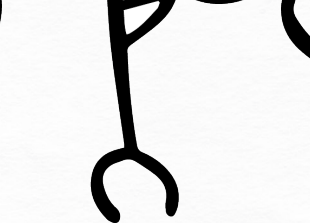
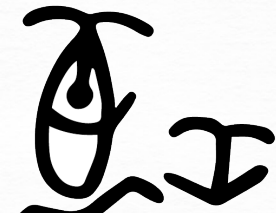
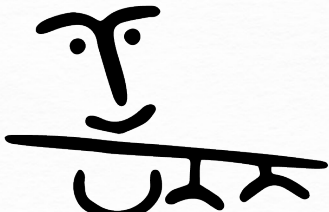
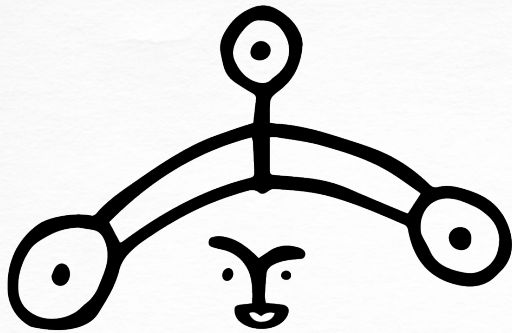


Yaamat Igait – PETROGLYPHS



Petroglyphs are designs pecked into boulders, cliff faces, and other stationary pieces of stone. This type of artwork is rare in Alaska. The Lingít of Southeast Alaska made such carvings, and a few pieces of rock art are known from other parts of Alaska. In the Kodiak Archipelago, there are at least 17 petroglyph locations that depict human figures, animal forms, and geometric designs.

HOW DID THE ALUTIIQ/SUGPIAQ CREATE PETROGLYPHS? There are clues in other types of stone tools. Kodiak’s prehistoric residents made many objects out of hard greywacke and granite beach cobbles by pecking. Craftsmen used stone hammers to shape water-worn rocks into lamps, mauls, fishing weights, and even anchors. With similar tools, people probably pecked petroglyph images into Kodiak’s bedrock. Experiments suggest that artists used two handheld stones to hammer away fragments of rock and create designs, perhaps employing a hammerstone to drive a pecking stone. However they were created, Kodiak’s petroglyphs are finely made. Artists made deep, clean lines and carefully formed shapes and silhouettes. Some of these images are quite large, more than a meter (three feet) across. They must have taken a very long time to craft.

No one knows the precise age of this art form. Alutiiq people believe the petroglyphs are very old. Even a hundred years ago, Elders had no knowledge of this art form. Archaeologists suspect that some images date to the centuries surrounding AD 1000, as other types of stone carving flourished at this time, and many of the petroglyphs occur near village sites of this age. But why did Alutiiq people make petroglyphs?

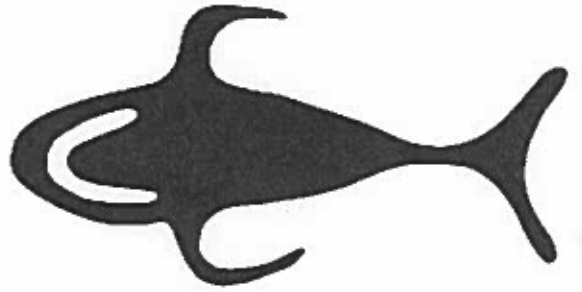
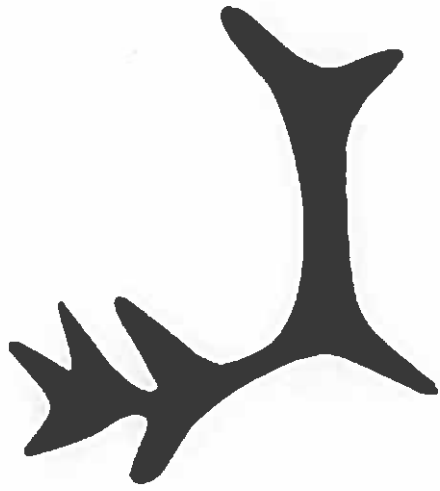
Other Alaska Natives used rock art as territorial markers, permanent signs that linked families to particular subsistence harvesting areas. Perhaps the Alutiiq did the same. Kodiak’s petroglyphs commonly occur at the entrances to bays, facing outward toward the open ocean, and would have been easy to see when freshly carved. It is also possible that the images are part of a hunting ritual. Historic accounts report that whalers carved images into rocks to bring them luck before the hunt. At Cape Alitak, both explanations seem possible. Here, there are thirteen clusters of petroglyphs with more than 1,300 individual images. Petroglyphs showing faces tend to appear below old village sites. In contrast, petroglyphs showing whales appear at the tip of the cape, overlooking an area where whales swim past.

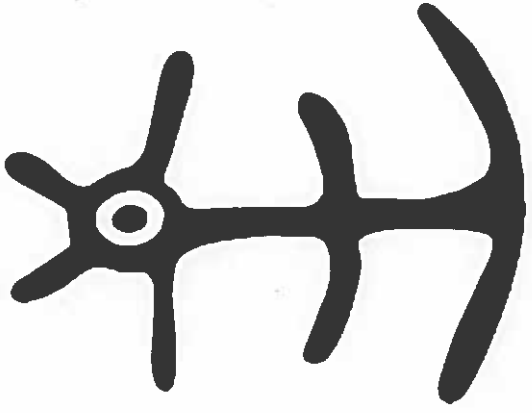
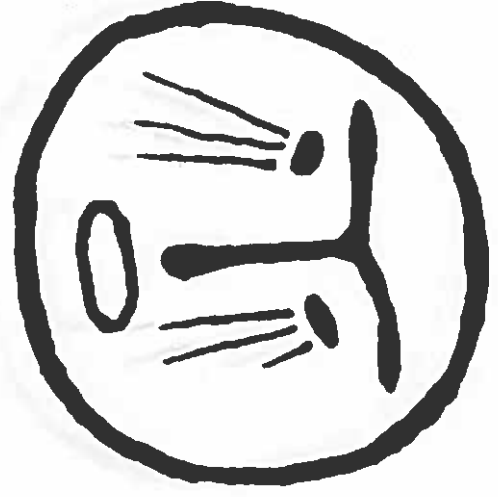
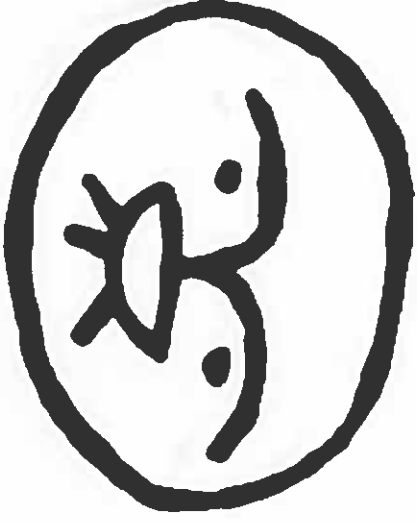
Petroglyphs from Cape Alitak, Kodiak Island. From a drawing by Sven Haakanson, Jr.

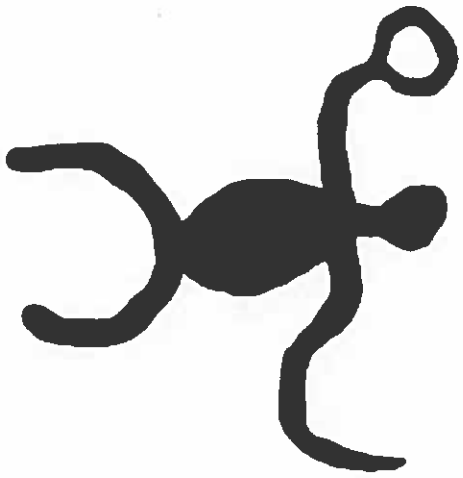
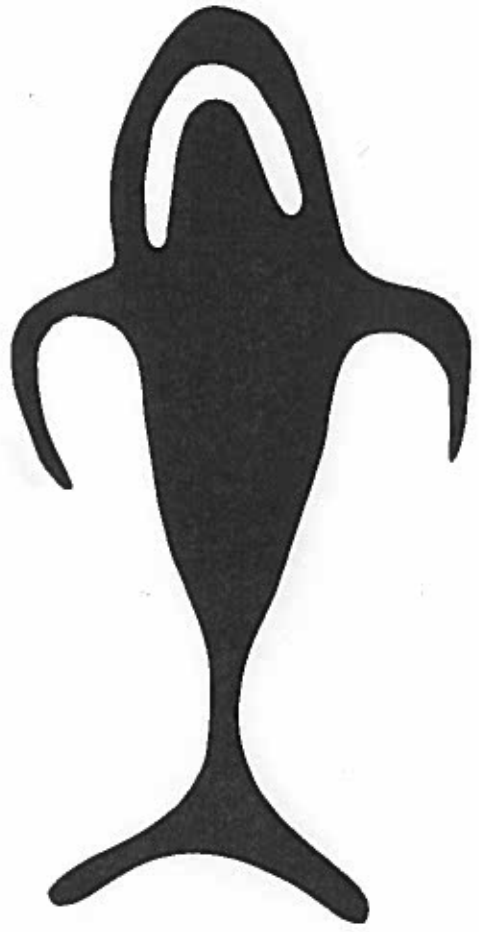
LEARN MORE:

Rock Art, 2018, by Amy F. Steffian and Sven D. Haakanson, Jr. In *Igaruacirpet—Our Way of Making Designs*, Pp. 32-66. Alutiiq Museum, Kodiak.











1

Handwritten text in a stylized, cursive script, possibly a form of shorthand or a specific dialect. The characters are interconnected and flow from top to bottom. The text is written in a dark ink on a light background.

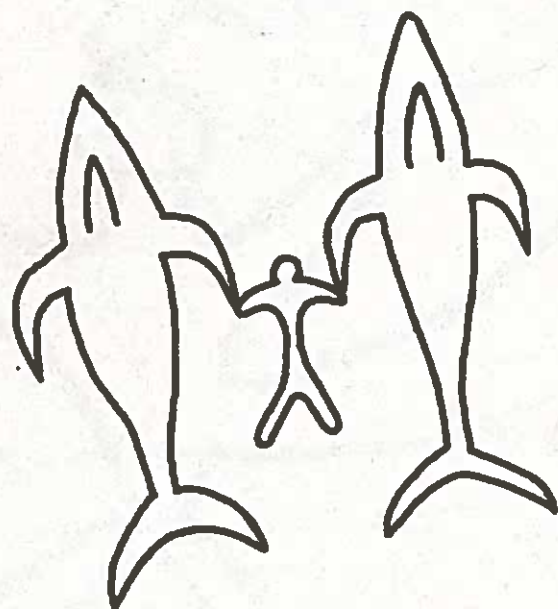
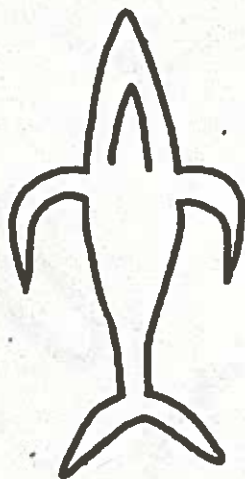
Handwritten text in a cursive script, possibly a signature or a short message, located in the upper right quadrant of the page.

Two pairs of stylized, mirrored calligraphic characters, likely representing a decorative element or a specific word in a highly stylized script, positioned in the lower half of the page.



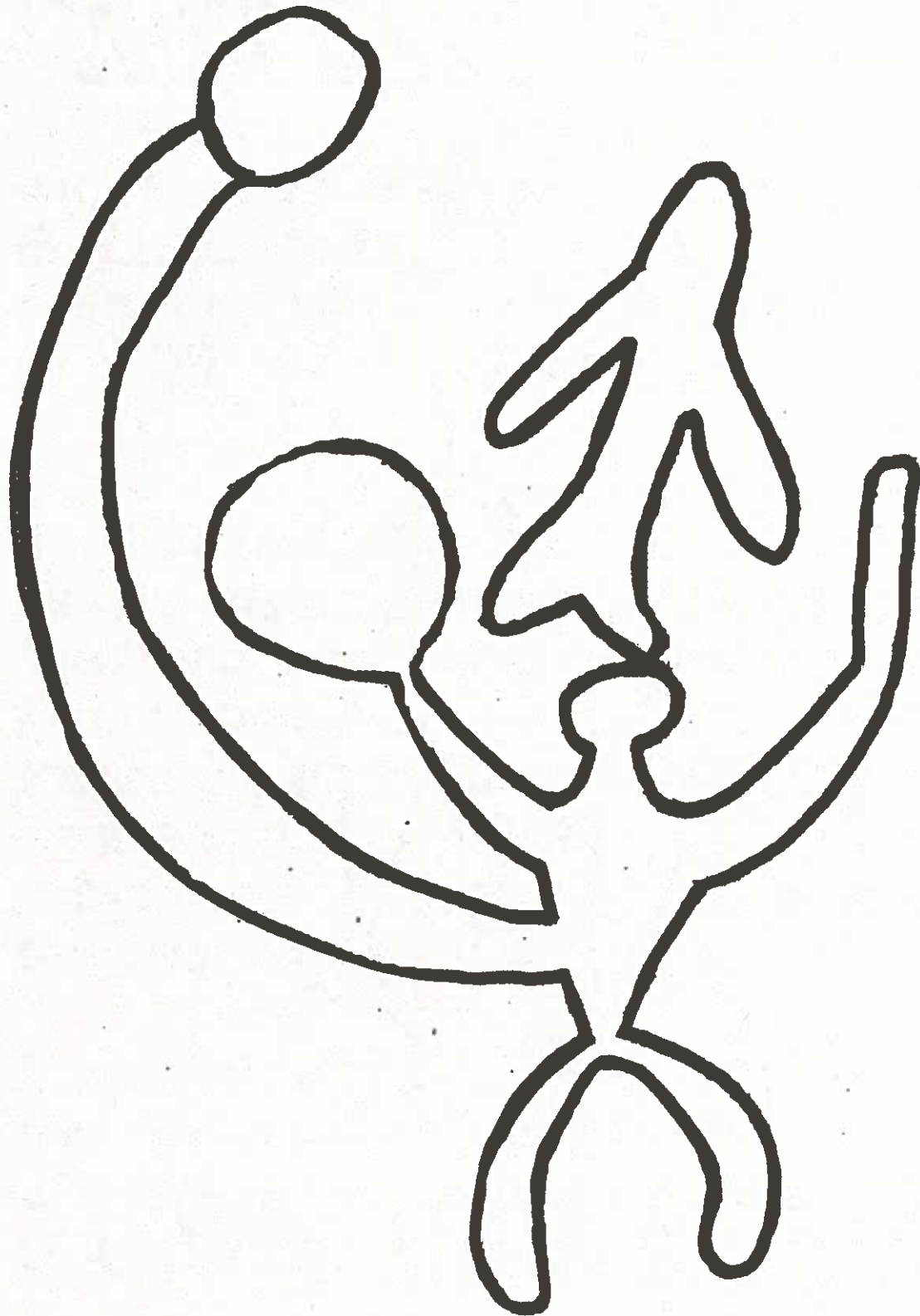


CAPE ALITAK

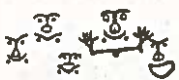
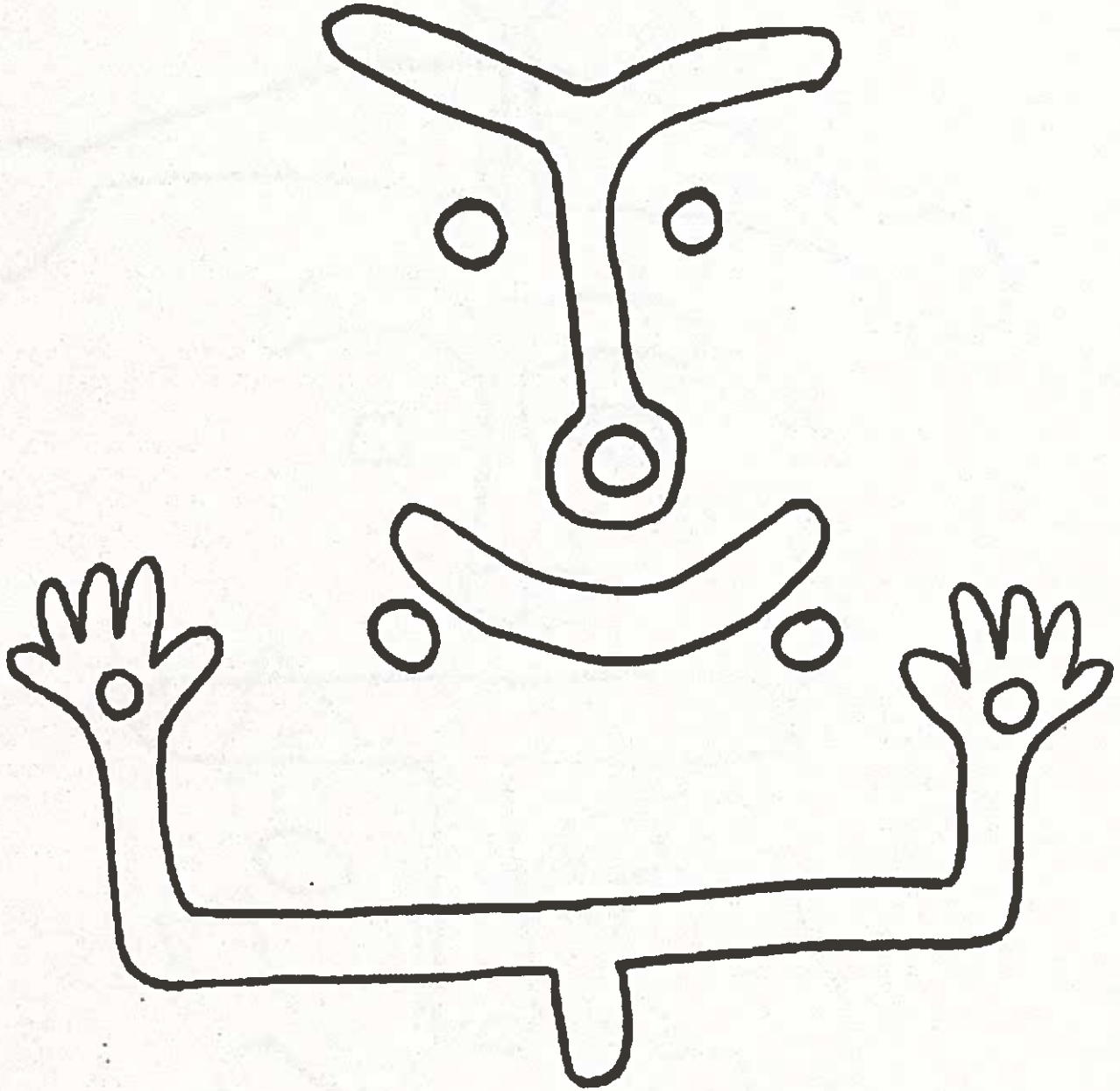


PETROGLYPHS

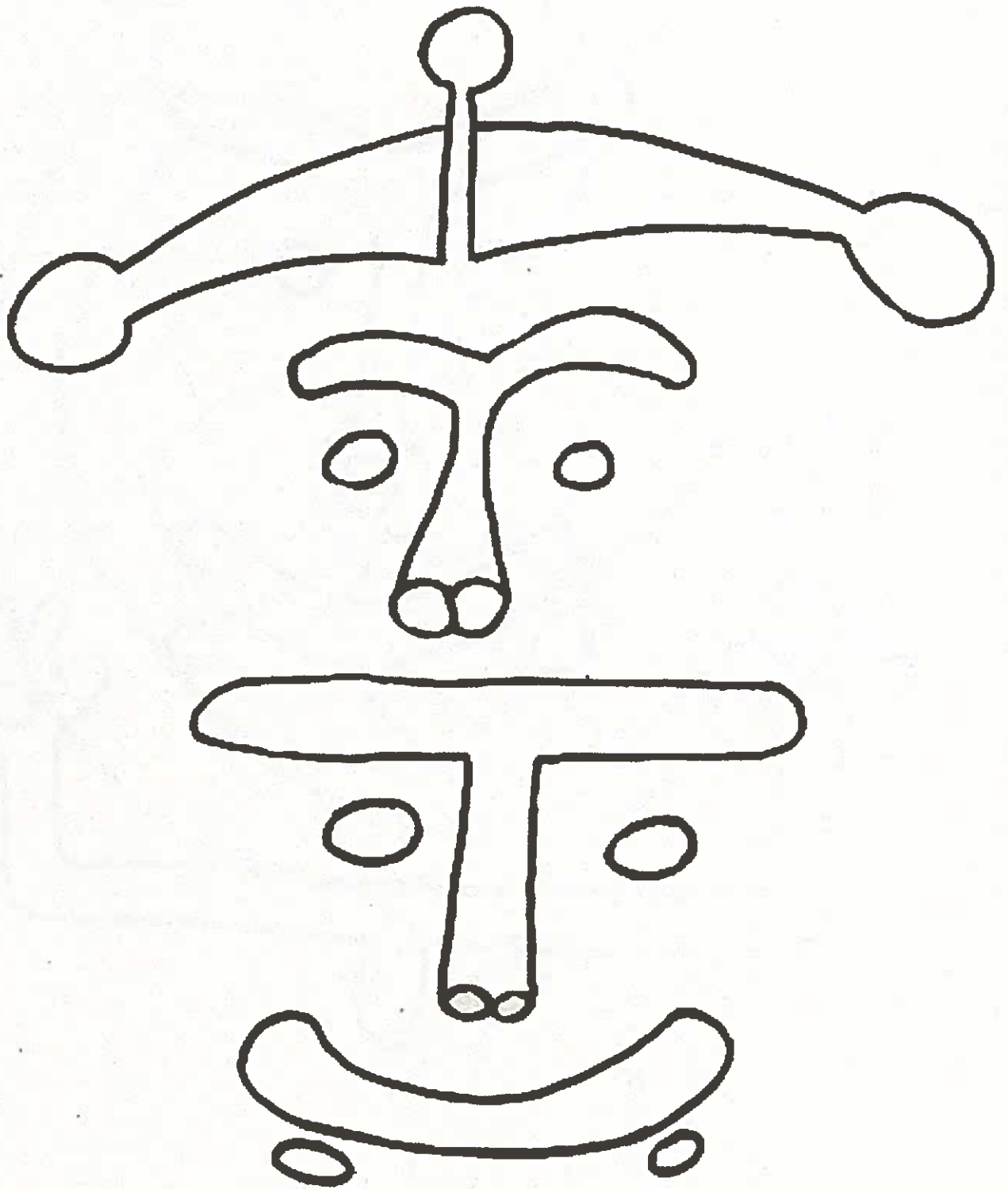
DRUMMERS DREAM



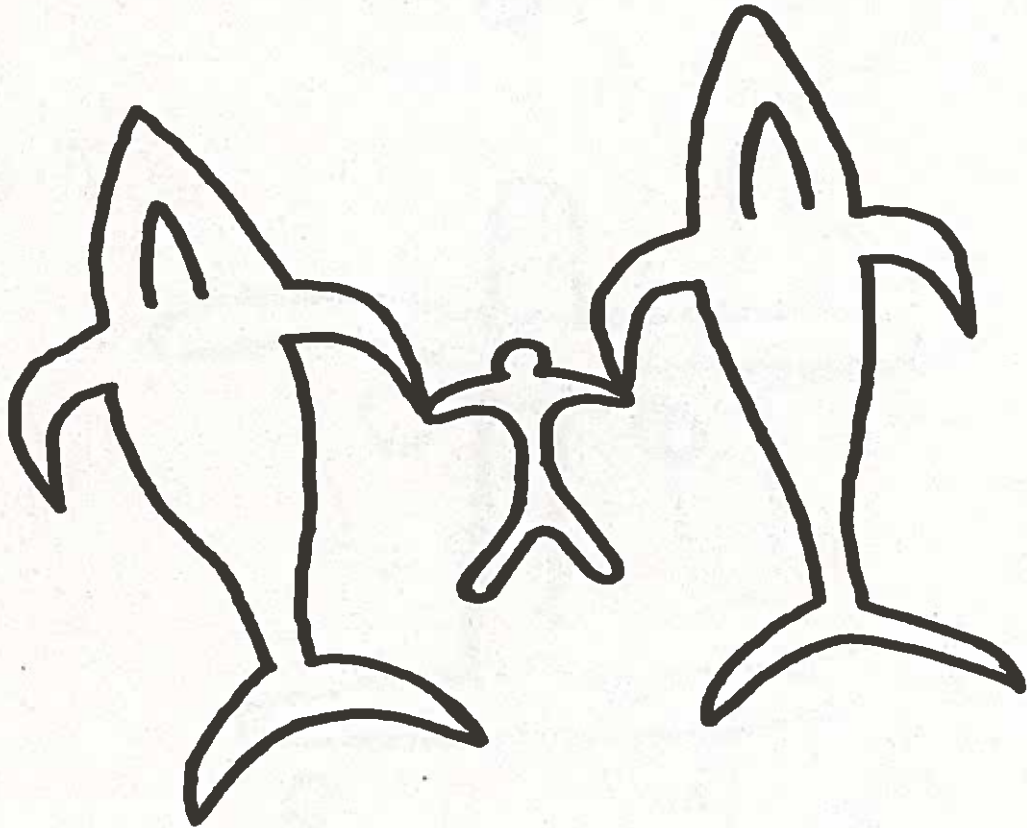
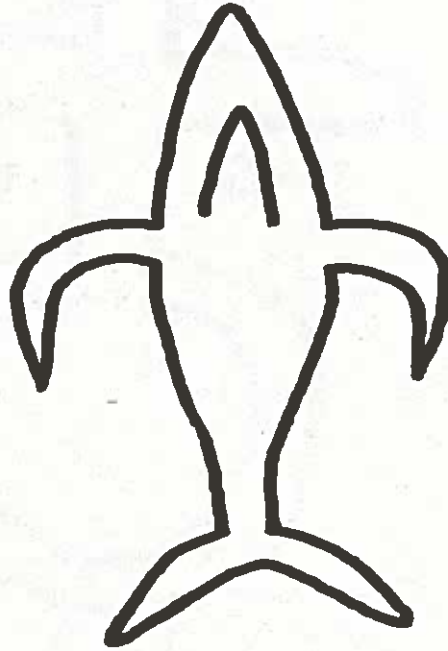
HAPPY FACE

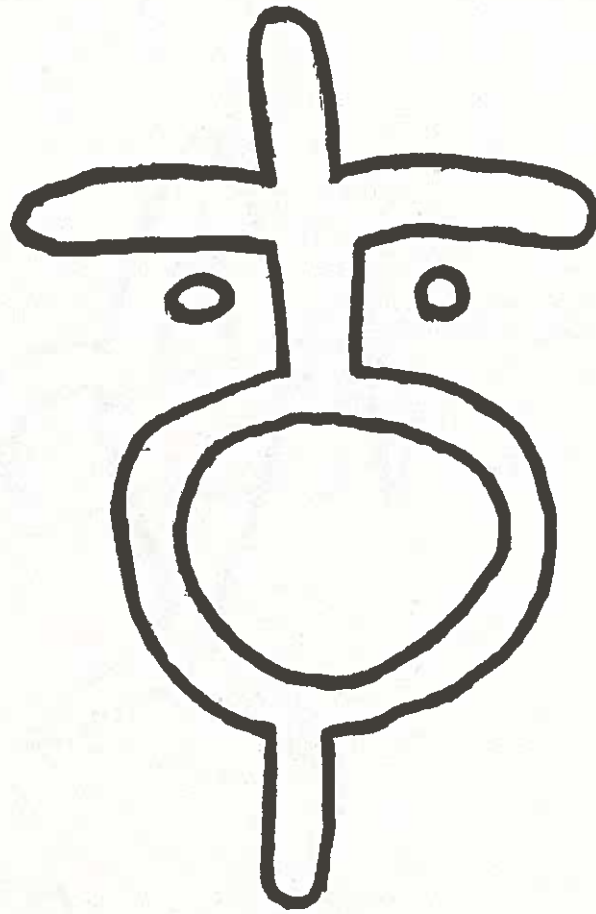


PROTECTOR

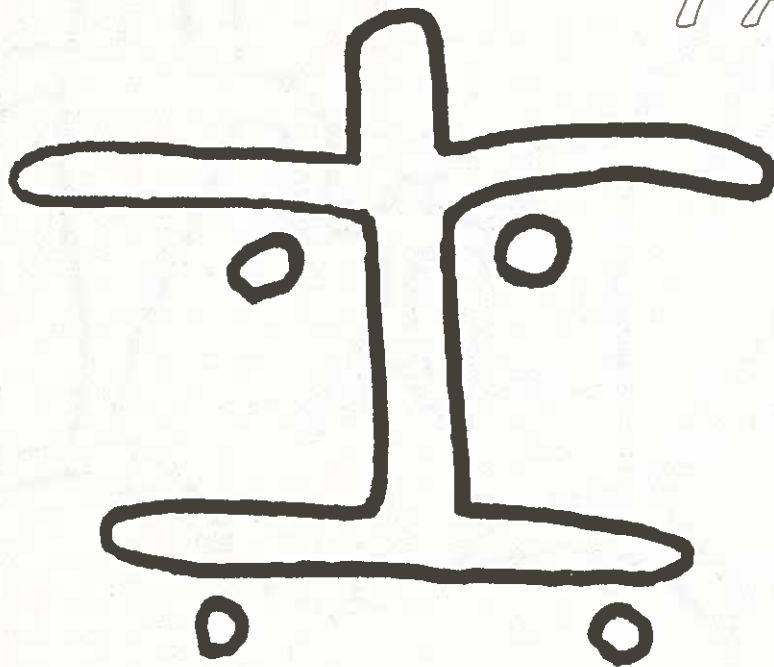


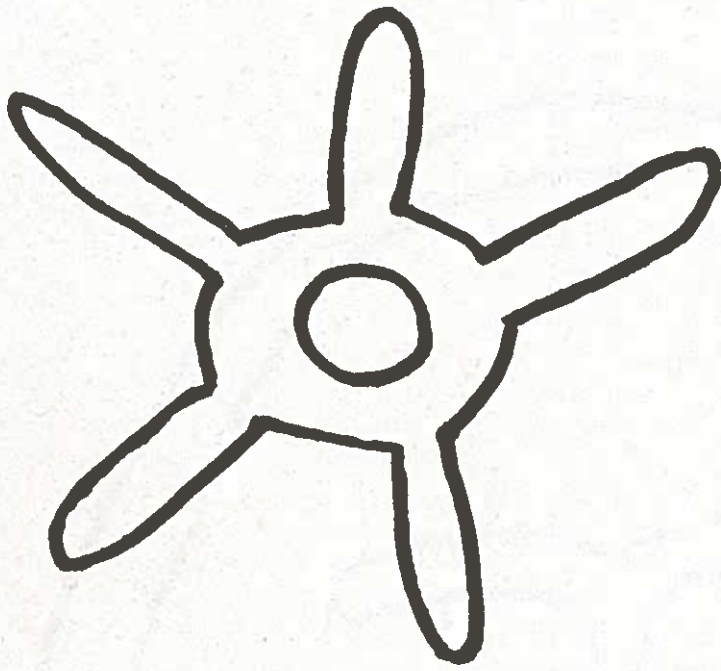
WHALES HELPER



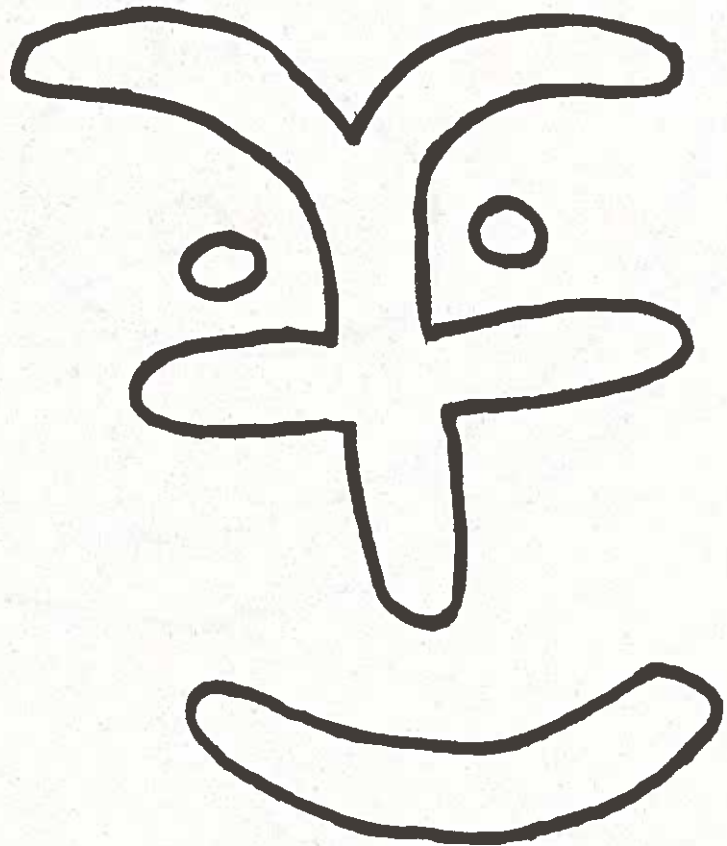


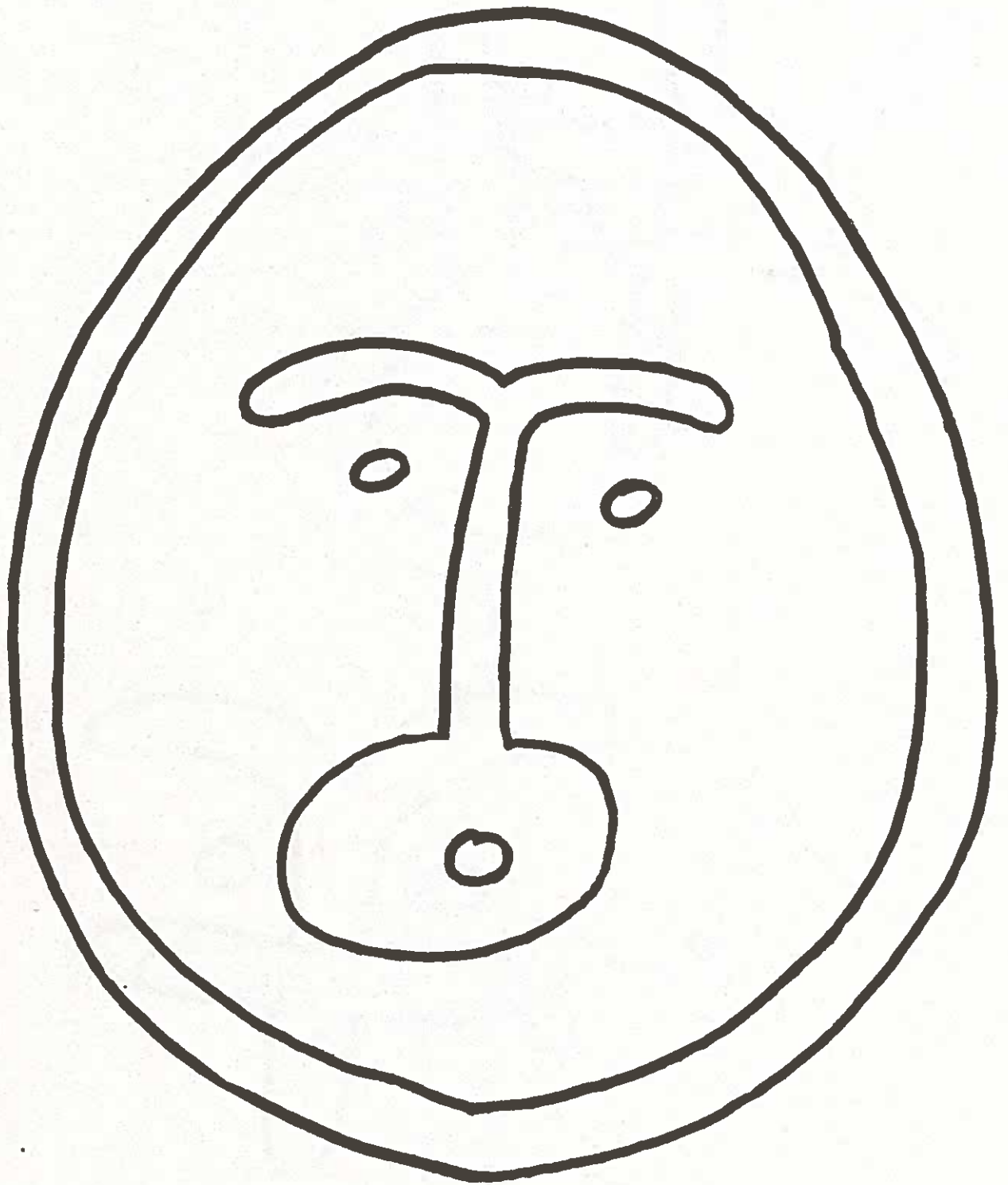
FACES





STAR VIEWER



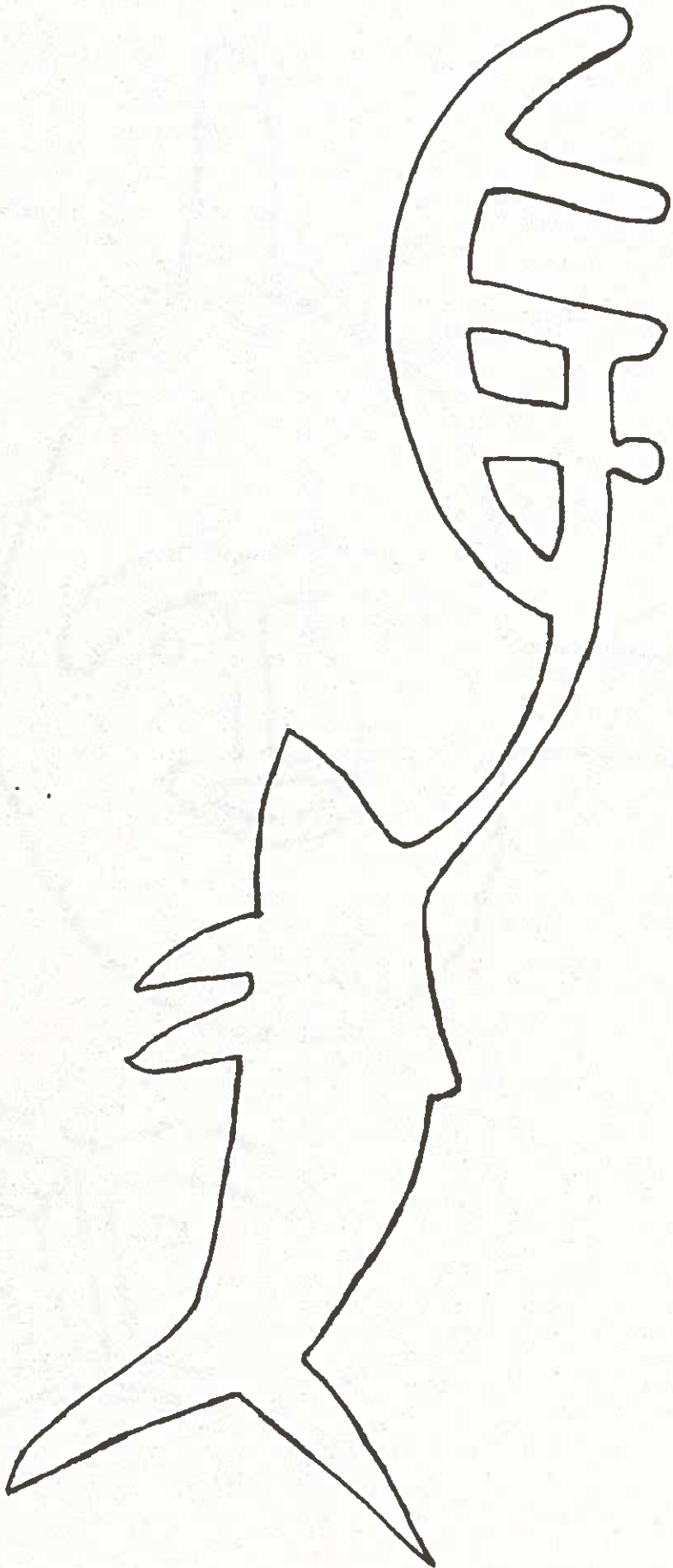


SEAL UNDER WATER



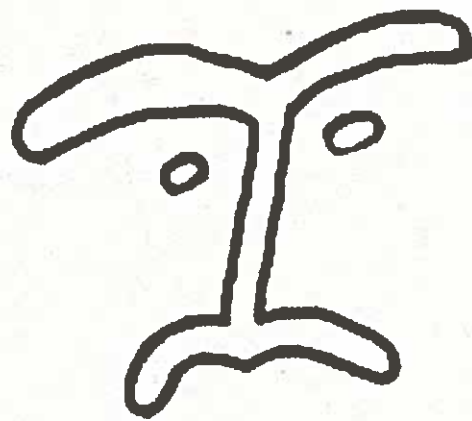
SUBWAY

Good Hunt

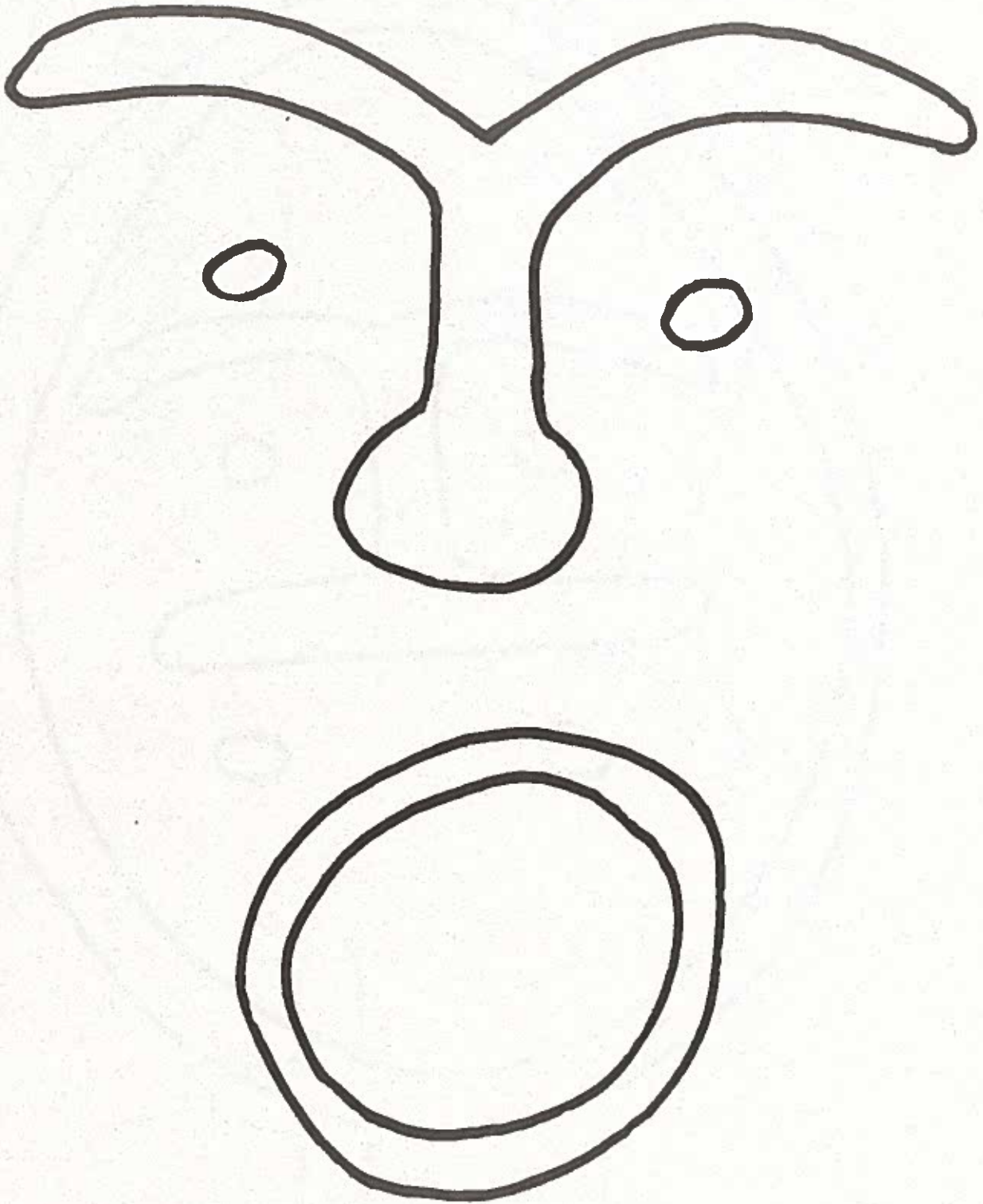


SEAL

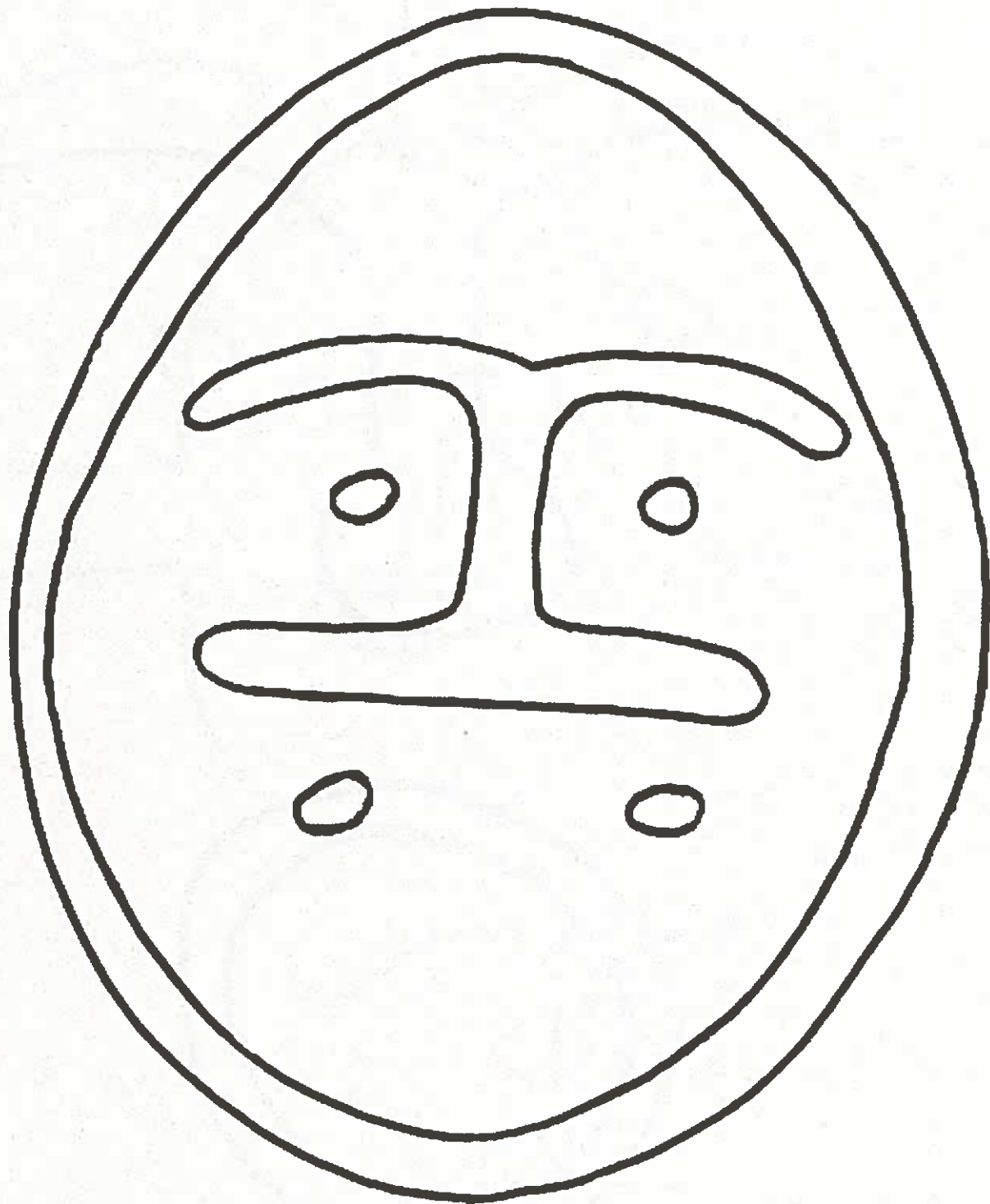
FACE



STORYTELLER

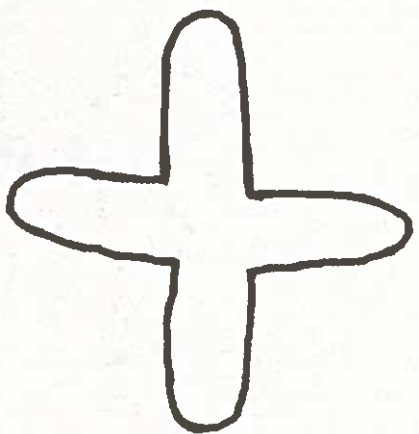


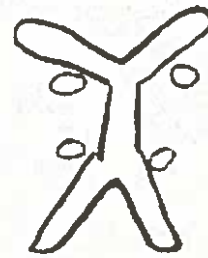
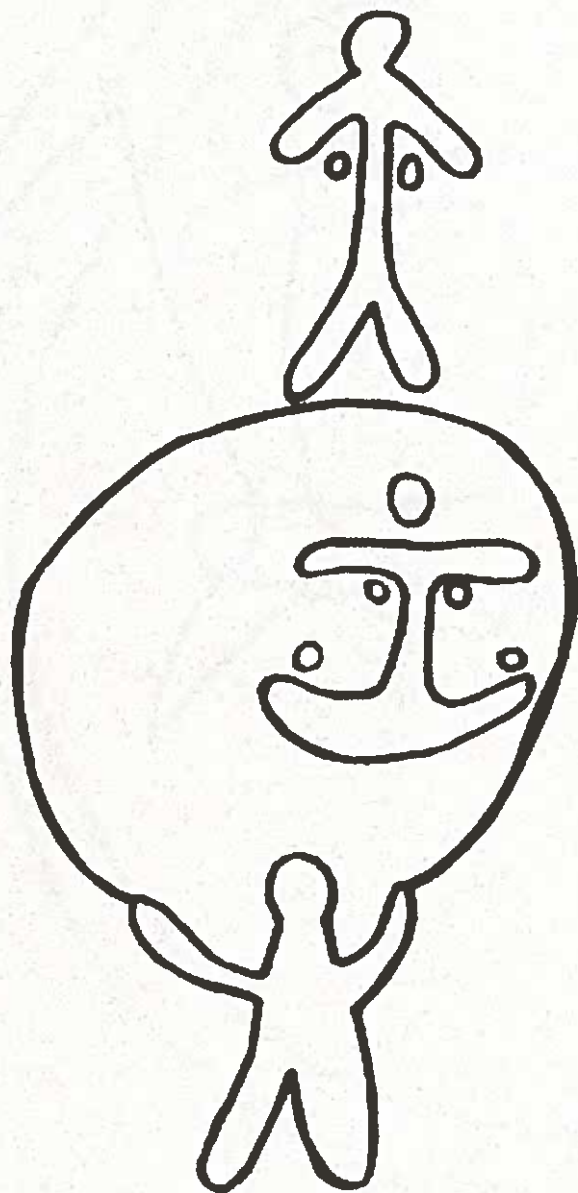
SEAL DIVING DEEP



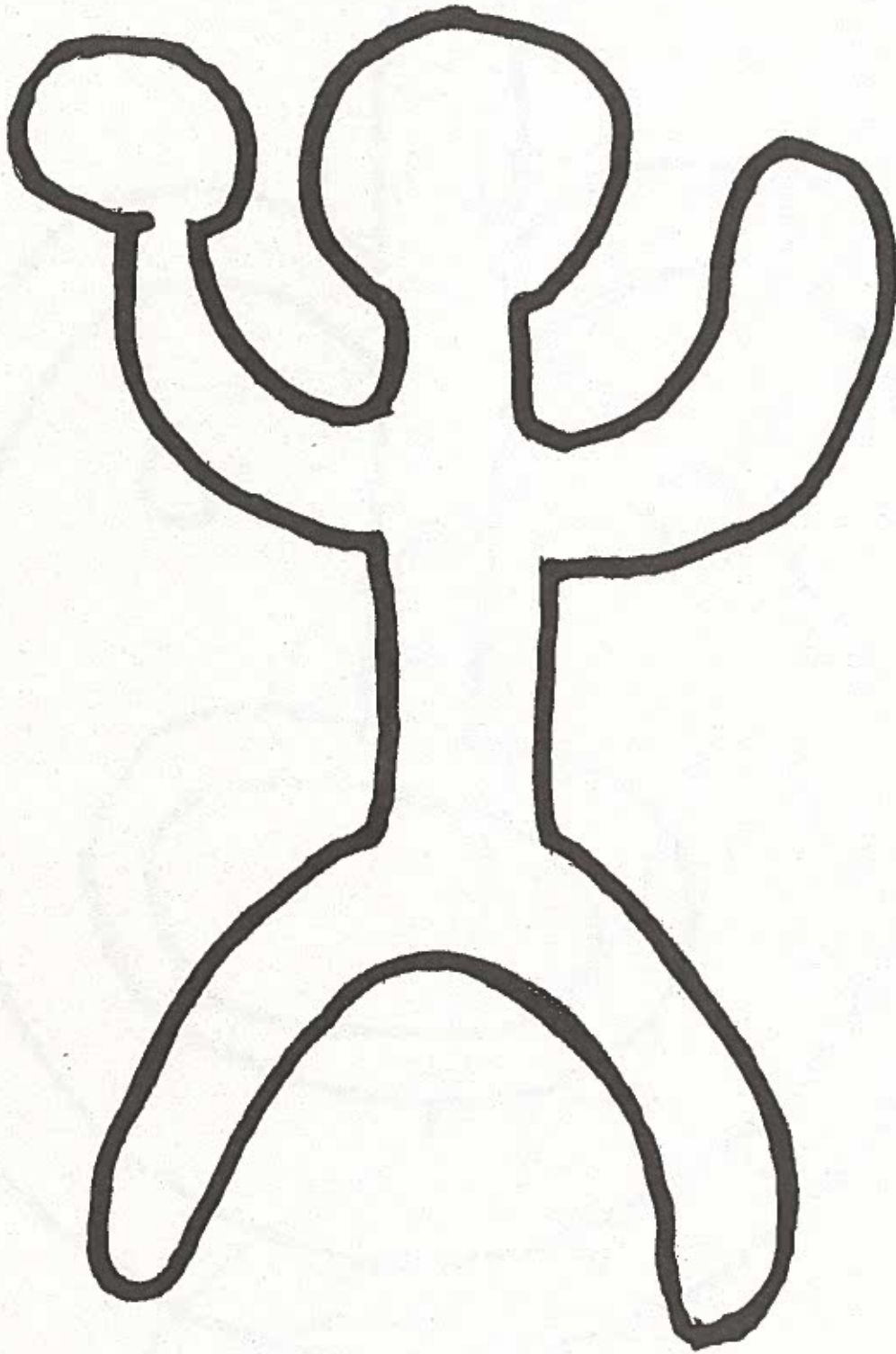


Killer Whale

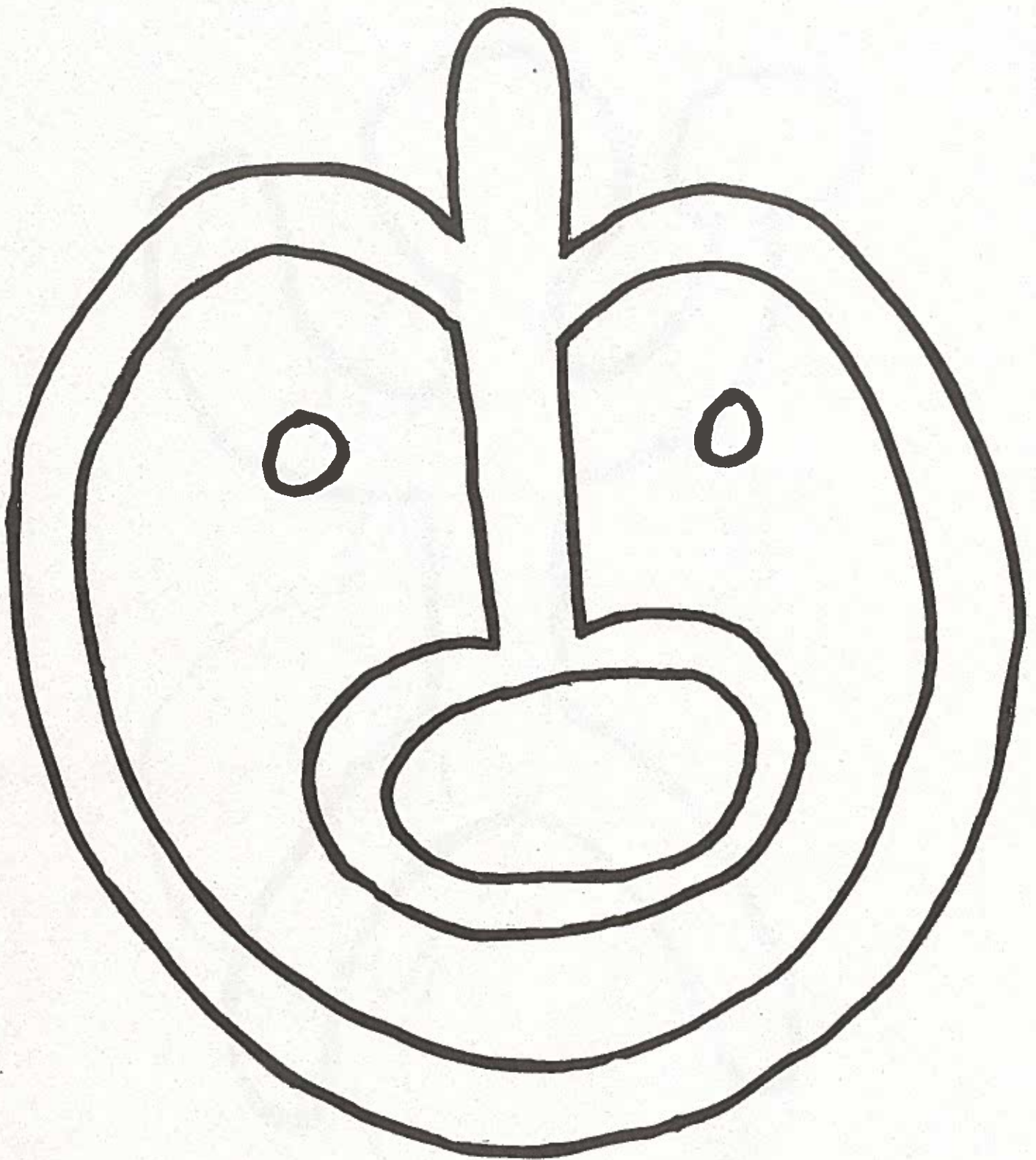




BALANCE

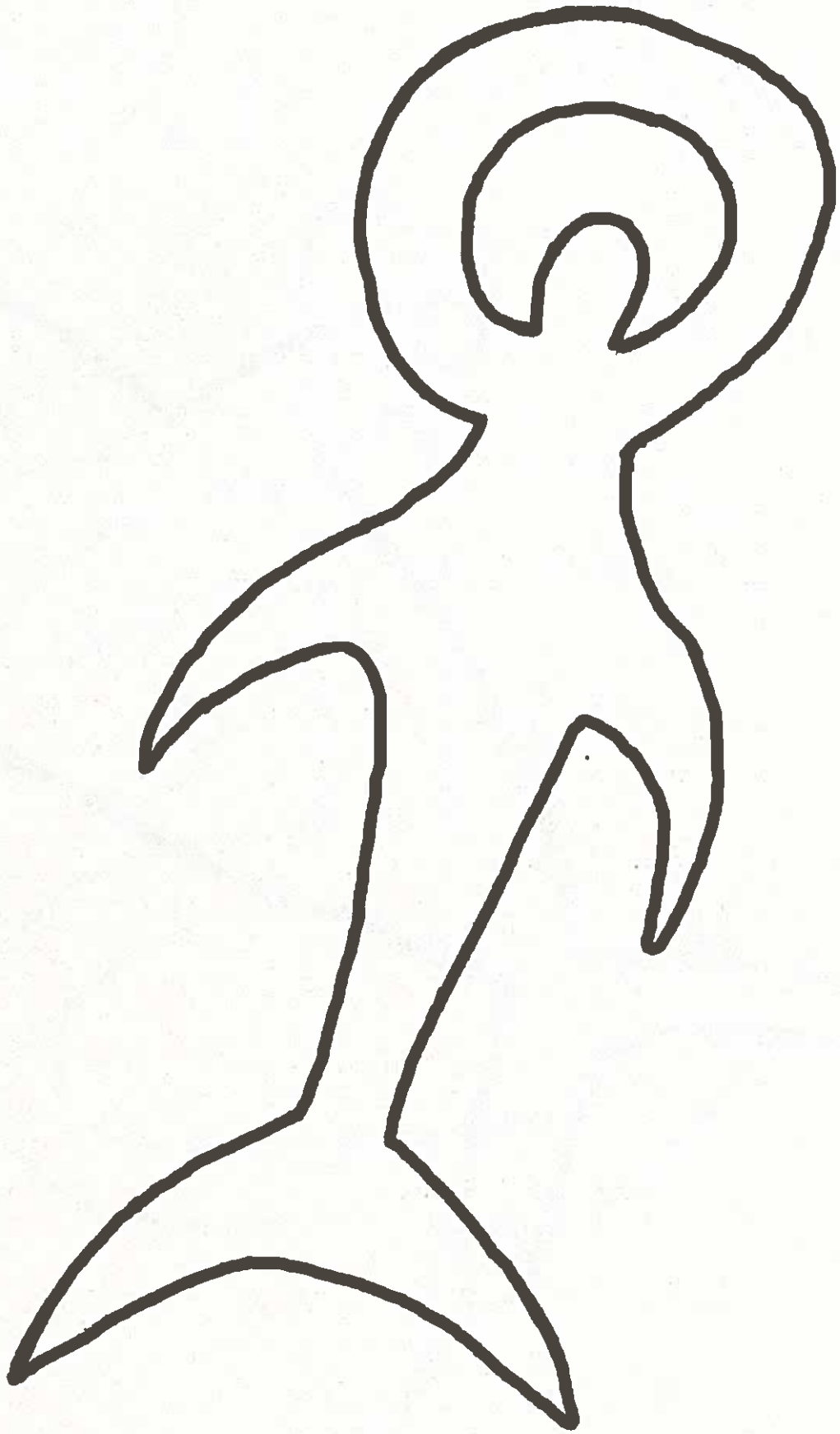


DRUMMER

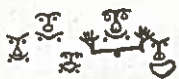
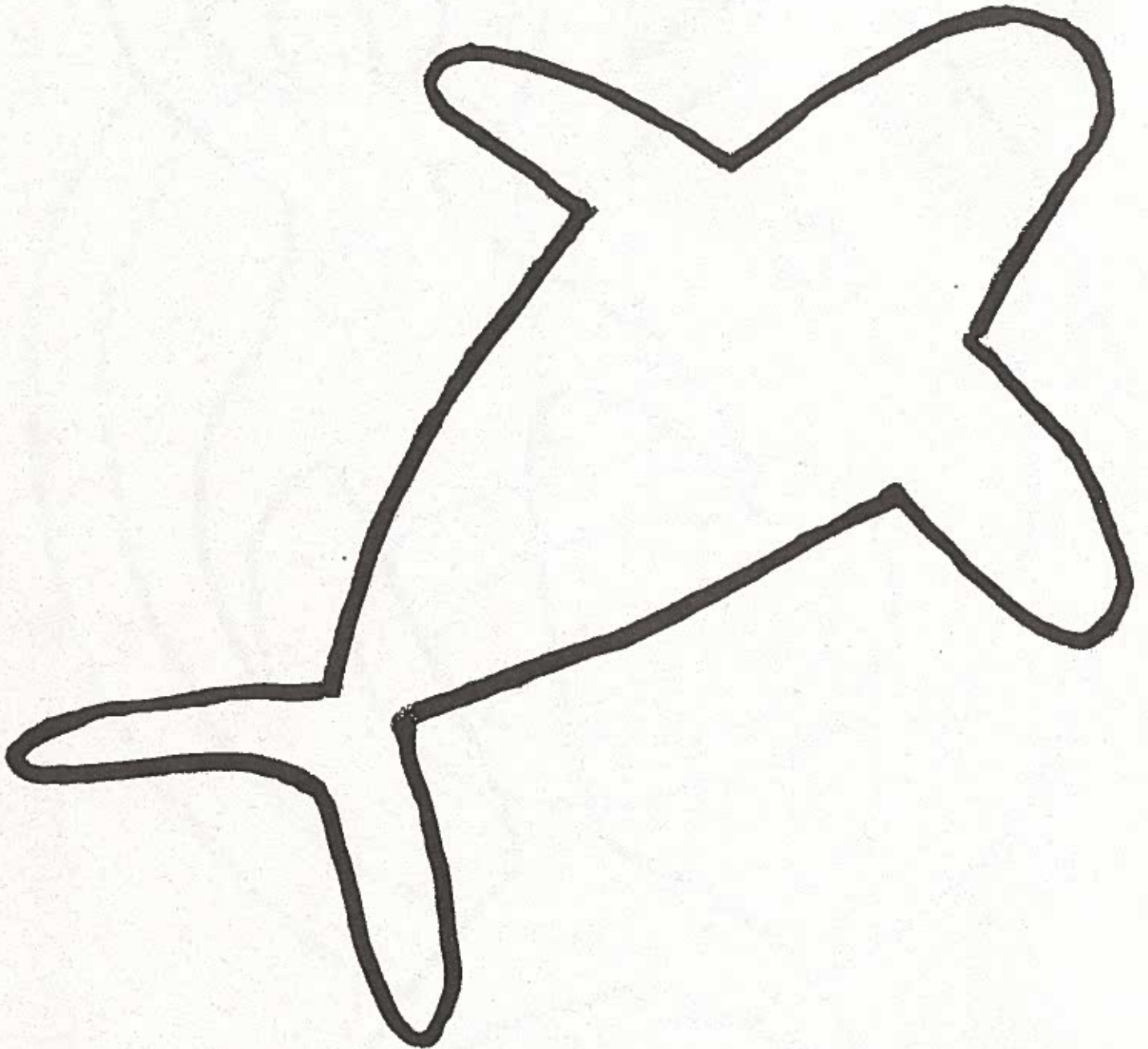


SEAL

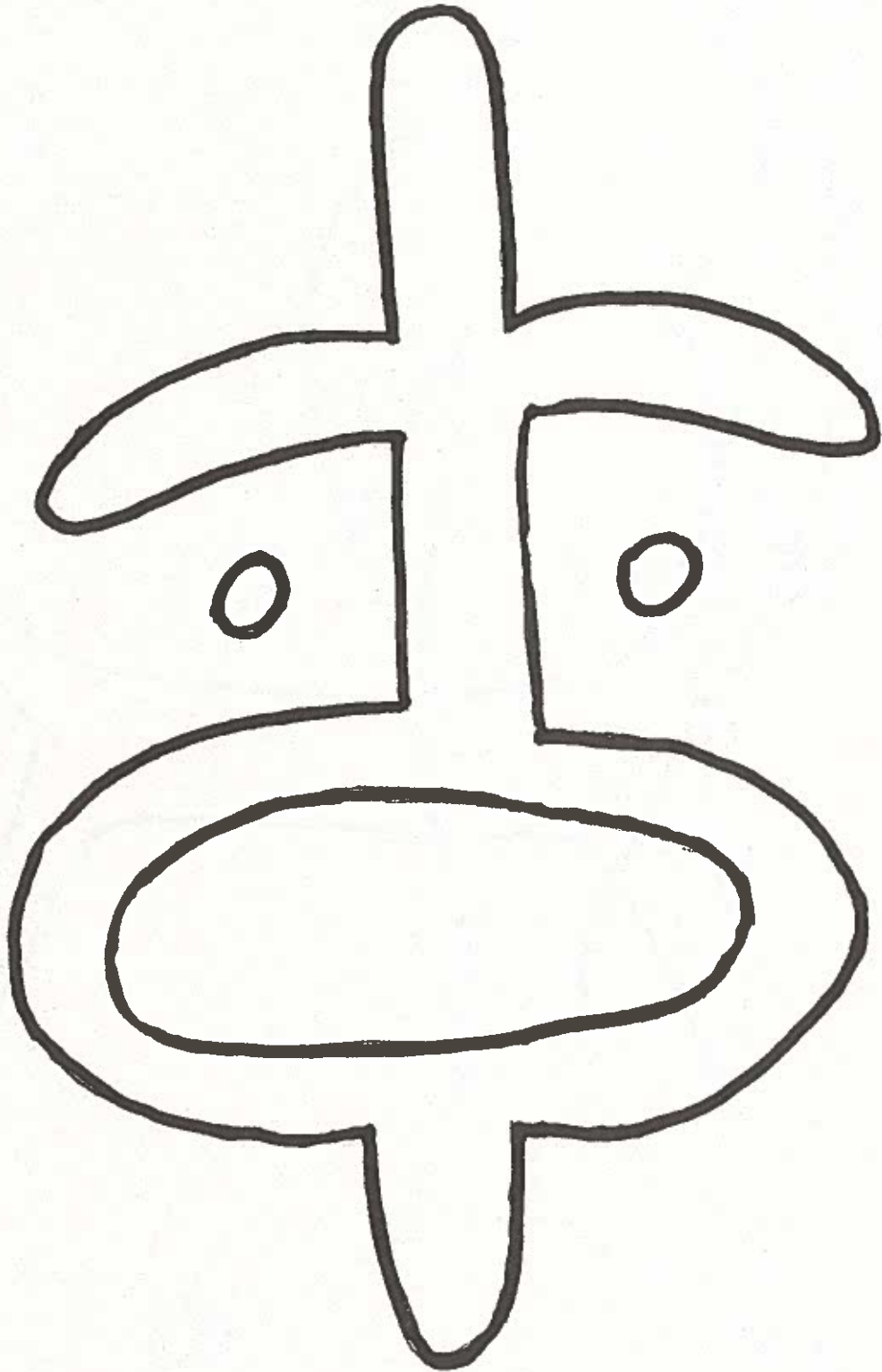
WHALES DREAM

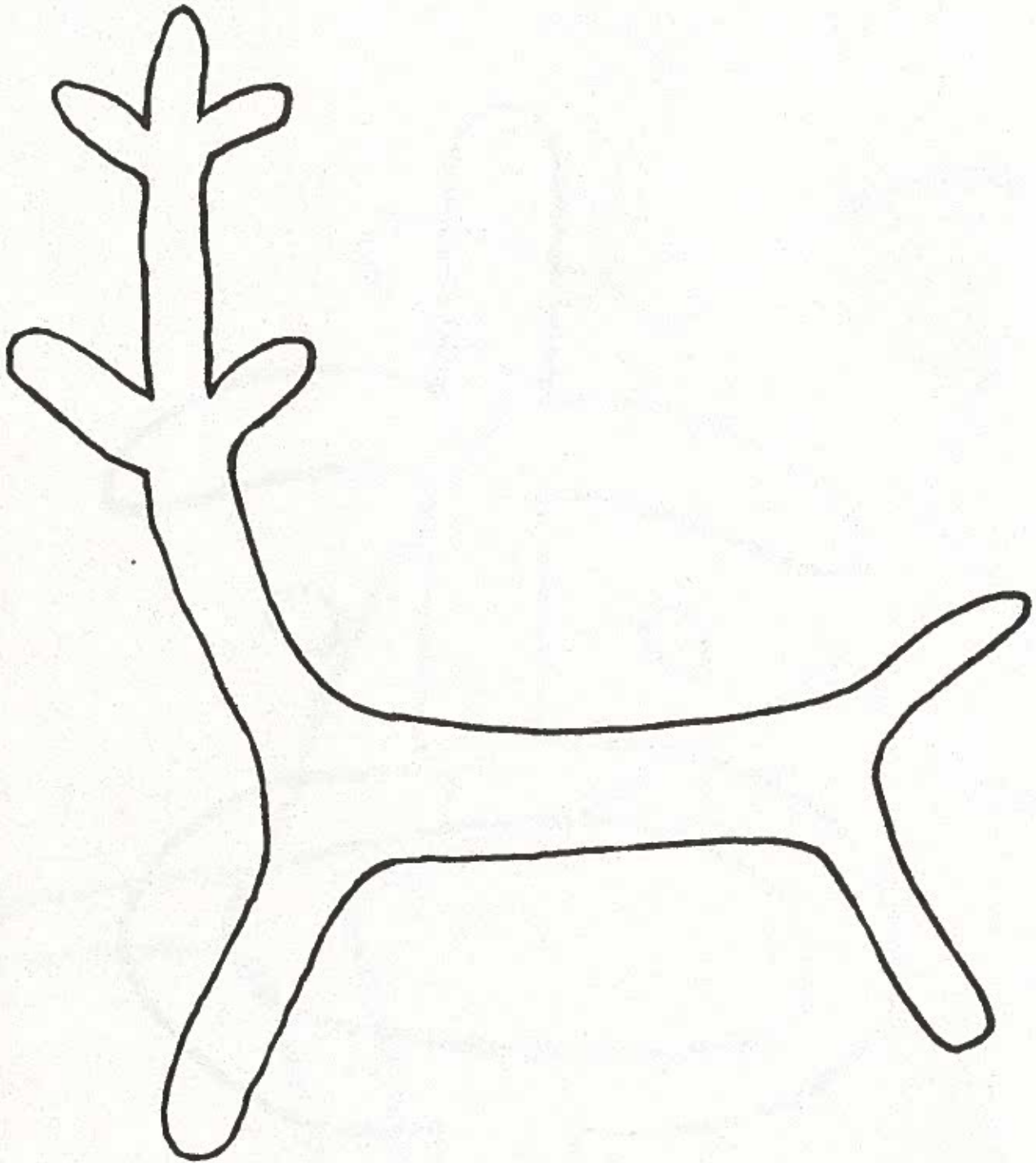


WHALE

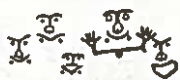


SEALING

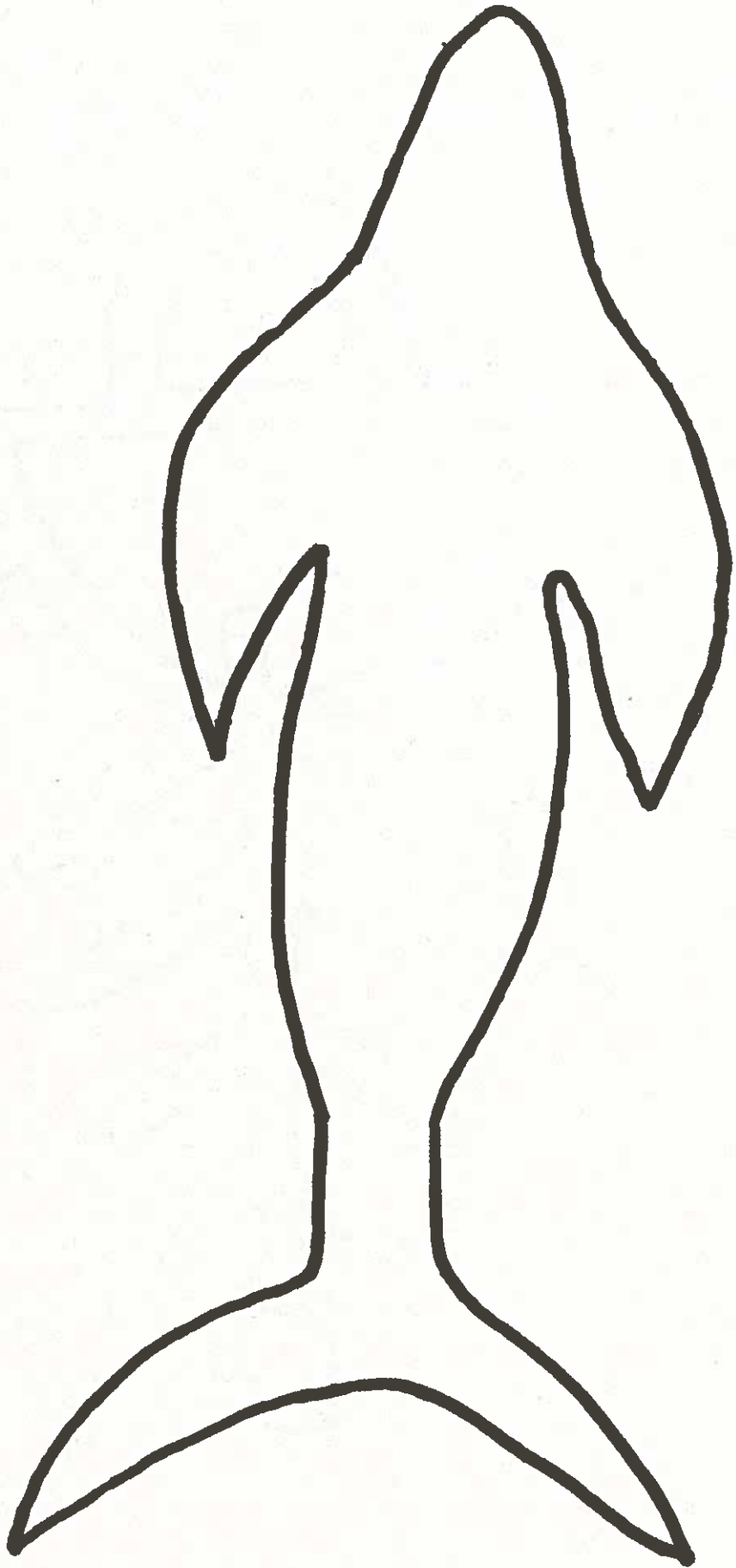




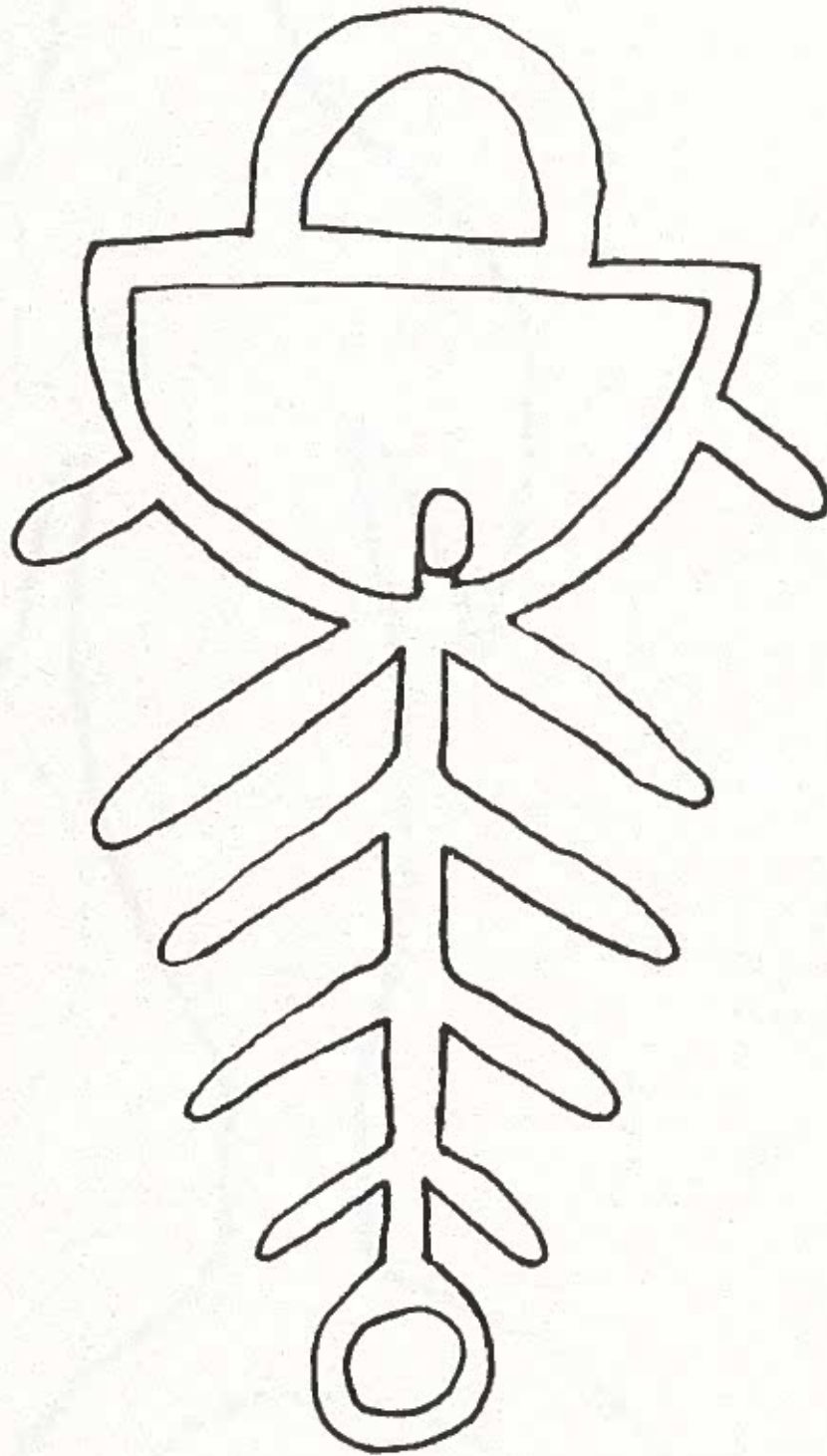
CARIBOU



WHALES SHADOW



ANIMAL SKELETON



CREATE YOUR OWN PETROGLYPHS



The Cape Alitak Petroglyphs were drawn from the originals by Sean Price (13 years old) from Old Harbor (pages 2, 6, 10, 14, & 18), Donene Eluska (14 years old) from Akhiok (pages 3, 7, 11, 15, 19 & 21), Tristen Kewan (15 years old) from Port Lions and Kodiak (pages 4, 8, 12 & 16), and S. Haakanson (pages 5, 9, 13, 17, 20 & 22).

A special thanks goes out to Akhiok Culture Camp, the village of Akhiok, Mitch and Judy Simeonoff, and the Kodiak Island Housing Authority for sponsoring the students to travel, document and learn about the petroglyphs and Subway for sponsoring this coloring book.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact the Alutiiq Museum at: 907-486-7004 to learn more, or on-line at www.alutiiqmuseum.com.

