## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Jerome M. Jainga- Tsimshian

In addition to being a cultural specialist for the Suquamish Tribe, Jerome Jainga works for the Marion Forsman-Boushie Early Learning Center. He designs culturally appropriate curriculum and programs for young people ages 3-12. He manages the educational delivery of the Lushootseed Language and acts as an advocate for Native American Education. He holds an Associate's degree in Pastry/Foods from South Seattle Community College and is currently working towards a Bachelors/ Masters in Human Development and Native Studies from Pacific Oaks College. Mr. Jainga is also active in the Puget Salish Language Council, the Native Curriculum Development Team and Washington State OSPI.
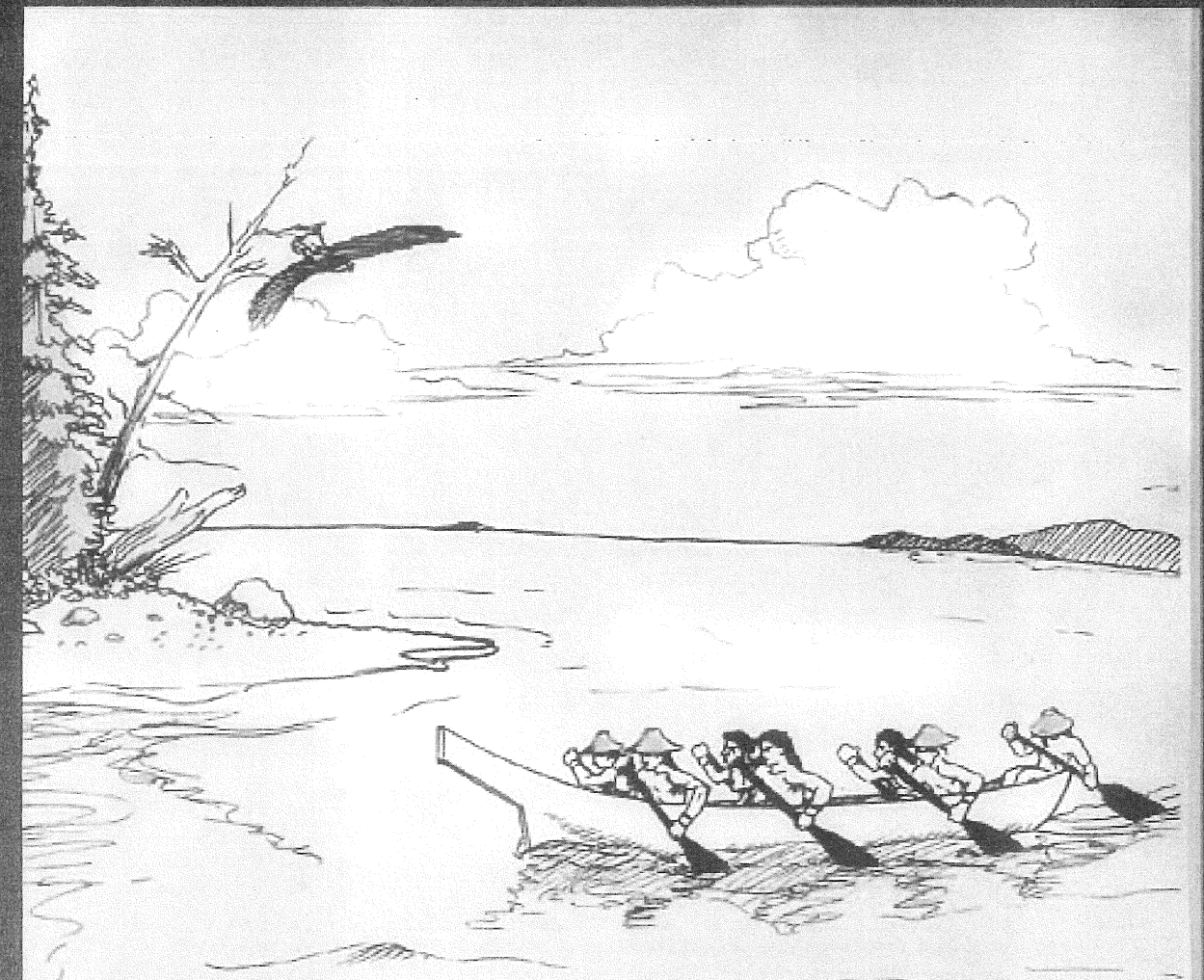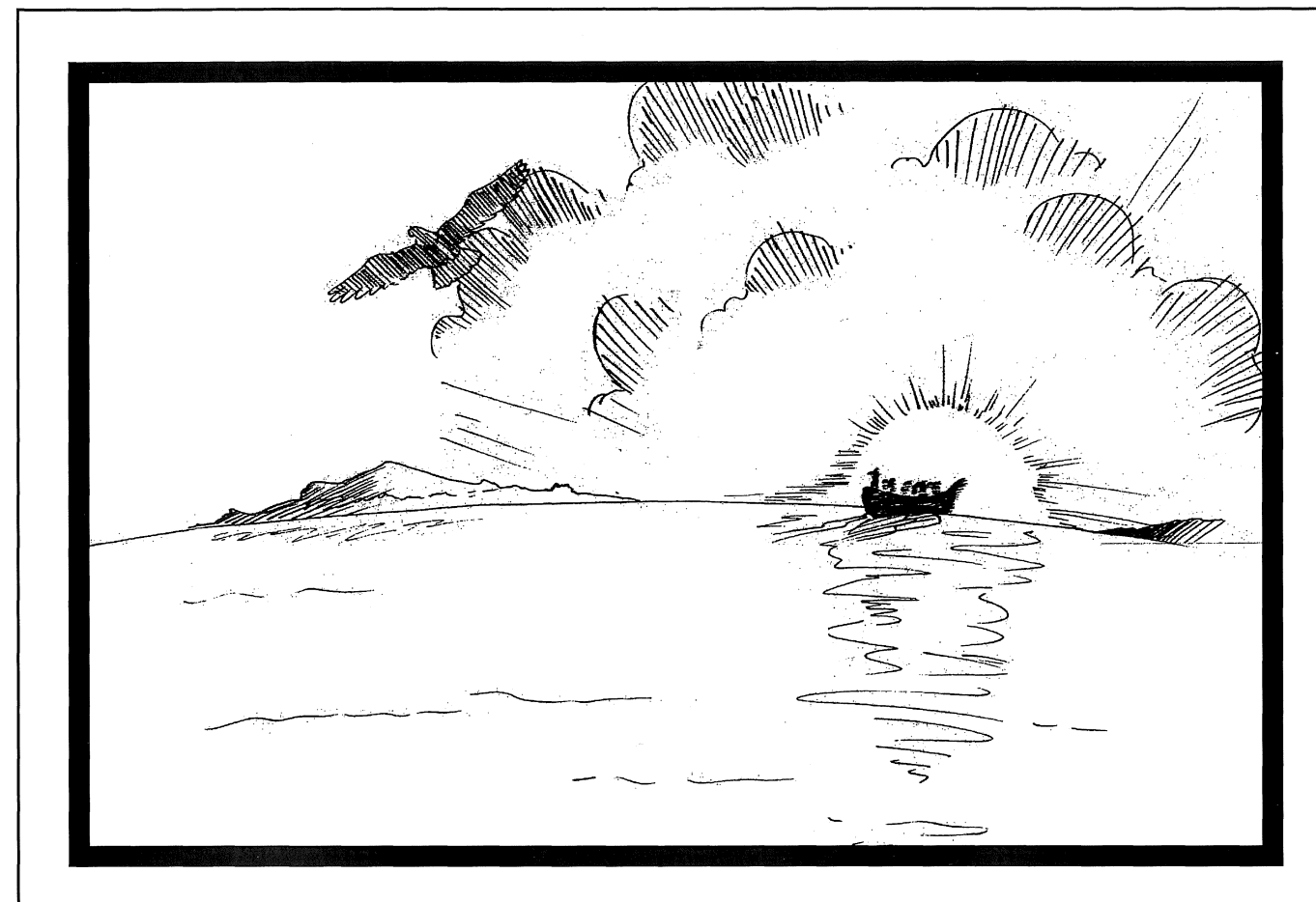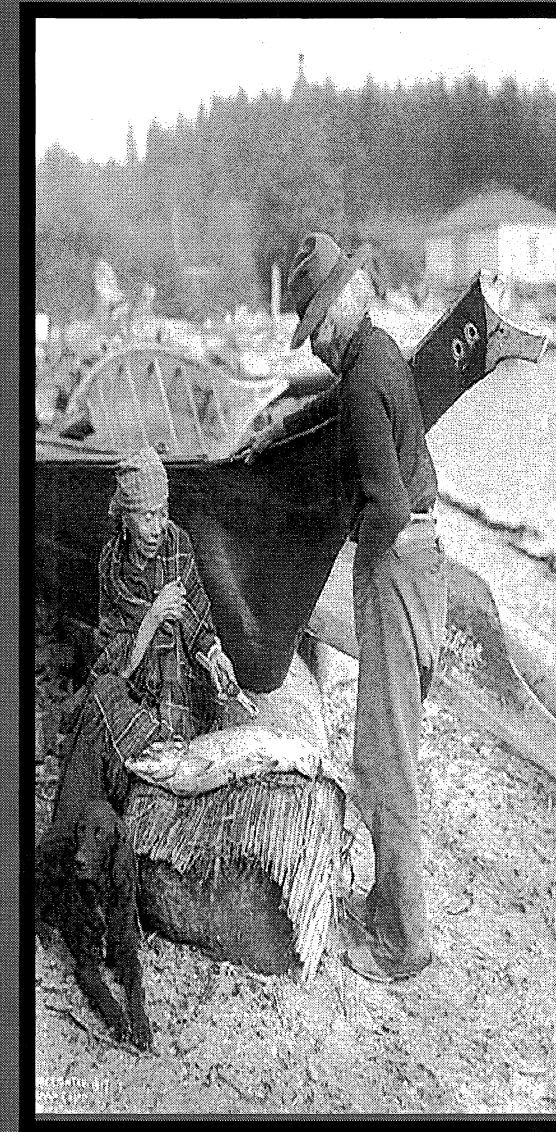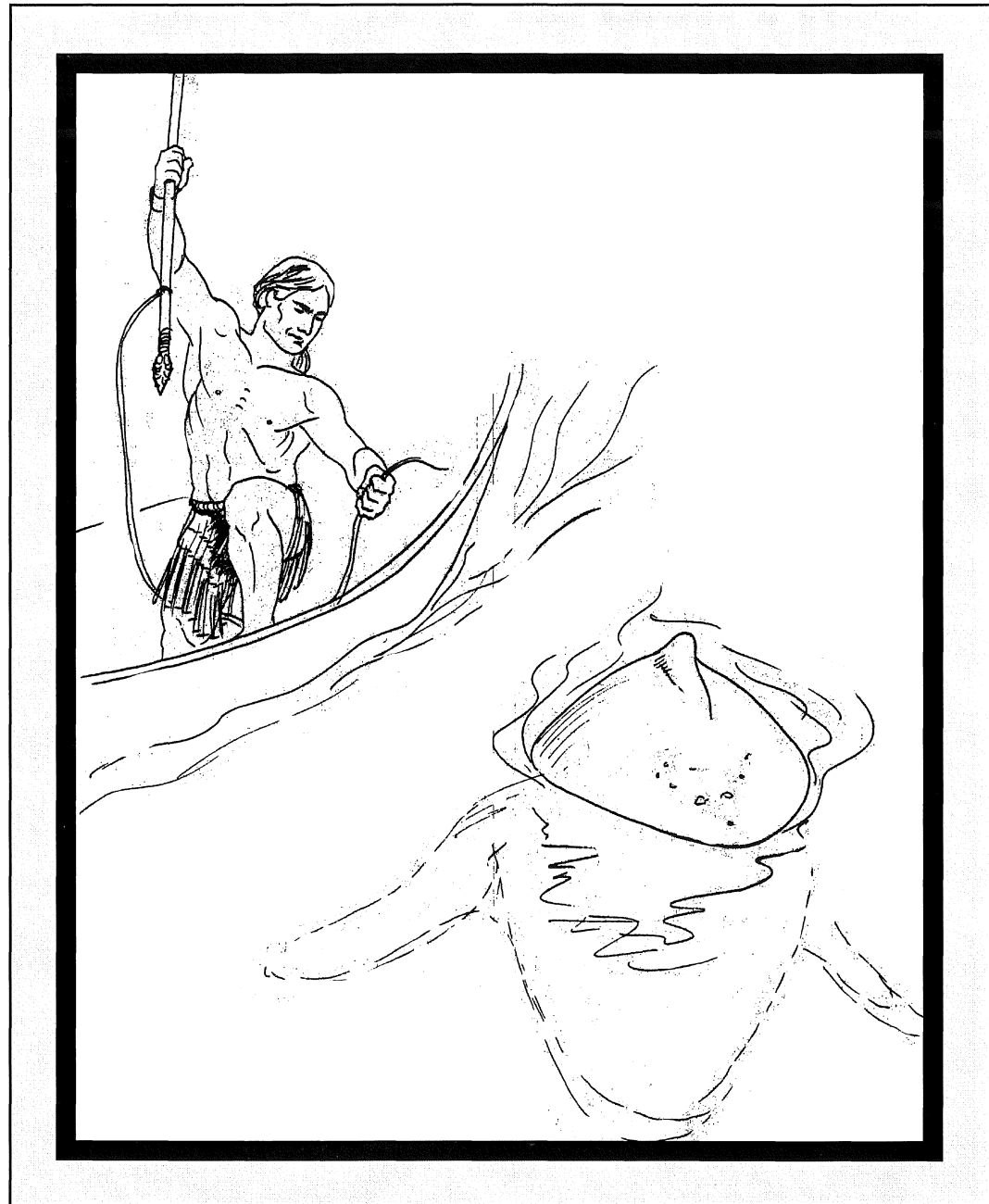
In Our Canoe

By Jerome Jainga

Illustrations by David R. Boxley

**In our canoe
we keep our ancestors' wish.
Dip and pull, dip and pull.**

**In our canoe we hunt and fish.
Dip and pull, dip and pull.**

Snohomish man and woman on beach next to painted canoe. She sits on a log, next to a large salmon on woven mat. Man stands looking down at fish. Canoes in background. Tulalip Indian Reservation, Washington, 1907
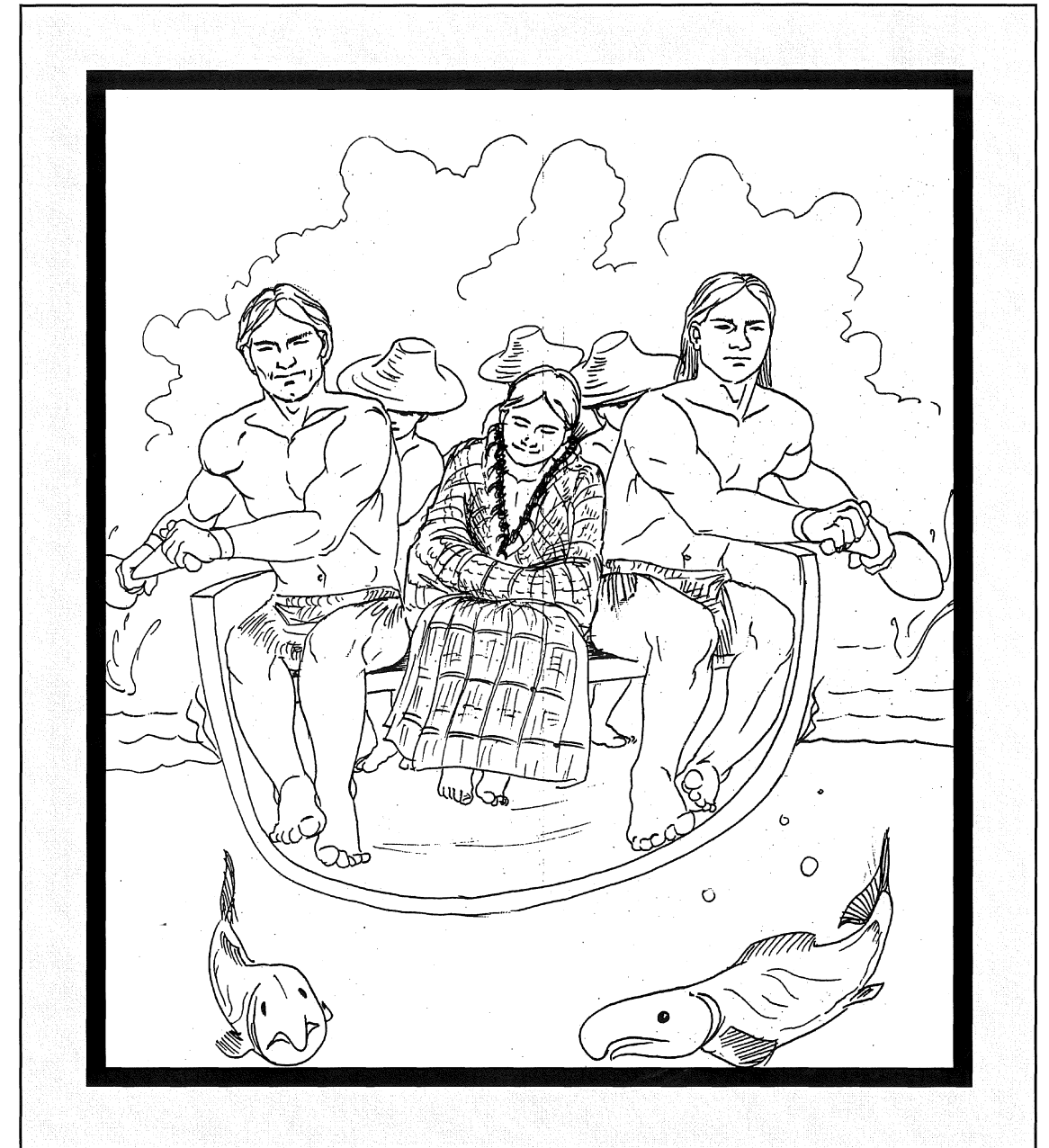
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In our canoe we paddle along.
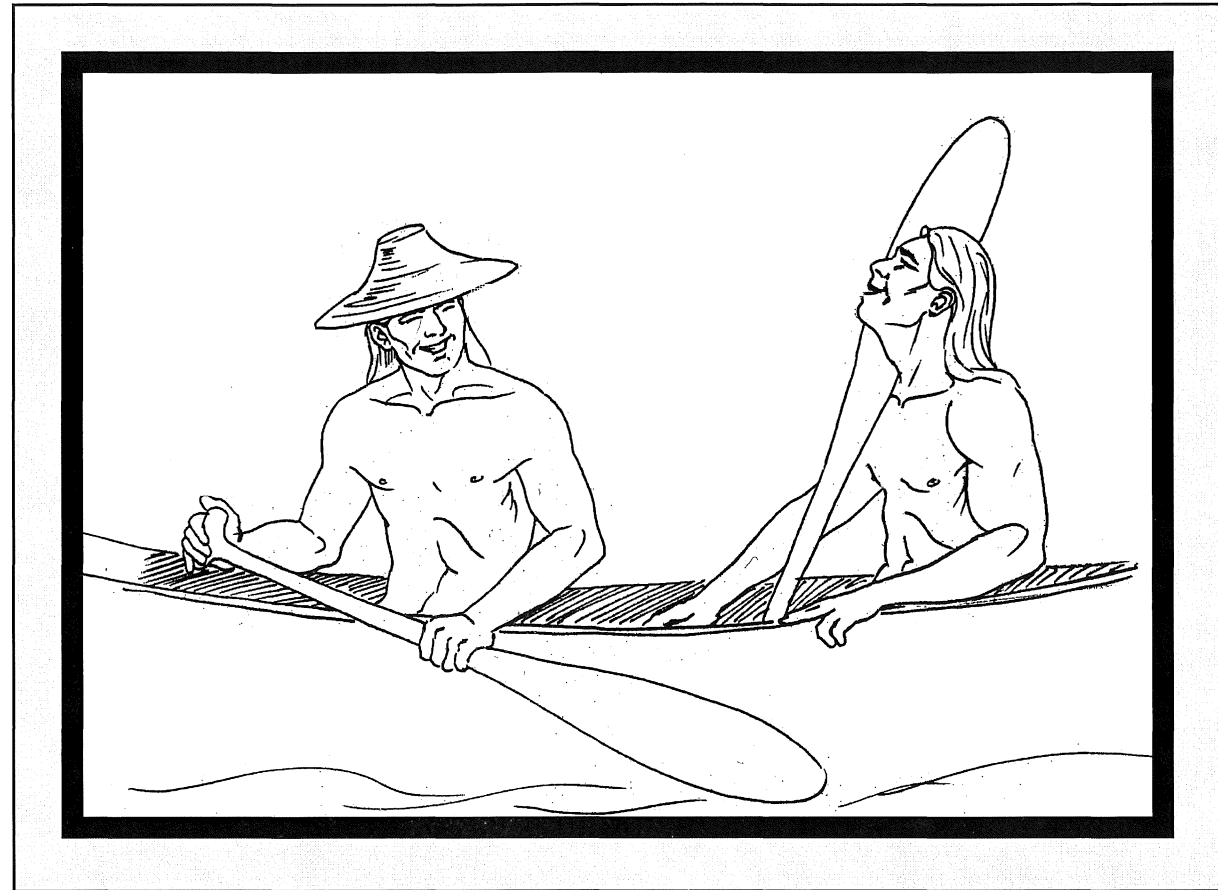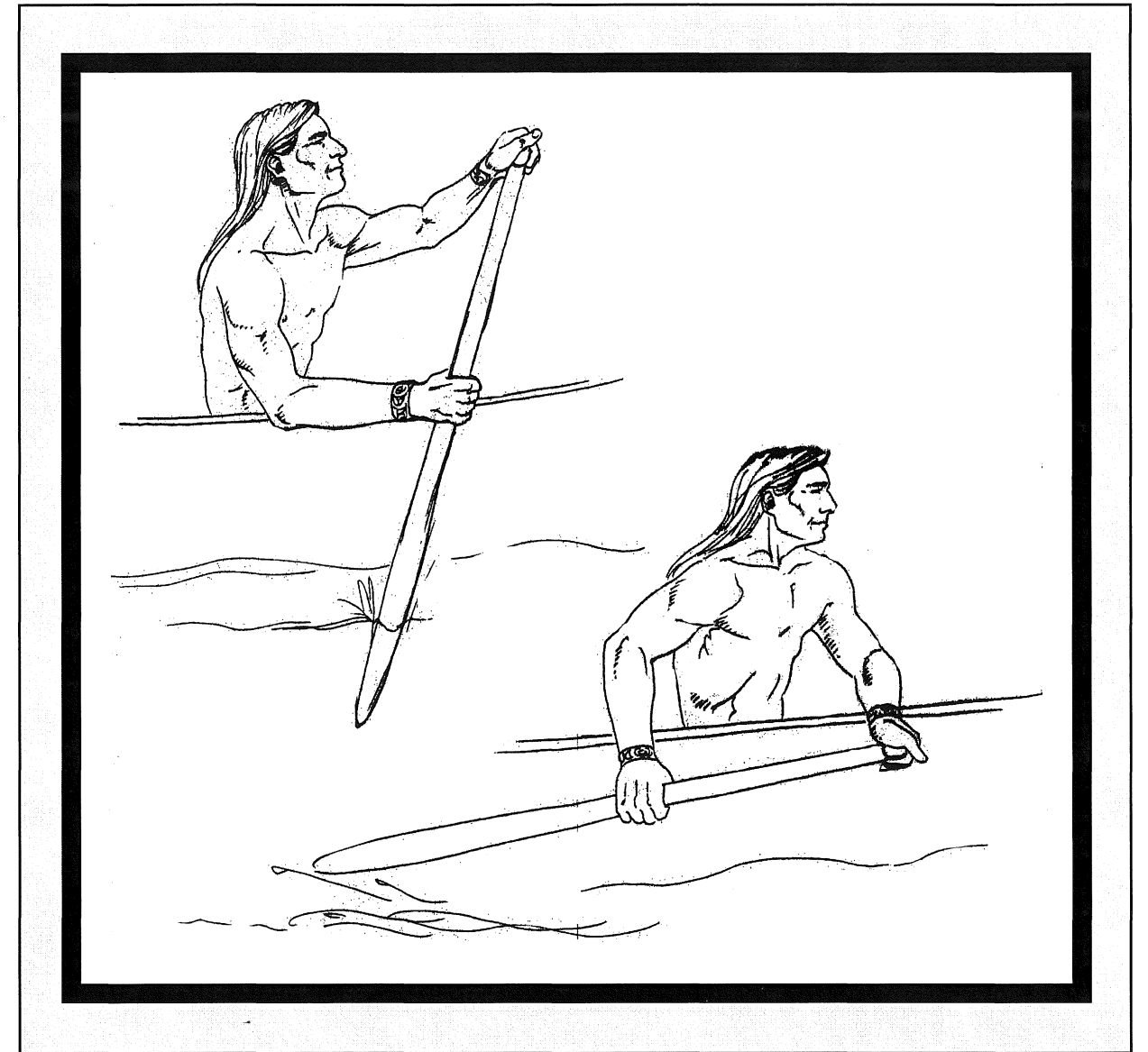
**In our canoe
we search our souls,**

**and help each other
to reach our goals.**

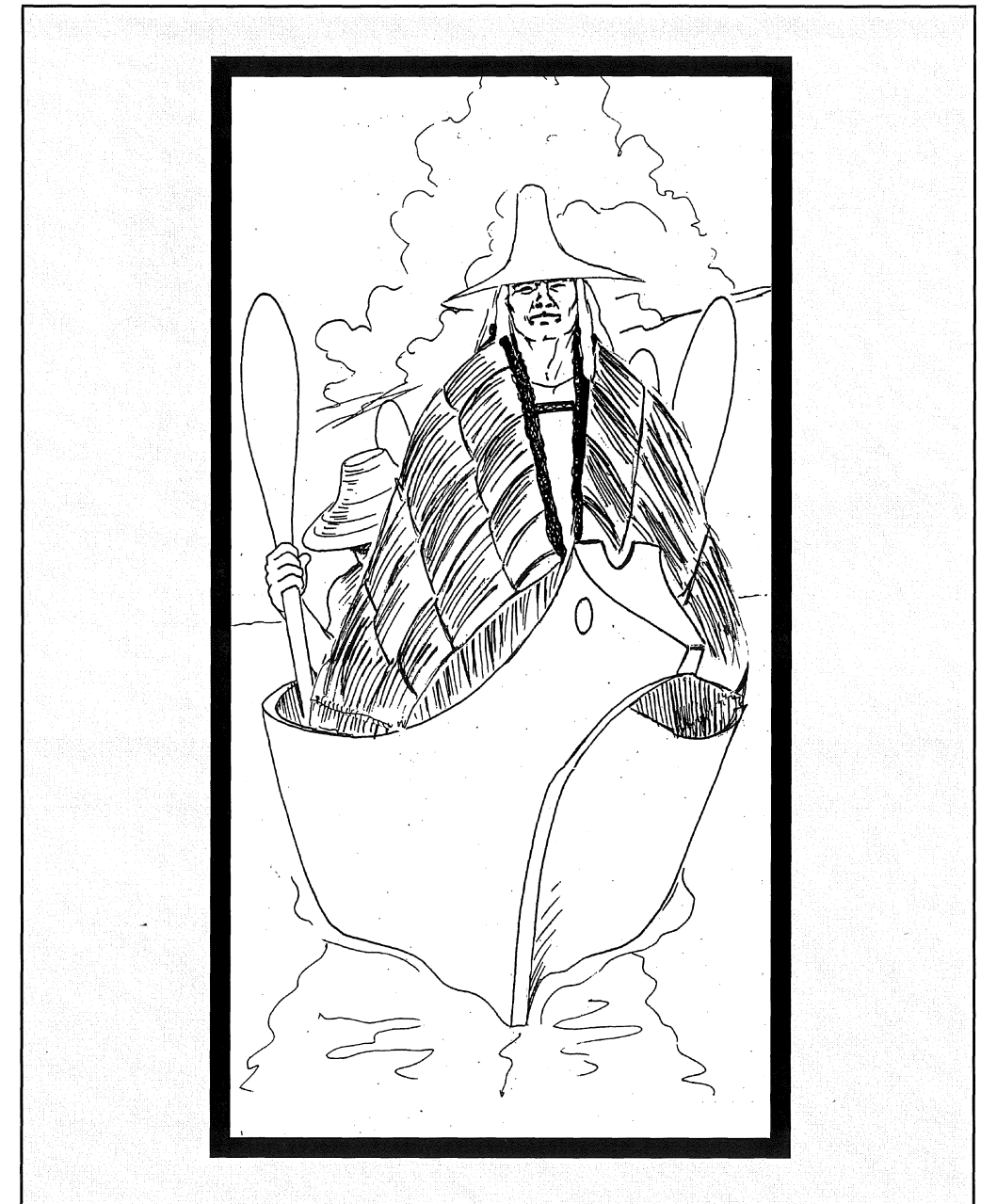In our canoe we learn our past, we work together, we talk and laugh.

Dip and pull, dip and pull.

We keep the rhythm
by chanting our songs.
Dip and pull, dip and pull.

We wear regalia when we go to visit.
Dip and pull, dip and pull.

When we arrive we dance within it.
Dip and pull, dip and pull.