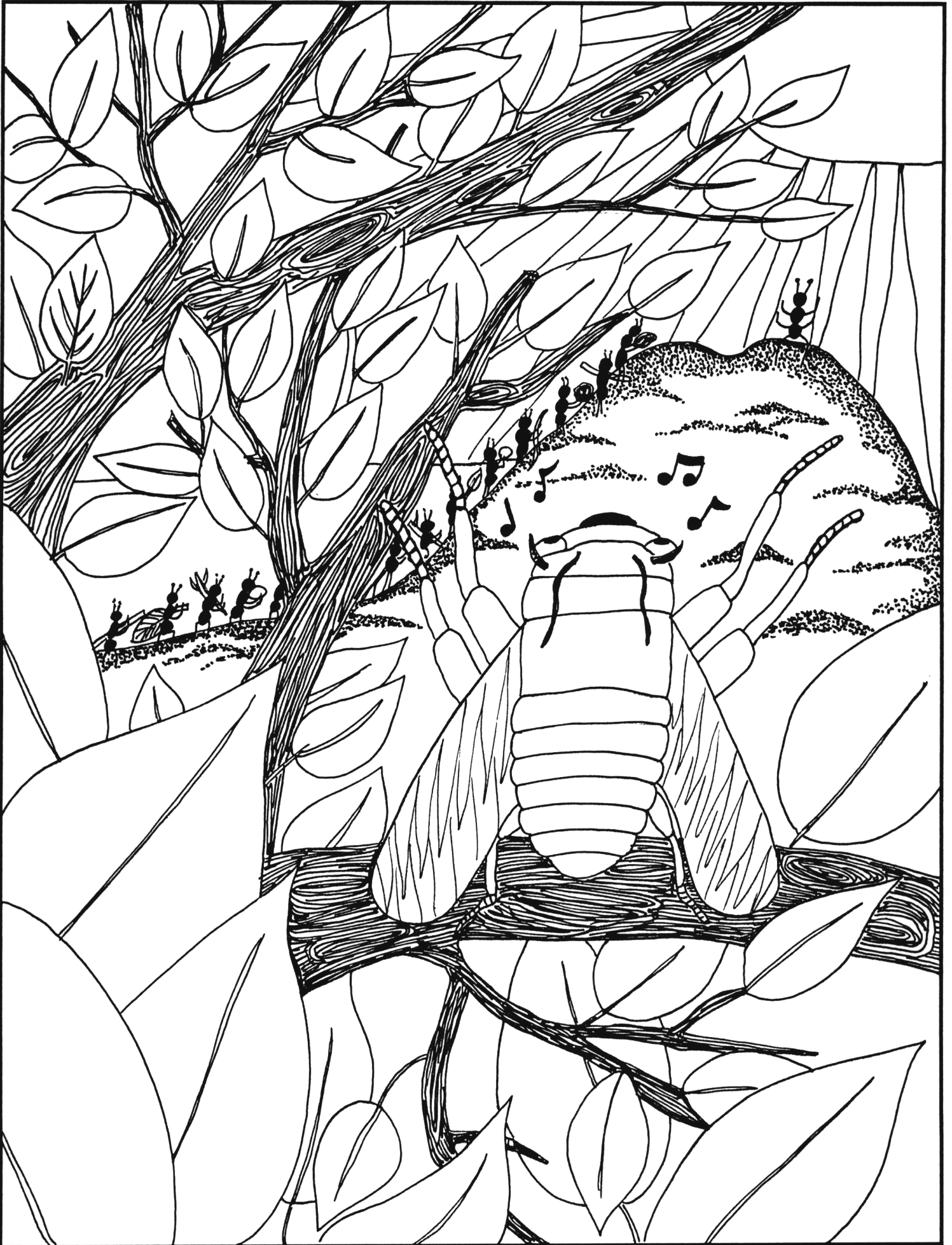
*The wolf was choking
on a bone and asked
the stork to help him.
The stork used his long
beak to help him get the
bone out of his throat,
but the ungrateful wolf
threatened to eat him in
return for his good deed.*





The Cicada and the Ant

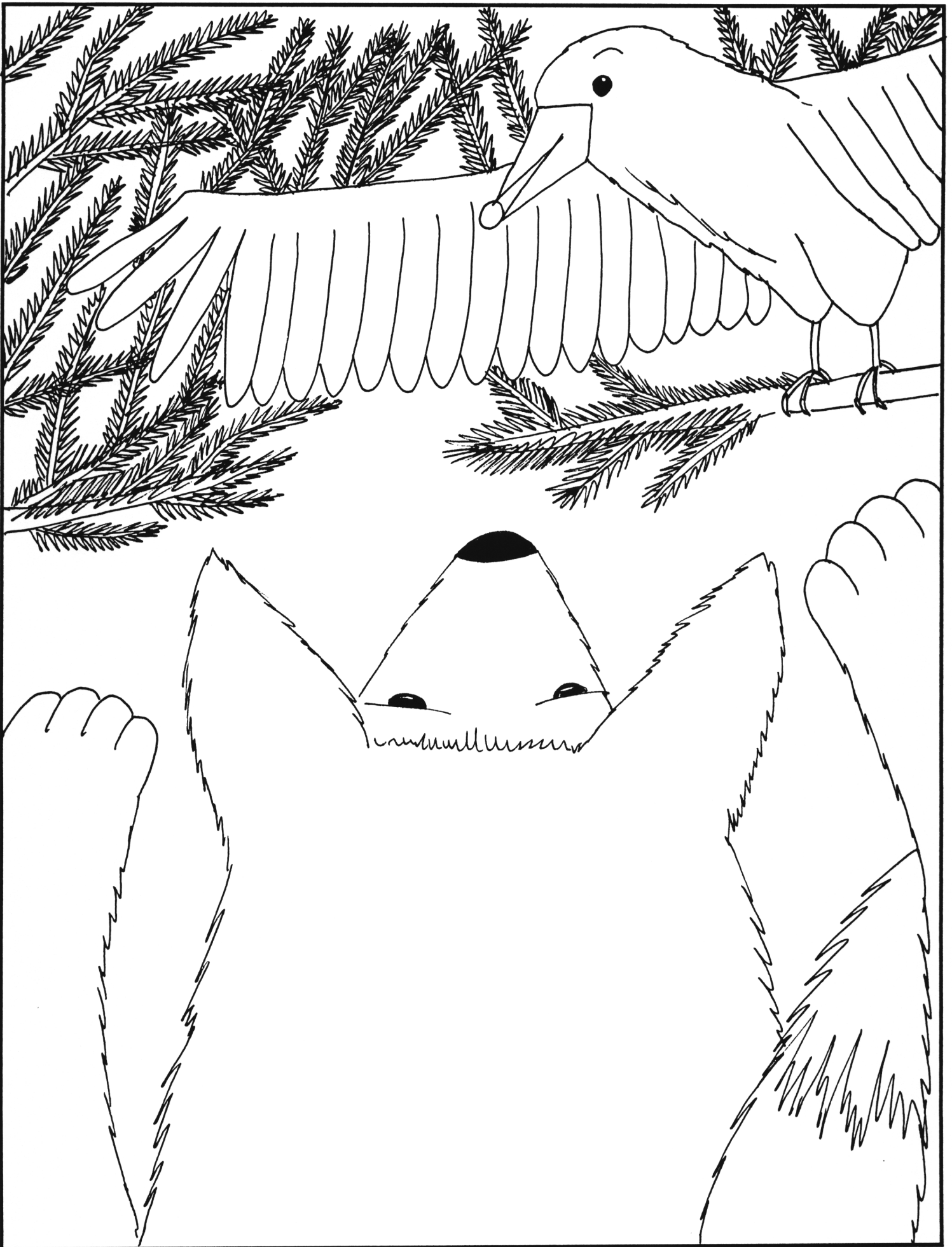
During the summer, the ants worked hard to gather food for the coming winter. The cicada, on the other hand, sang and made fun of the ants for working so hard. When the winter came, the cicada had nothing to eat and had to beg the ants for food.





The Crow and the Fox

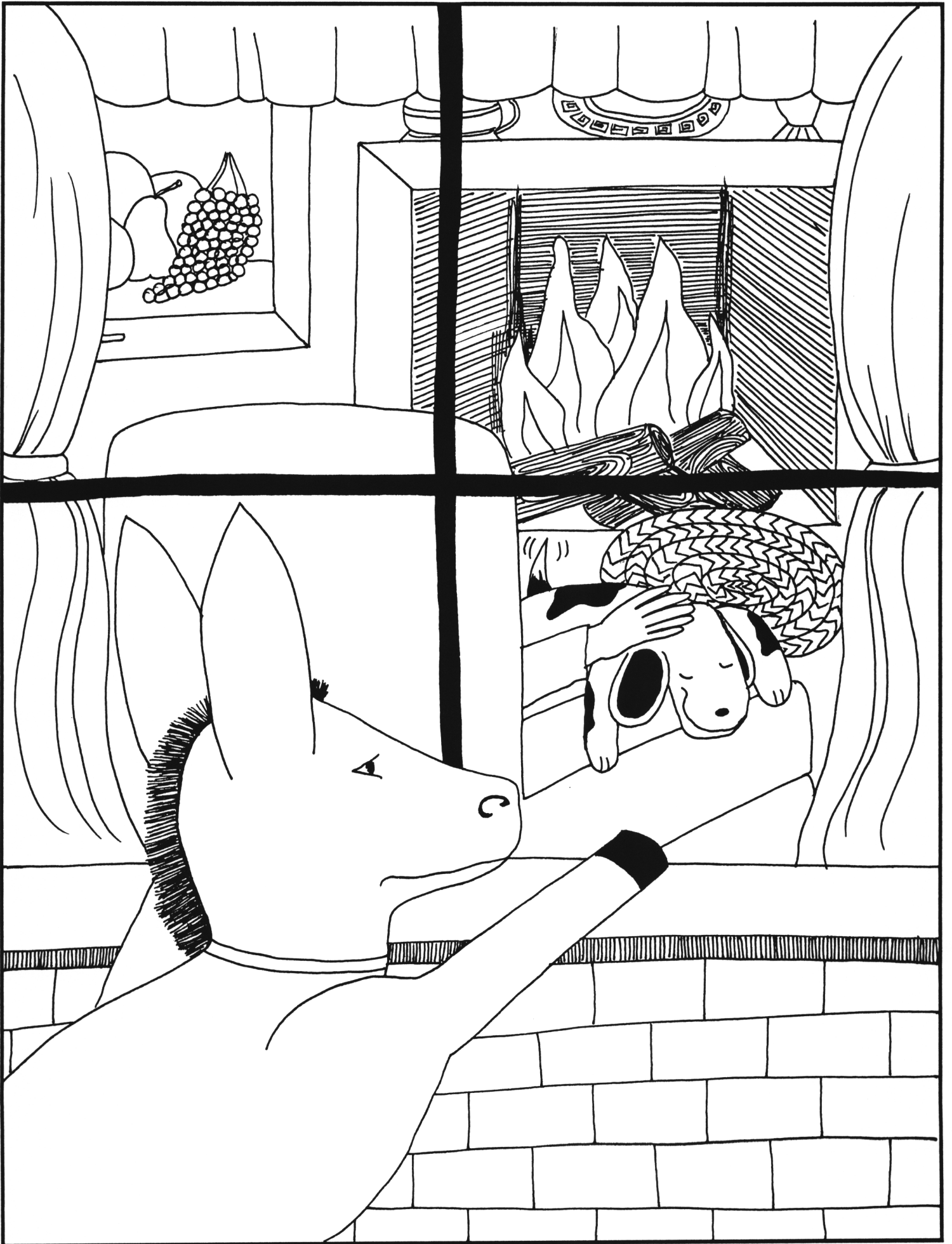
The fox wanted some cheese that the crow had in his mouth, so he complimented the crow. When the crow opened his mouth to respond, he let the cheese fall. When the cheese hit the ground, the fox ate it and was very happy.





The Donkey and the Little Dog

The donkey was jealous of the dog because he was the master's best friend. So the donkey tried to do things that the dog would do and he put his big hoof on the master's chin. The master was furious and punished the donkey for being so silly.



The Wolf and the Lamb

A lamb was drinking water when a wolf appeared. He was furious that the lamb would be so bold as to drink near him. He asked the lamb if he was the same one who had bothered him last year. The lamb said "no" because he hadn't even been born yet. But the wolf was so angry that he ate the lamb anyway - just for being in the wrong place at the wrong time.





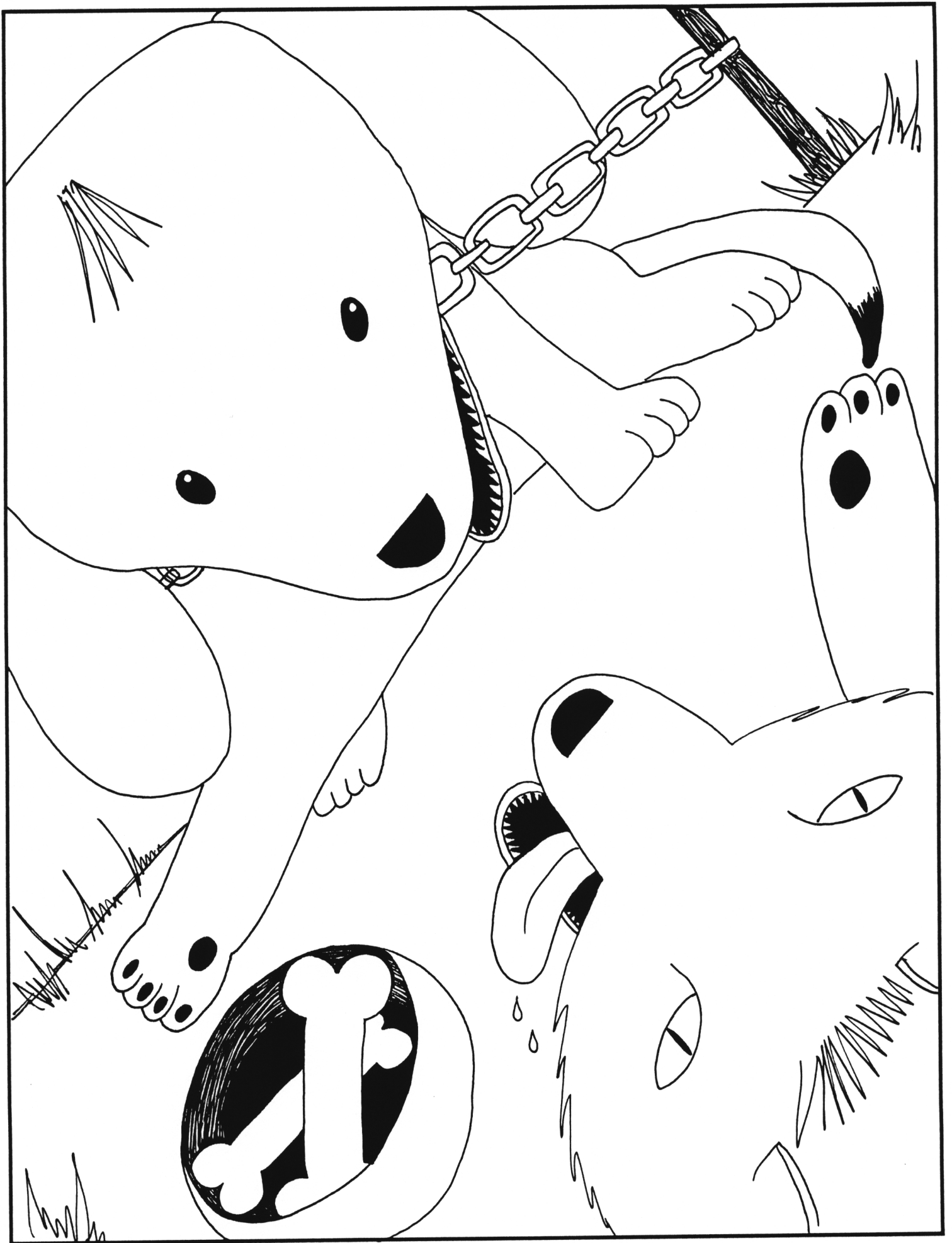
The Fox and the Goat

The fox and the goat were thirsty and so they climbed into a well to get something to drink. When they were finished, the fox climbed on top of the goat to get out. The goat was left behind with no way to get out and the fox just walked away.



The Wolf and the Dog

One day the wolf was very hungry. He saw the dog all healthy and plump and decided to speak to him. The dog tried to convince the wolf that he had everything he wanted. But when the wolf saw the chains around the dog's neck, he realized that he had everything except for his freedom.





The Hare and the Tortoise

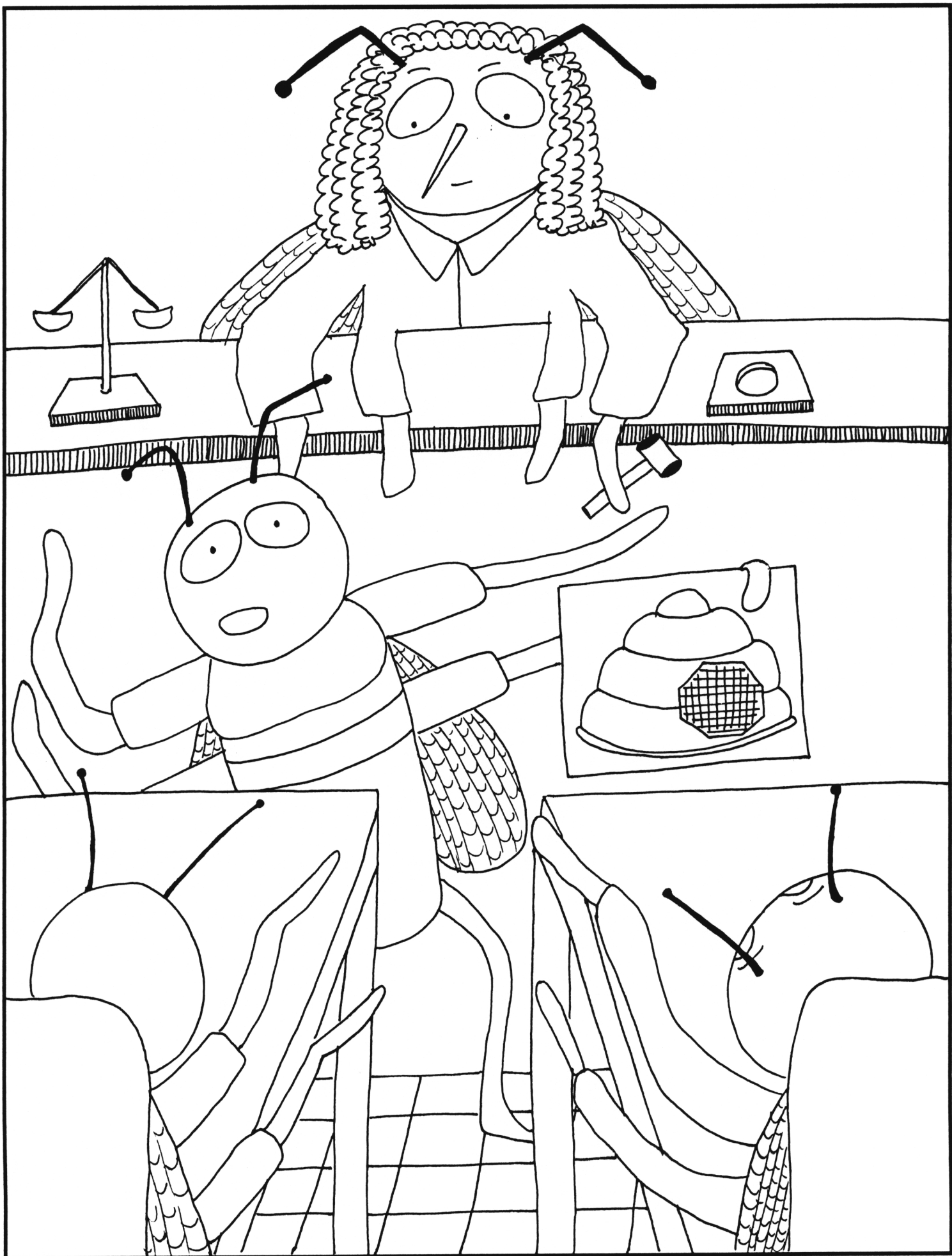
*One day the hare
challenged the tortoise
to a race. The hare was
so sure that he would
win that he rested
during the race. The
tortoise didn't rest
at all and slowly but
surely won the race
with his persistence.*



*The Hornets
and the Honey Bees*

*The hornets and the
honey bees couldn't
decide who owned some
honeycomb. The judge
in the case ordered the
two sides to wait six
months for a decision.*

*But after the six
months were over,
the honeycomb was
rotten and then no
one wanted it!*





The Lion and the Gnat

The lion couldn't believe that a little gnat could do him any harm. So the gnat buzzed and buzzed in the lion's ear to prove him wrong.

He flew around telling everyone how he bothered the lion but when he wasn't looking, he flew straight into a spider web and there he stayed!



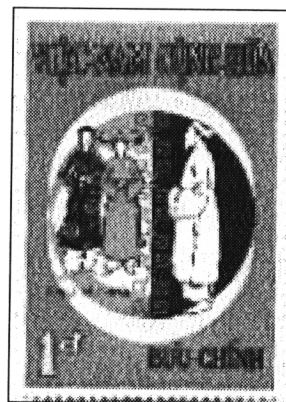
Introduction:

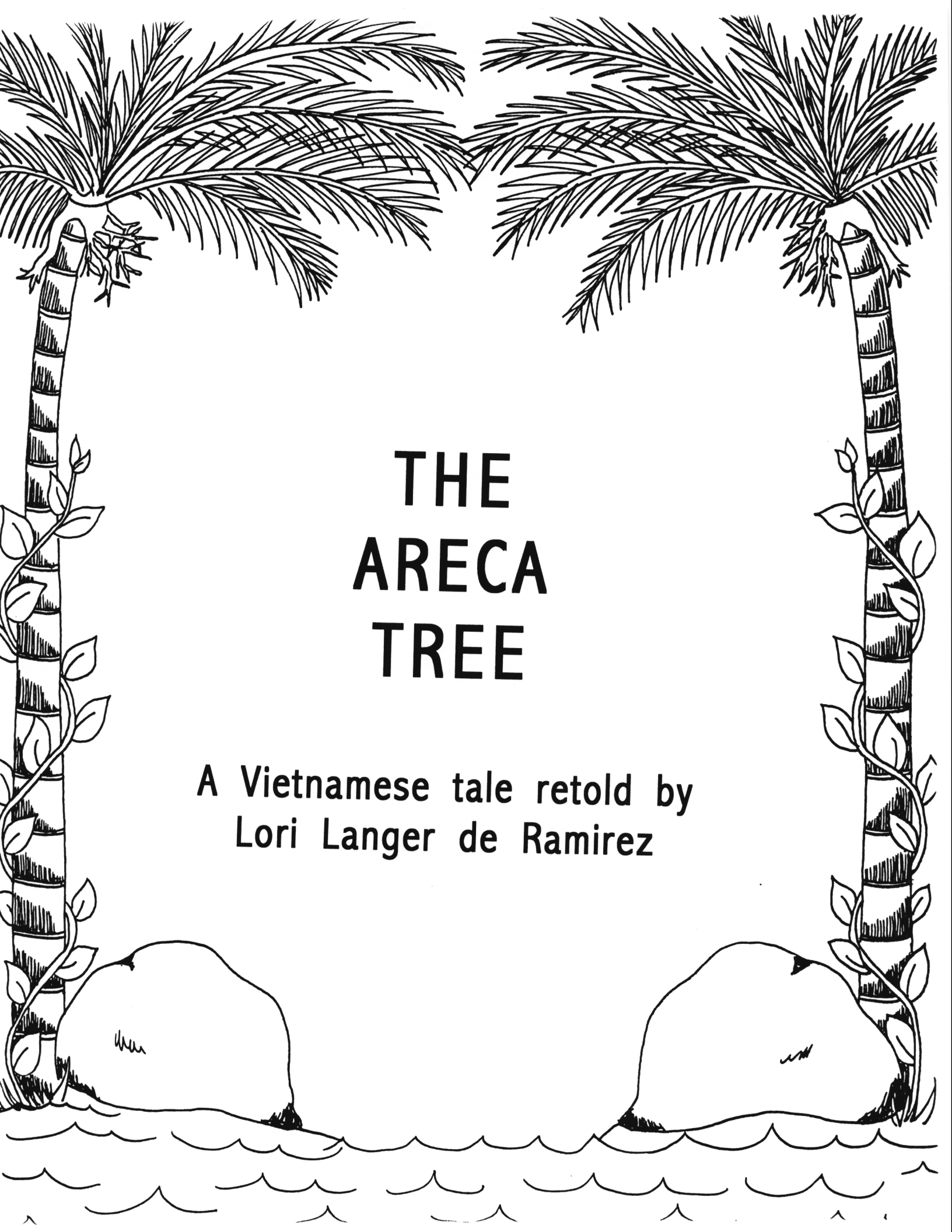
"The Areca Tree"

"The Areca Tree" is a folktale from Vietnam. The story explains the origins of the traditional marriage offering of stone, vine and areca leaf.



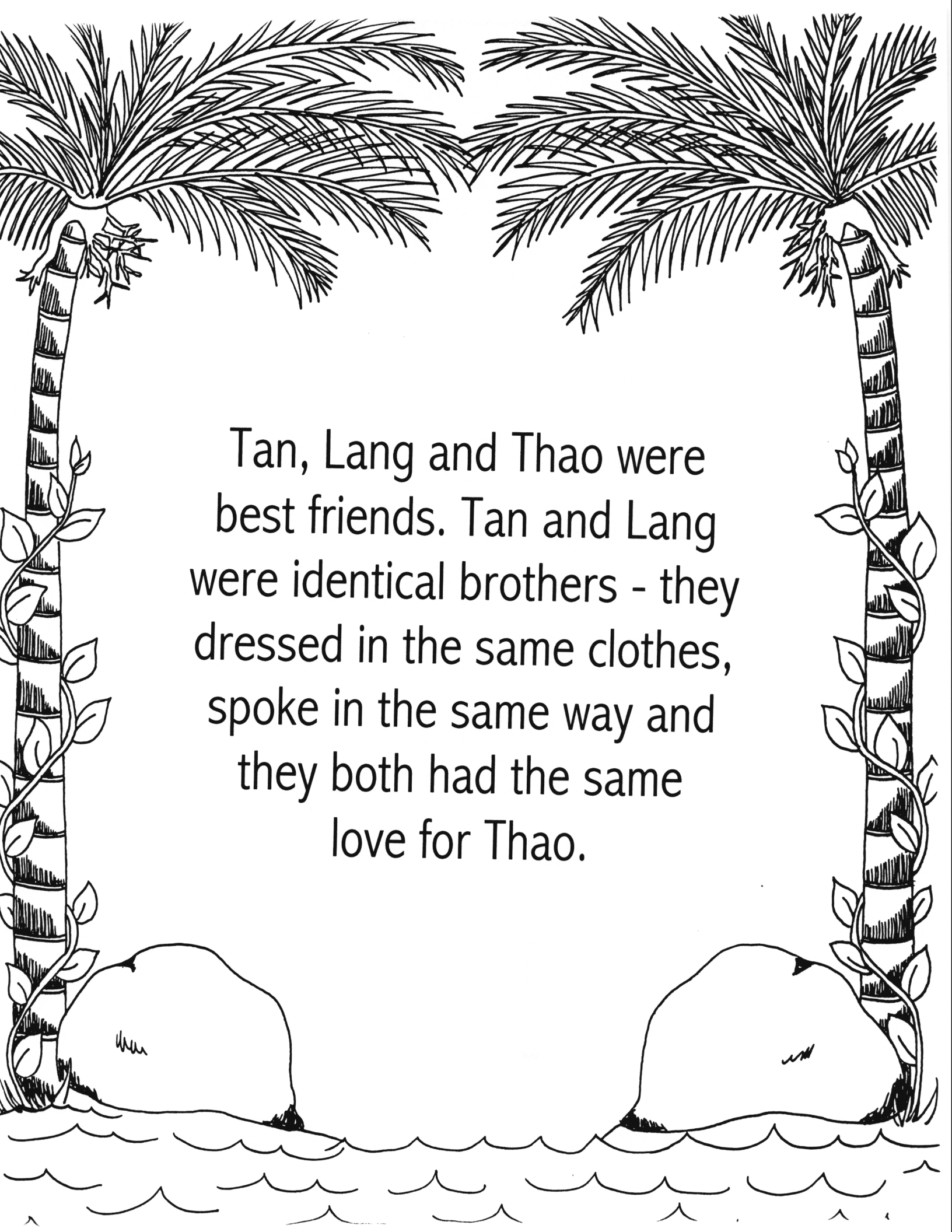
What other marriage traditions do you know about?





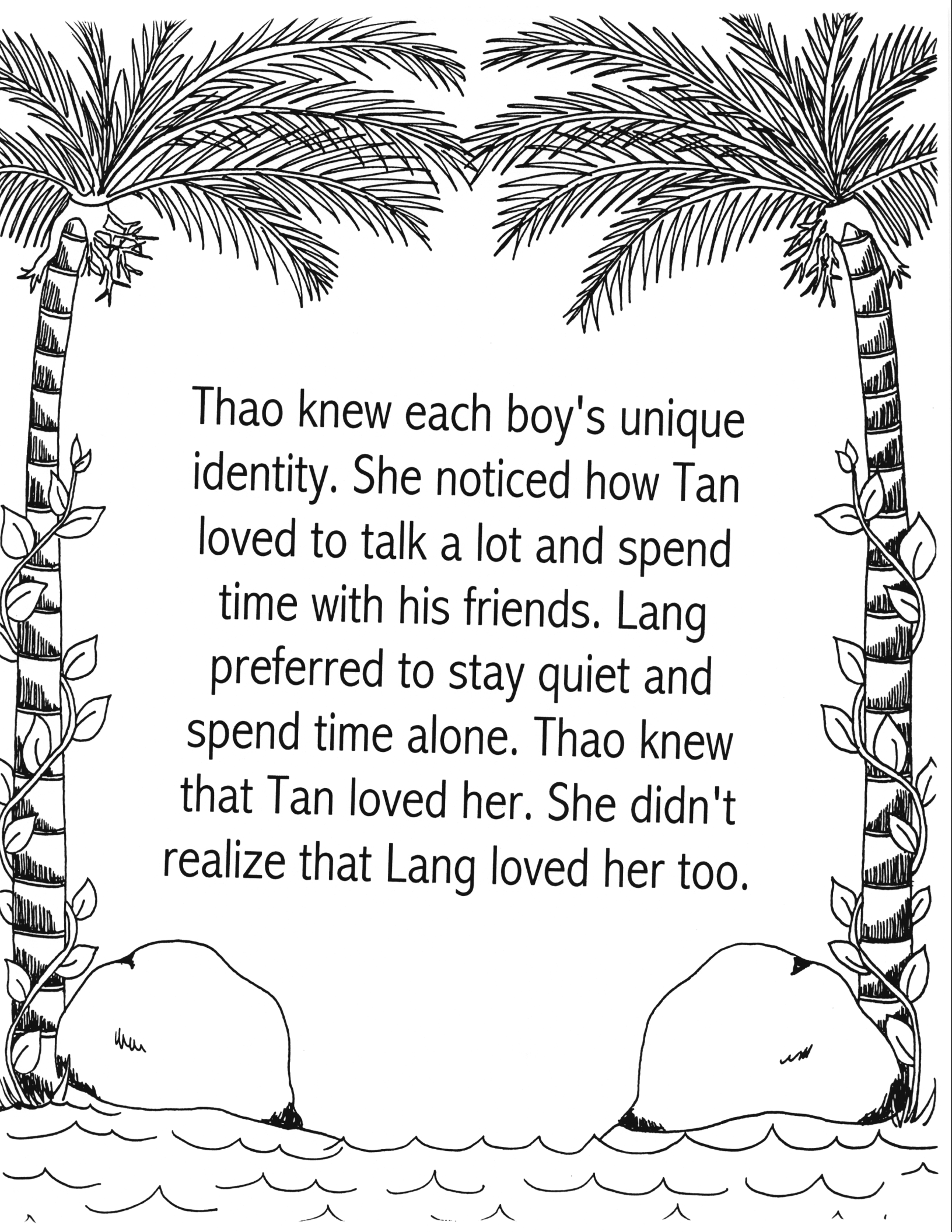
THE ARECA TREE

A Vietnamese tale retold by
Lori Langer de Ramirez



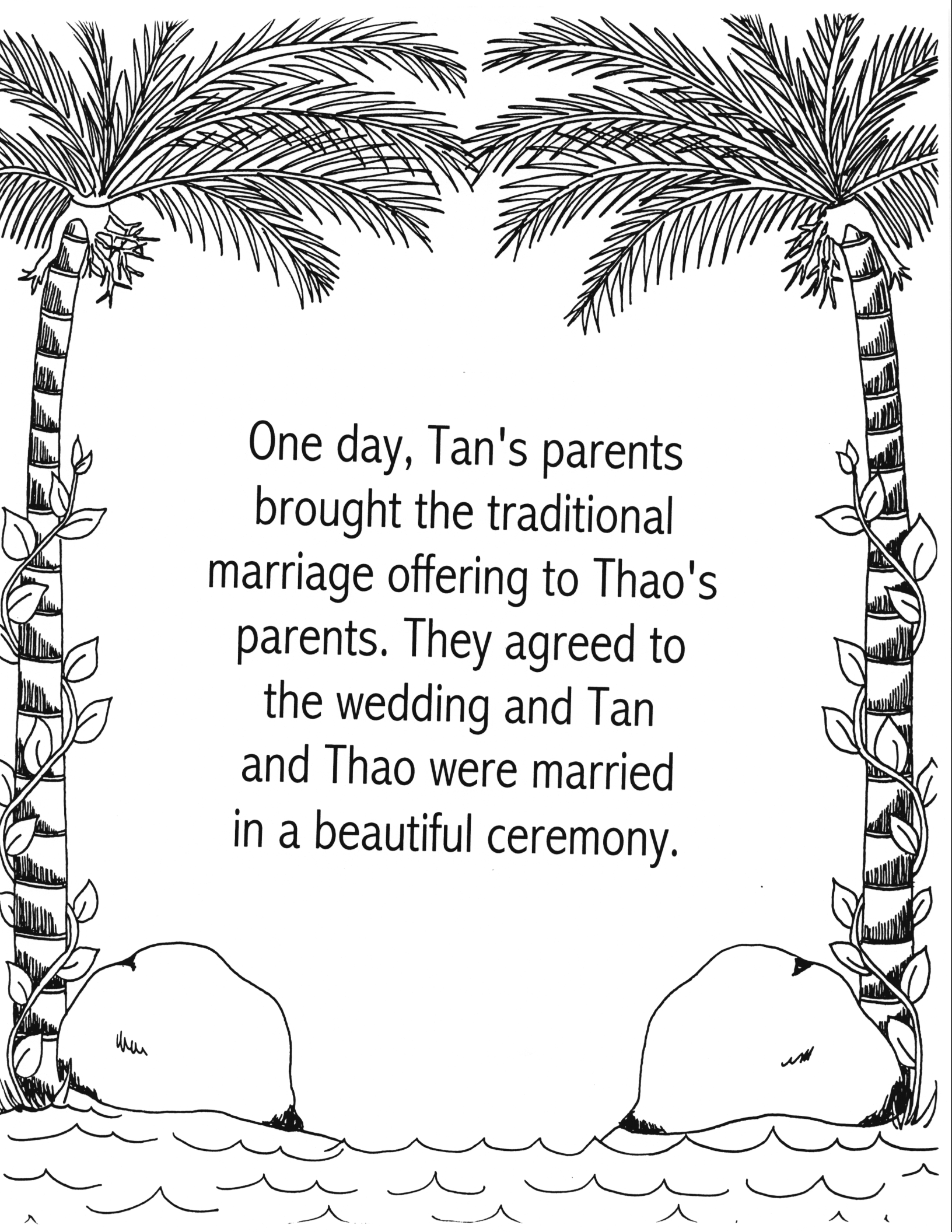
Tan, Lang and Thao were best friends. Tan and Lang were identical brothers - they dressed in the same clothes, spoke in the same way and they both had the same love for Thao.



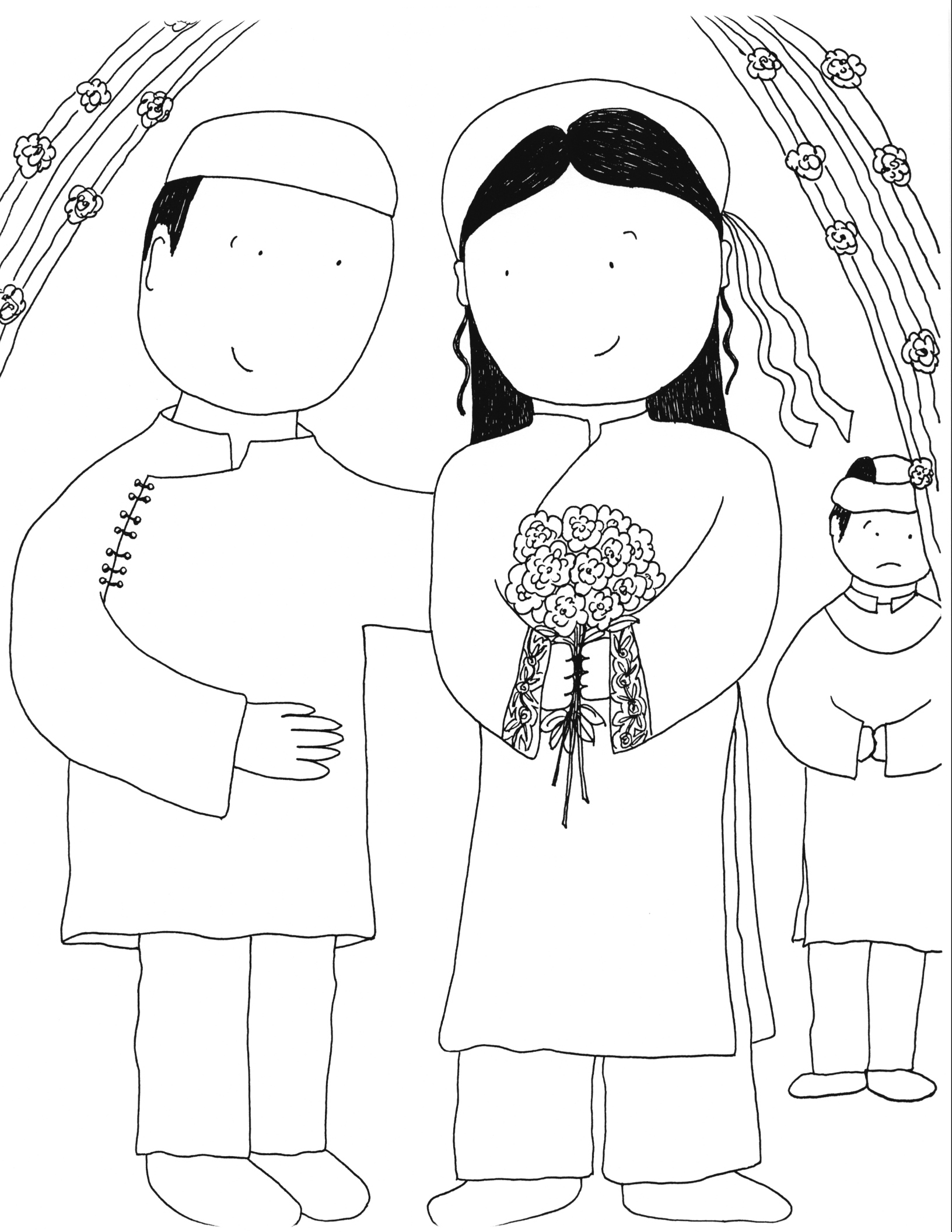


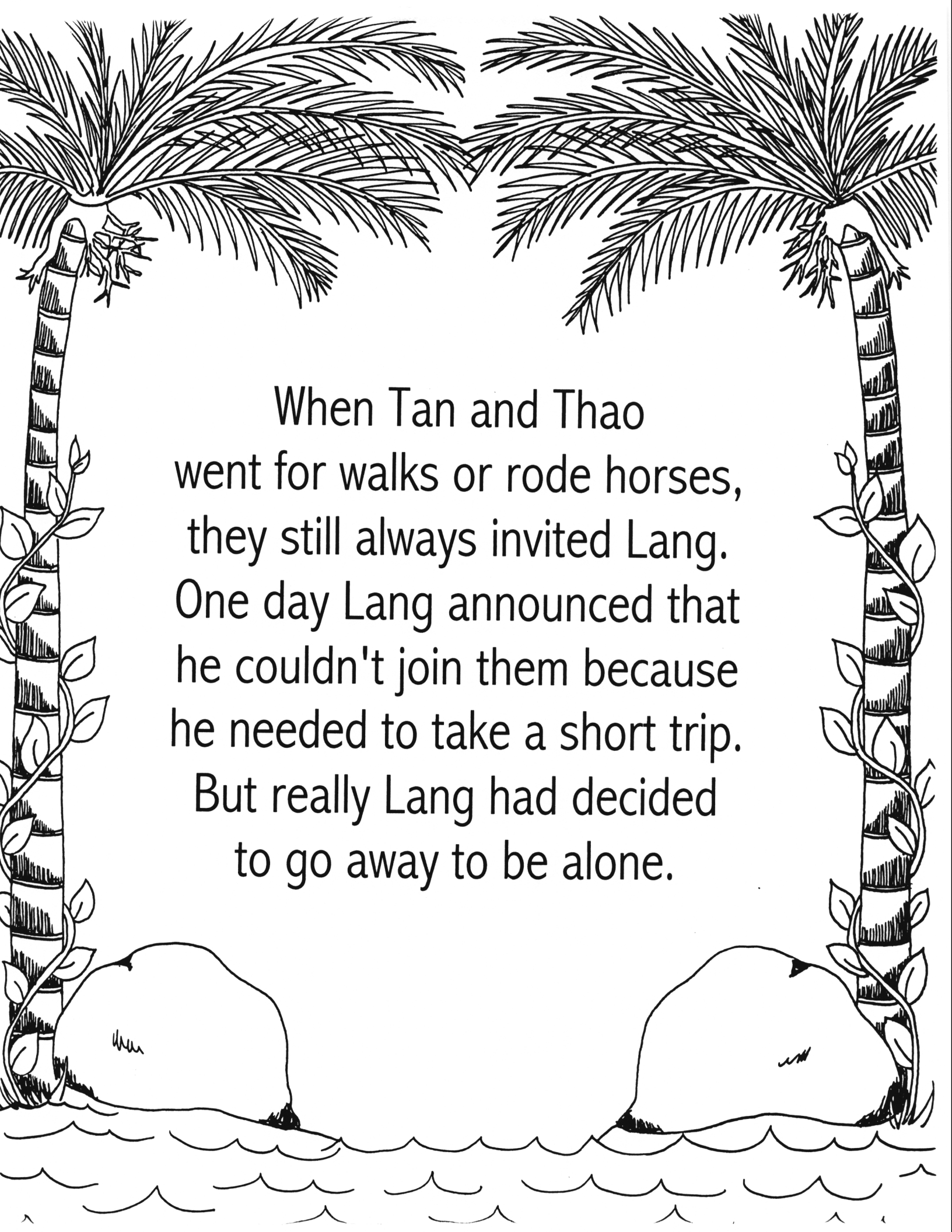
Thao knew each boy's unique identity. She noticed how Tan loved to talk a lot and spend time with his friends. Lang preferred to stay quiet and spend time alone. Thao knew that Tan loved her. She didn't realize that Lang loved her too.



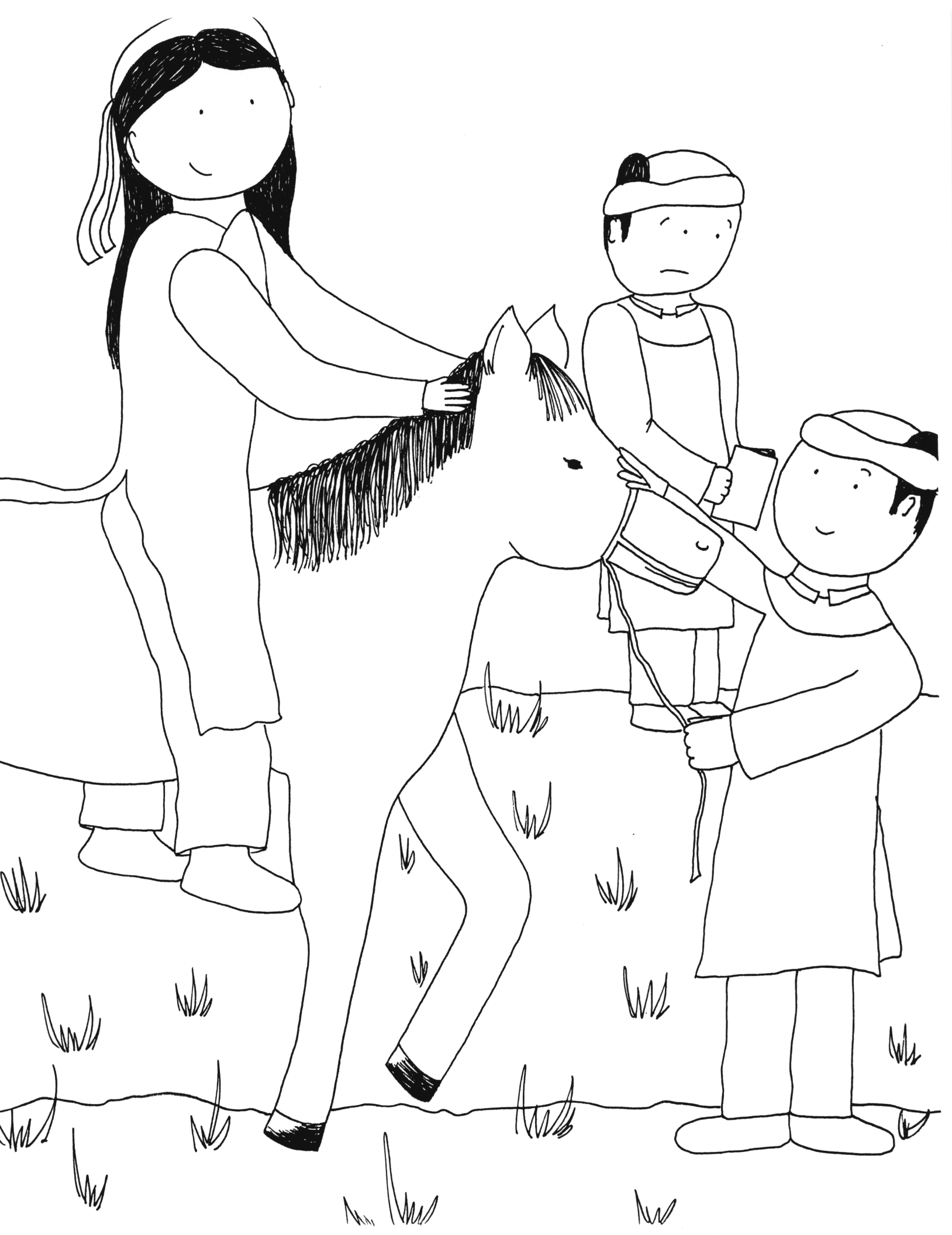


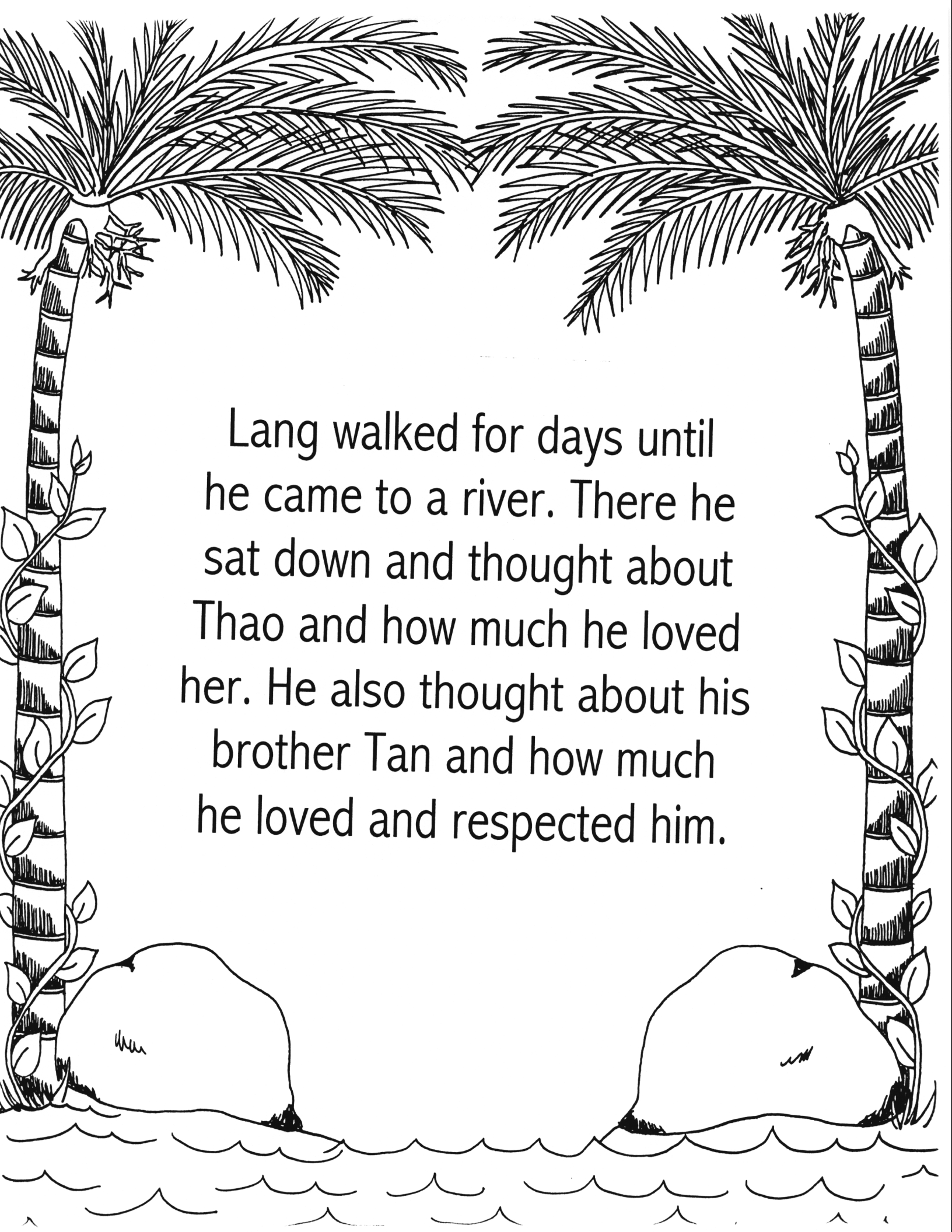
One day, Tan's parents brought the traditional marriage offering to Thao's parents. They agreed to the wedding and Tan and Thao were married in a beautiful ceremony.





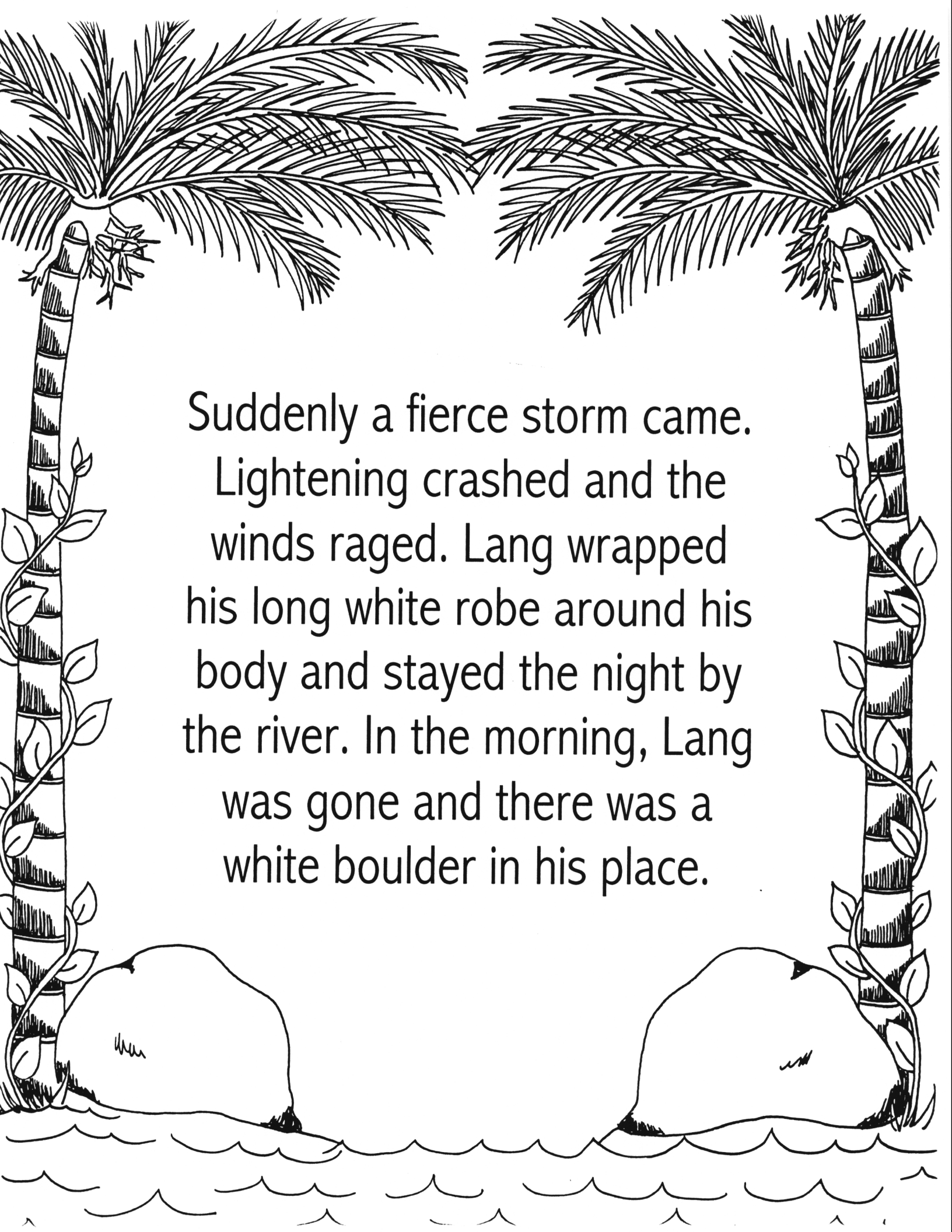
When Tan and Thao
went for walks or rode horses,
they still always invited Lang.
One day Lang announced that
he couldn't join them because
he needed to take a short trip.
But really Lang had decided
to go away to be alone.



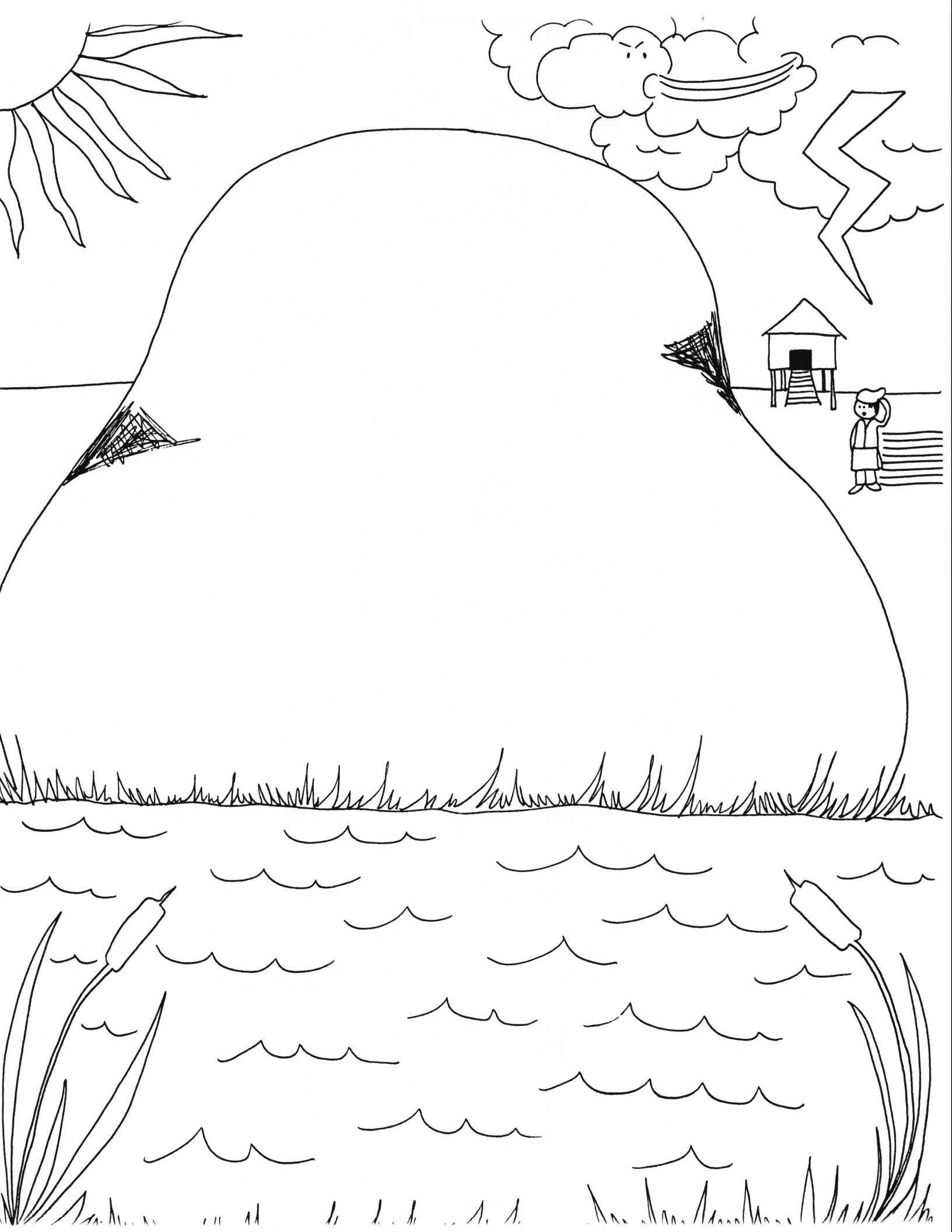


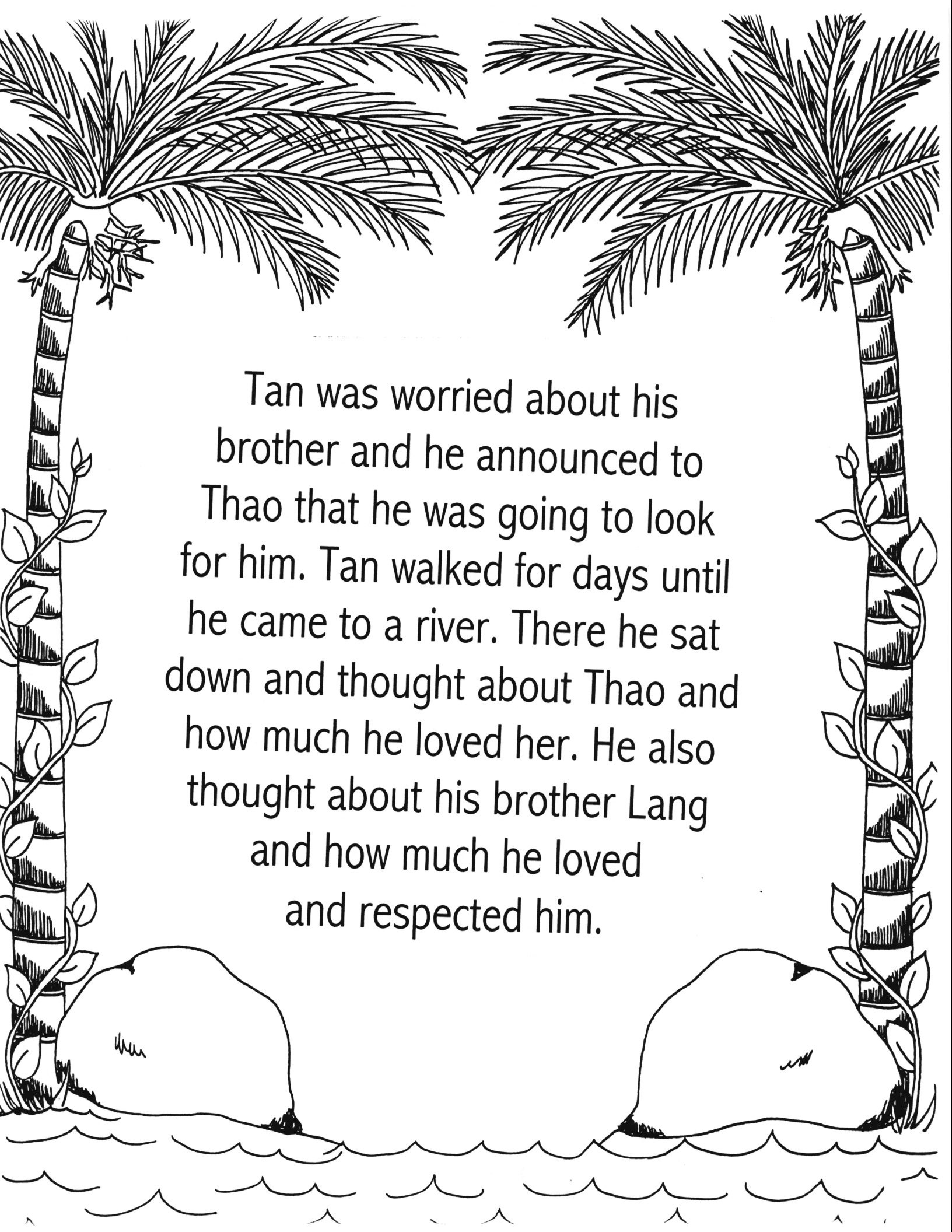
Lang walked for days until he came to a river. There he sat down and thought about Thao and how much he loved her. He also thought about his brother Tan and how much he loved and respected him.



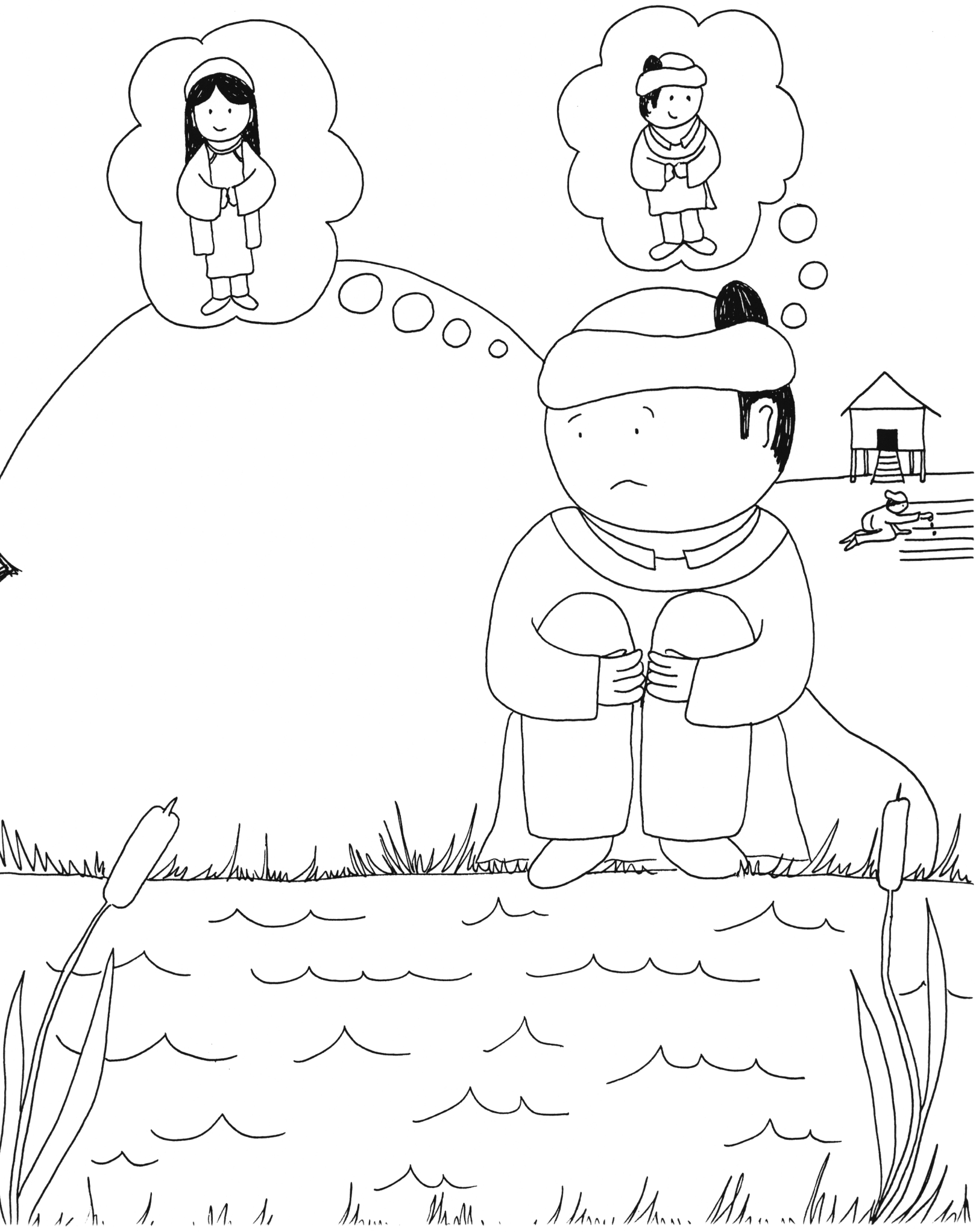


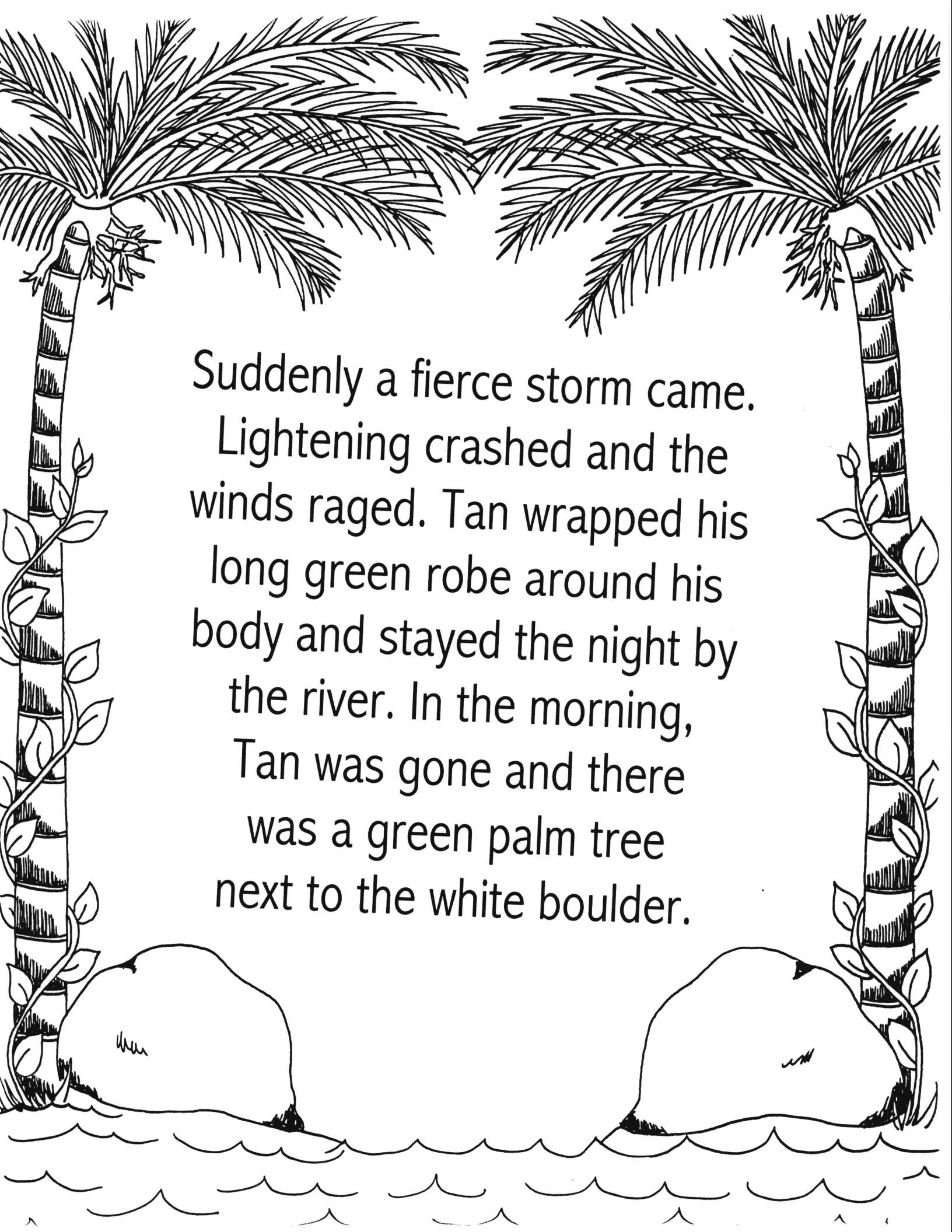
Suddenly a fierce storm came.
Lightening crashed and the
winds raged. Lang wrapped
his long white robe around his
body and stayed the night by
the river. In the morning, Lang
was gone and there was a
white boulder in his place.



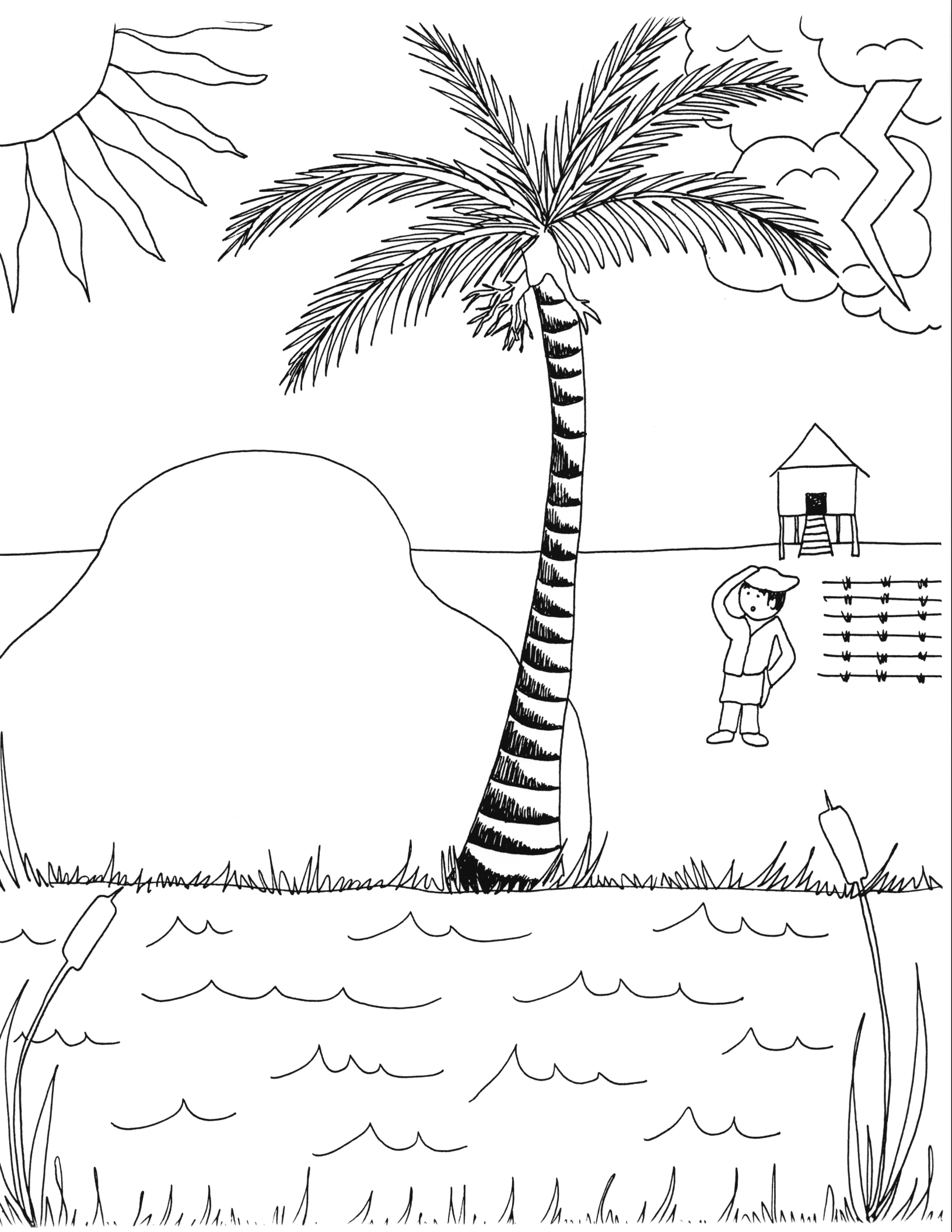


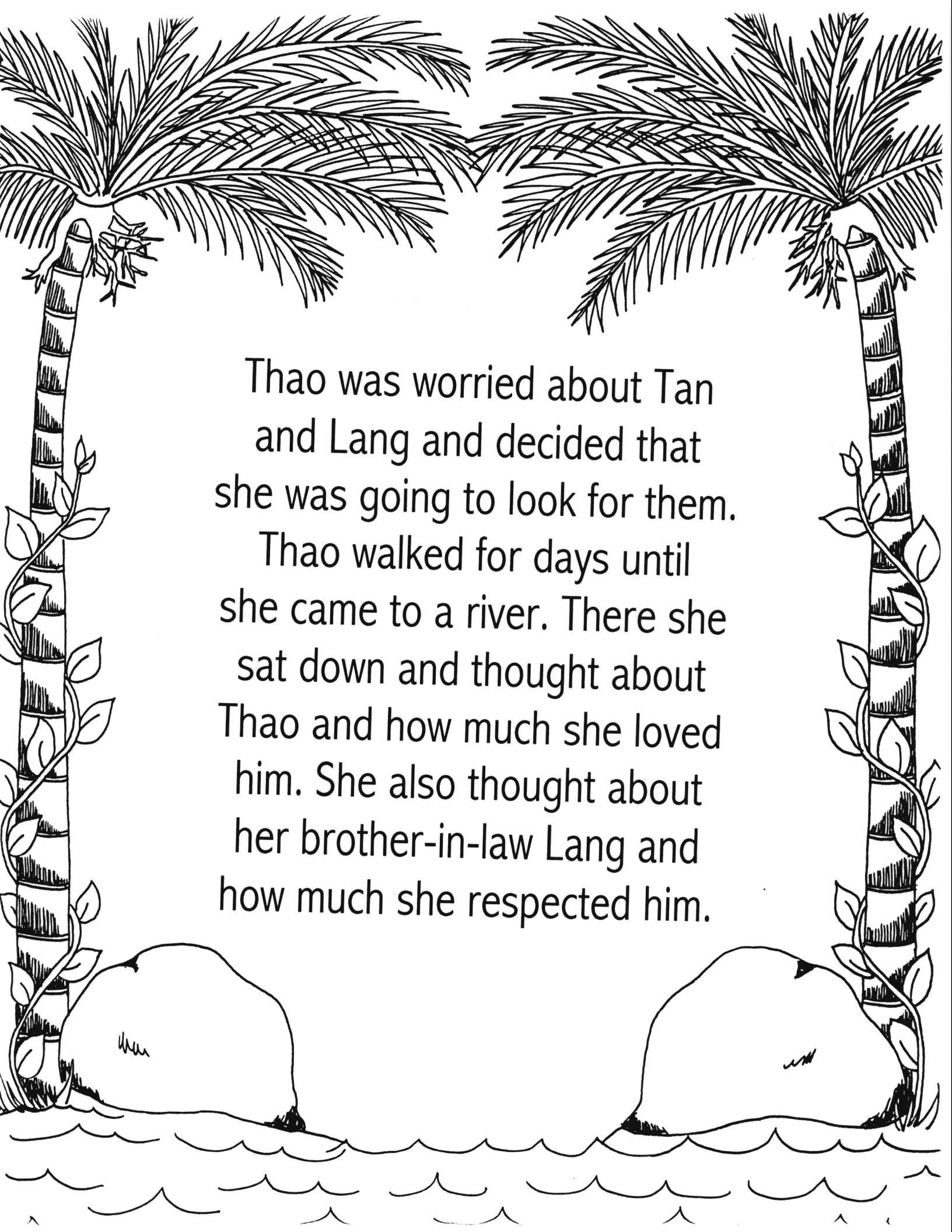
Tan was worried about his brother and he announced to Thao that he was going to look for him. Tan walked for days until he came to a river. There he sat down and thought about Thao and how much he loved her. He also thought about his brother Lang and how much he loved and respected him.





Suddenly a fierce storm came.
Lightening crashed and the
winds raged. Tan wrapped his
long green robe around his
body and stayed the night by
the river. In the morning,
Tan was gone and there
was a green palm tree
next to the white boulder.

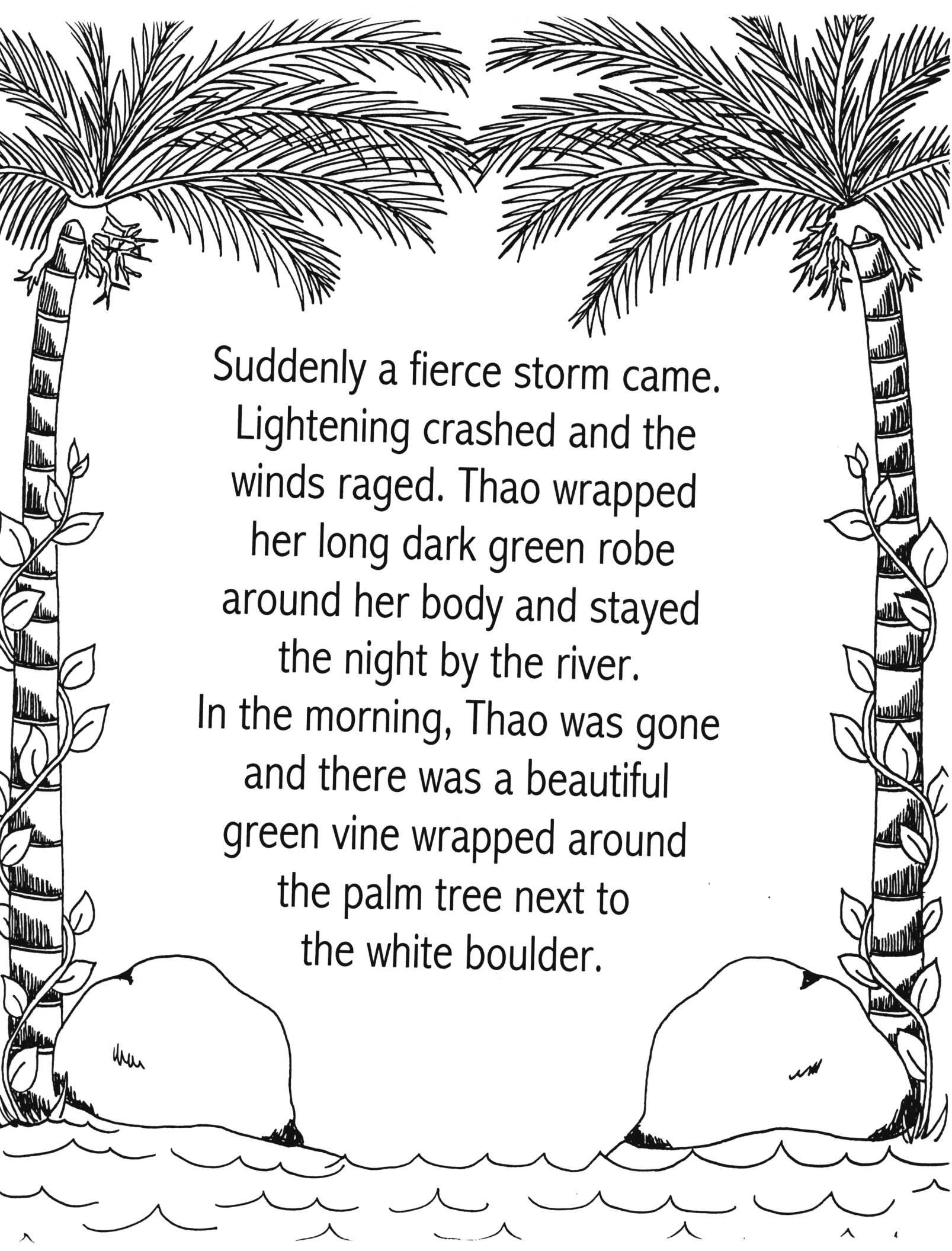




Thao was worried about Tan and Lang and decided that she was going to look for them.

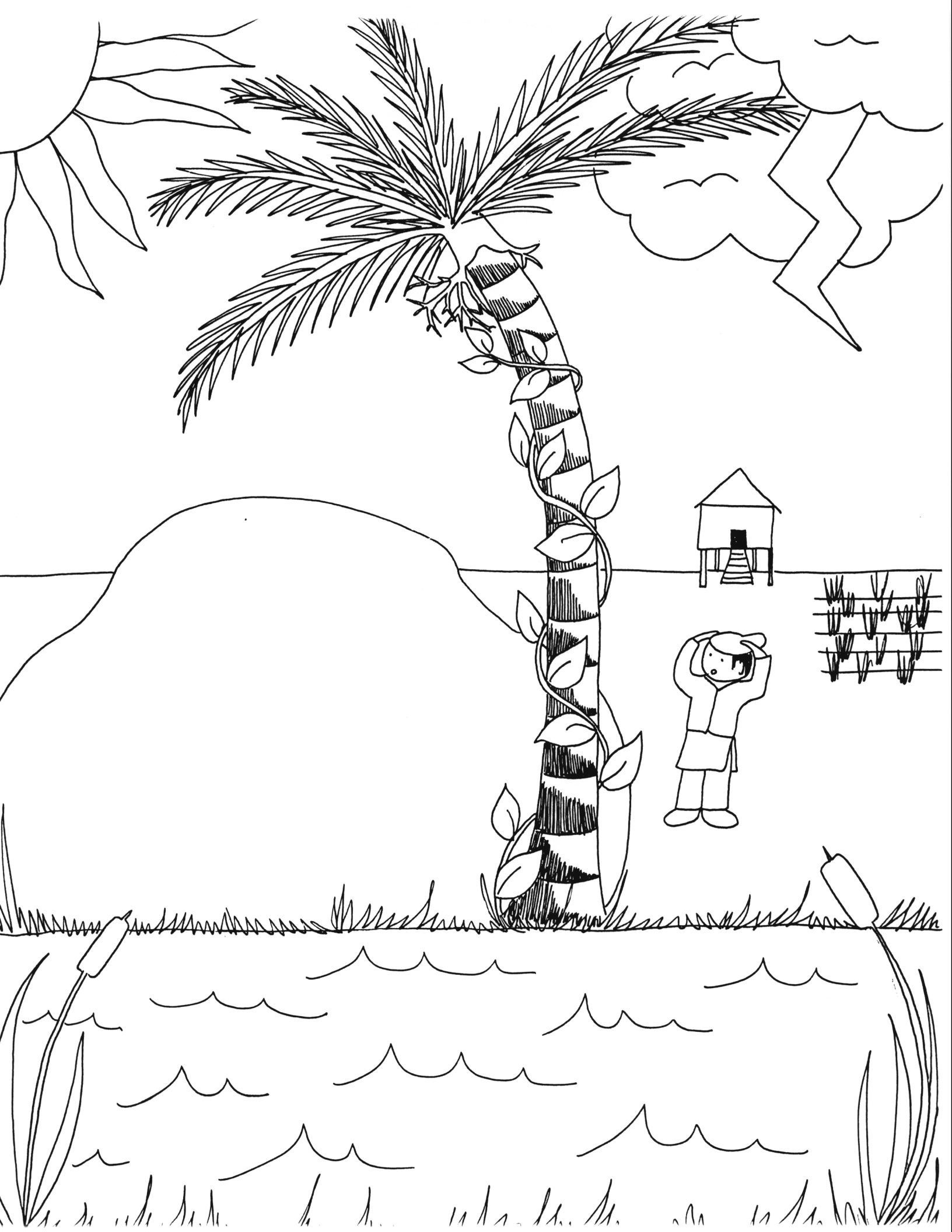
Thao walked for days until she came to a river. There she sat down and thought about Thao and how much she loved him. She also thought about her brother-in-law Lang and how much she respected him.

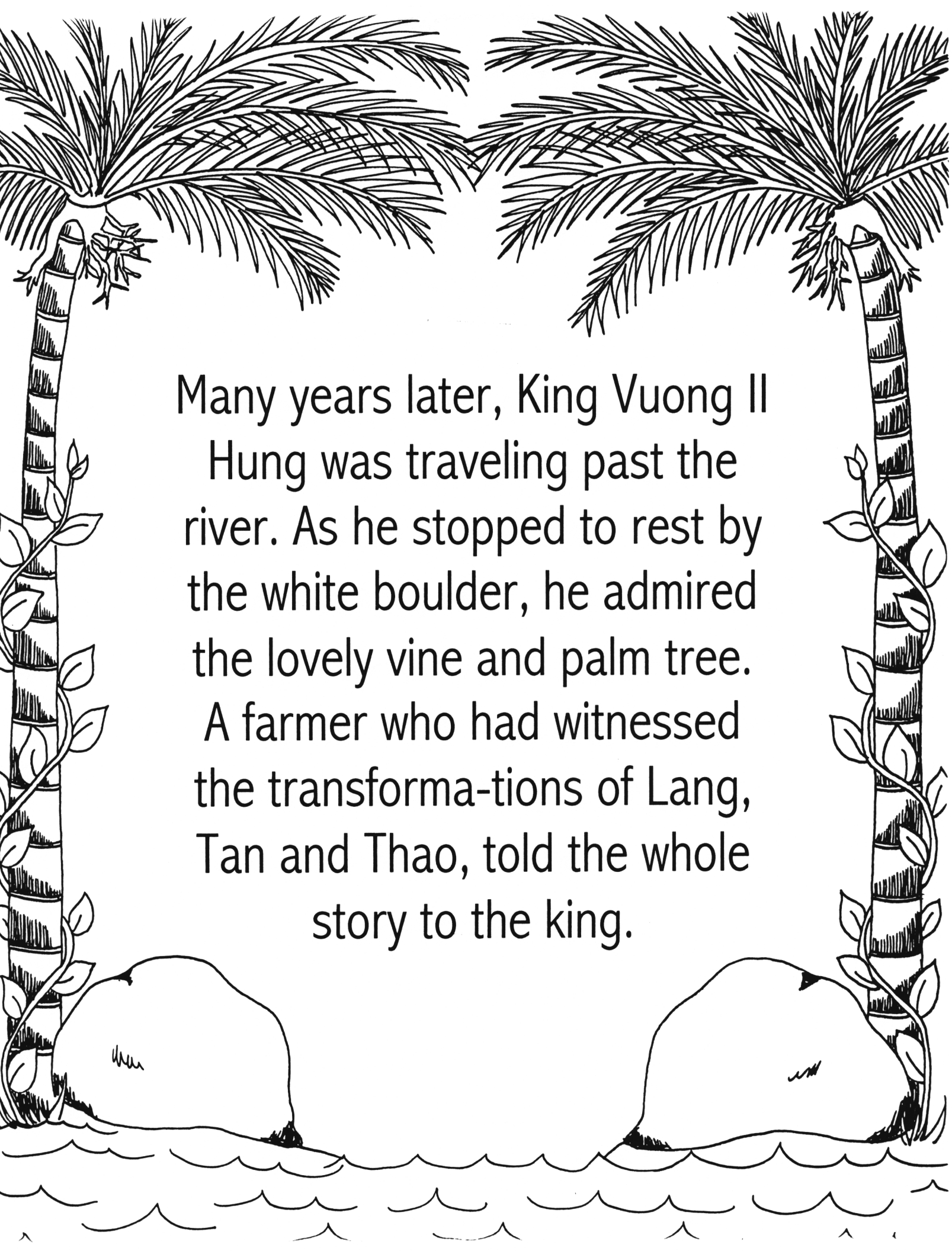




Suddenly a fierce storm came.
Lightening crashed and the
winds raged. Thao wrapped
her long dark green robe
around her body and stayed
the night by the river.

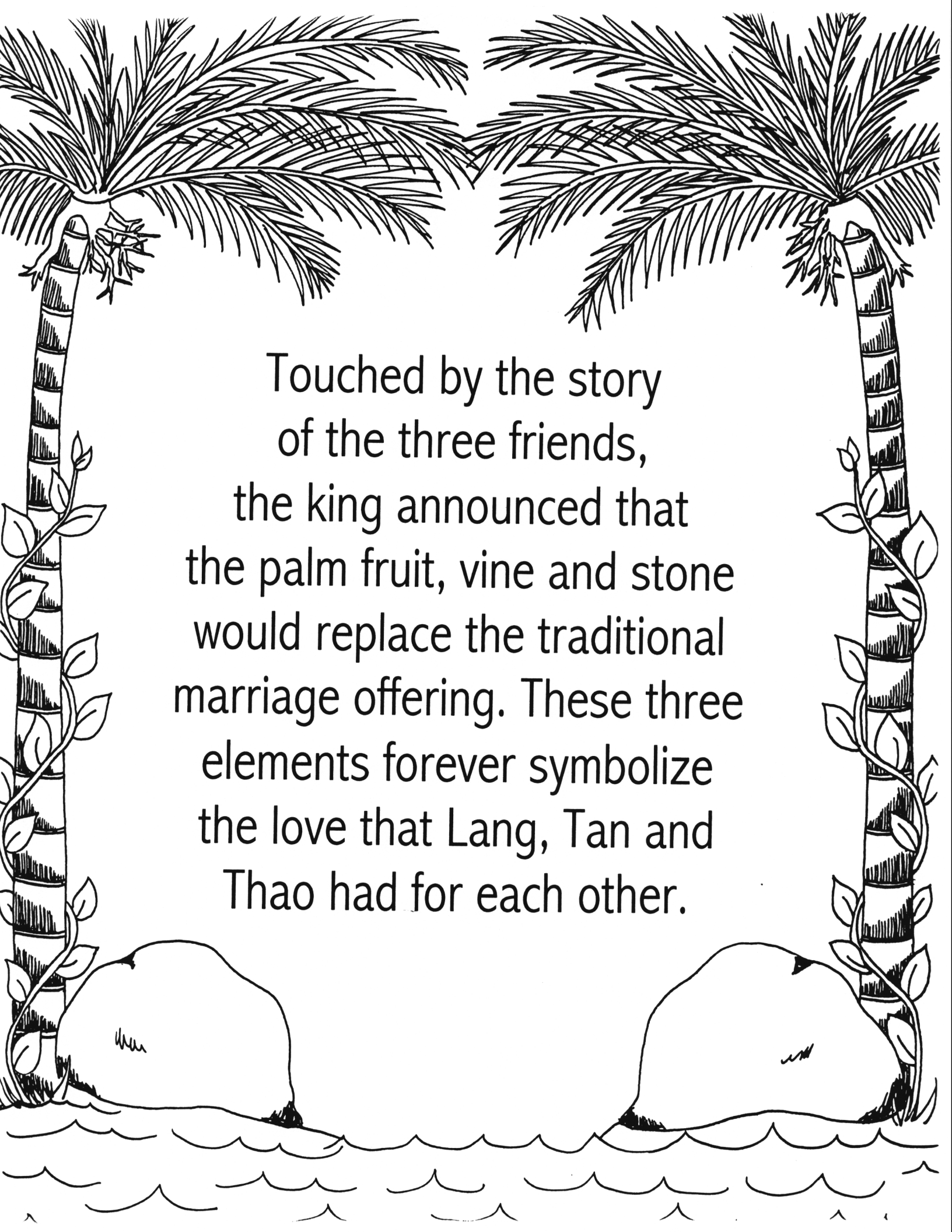
In the morning, Thao was gone
and there was a beautiful
green vine wrapped around
the palm tree next to
the white boulder.



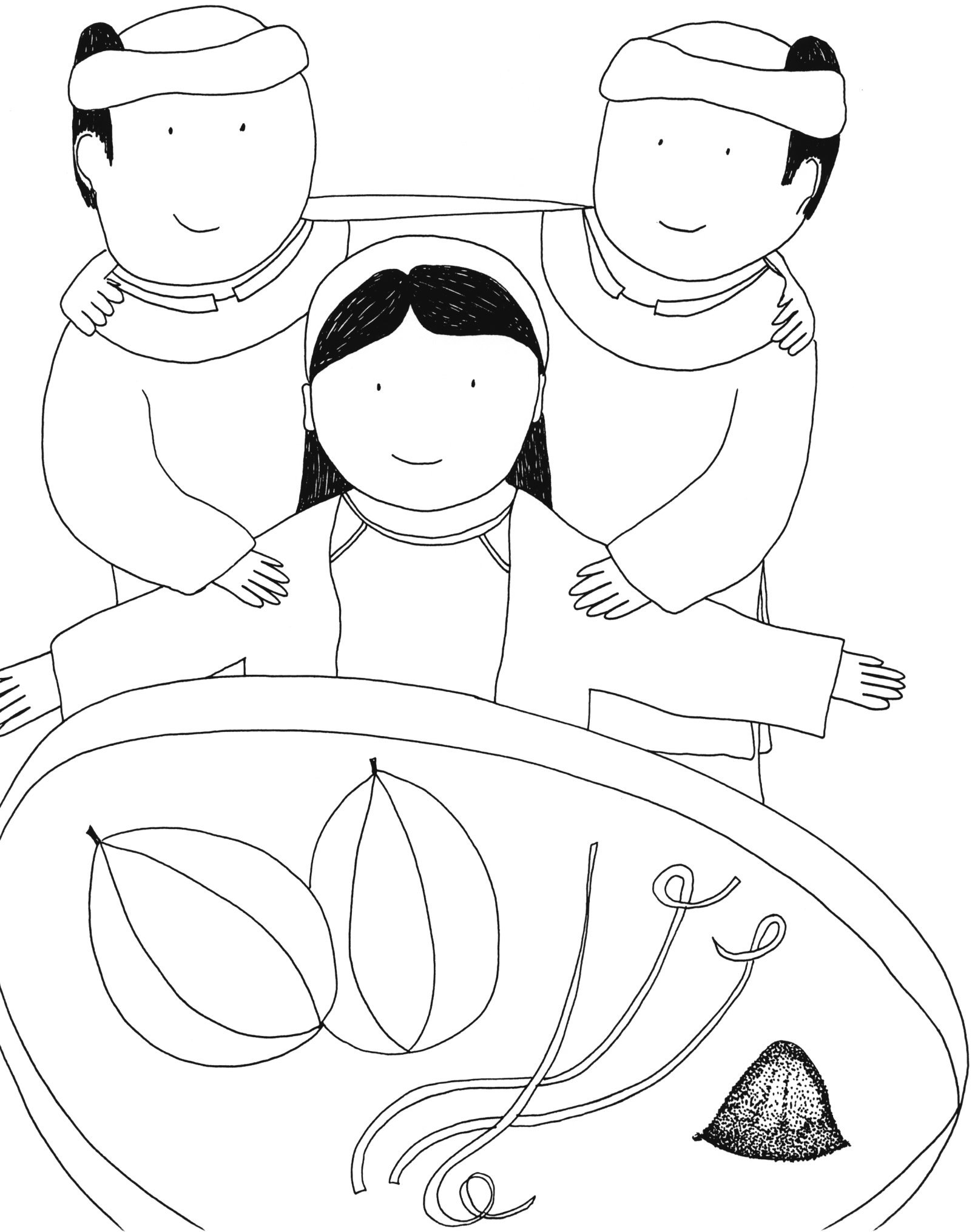


Many years later, King Vuong II Hung was traveling past the river. As he stopped to rest by the white boulder, he admired the lovely vine and palm tree. A farmer who had witnessed the transformations of Lang, Tan and Thao, told the whole story to the king.





Touched by the story
of the three friends,
the king announced that
the palm fruit, vine and stone
would replace the traditional
marriage offering. These three
elements forever symbolize
the love that Lang, Tan and
Thao had for each other.

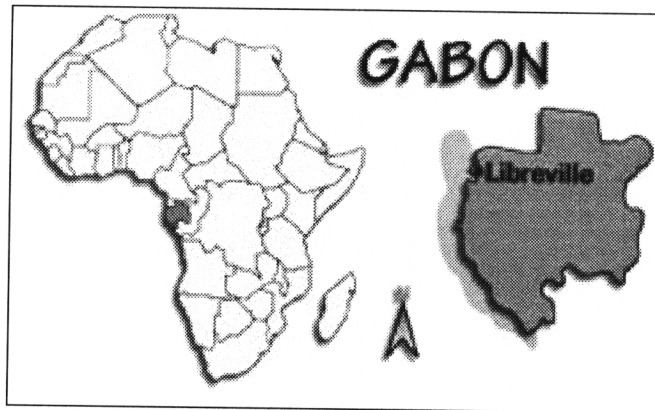


Introduction:

"The Hand's Secret"

This story comes from Gabon, a country in the western part of central Africa. The tale explains why mosquitos buzz in people's ears.

Has this ever happened to you?



On the right there is a photo from a typical African market, like the one in the story.

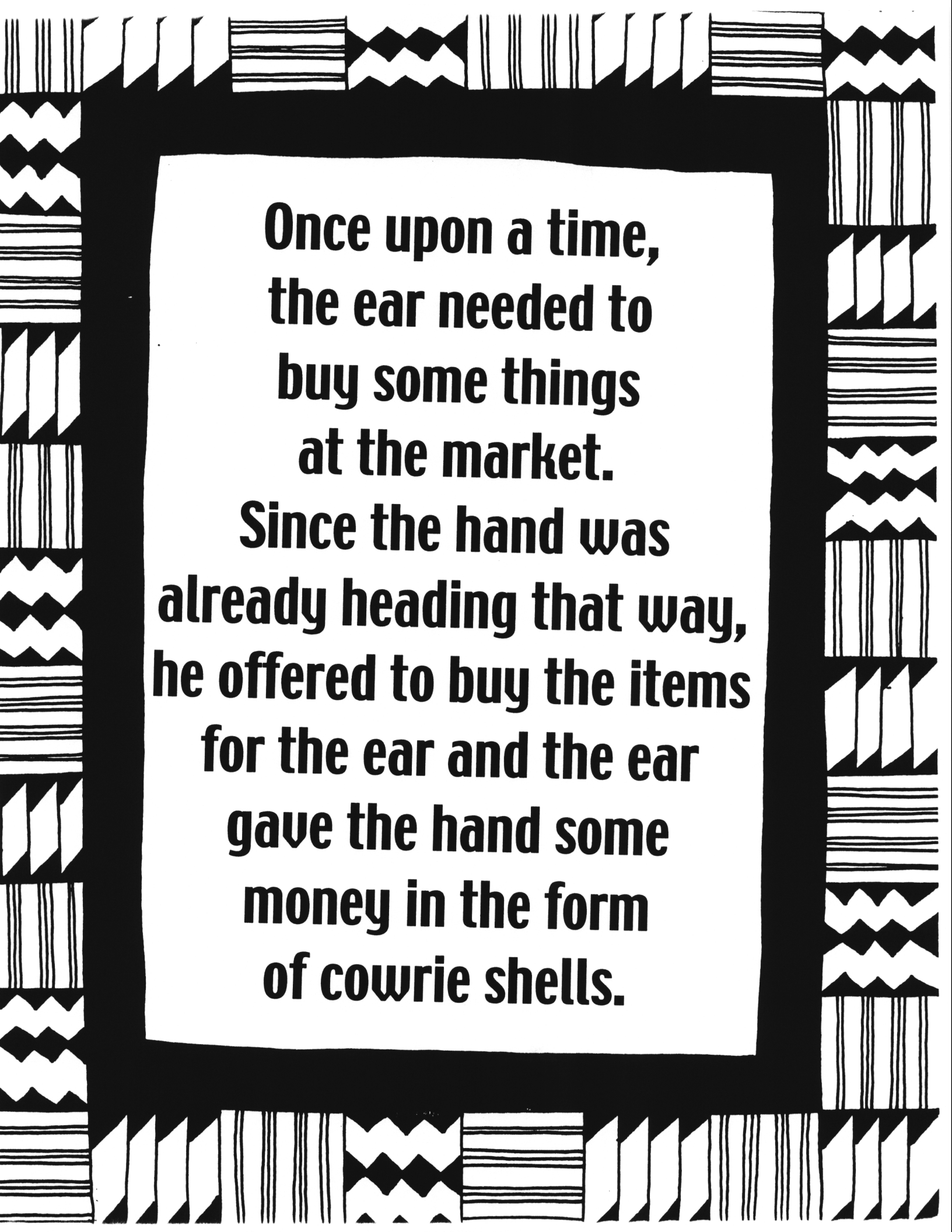


Have you ever been to a market like it?



The Hand's Secret

**A Gabonese folktale retold
by Lori Langer de Ramirez**

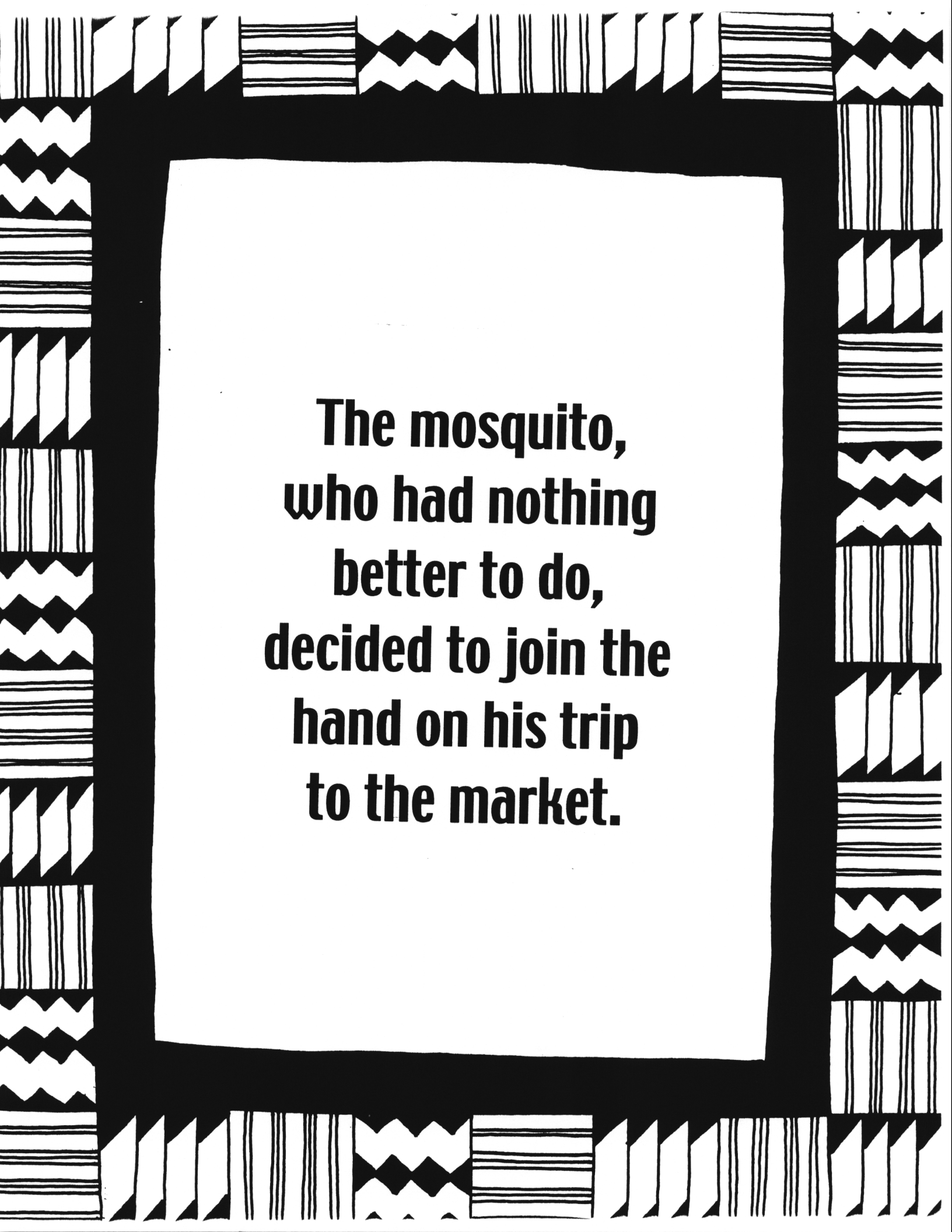


**Once upon a time,
the ear needed to
buy some things
at the market.**

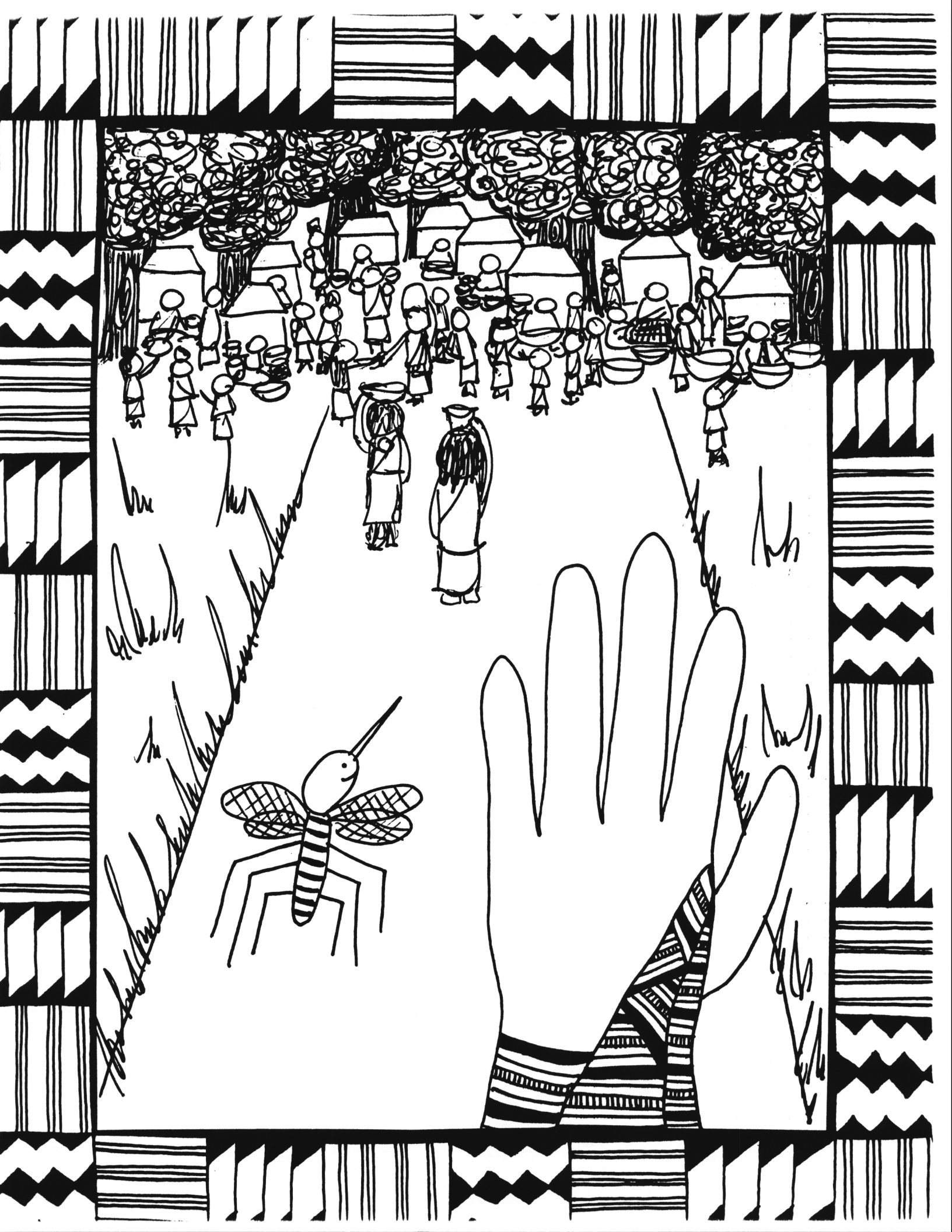
**Since the hand was
already heading that way,
he offered to buy the items
for the ear and the ear
gave the hand some
money in the form
of cowrie shells.**

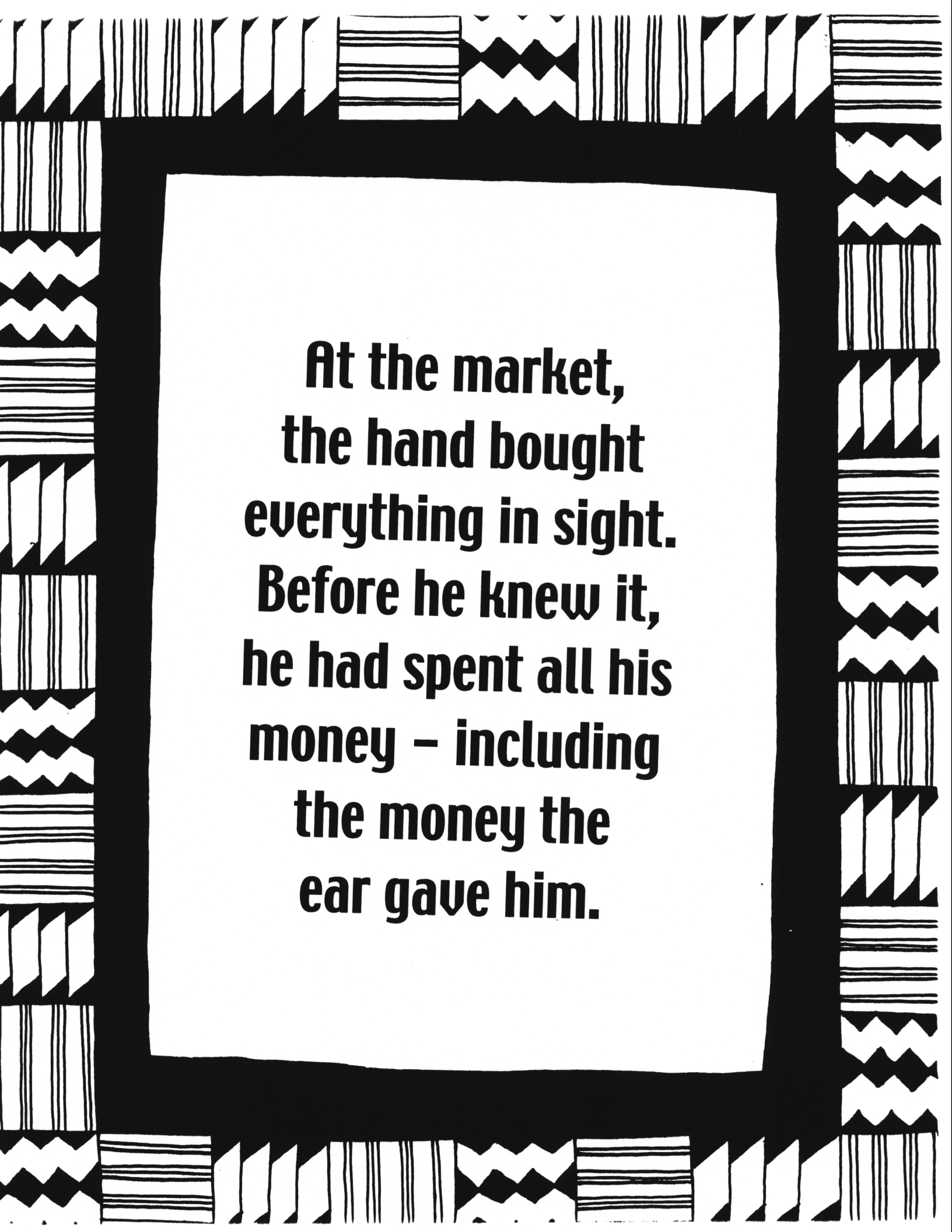


MARCHÉ 15km

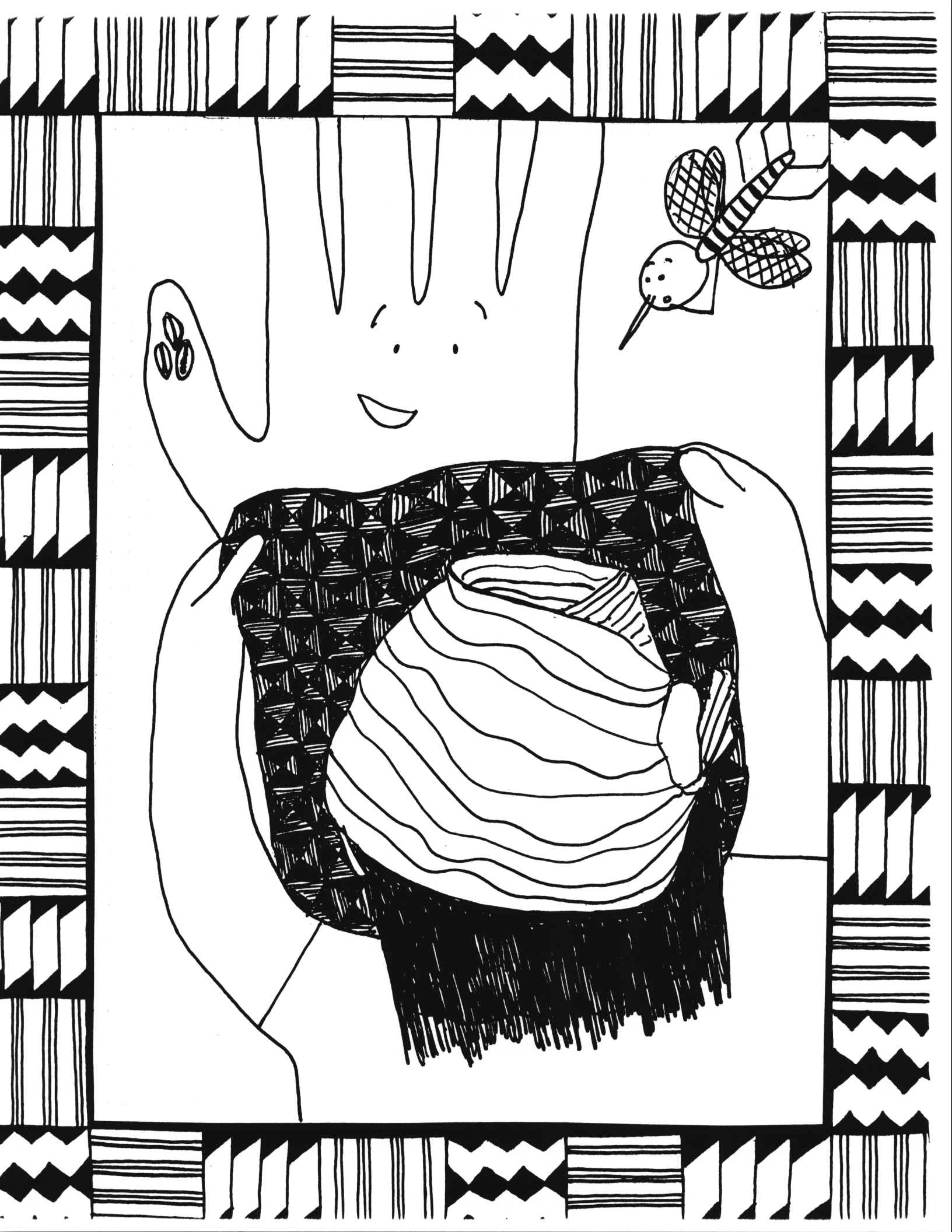


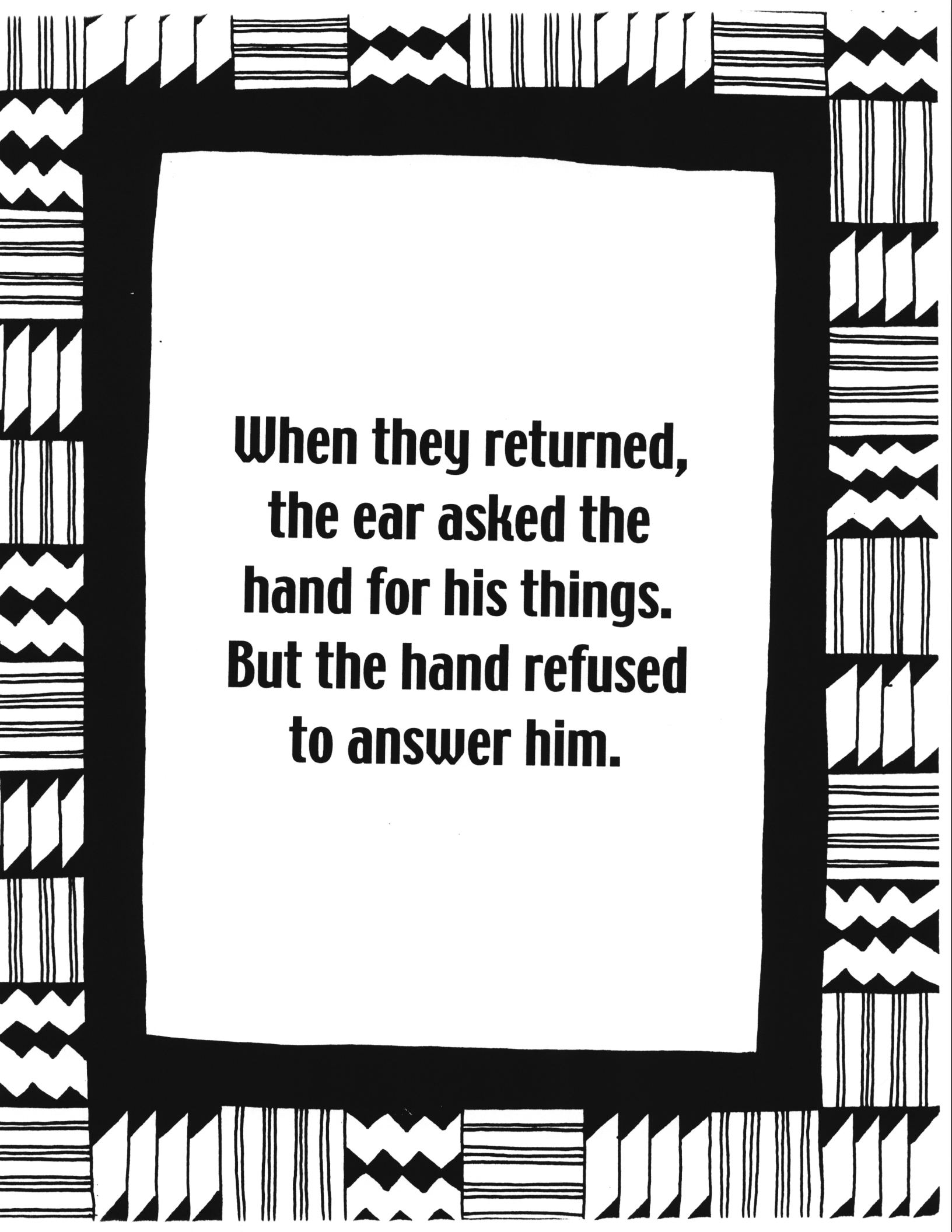
**The mosquito,
who had nothing
better to do,
decided to join the
hand on his trip
to the market.**



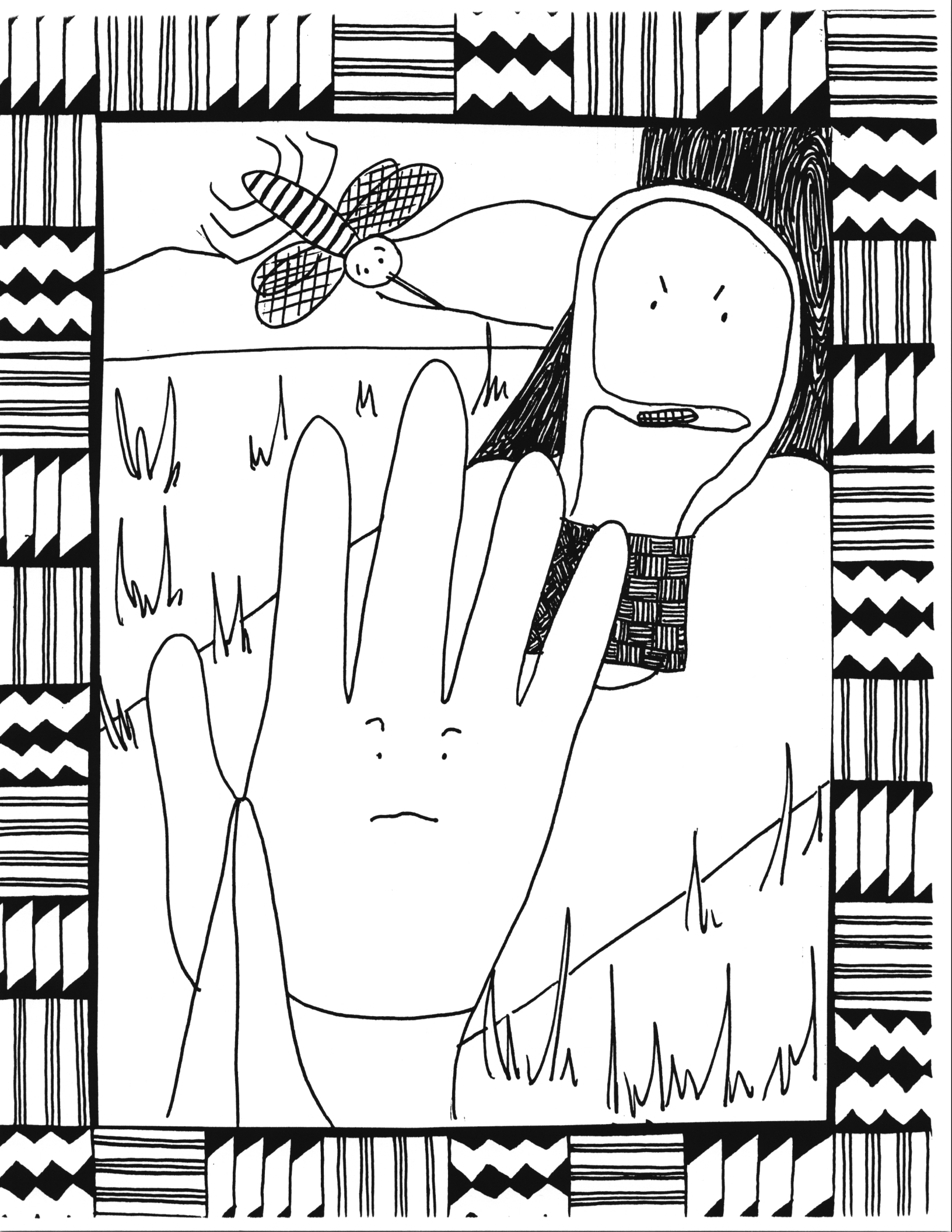


**At the market,
the hand bought
everything in sight.
Before he knew it,
he had spent all his
money - including
the money the
ear gave him.**



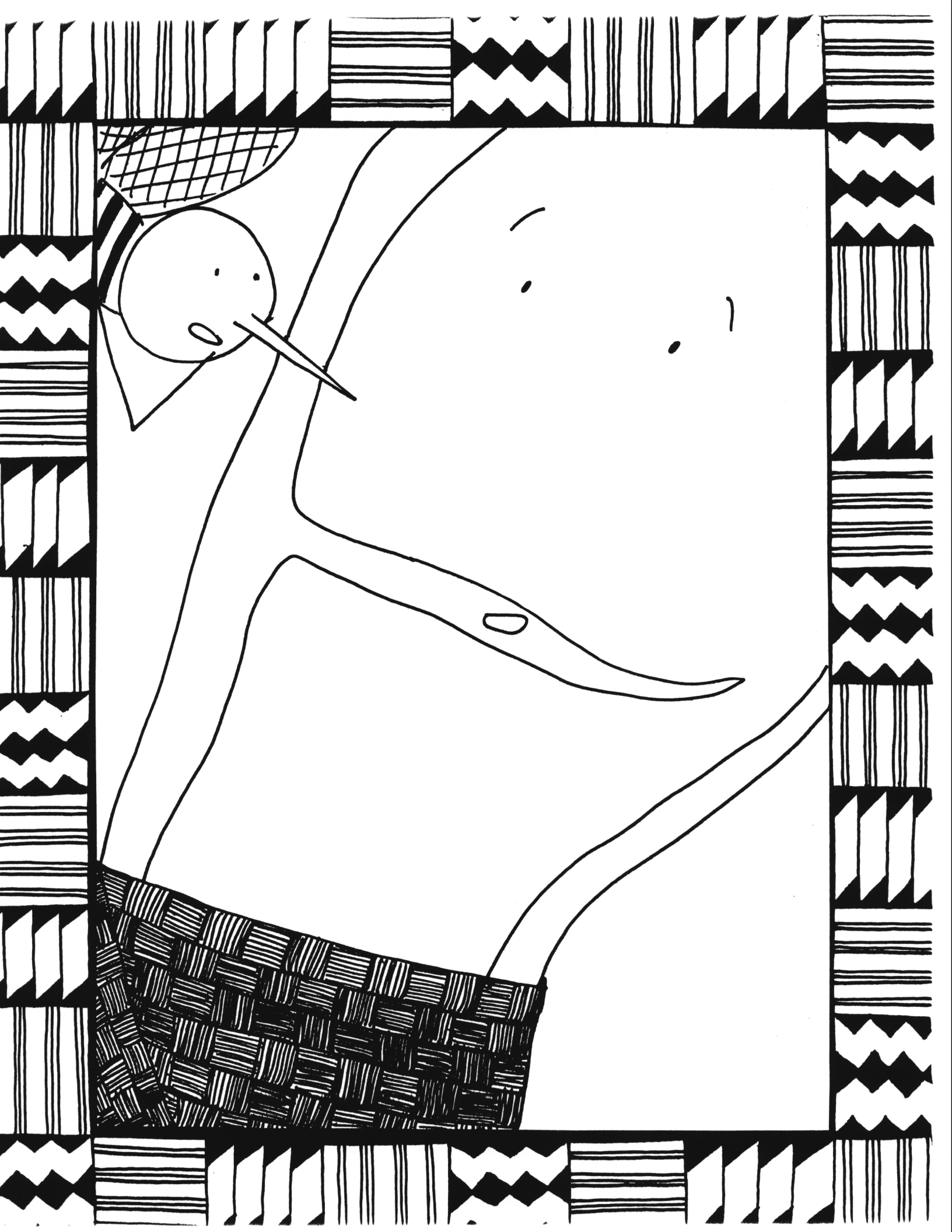


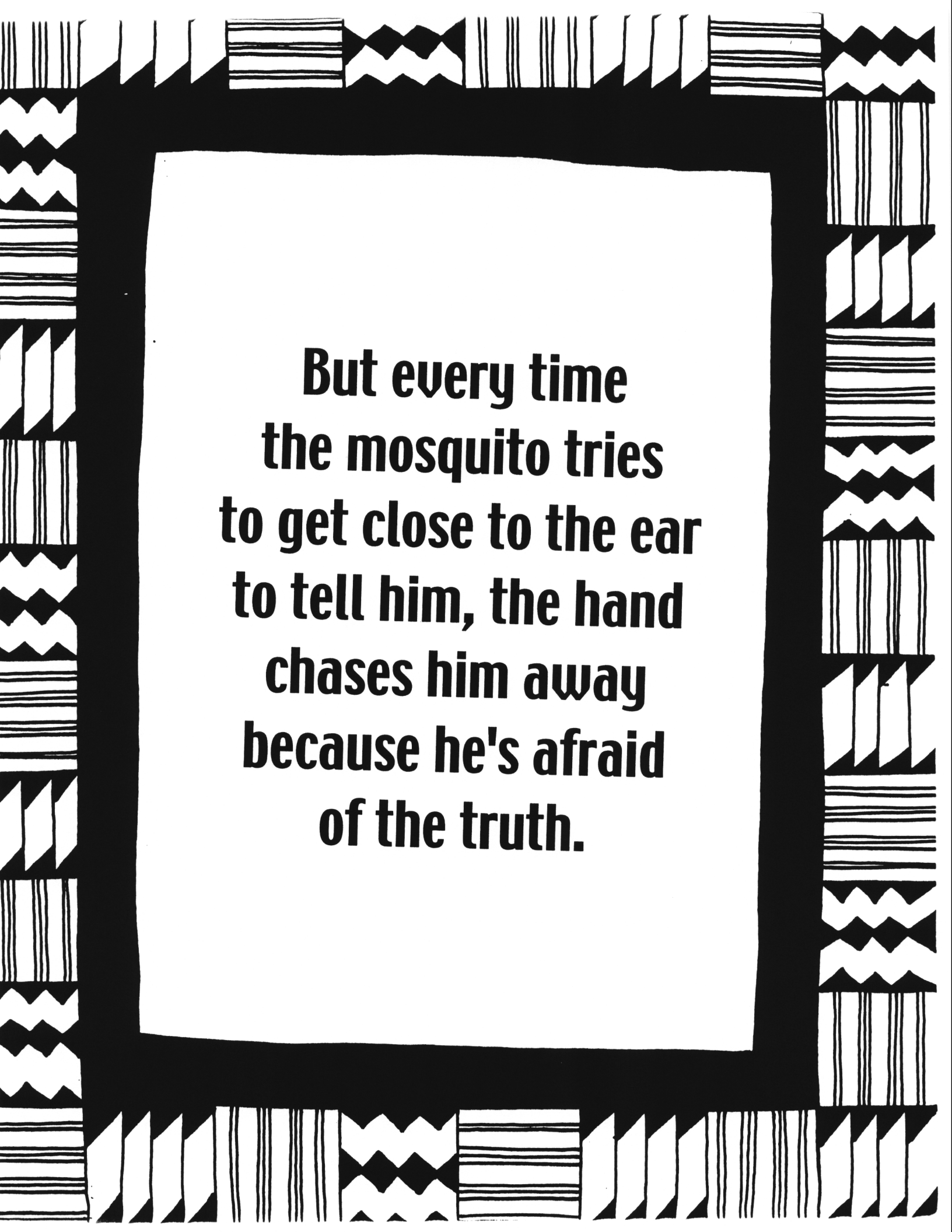
**When they returned,
the ear asked the
hand for his things.
But the hand refused
to answer him.**





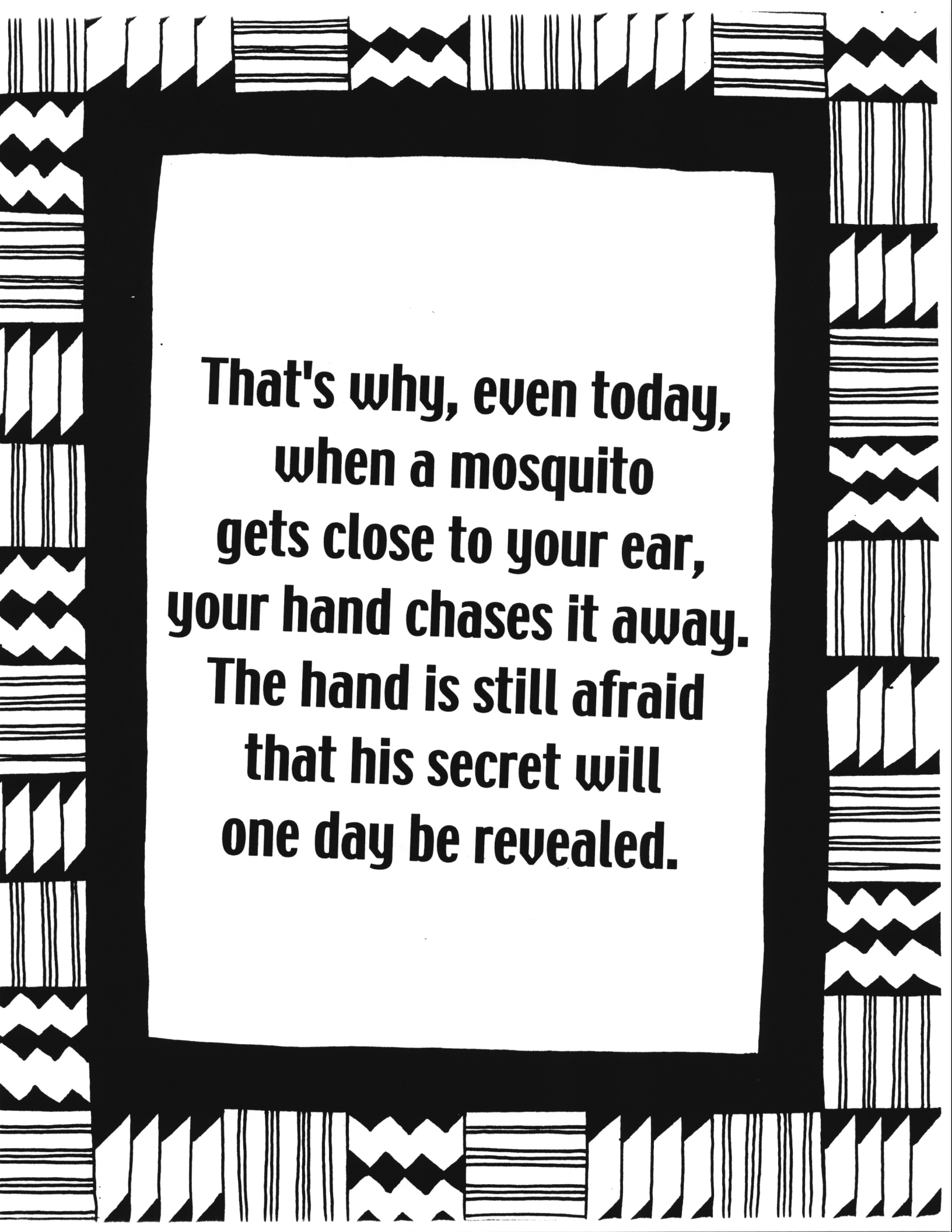
**The mosquito decided
to tell the ear
everything that
had happened
at the market.**





**But every time
the mosquito tries
to get close to the ear
to tell him, the hand
chases him away
because he's afraid
of the truth.**





**That's why, even today,
when a mosquito
gets close to your ear,
your hand chases it away.
The hand is still afraid
that his secret will
one day be revealed.**

