

Starfish



"If a starfish loses an arm it is able to grow a new one. This is why starfish, the "star of the sea", represent regeneration and renewal."

Eric Parnell, Haida



Octopus

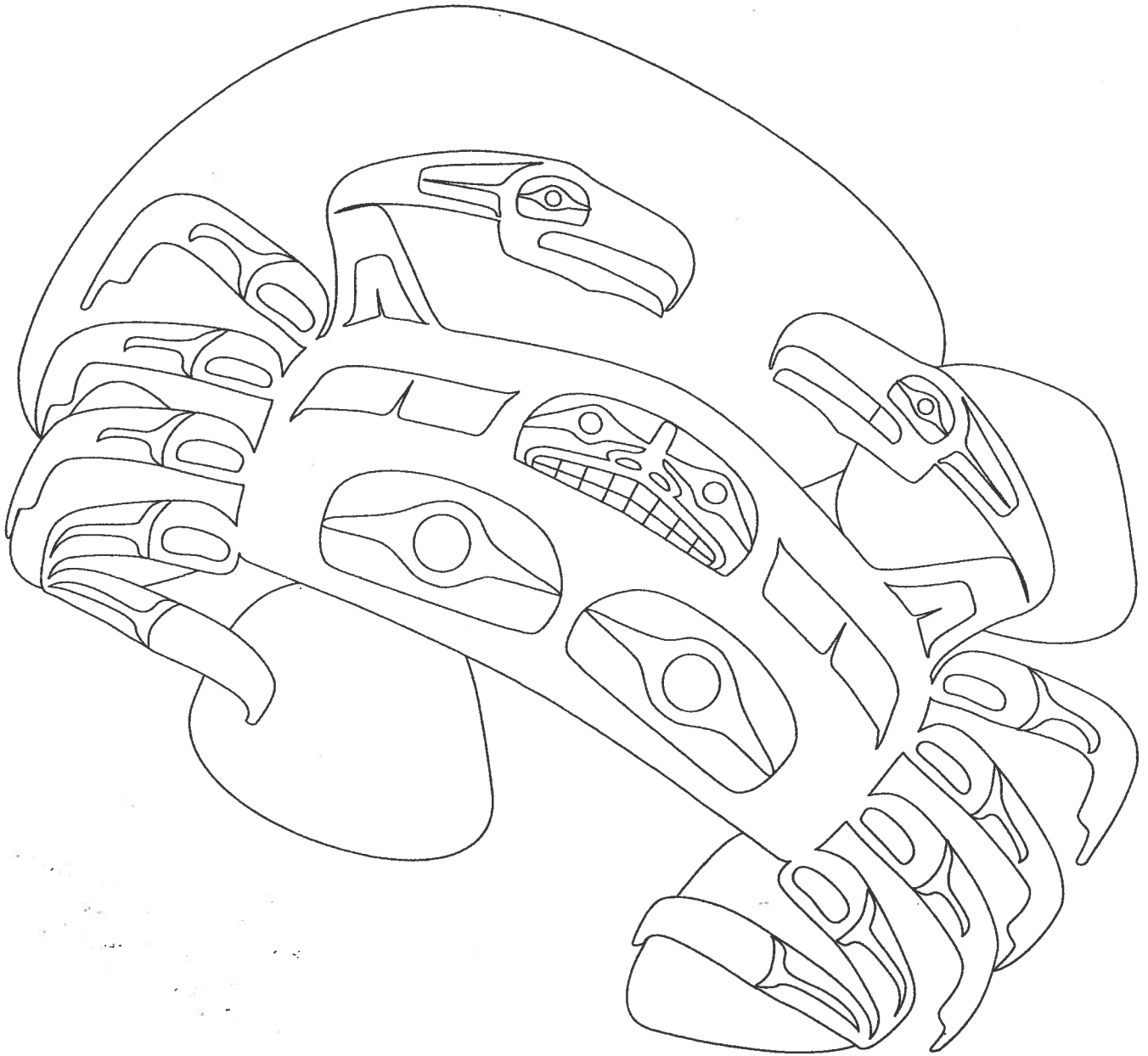


“An octopus has the flexibility to adapt to its surroundings and the situations in which it finds itself. There is a story about an octopus so huge it could capture whales.”

Corey W. Moraes, Tsimshian



Crab

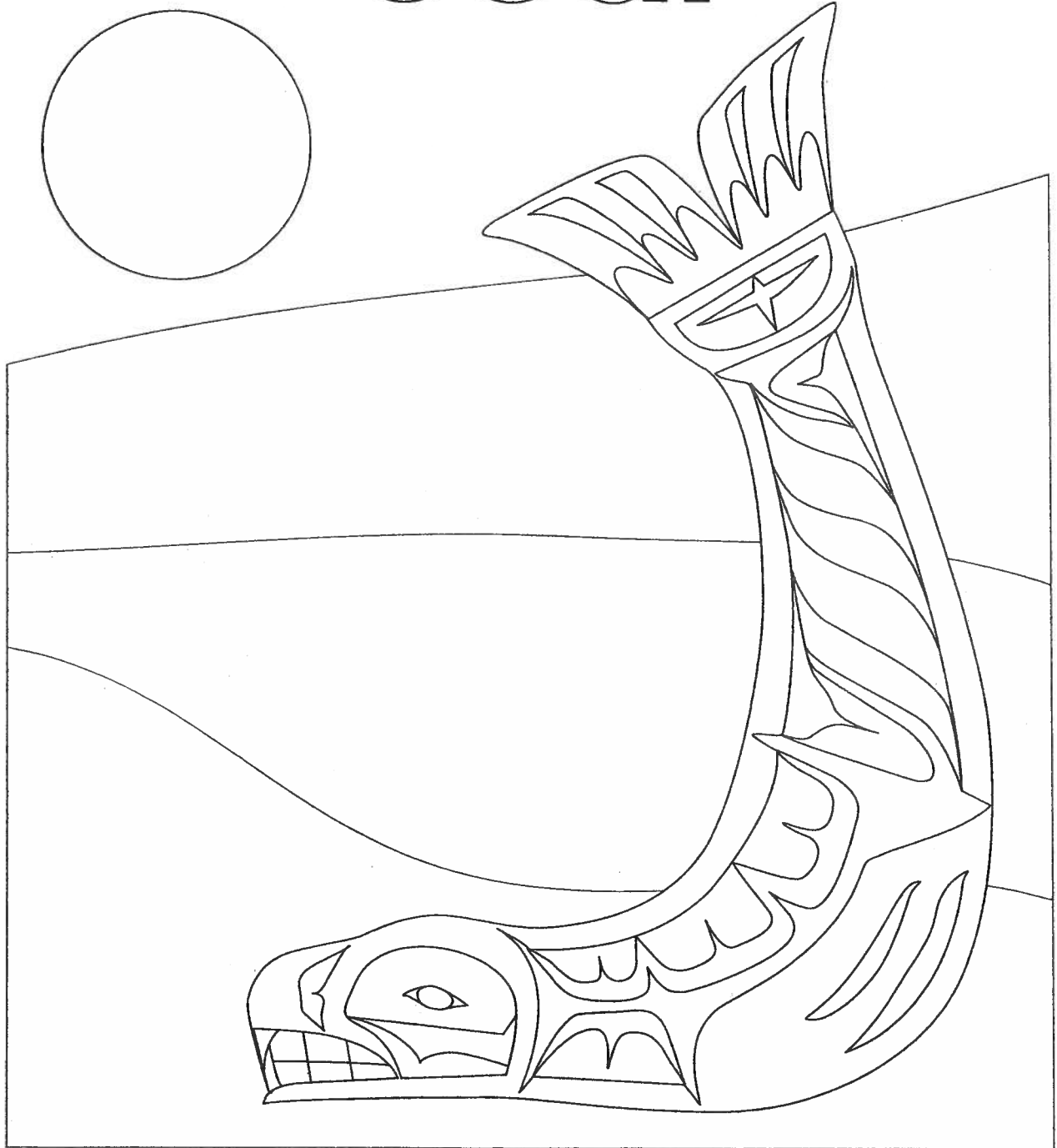


“Our people have a story about a giant crab that would lie on the mountain and reach down to pinch the Haida as they paddled by in their canoes.”

Corey Bulpitt, Haida



Seal

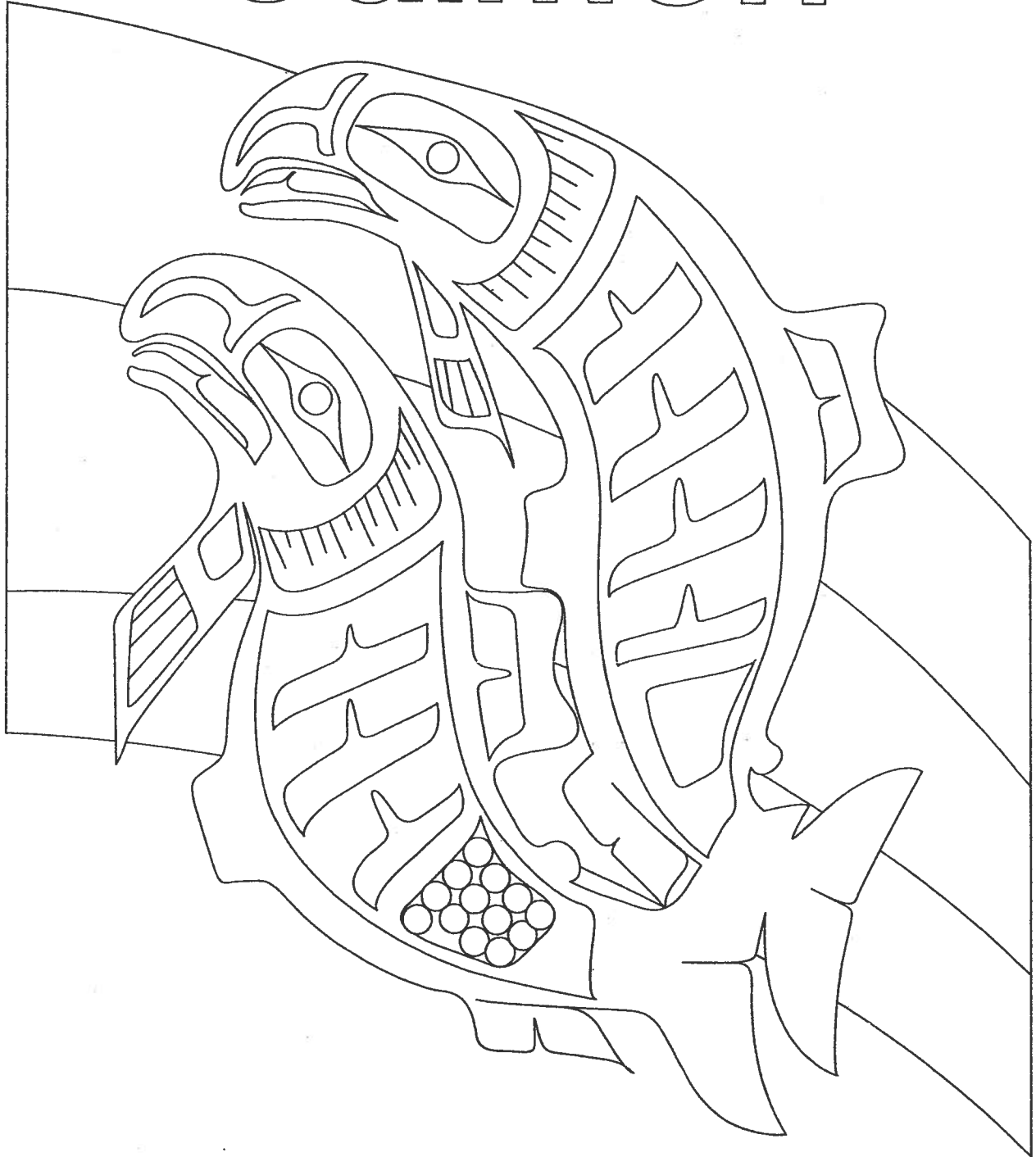


“Seals are known to be bright and inquisitive. We honour them as an important food source. Wooden bowls carved in the shape of seals are often used to serve food at our great feasts, known as potlatches.”

Terry Starr, Tsimshian



Salmon

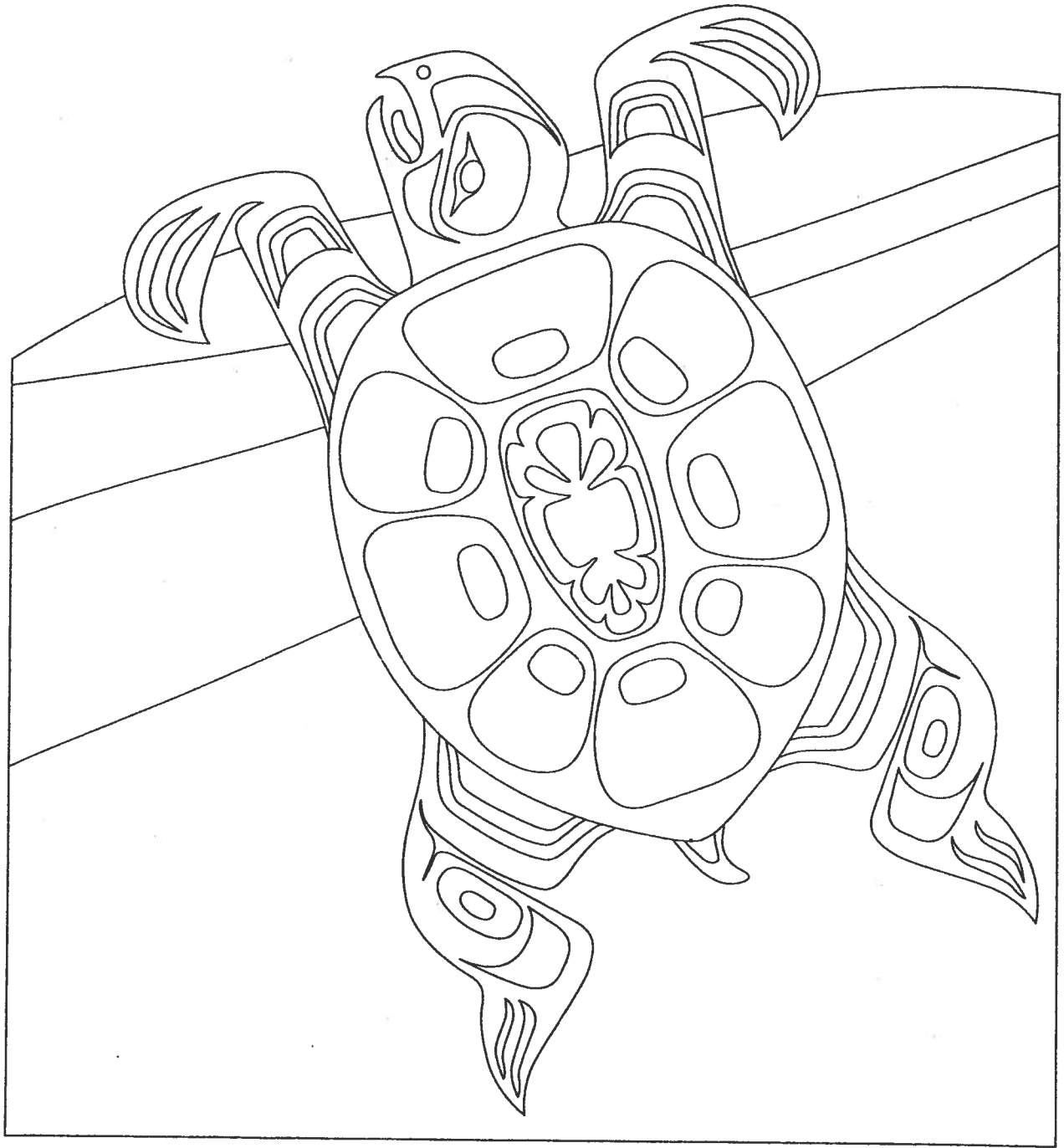


“Salmon represent abundance and generosity. They enrich our lives by always being a food staple. Now we must help the salmon survive.”

Ben Houstie, Bella Bella



Turtle

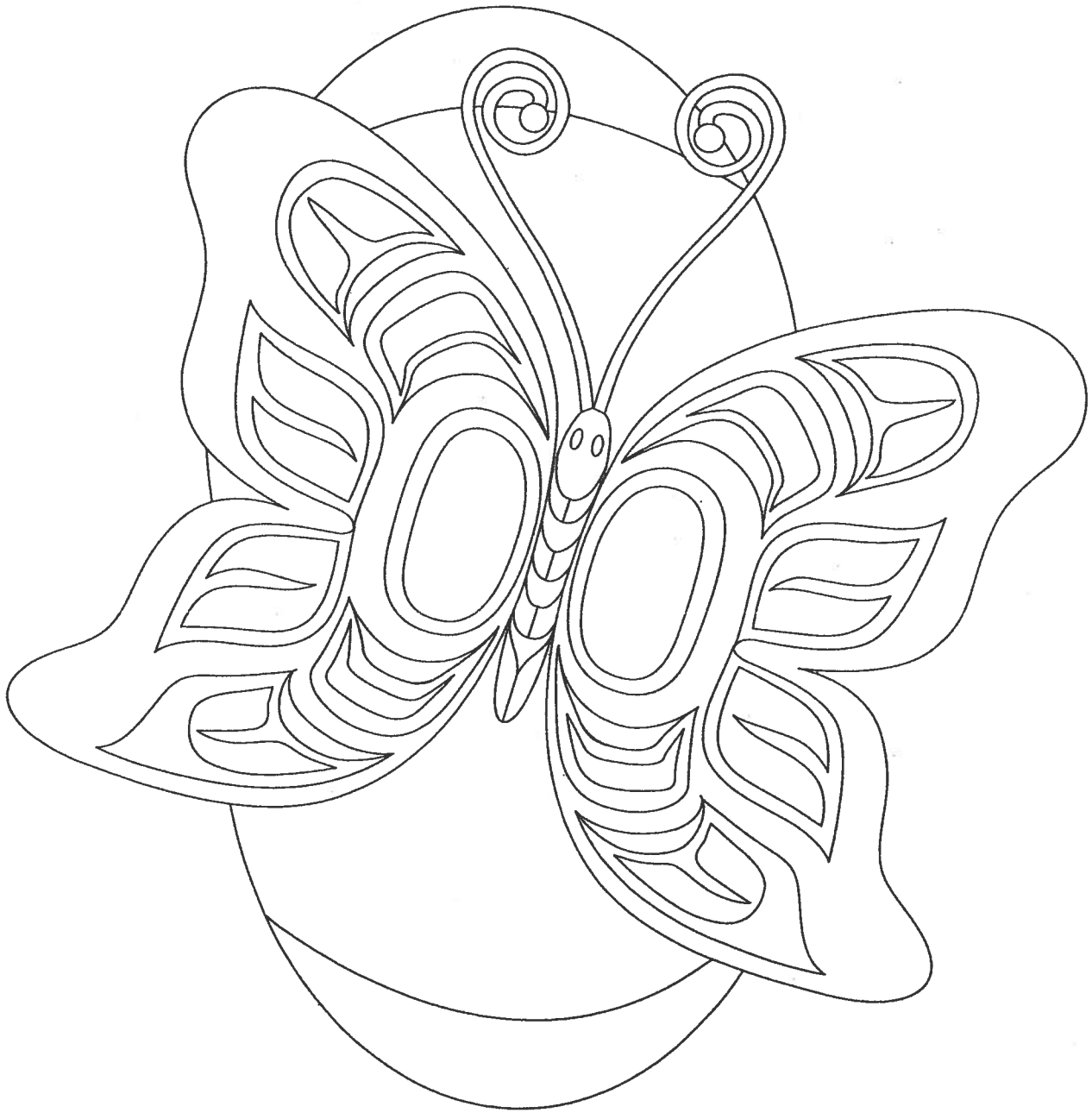


“Turtles teach us to have patience, to think before we talk and to plan before we act.”

Terry Starr, Tsimshian



Butterfly

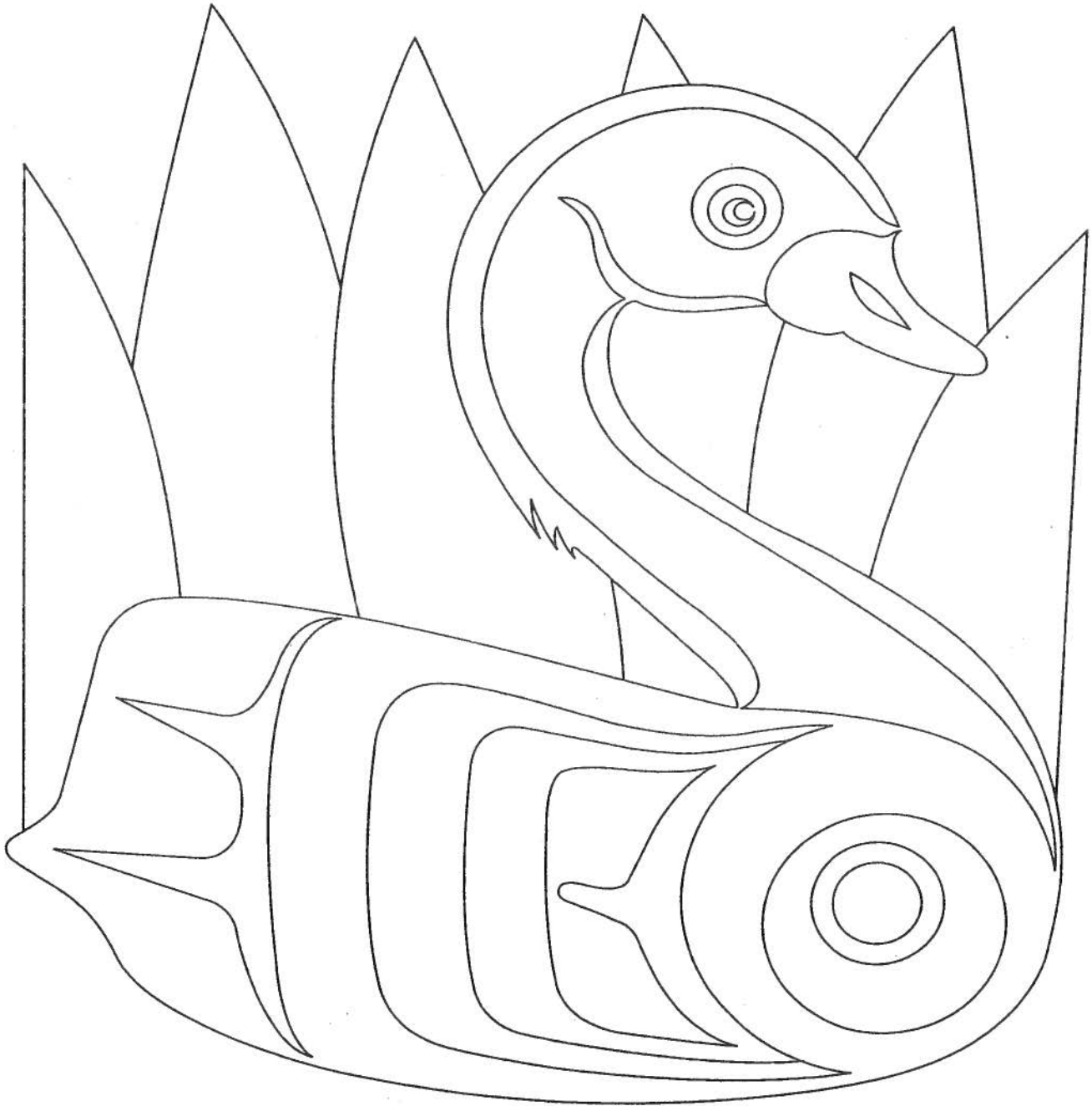


“Even the smallest and most fragile of animals is important. Our people have a story about the butterfly who saved our ancestors after the great flood.”

Eugene Isaac, Kwakwaka'wakw



Swan



“Graceful and beautiful, swans teach us to see the best in ourselves.”

Eric Parnell, Haida



Raven

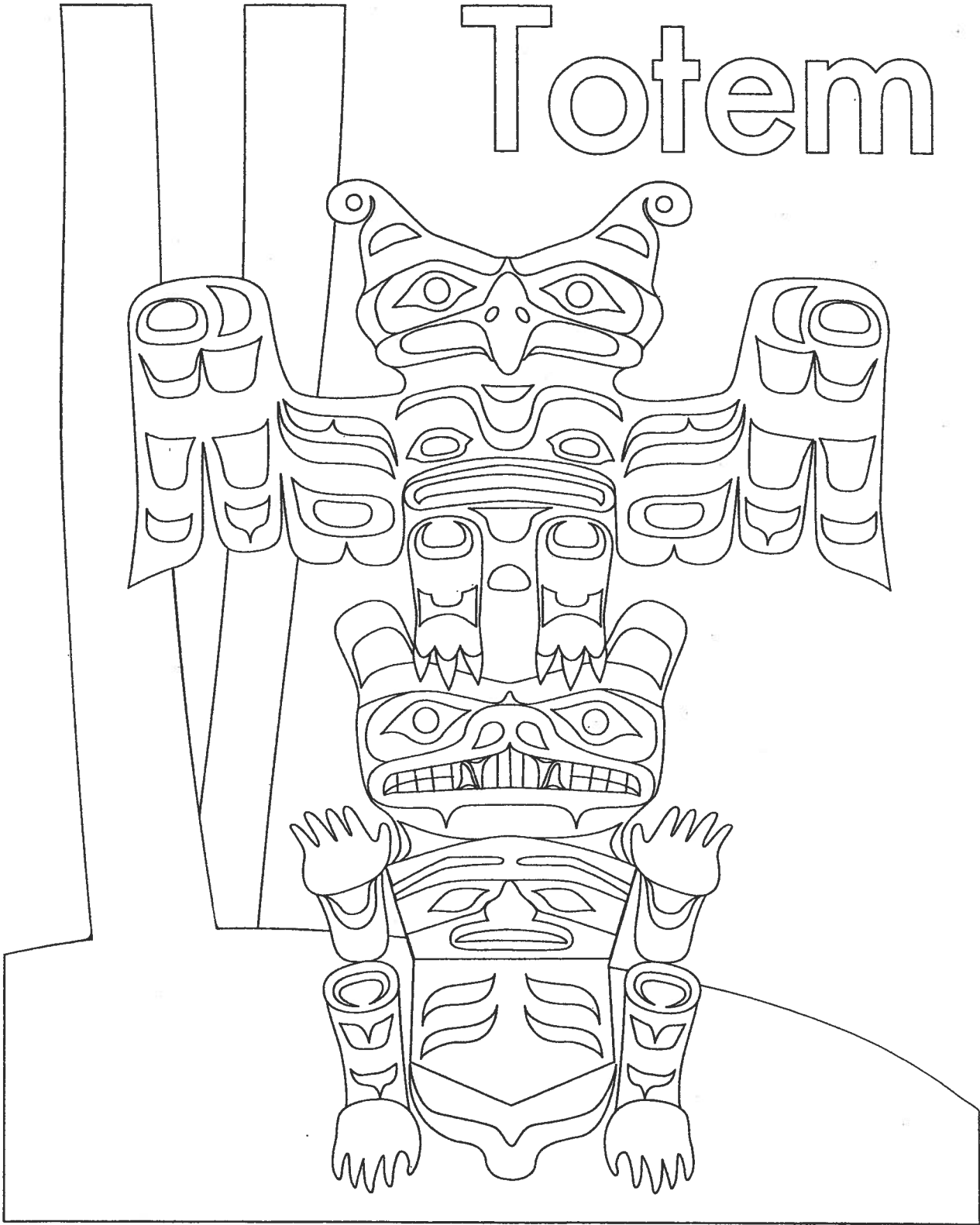


“Raven is the ‘Trickster’, bringing the moon, sun and stars to the world.
Raven teaches us to be clever and creative.”

Doug Lafortune, Coast Salish



Totem

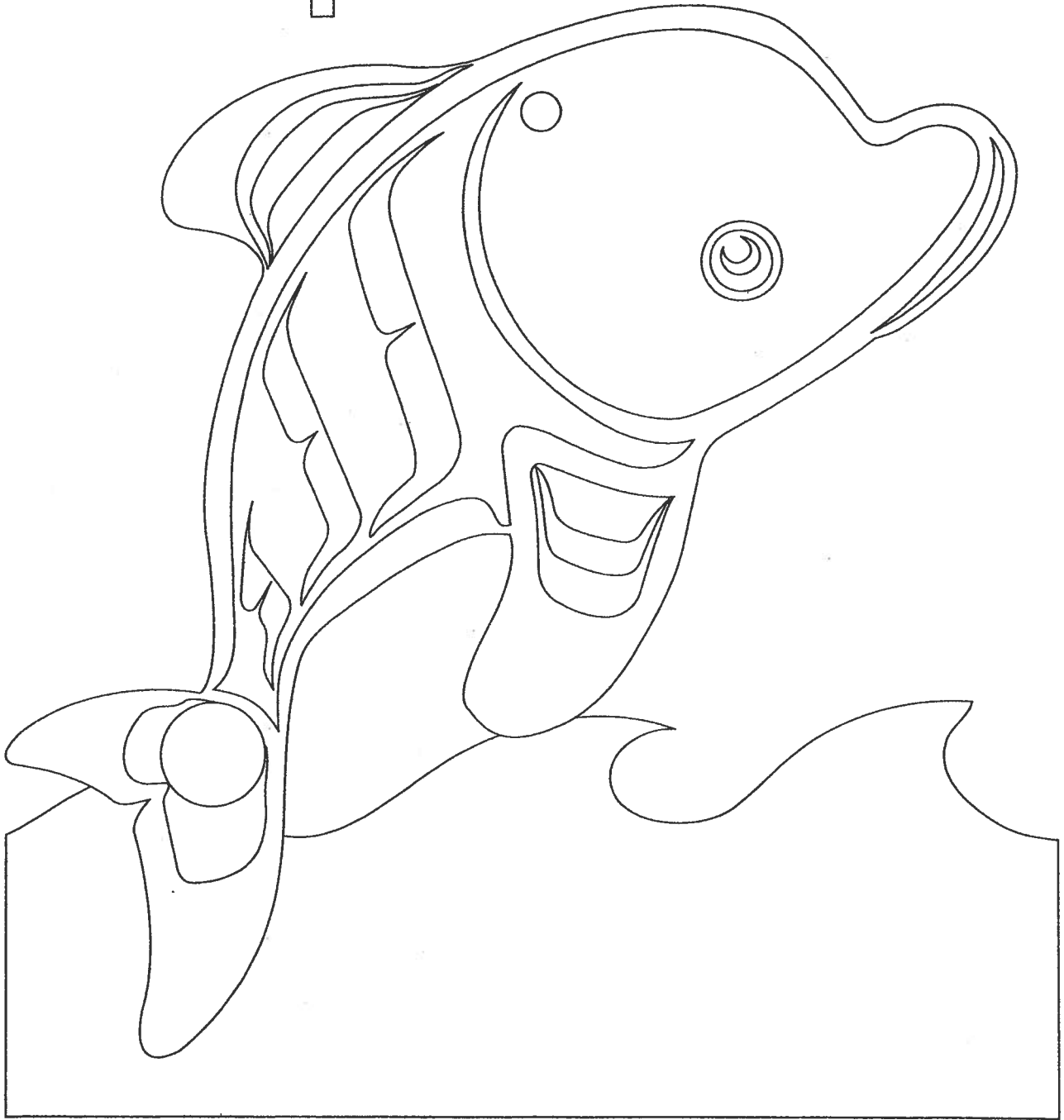


“Carved from cedar, totems tell the story of our peoples’ relationship to animals. Thunderbirds and bears are often featured on totem poles.”

Ryan Cranmer, Namgis



Dolphin

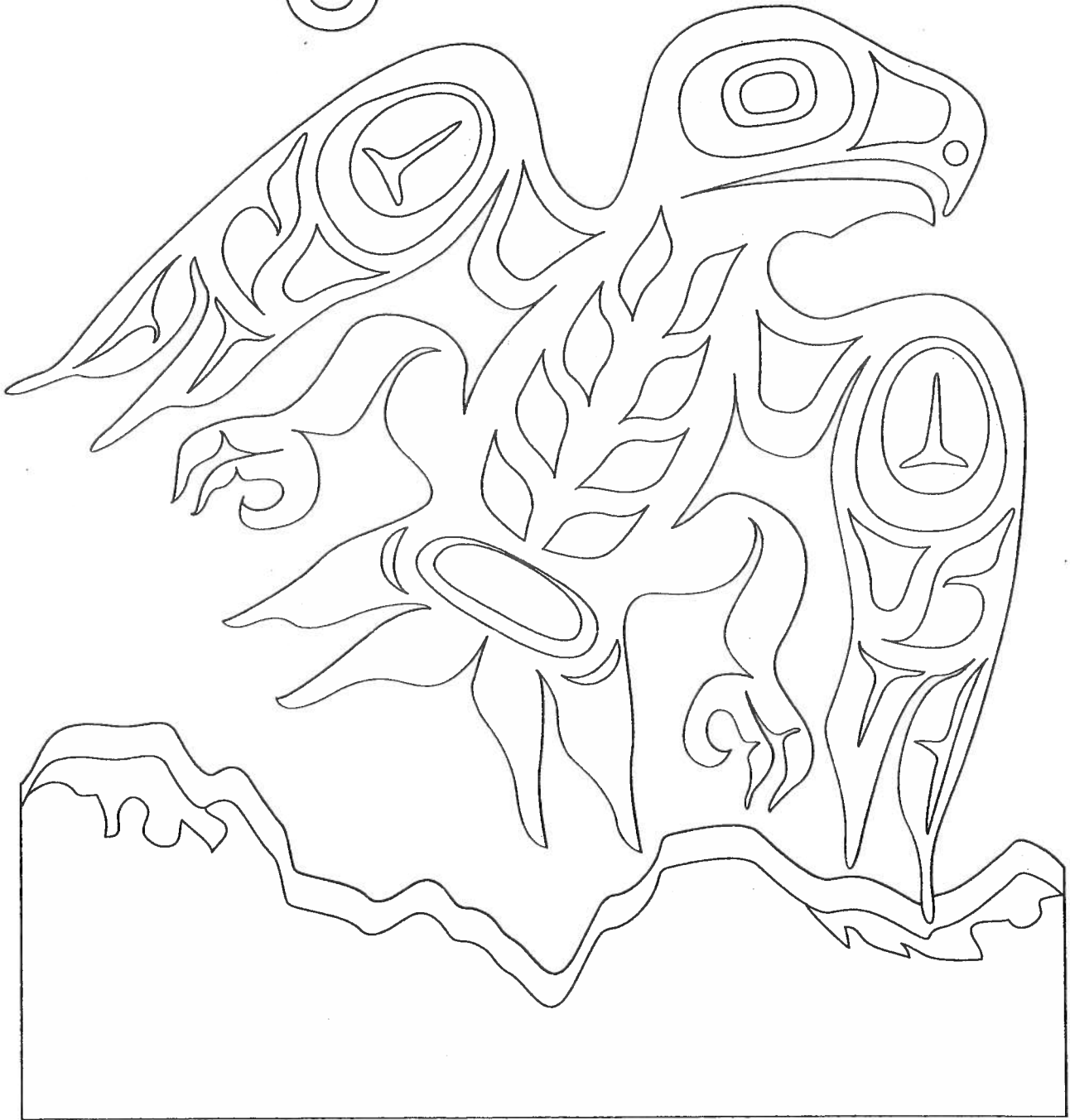


“Dolphins represent joy and intelligence. Dolphins live in balance and in harmony with each other.”

Eric Parnell, Haida



Eagle



“An eagle flying overhead represents good luck to the Haida people. If you’ve seen an eagle up close, you understand why this beautiful, majestic bird is so well respected and honoured among Northwest Coast Tribes.”

T.J. Young, Haida



Otter

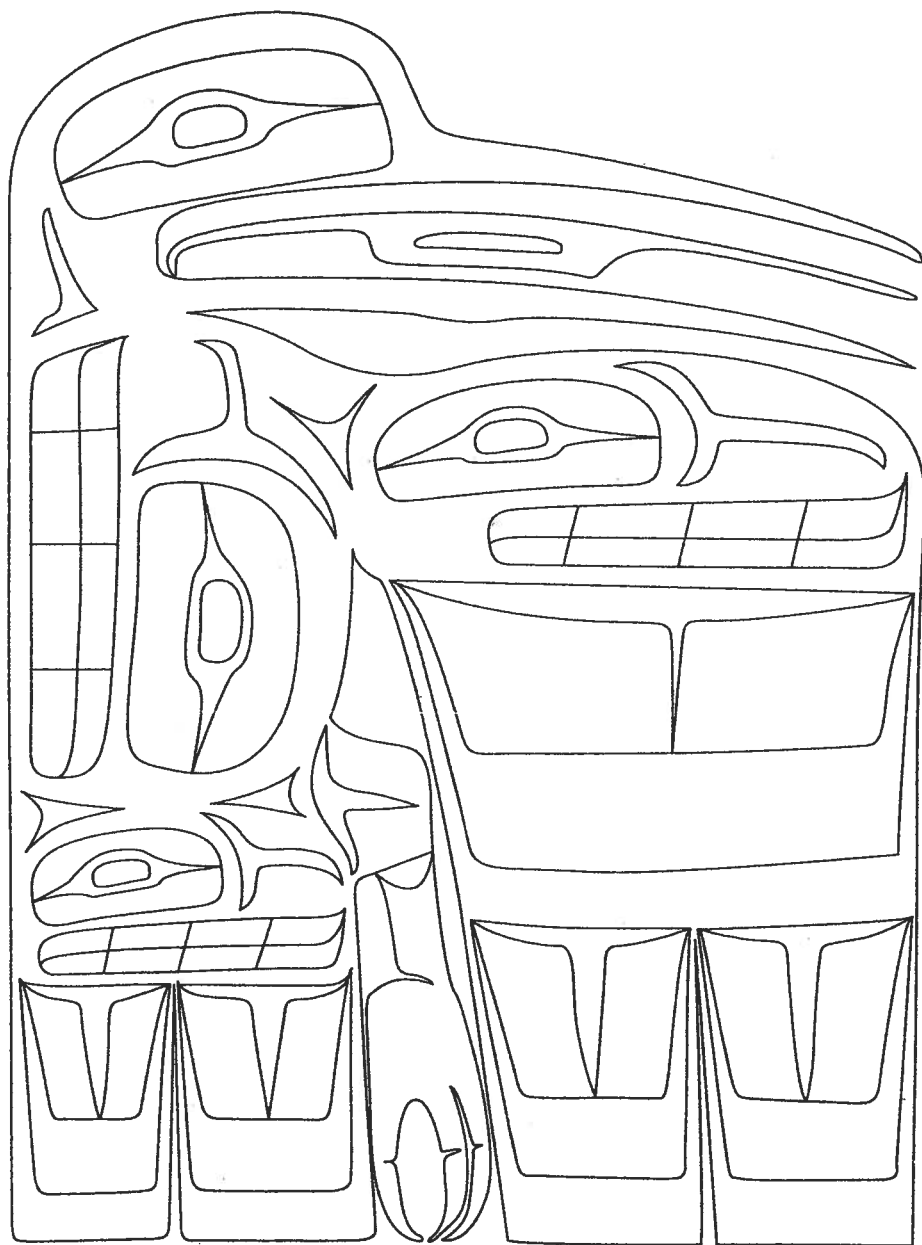


“Otters hunt and eat sea urchin and other shellfish. Otters work hard but they also like to play and enjoy the world around them, inspiring us to enjoy life.”

Corey Bulpitt, Haida



Hummingbird

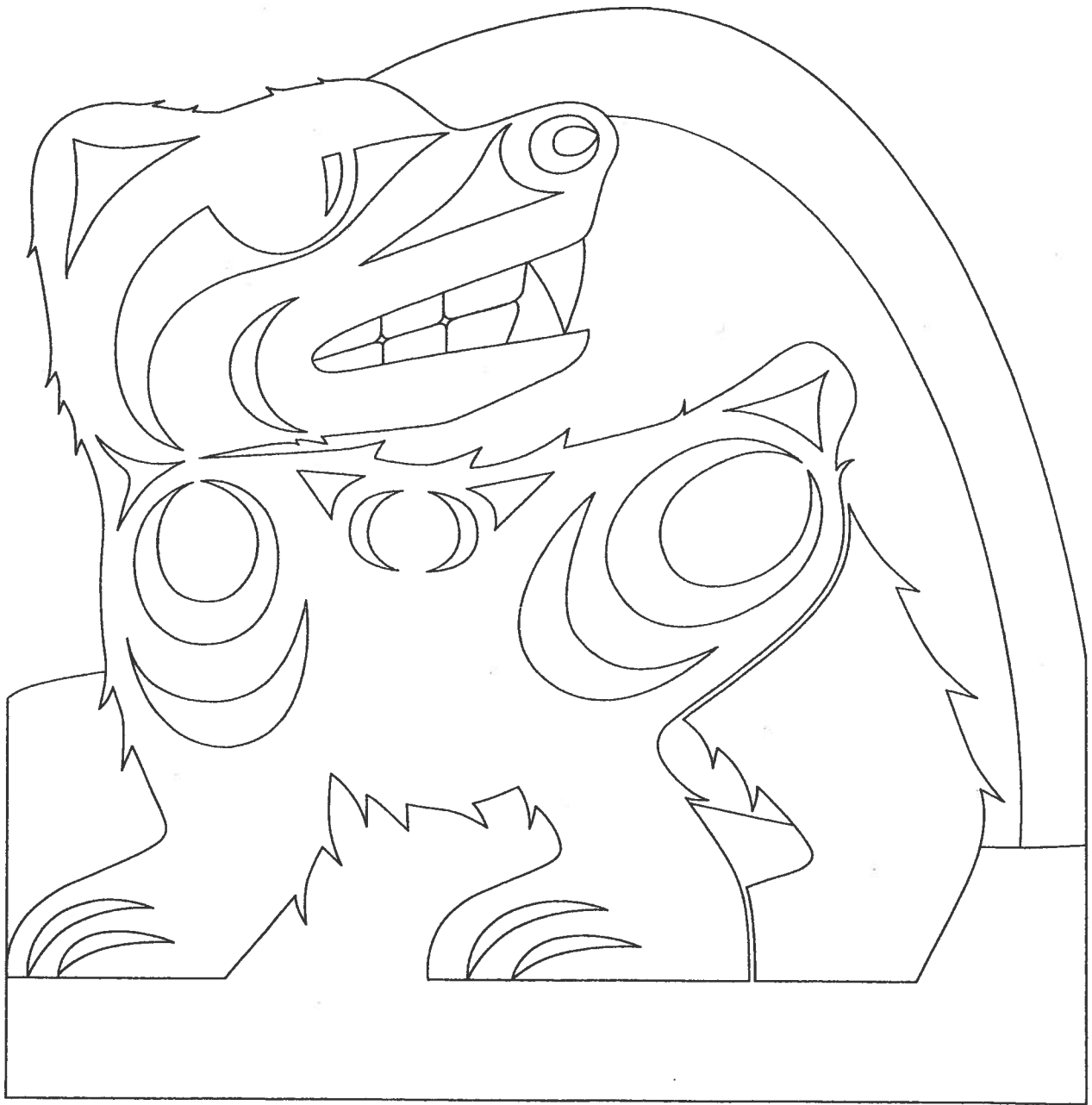


“Hummingbirds provide us with the gift of friendship. Our people believe the hummingbird brings good luck.”

Ben Houstie, Bella Bella



Bear

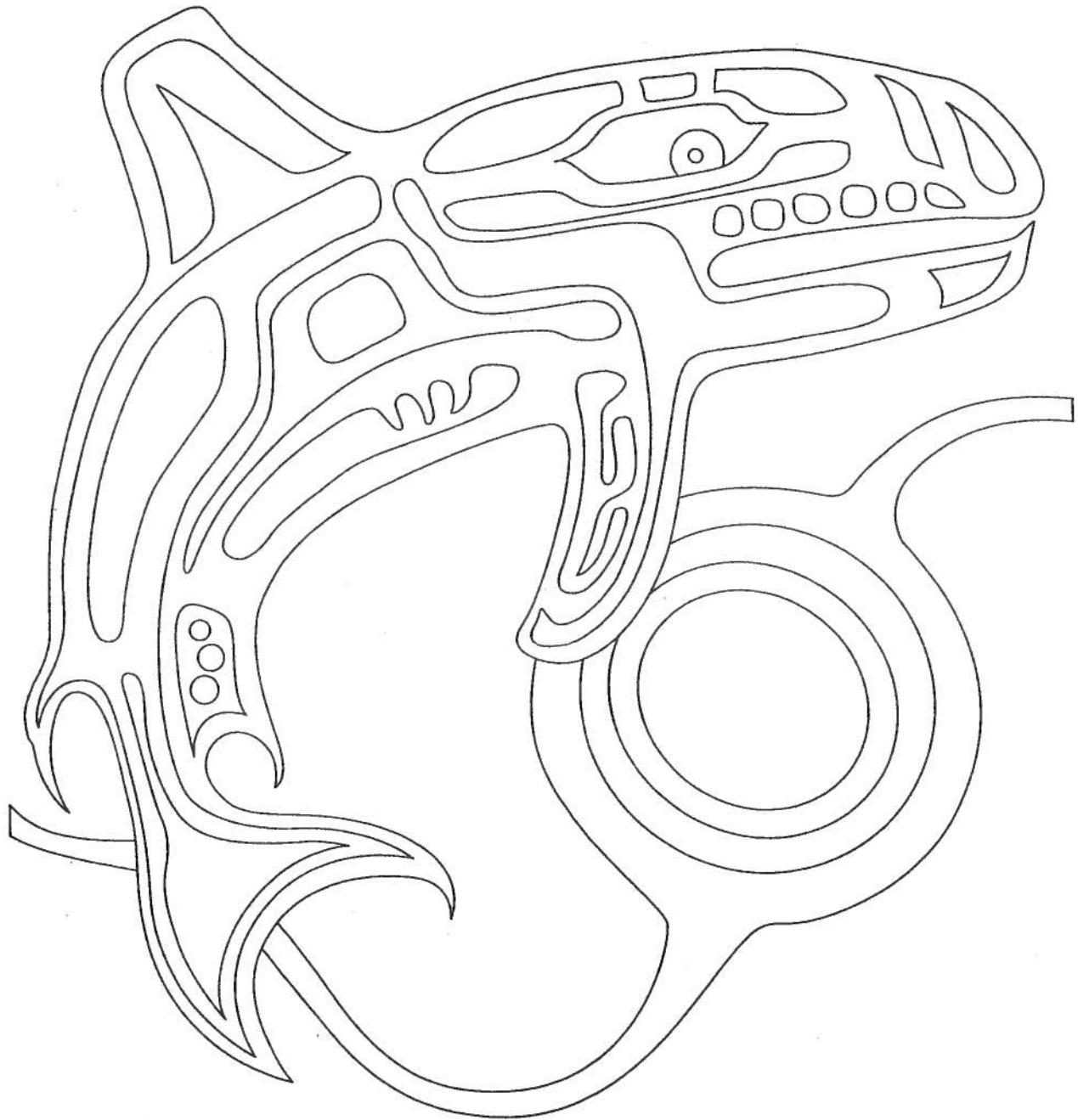


“Bears are powerful and strong, yet humble. Our ancestors considered bears to be our relatives. Bears are featured as crest figures on our ceremonial clothing.”

Maynard Johnny Jr., Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw



Whale



“Whales represent the wisdom of our ancestors and the timeless lessons they teach us. Whales survive in groups by helping each other.”

Mark A. Jacobson, Ojibway





“Frogs can live in and out of water, teaching us to adapt to different situations. The sound of the frog, considered magical, signifies the beginning and end of our winter feasts.”

Doug Lafortune, Coast Salish



Human



“Our ancestors lived in harmony with the wildlife that surrounded them.
Each animal was honoured for its gifts and special qualities.”

Ian Reid “Nusi”, Heiltsuk

