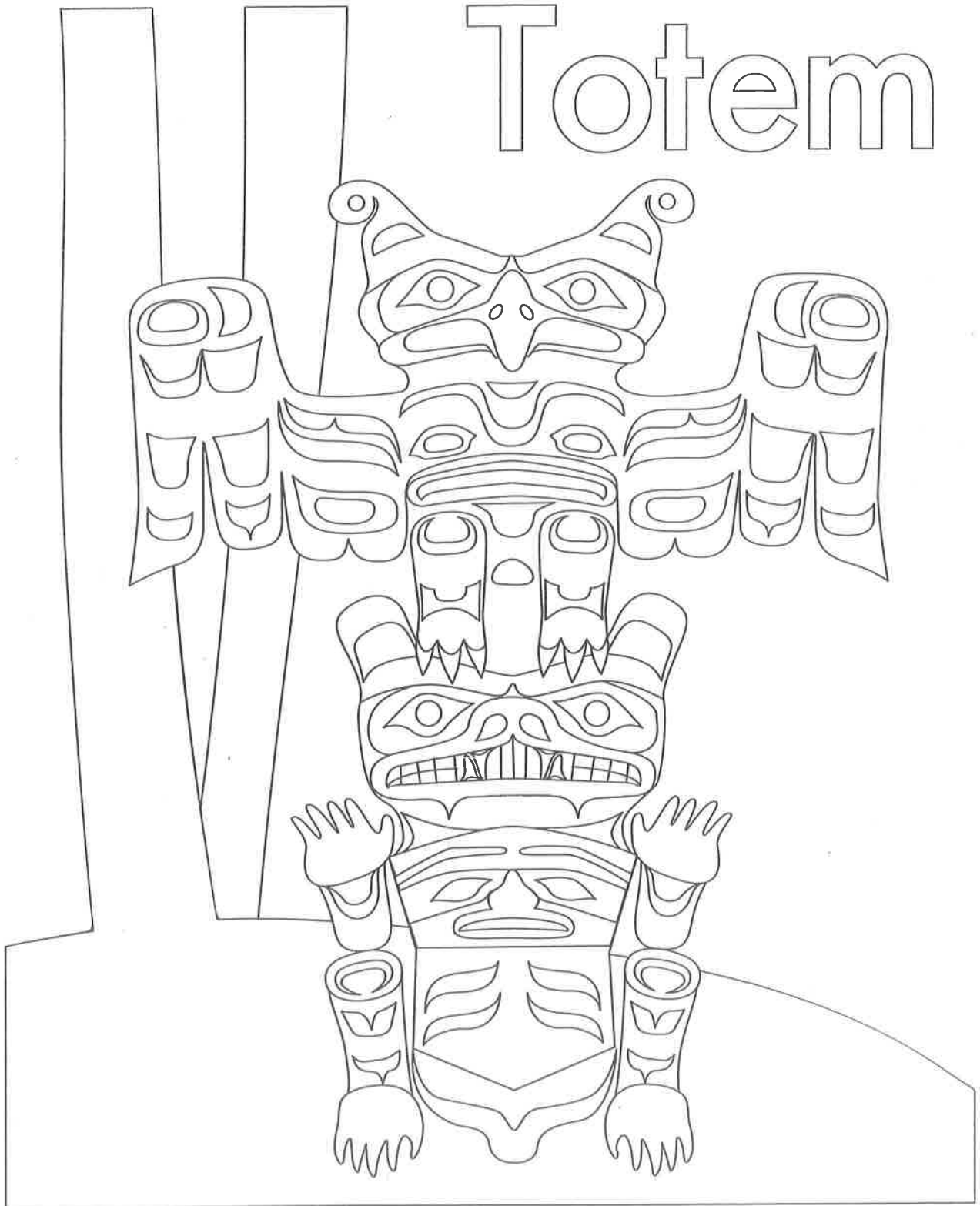


Totem



“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



Thunderbird



“Thunderbird would flap his wings to create thunder and was so huge it could lift a whale out of the sea.”

Doug Lafortune, Coast Salish



Bear

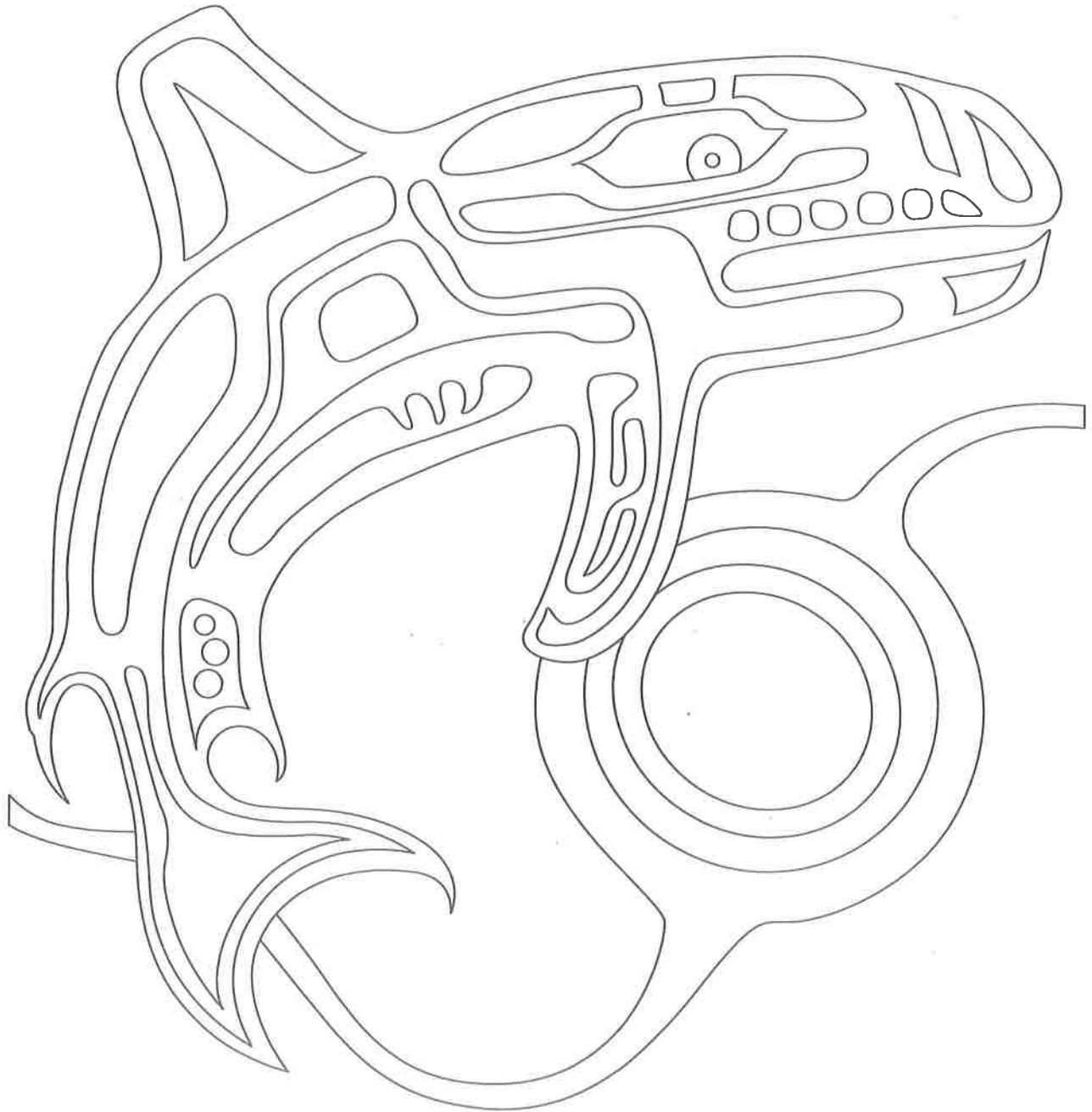


“Bears are powerful and strong, yet humble. Our ancestors considered bears to be our relatives. Bears are featured as crest figures on our ceremonial clothing.”

Maynard Johnny Jr., Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw



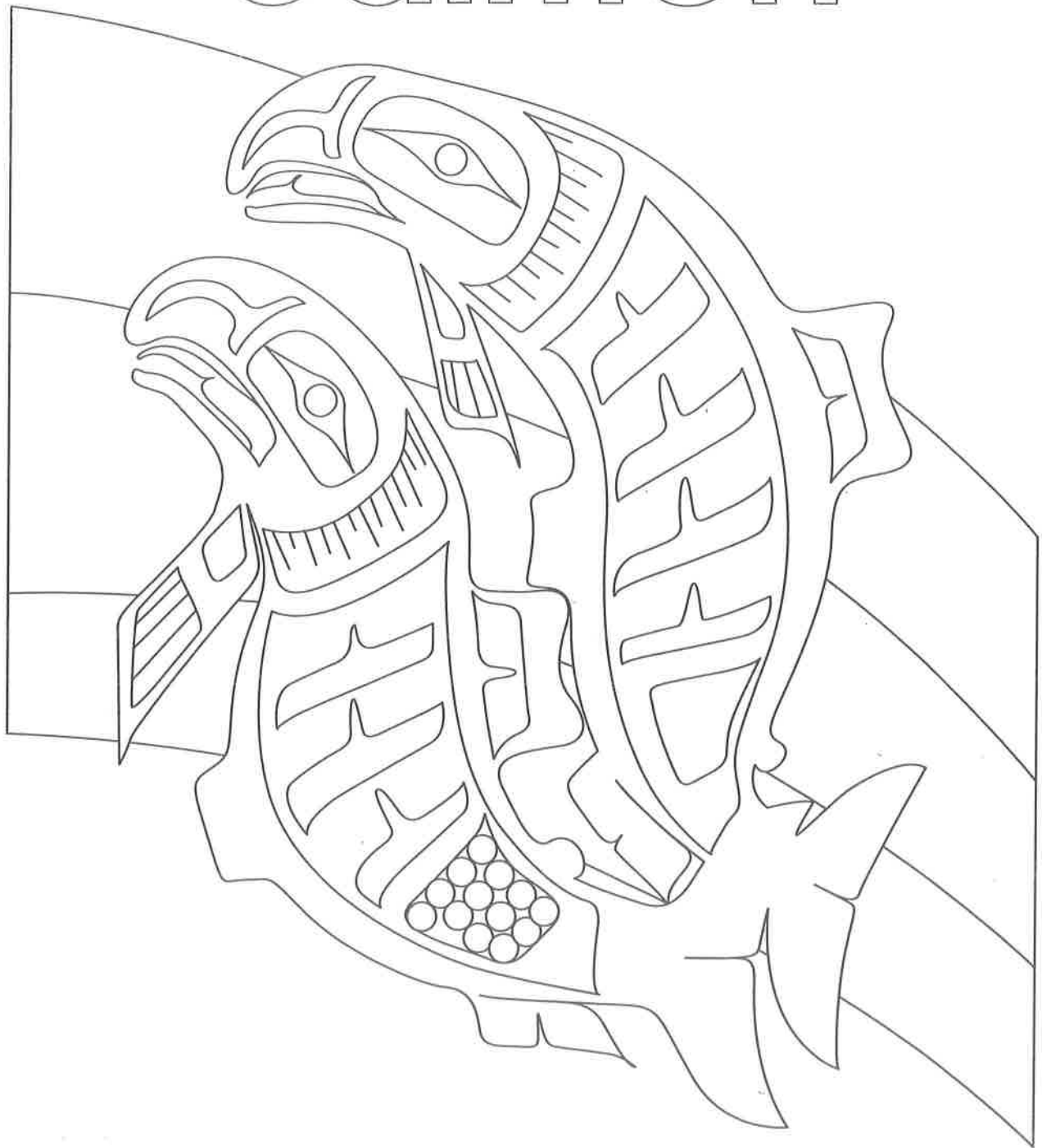
Whale



“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

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



Raven

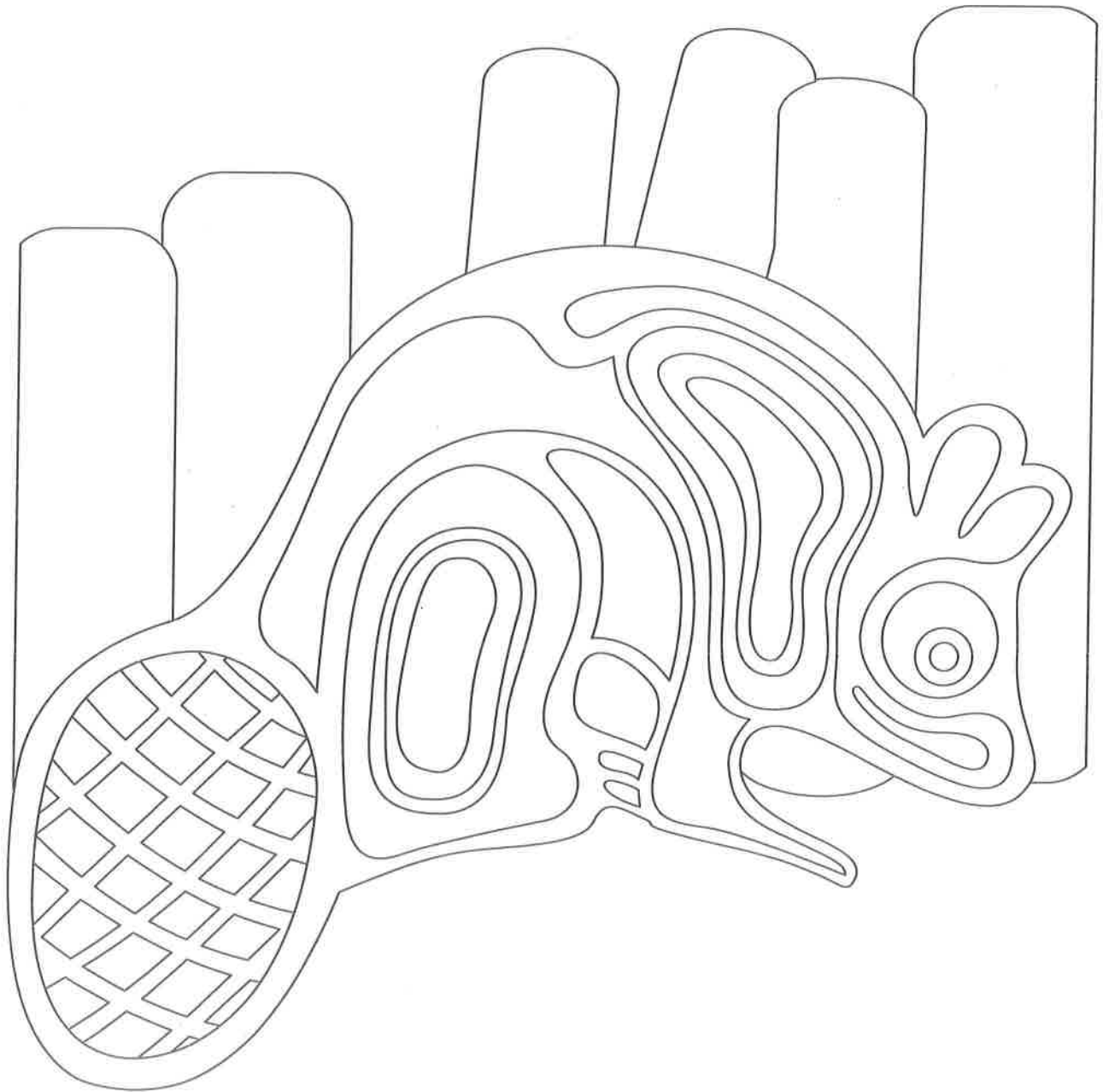


“Raven is the ‘Trickster’, bringing the moon, sun and stars to the world.
Raven teaches us to be clever and creative.”

Doug Lafortune, Coast Salish



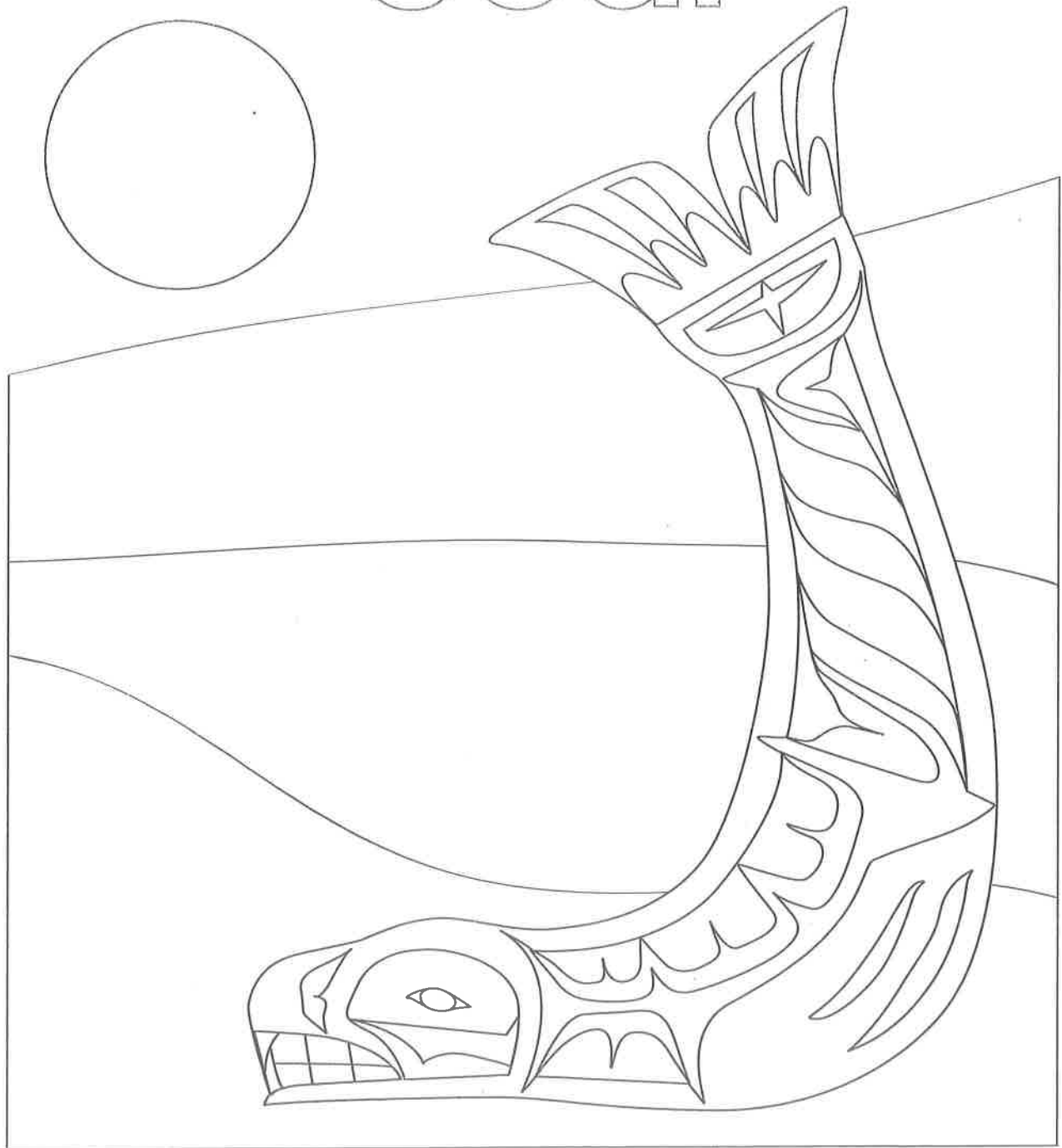
Beaver



“Through hard work the beaver accomplishes its goals. We are grateful to the beaver for providing its fur to keep us warm during the cold winters.”

Mark A. Jacobson, Ojibway

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



Wolf



“Many Salish stories describe the wolf as a great hunter. Wolves teach us to cooperate with others.”

Doug Lafortune, Coast Salish

Eagle

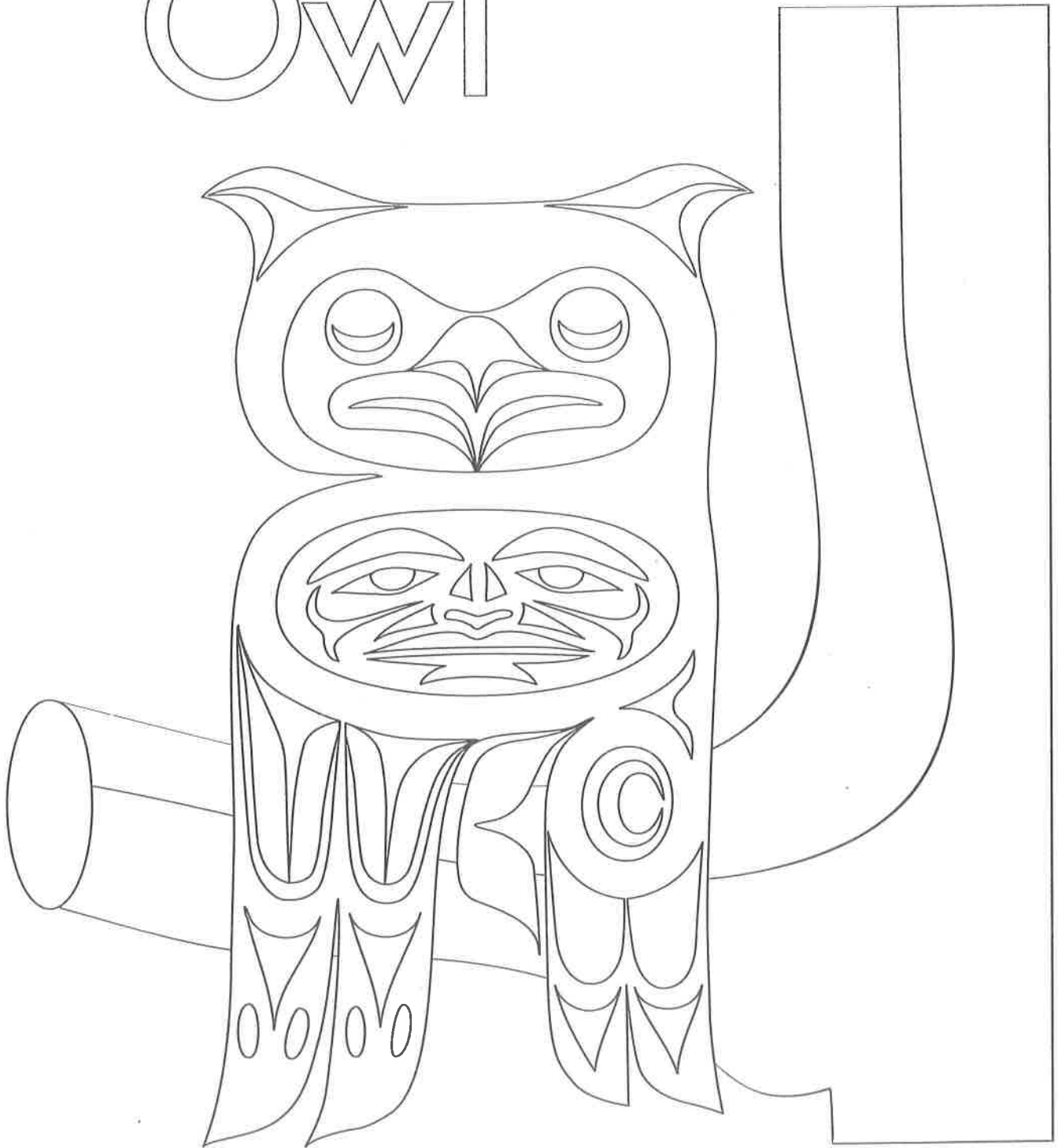


“An eagle flying overhead represents good luck to the Haida people. If you’ve seen an eagle up close, you understand why this beautiful, majestic bird is so well respected and honoured among Northwest Coast Tribes.”

T.J. Young, Haida



Owl



“Owls offer us the gift of wisdom. We can receive this gift when we take the time to listen.”

Maynard Johnny Jr., Salish, Kwakwaka'wakw



Raccoon

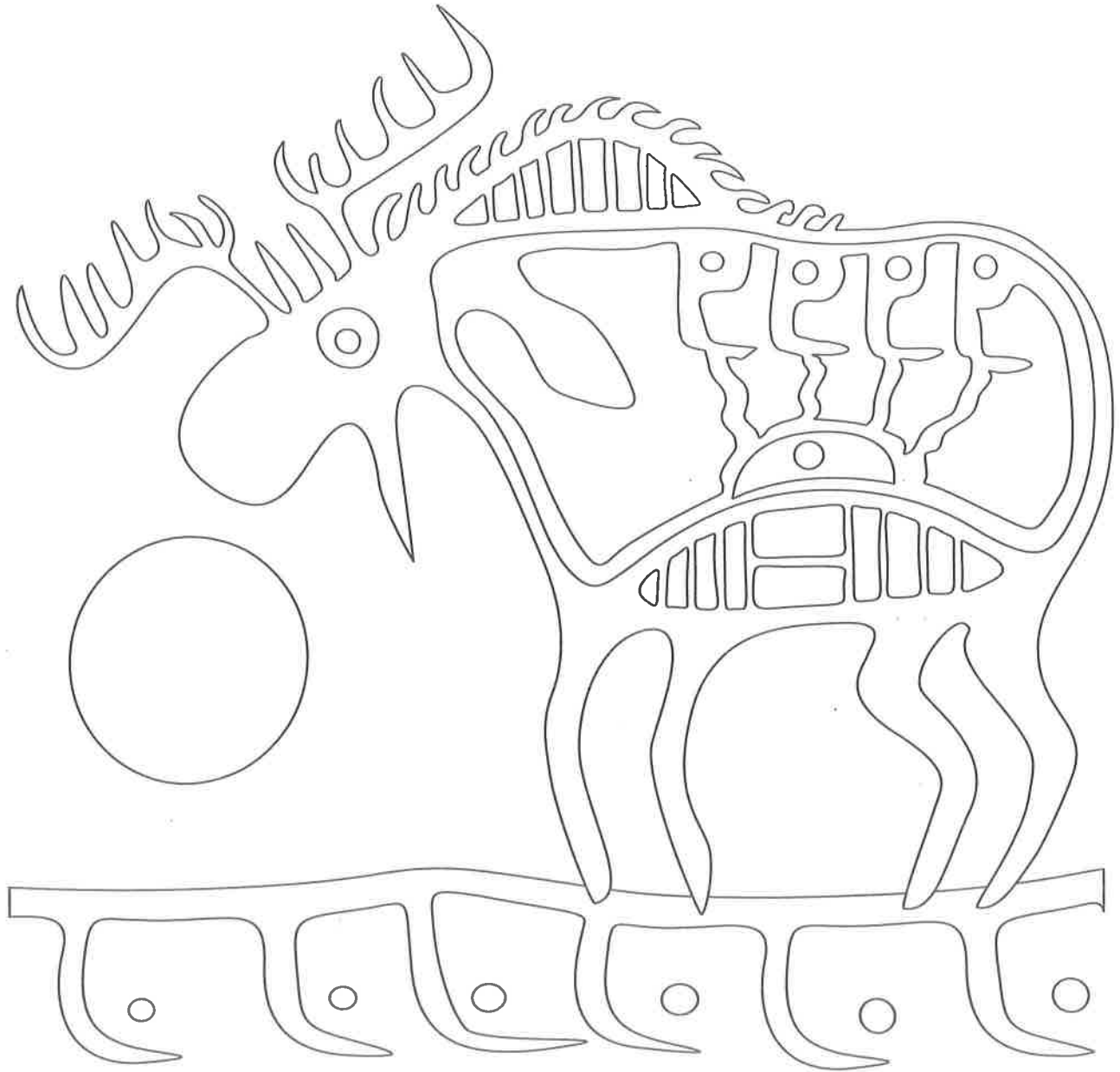


“Beware of raccoons! They look cute and cuddly but have sharp claws to protect themselves. They remind us that sometimes things are not as they appear.”

Eric Parnell, Haida



Moose



“Moose are powerful and thoughtful and have been generous providers to our people.”

Wolf Morrisseau, Ojibway



Frog



“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

