



The Wonderful Adventures of Hanuman

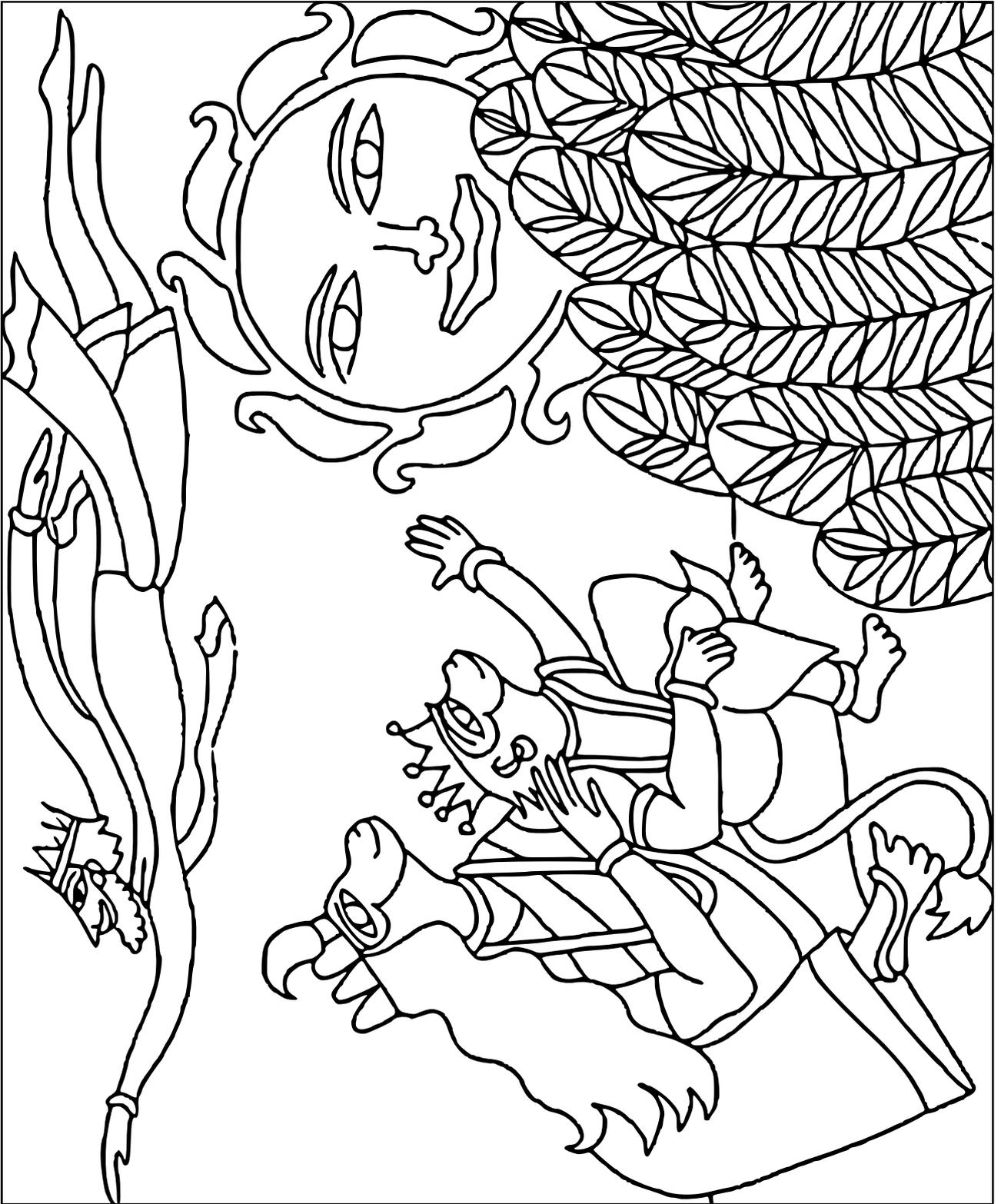
Hanuman obtained his magical powers

There was a long time ago, a monkey boy was living in India. His name was Hanuman. His father was Vayu, the god of the wind, and his mother was a beautiful princess.

Although Hanuman was very small, he was very naughty and had magical powers.

This is the story of one of his amusing adventures. It begins in the beautiful valley of flowers.

One day Hanuman was sitting next to his mother and felt the warm rays of the sun.

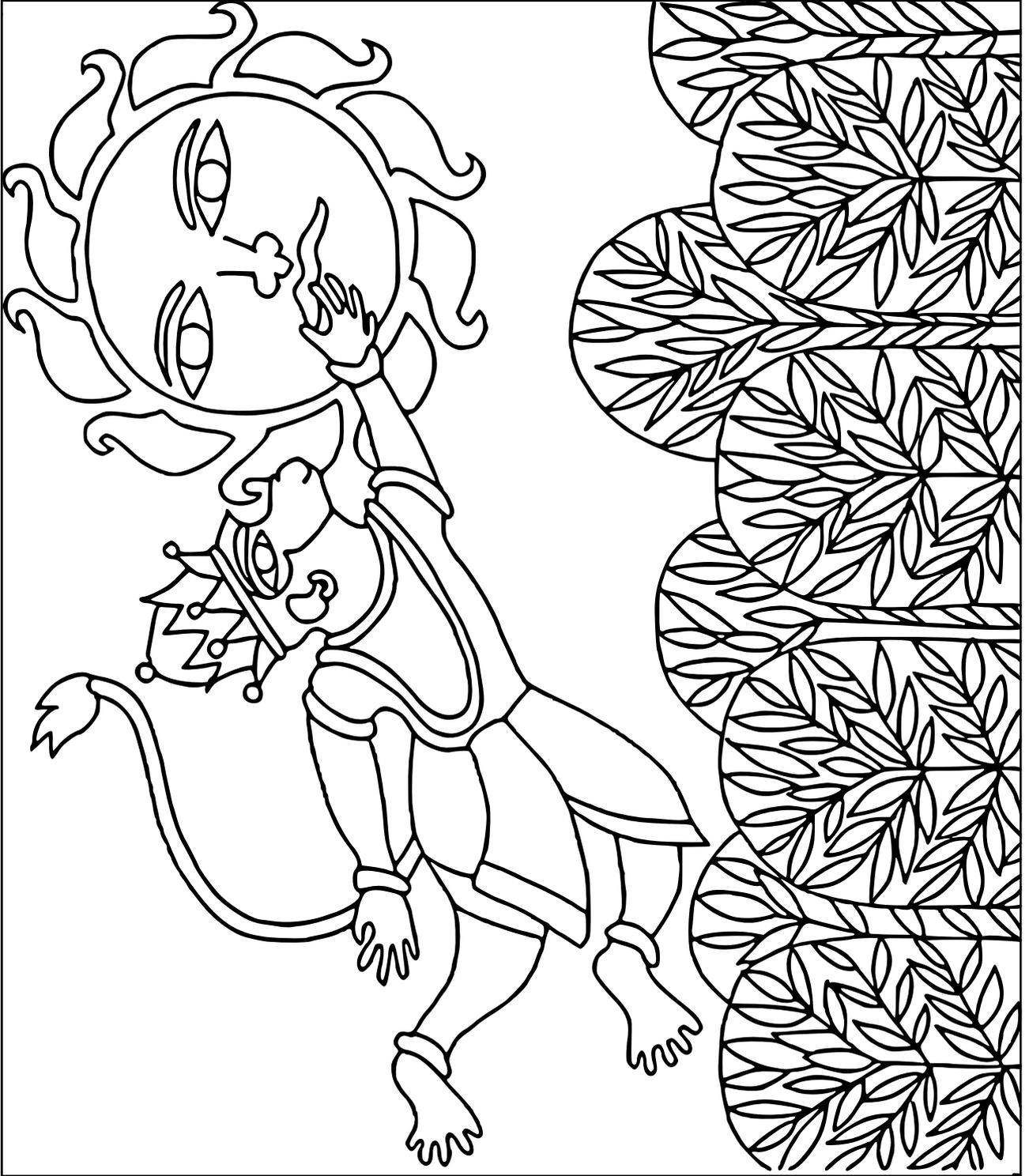


Hanuman looked at the sky and saw the sun.

"I love the sun! It is so beautiful, so warm, so golden and shiny! I'd take it and play with it, just like it's mine!" said the little child.

So Hanuman stretched his arms toward the sun. He took it in his hands and began to throw it up and down like a ball.

The sun did not seem at all pleased and started becoming angry.



The sun called Indra, the god of thunder and lightning, who at that time, was travelling through the sky on his magic elephant.

“Indra help! Look at what this naughty child is doing to me! Help!”

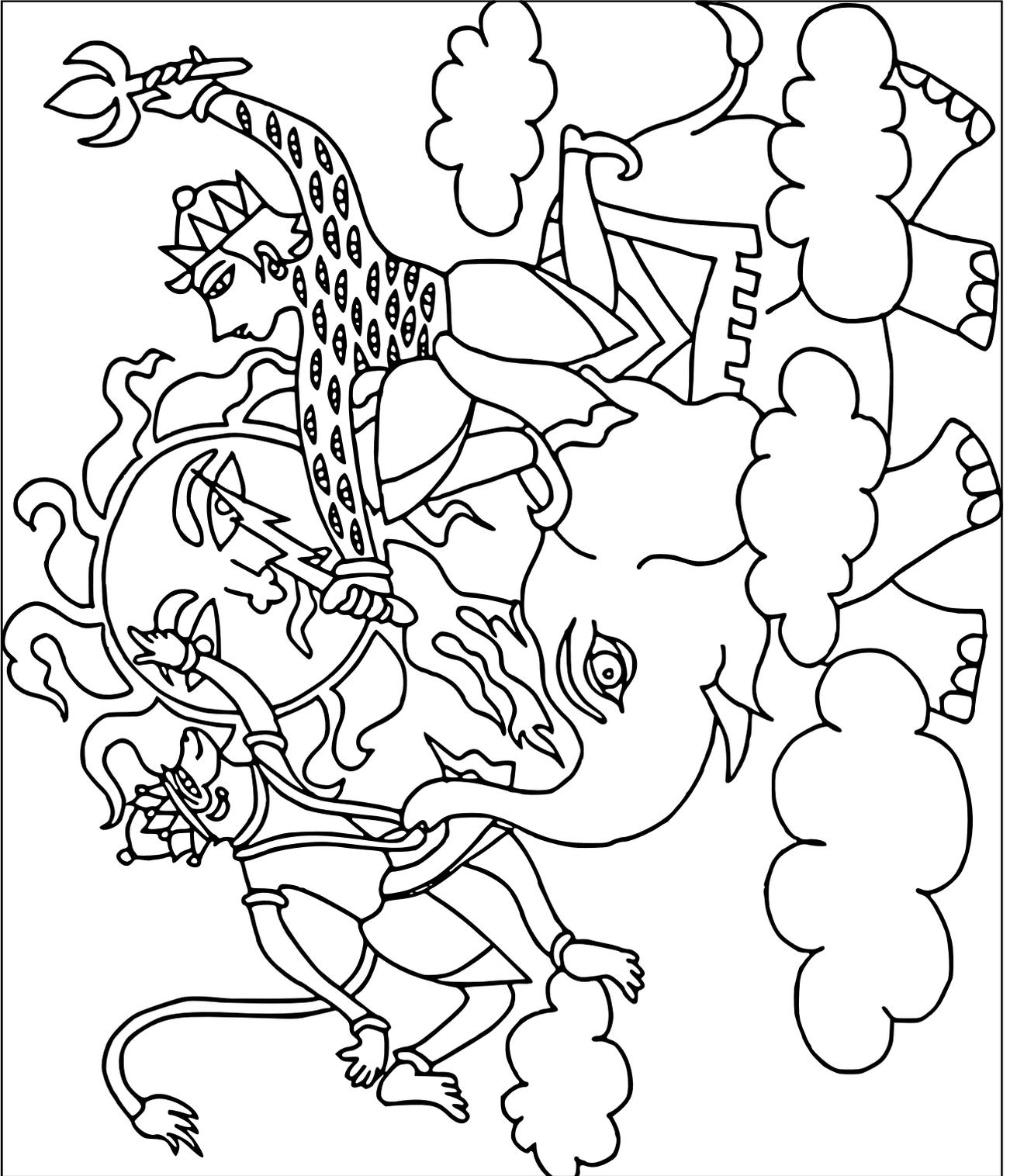
Indra saw what Hanuman was doing, and was very upset. Suddenly the sky darkened and the storm clouds began to gather.

“Put the Sun in its place immediately!” said Indra loudly.

“No” said Hanuman who did not seem frightened by the fury of the god.

So, the angry Indra threw lightning that hit Hanuman and left him unconscious.

Zaap!



Hanuman fell down, and there he lay. His father Vayu, who was flying over land, had a feeling that Hanuman was in danger.

He quickly returned to the valley of flowers and found his small son lying on the ground with eyes closed.

"Who did this to my son?" He shouted desperately at the sky hoping to find an answer.

The god of the wind was furious and threw strong winds and storms around the world, until one day the air stopped!

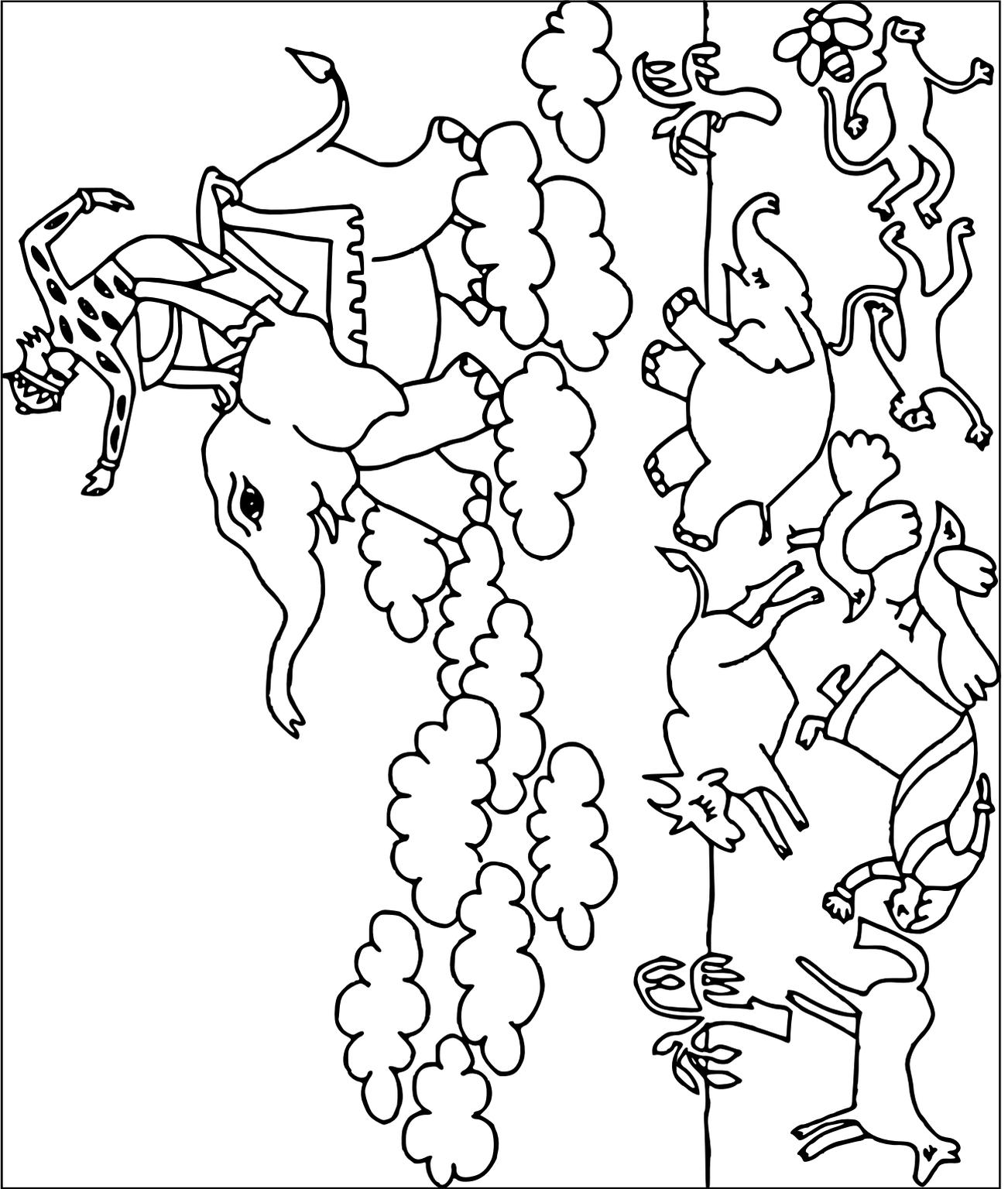
"I will make the air stop, and stop running everywhere, until my little Hanuman breathes again!" Vayu said.



That was really bad for everyone. The plants, animals and people quickly began to feel very weak, fainted and died, because they had no air to breathe.

When Indra, the god of thunder and lightning saw everything that was happening to the world, he felt very sad.

“Anger is a terrible thing. None of this would have happened if I had not bothered. Vayu, I ask for your pardon,” he said.



Meanwhile, Vayu, had led small Hanuman into the earth, cooing in his arms. Indra called other gods, so together they beg Vayu to return the air to the world.

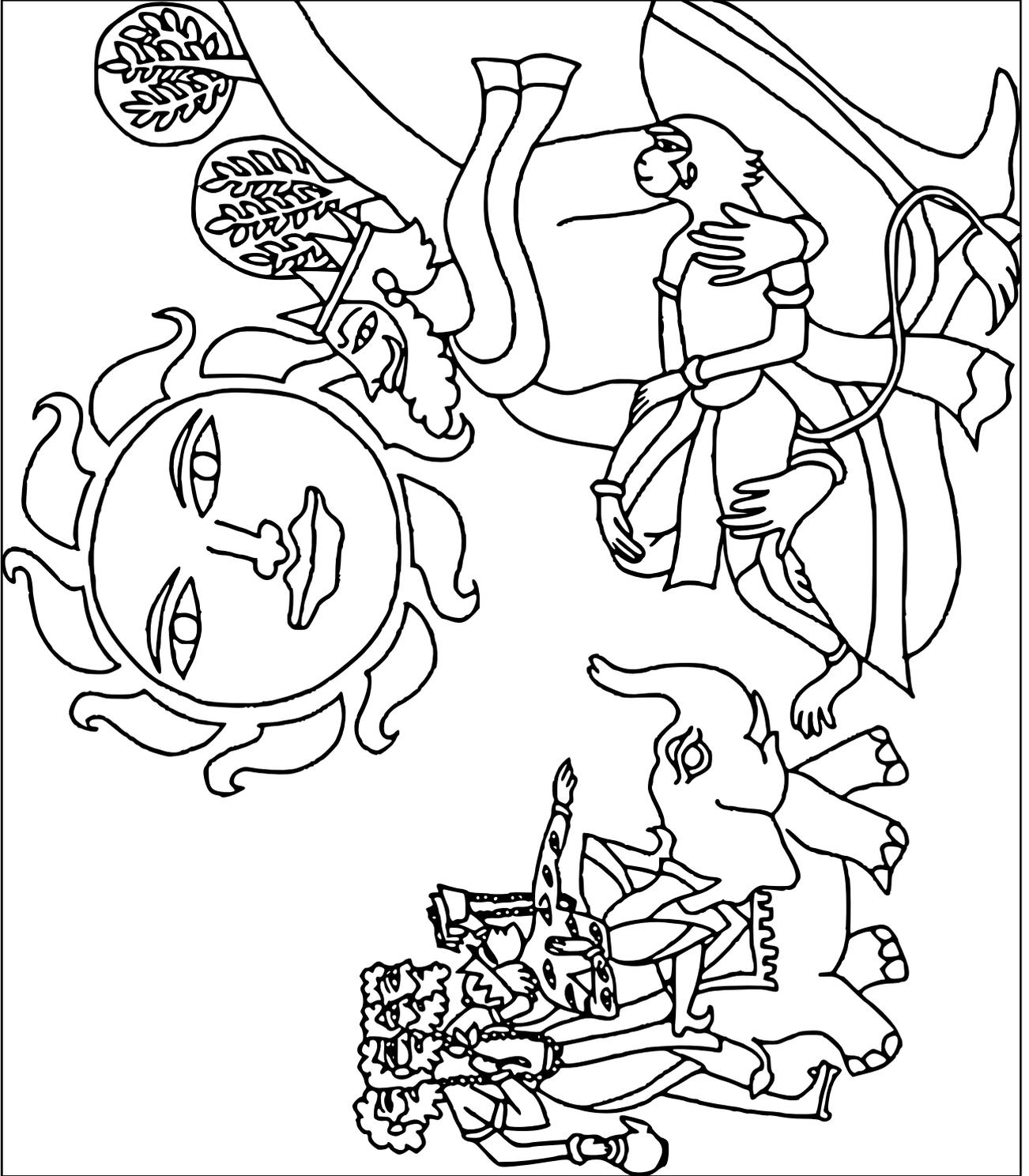
“No, not until Hanuman breathes again!” Vayu said.

Then the gods promised to restore life to Hanuman. They also said that when he grew up, he would have magical powers.

He could be as large or as small as he wanted; his tail would be magical and could fly through the skies. He would lead an army of monkeys and live as long as he wished.

“The thunder and lightning could never hurt him,” said Indra.

“The fire can never touch him”, said the Sun.



Vayu, the father of Hanuman, was now very happy and kept his word. The air began to run again. The plants, animals and people came to life.

"What happened to us?" they asked as they could not remember anything!

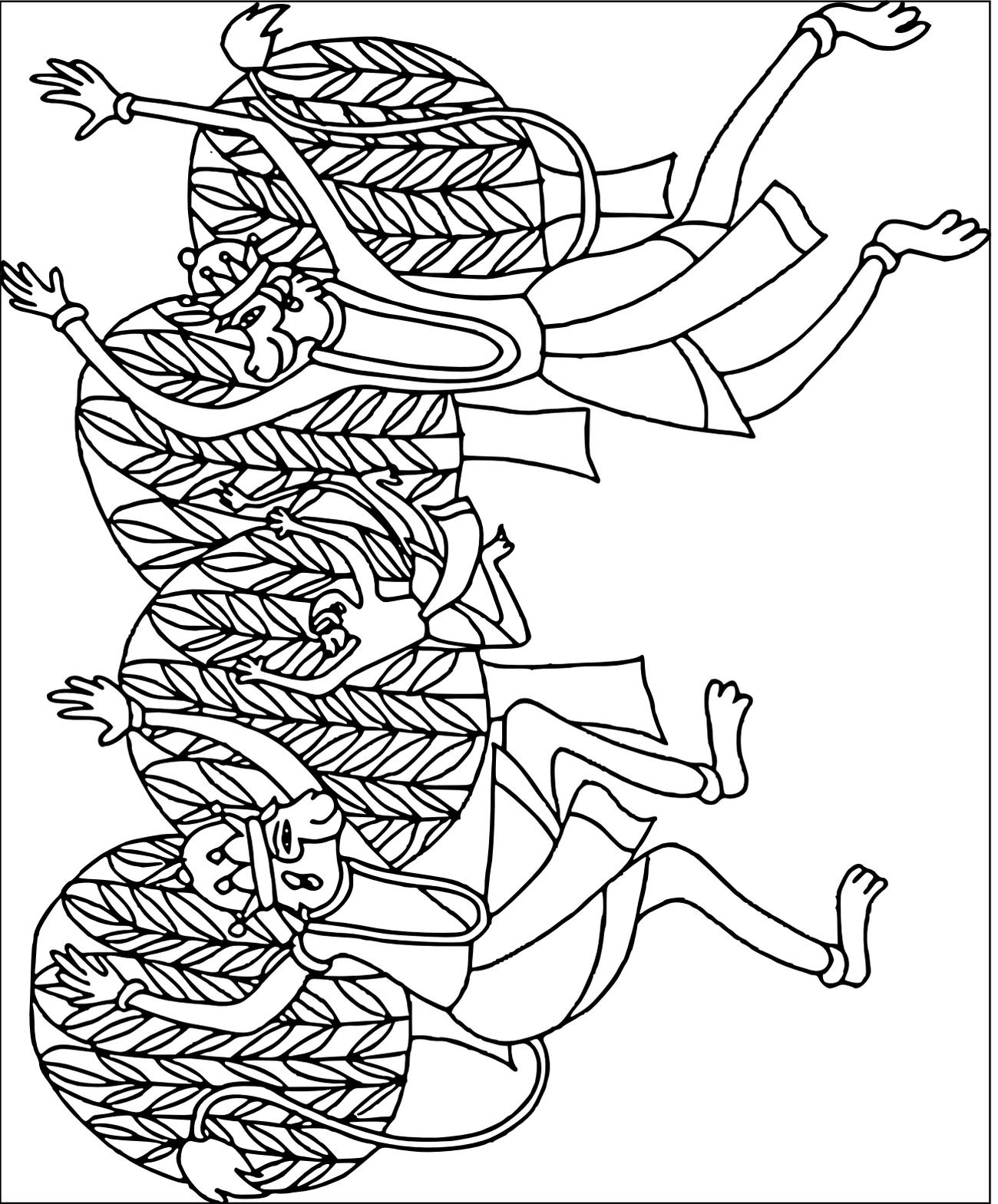
Everything was done as promised to the gods. Hanuman grew to be the most fantastic monkey in the world. He lived in a huge, green and beautiful forest.

Sugriva, the king of the monkeys, heard about Hanuman and his magical powers. He went into the woods to find and talk to him.

"Could you be my best friend and lead my army?" Sugriva asked.

"Sure," Hanuman said.

And from that day onwards, the two were always together.



The abduction of Princess Sita

At the other end of the forest, there lived a handsome prince called Rama and his beautiful, intelligent wife named Princess Sita.

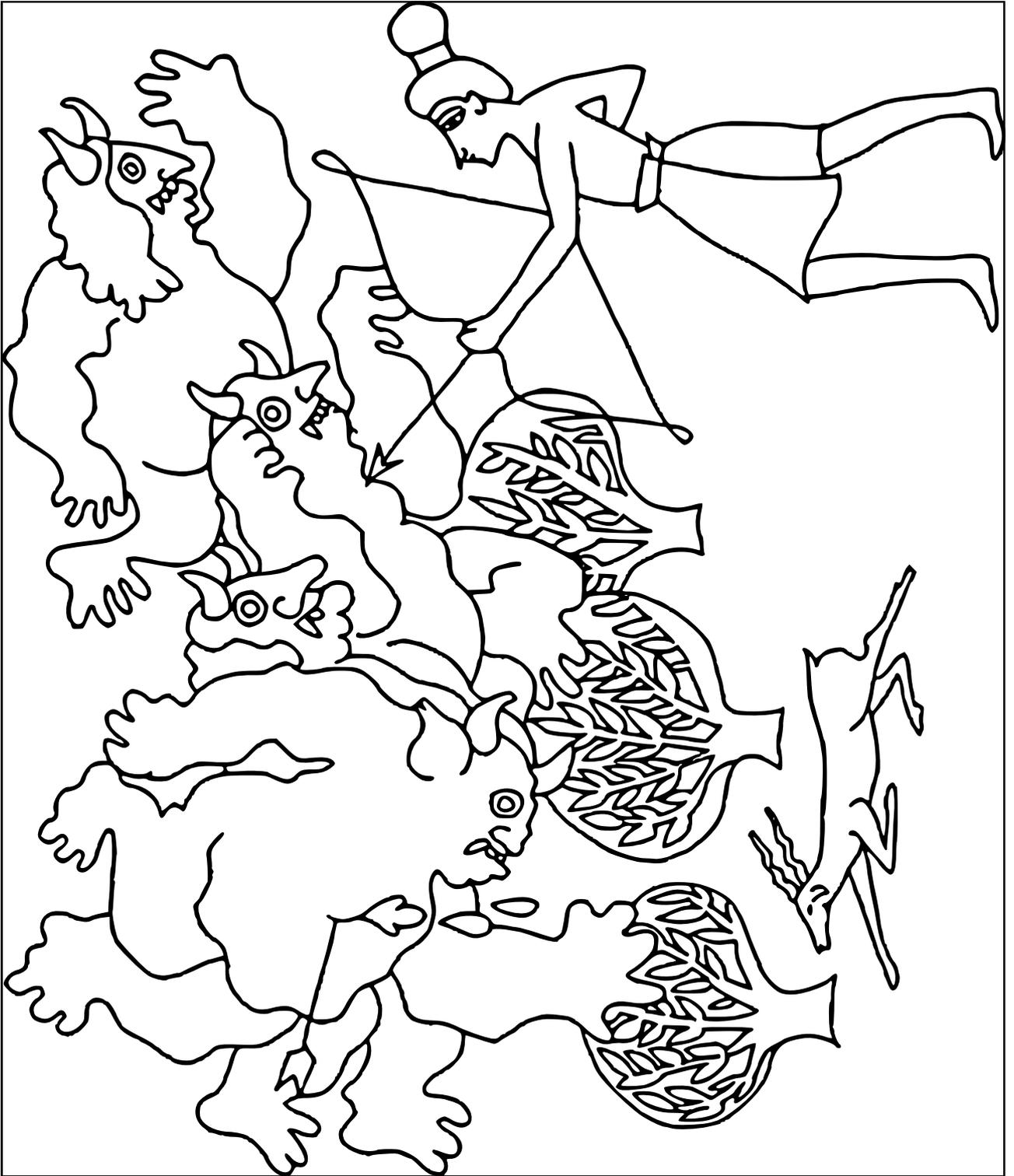
The news about her beauty spread all across the territory.

On an island called Lanka in South India, lived an evil and envious devil, who had ten heads and twenty arms. His name was Ravana.

"I'll have to marry Sita even if I have to steal her!" Ravana boasted.

Ravana sent his evil demon disguised as a golden deer to distract the prince Rama.

Rama departed to the woods to get the deer for his beloved wife Sita.



As soon as Rama was away, Ravana went in search of Sita and with a terrifying roar caught Sita with his twenty arms. His evil plan was to keep Sita prisoner until she agrees to marry him.

Sita, on being captured, has managed to remove her jewelry as quickly as possible and threw them to the ground as she flew through the air trapped in the arms of Ravana.

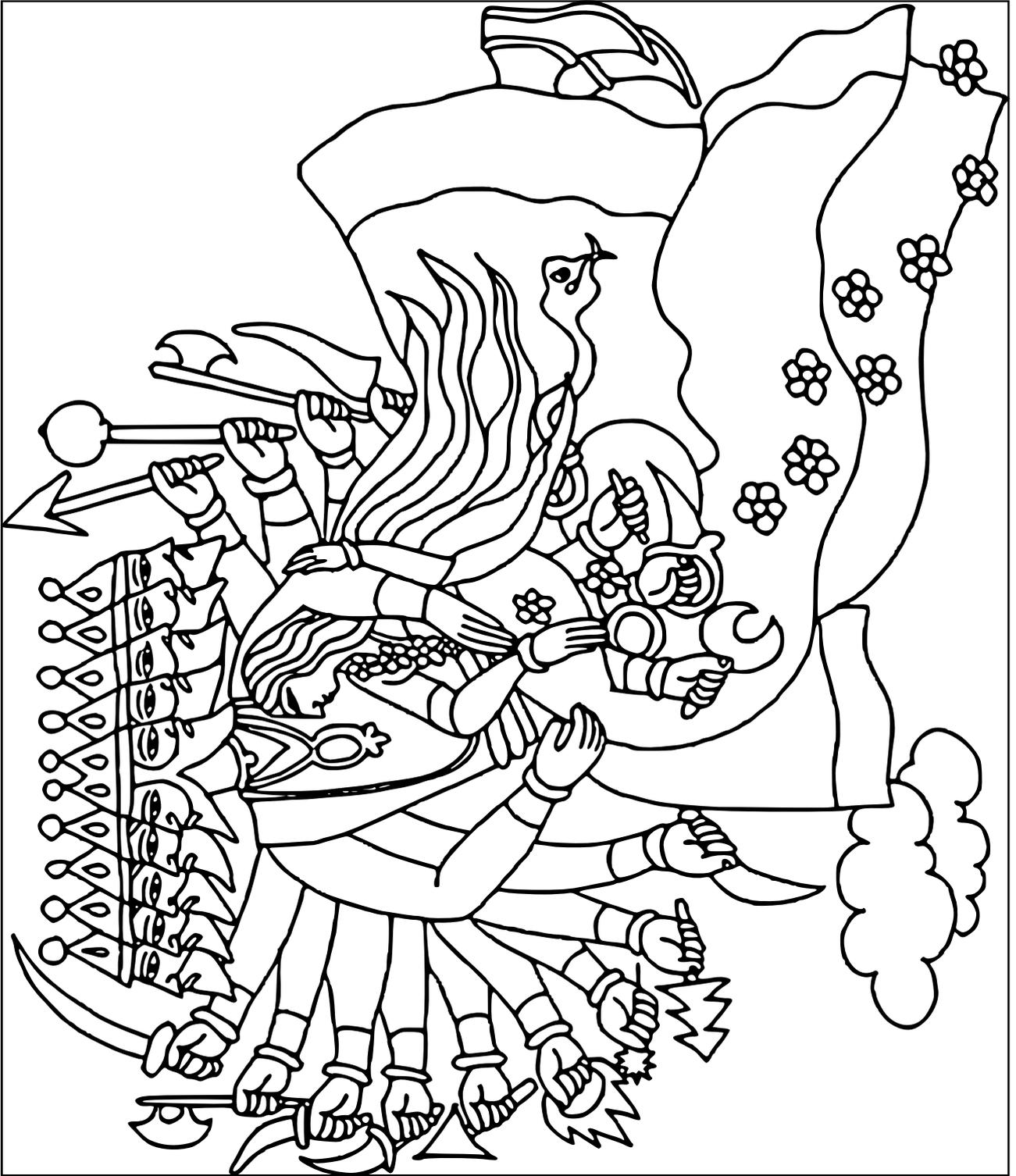
"I really hope that someone will find these gems and bring them to my husband Rama," thought Sita

Fortunately, the jewelry fell just where Hanuman and Sugriva were.

"The Gods must be sending gifts!" Hanuman said.

"Whose jewels are these?" Sugriva wondered.

And so the two friends went into the forest to solve the mystery.



Meanwhile, Prince Rama, had returned home and was looking for his beloved wife Sita.

"Where did she go?" Rama thought while looking through the woods.

Hanuman and Sugriva found the prince wondering into the forest calling for Sita.

"Sita! Sita!" Rama cried.

"Who is Sita?" asked Hanuman.

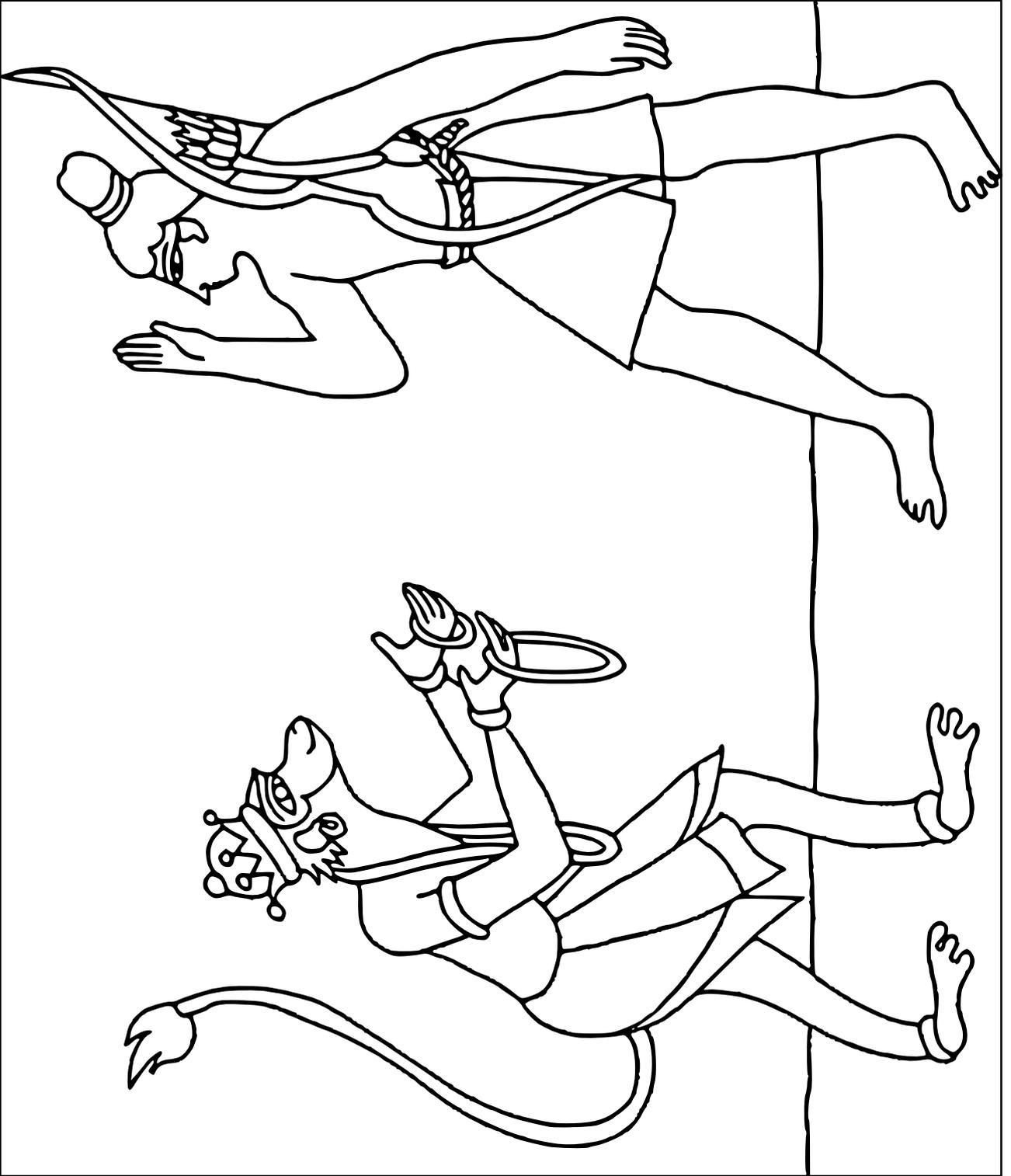
"Sita is my wife, She has disappeared." said Rama.

"So I see. Perhaps these gems belong to her." said Hanuman.

"These are Sita's gems!, Where is she? And who are you?" Rama asked anxiously.

"I am Hanuman and he is King Sugriva. We will help you find her."

"Thank you. We have to find her." Rama said



Hanuman goes in search of Sita

Hanuman flew south. He knew that Sita was taken to the city of Lanka by the demon Ravana.

So Hanuman grew big and strong and with one big jump started flying through the clouds towards the city on the island.

While flying over the ocean, his shadow was seen by a terrible sea monster.

"Grrrr! I'm very hungry and want to eat!" said the monster.

Then the horrible monster opened its mouth and swallowed Hanuman.

"Oh! Oh!" Hanuman thought as he slid down the throat of the hideous monster.



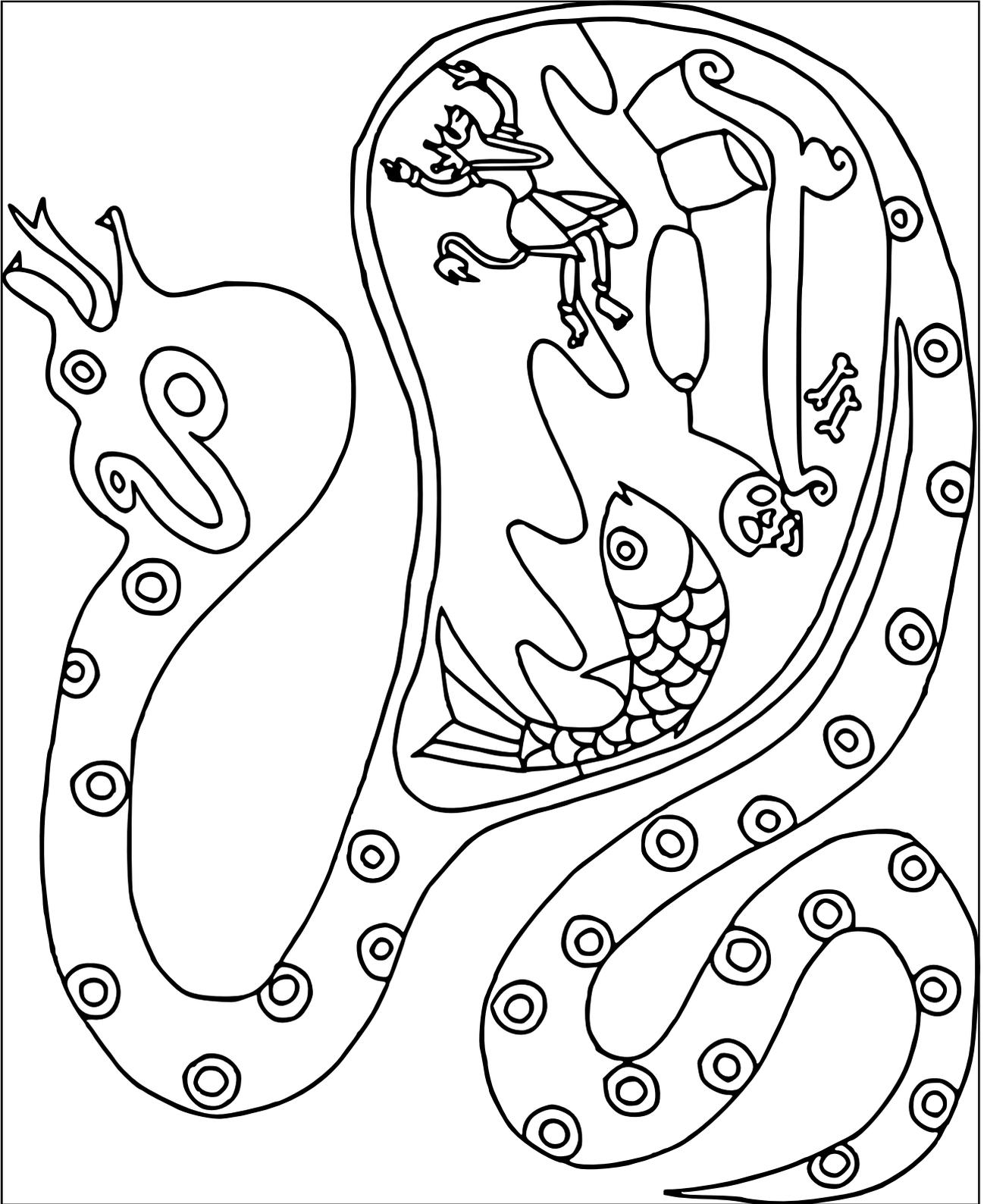
Hanuman landed with a great THUMP! and suddenly realized he was sitting on something very soft. He looked down and found himself sitting on a bed!

Hanuman was floating inside the stomach of the sea monster, and then he began to look around in the dark. He saw pieces of masts and ships that had lost long ago.

He also saw skeletons and a variety of things that the monster had swallowed.

"I need to leave," thought Hanuman looking around.

Then he had a great idea!



Hanuman became as small as he could, and flying into the stomach of the monster, tickled the sides. The monster began to squirm and move due to laughter.

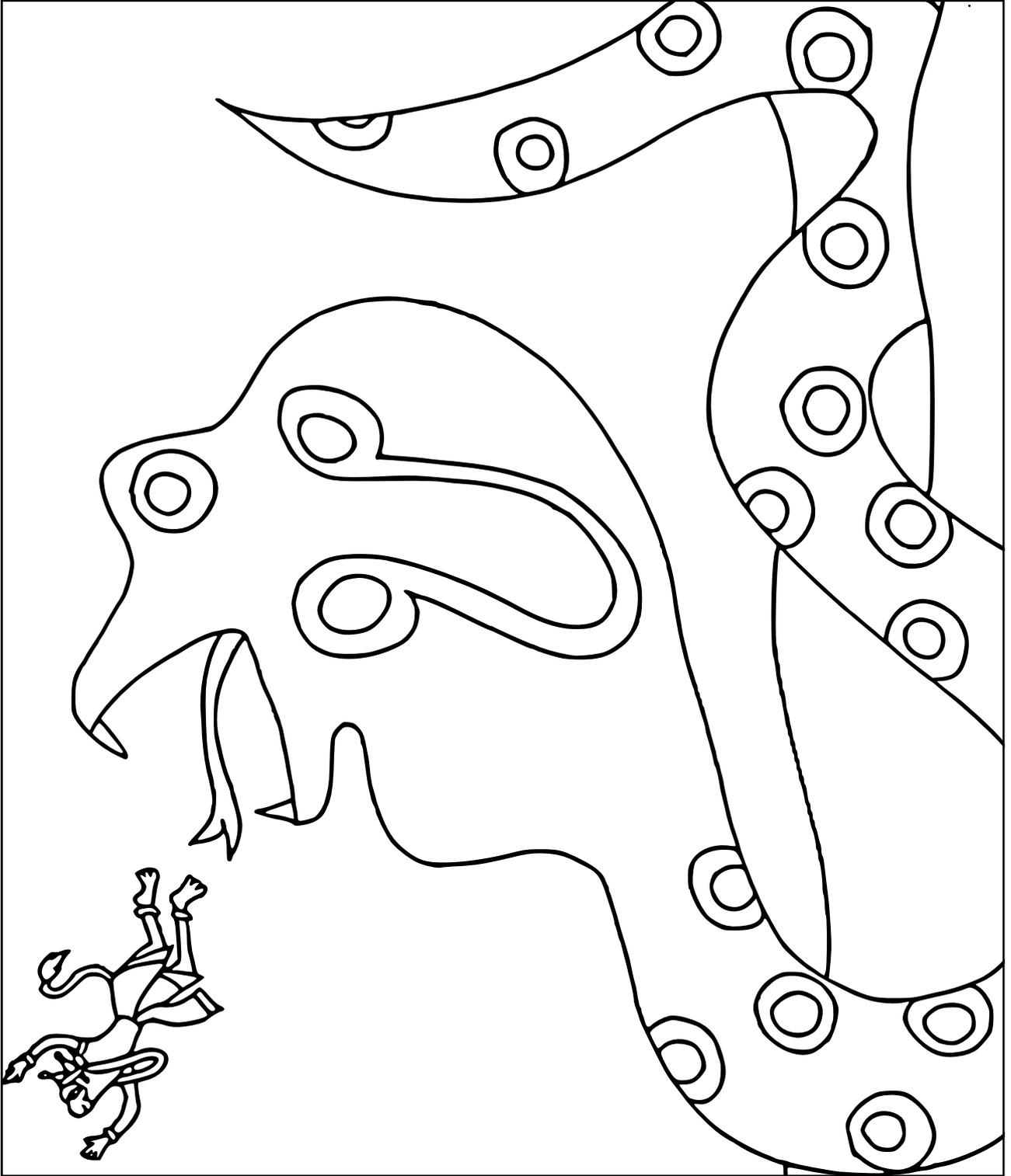
"Hoo, Hoo, Ha, Ha! stop it please! I am really tickled and if I laughed a lot, I'm going to sneeze!" said the monster, while laughing hilariously!

But Hanuman continued tickling, and the monster could not contain itself.

"I think, I think I'll ... Ahhh, Ahhh, Chooooo!" the monster sneezed.

The monster opened its big mouth and sneezed thinking Hanuman was supposed to be inside.

It was too late because he had shot out and flew to the city of Lanka.



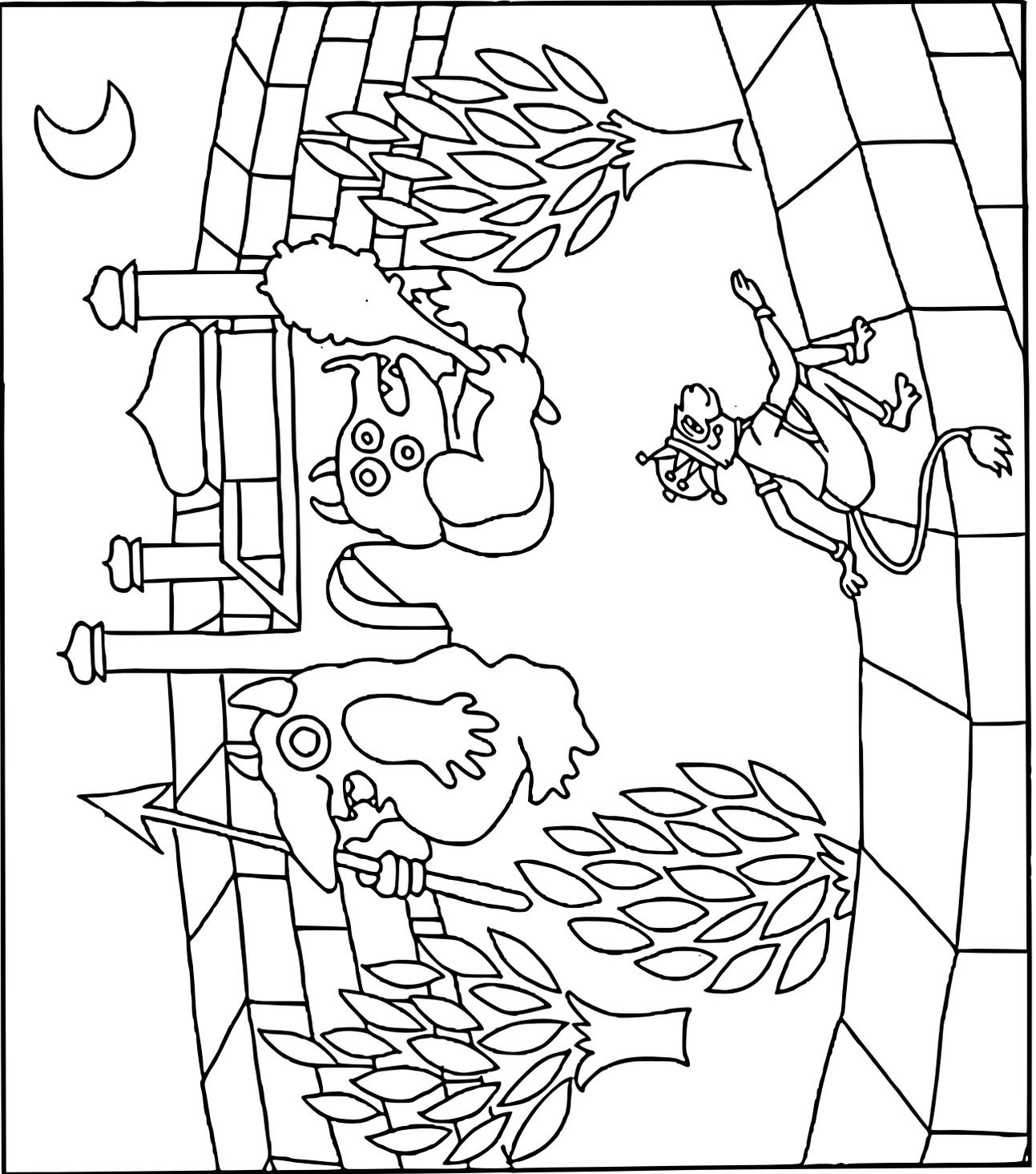
When Hanuman went to Lanka he saw many demons guarding the palace walking everywhere.

Some were fat, some thin, some were beet red, some were yellow banana and others were cucumber green. They were all ugly, nasty and grumbled as they walked.

"Oh no!" Hanuman thought as he watched them while sitting on the walls of the Grand Palace.

Hanuman was still very small. Taking advantage the darkness of the night he managed to slip past the guards without being seen.

When he was inside the white marble city, he began searching for Sita in all rooms in the great palace of Ravana.

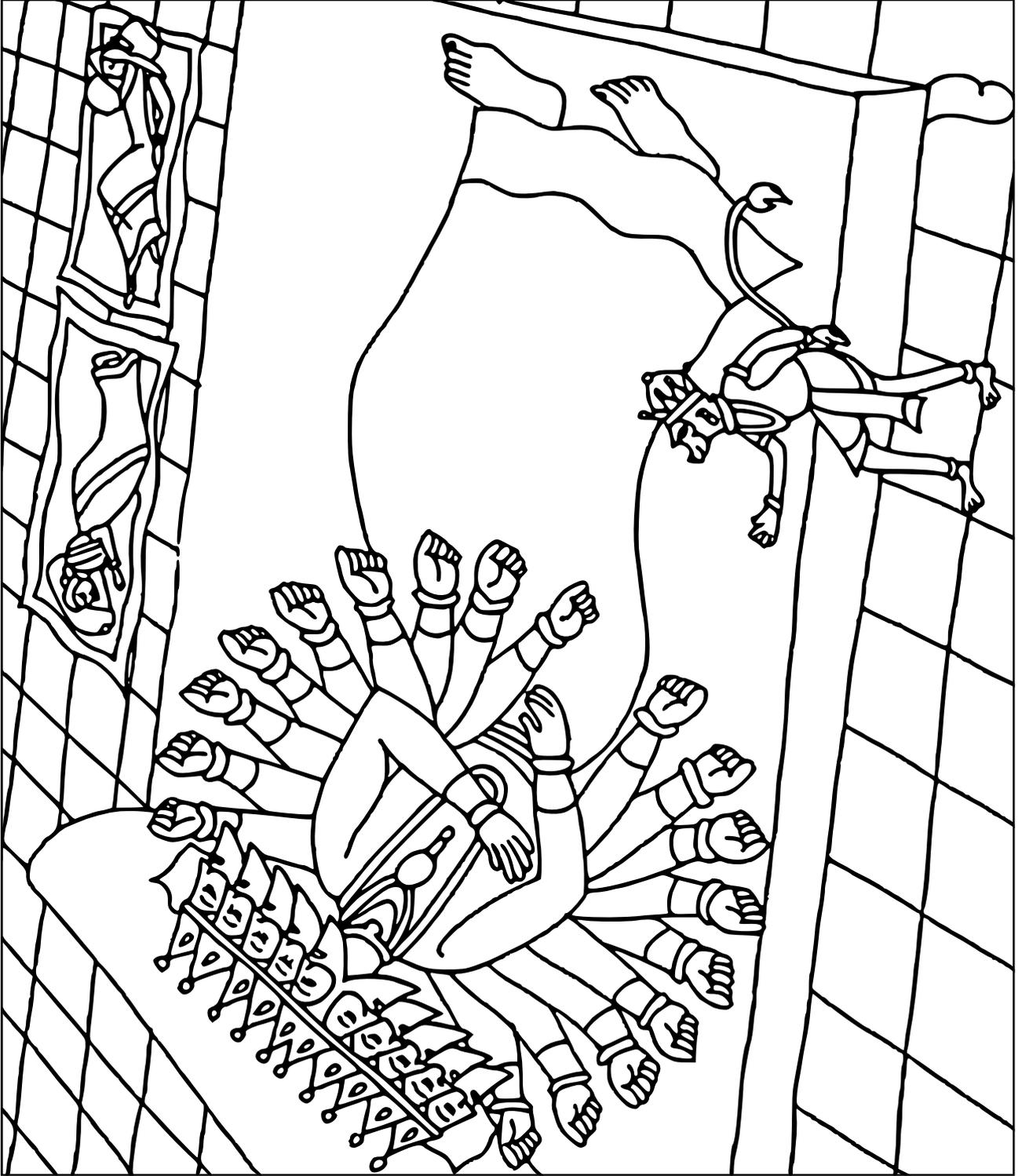


Hanuman began searching in the dining room of the palace, in the kitchen, in the corridors, but could not find Sita. He suddenly heard a very loud sound, like thunder.

The sound was coming from a room that had a large golden door. Hanuman crawled slowly through a crack below the door and found Ravana sleeping in a bed, snoring with his ten heads at once.

"Grrrr Grrrrr-phew-phew!!!" he thought.

Hanuman was sure that Sita was not there.



Hanuman found Sita very sad and depressed sitting outside the palace in a beautiful garden. The demons guarding the garden have fallen asleep.

He slipped through one of the branches of a fruit tree.

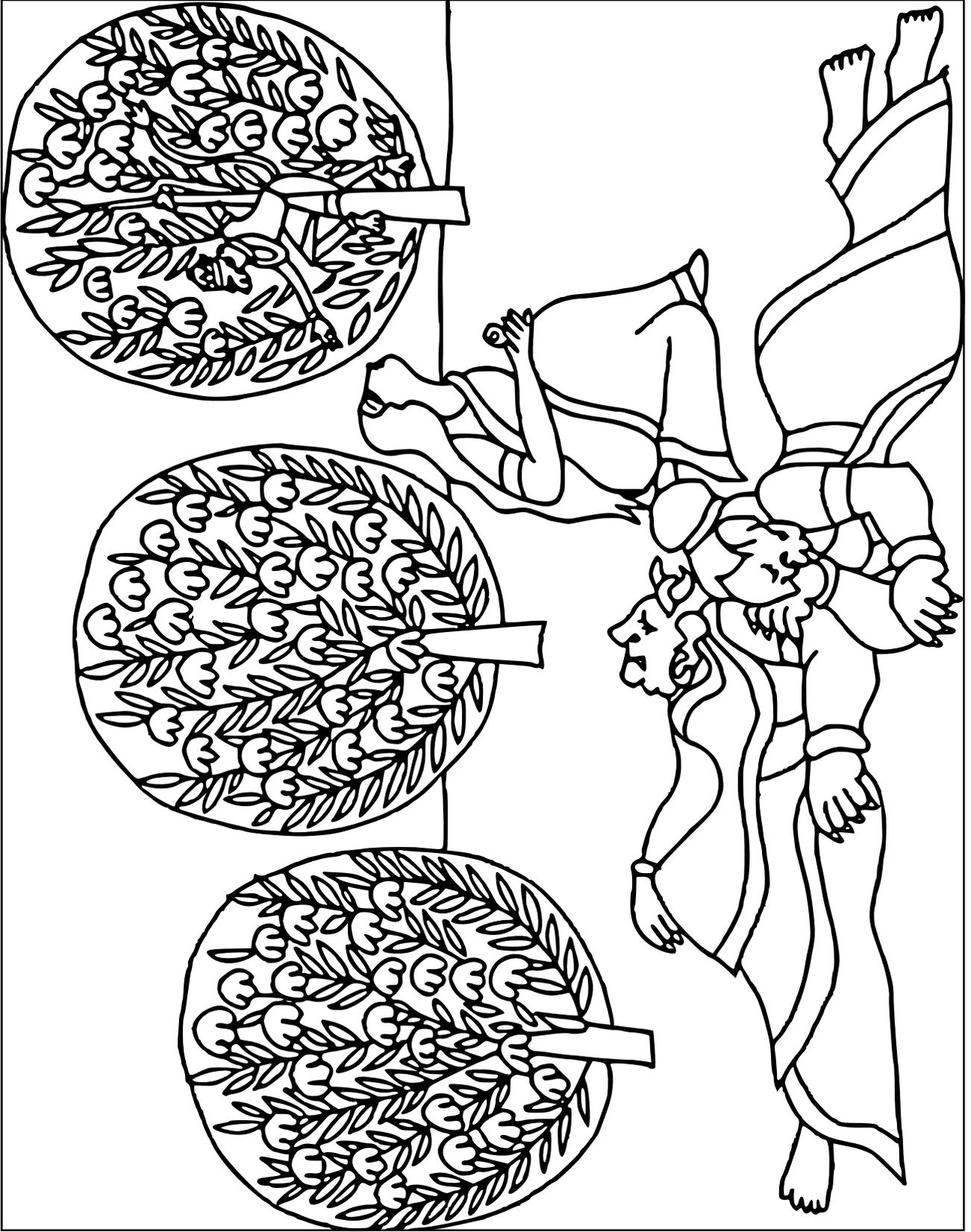
"Pssst!" Hanuman said. He was waving to get her attention!

Sita looked up and was surprised to see him.

"Who are you?" asked Sita.

"I am Hanuman. I've been sent by Rama to find you, now I shall go back to tell him that I found you and then come back to rescue you." Hanuman replied softly.

"Oh thanks! But you must be very careful; Ravana is not only very powerful but also very clever." Sita replied, a little more cheerfully.



Just then one of the demons guarding Sita awoke.

“An attacker with us! The other guards must capture!” She cried.

They ran to attack Hanuman, but he suddenly became very big and strong, stood in the middle of the garden. He plucked two trees with their roots and all, and began to rotate in all directions to keep the demons away.

When Ravana heard what Hanuman was doing, he was furious. A terrifying wrathful sound was heard, from his ten heads shouting at the same time!

“A monkey doing all that mess in my garden! Send my son to capture it and bring it to me immediately!” Ravana screamed.

Ravana's son was to fulfill the order of his father. He began to shoot arrows with snakes, but they could not hurt the mighty ape-man, Hanuman.



Fire!

Hanuman had a brilliant idea.

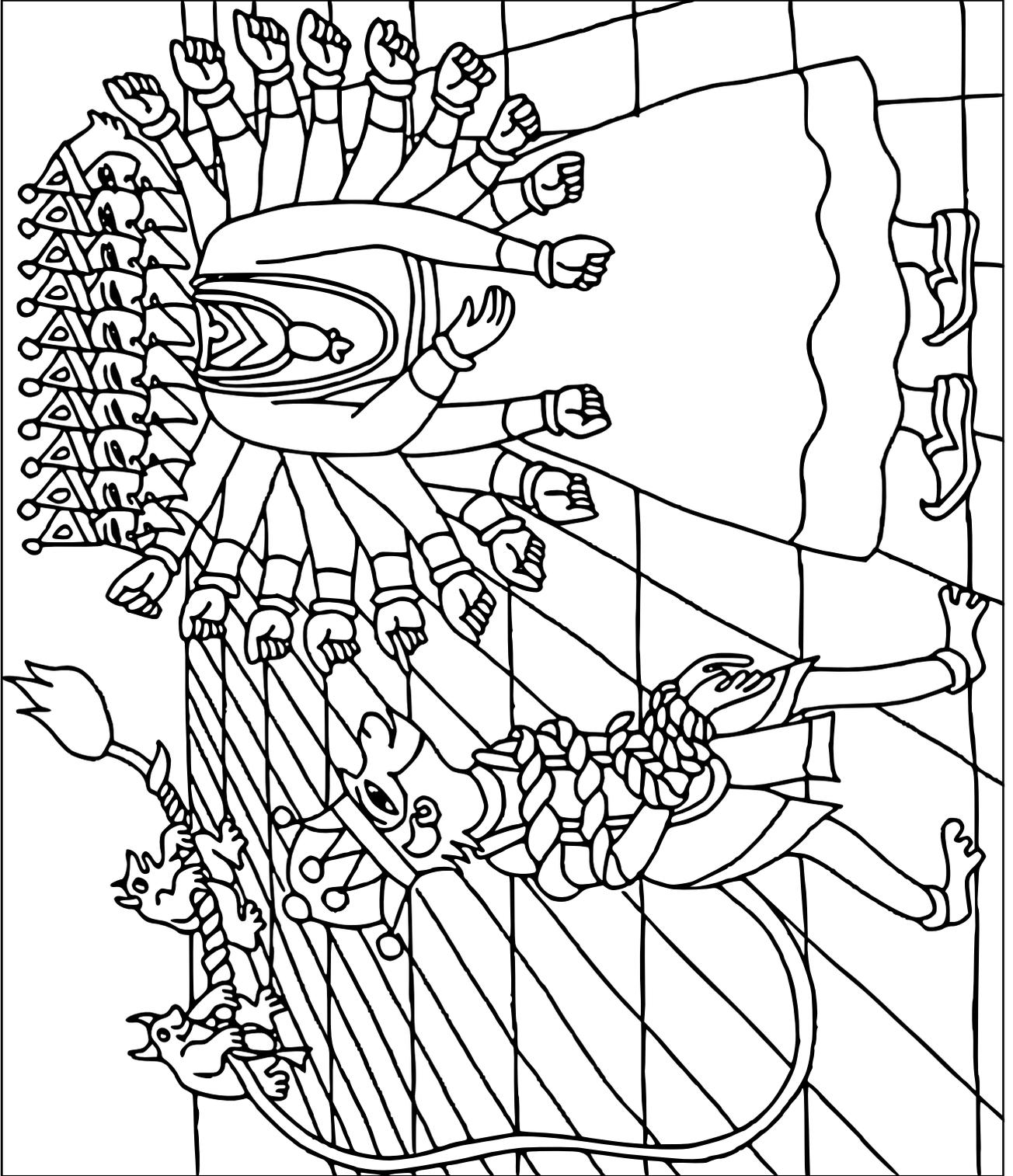
"Maybe I should talk face to face with Ravana," he thought. He became small and allowed to be captured by guards in order to be taken to Ravana.

"Please free Sita," Hanuman begged.

"Never!" growled Ravana.

Several demons, grabbed the tail of Hanuman to tie, but then his tail began to grow and grow long, getting longer!

"Fools! Catch his tail and keep it steady!" he cried! Finally, the guards managed to place the tip of the tail in fire. The fire could not hurt his tail because his magical powers kept it perfectly cool.



Suddenly, Hanuman had another great idea!

I think I can put my burning tail to good use!

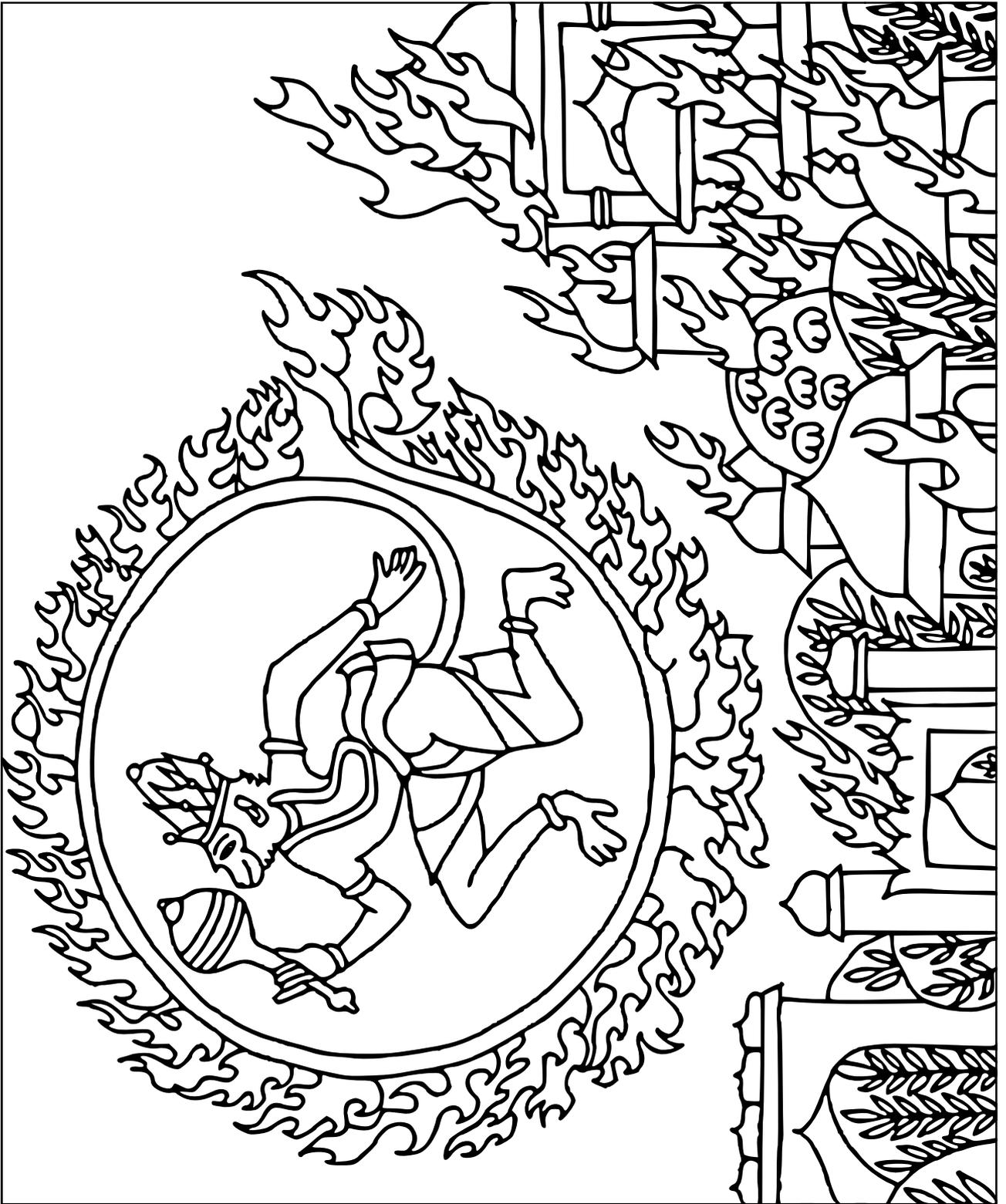
He began to grow again big, very big, breaking the ropes that bound him. With a single leap, he flew into the air.

He turned his shining tail and it looked like a huge ball of fire! He flew above the city of Lanka, and set fire on all roofs.

"Oh, how I hate that monkey!" Ravana said furiously.

He began to shake his twenty arms with a wild rage, while Hanuman dived into the sea.

Ssssssss



Hanuman flew back to where Prince Rama was, to tell what has happened.

"Everything you say sounds very interesting, but how it is assumed that we rescue Sita?" asked Rama

Hanuman answered, "Do not worry. King Sugriva have a whole army of monkeys and together we will help to rescue Sita."

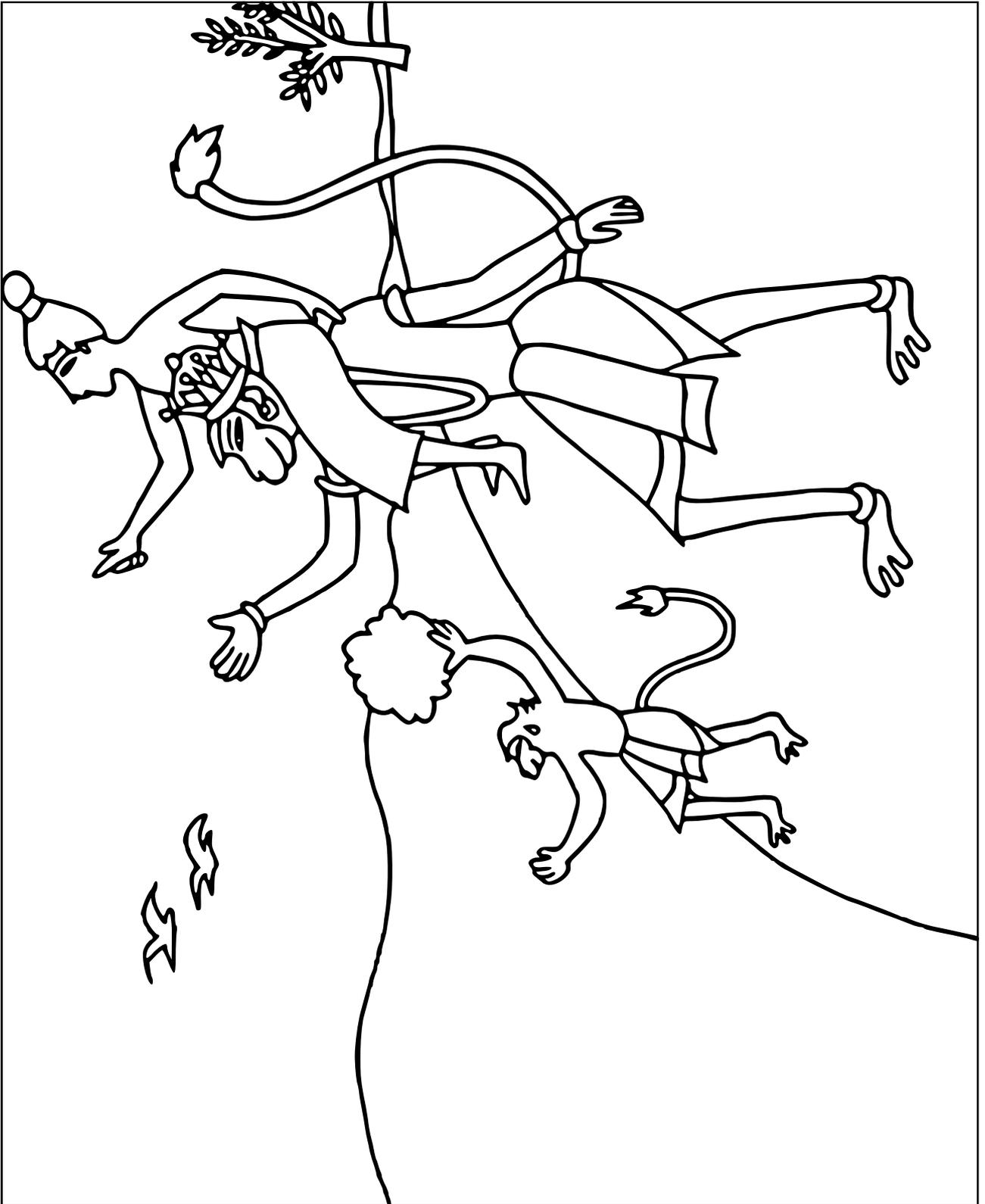
They then set off towards the south of India, when suddenly, they came across a large ocean.

"How to cross?" Rama asked worriedly.

"We will build a bridge across the large ocean." Hanuman replied.

And so, using large rocks and trees, Hanuman and his monkeys built a large bridge. Hanuman took Rama on his shoulders to cross the sea to Lanka.

Meanwhile Ravana, who had sent his son, leading the army of demons, was waiting vigilantly and ready for battle.



The Great Battle

The battle was extremely fierce! The horrible and disgusting demons, firing spears and arrows with poisonous snakes.

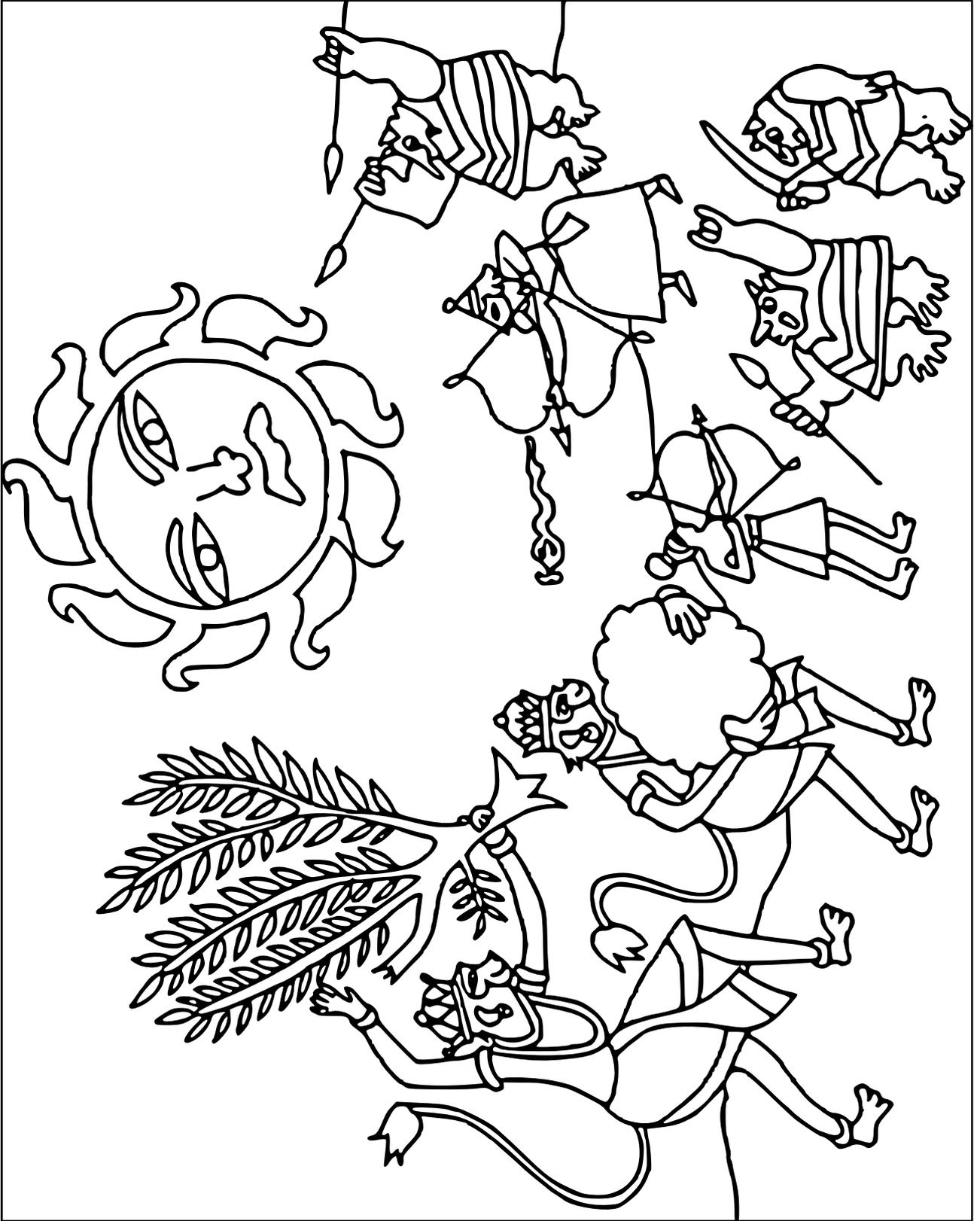
Rama fought bravely, while Hanuman, from the top of a mountain throwing rocks into the terrible demons.

Suddenly King Ravana, with his twenty arms came into battle, cutting, pushing and fencing like a great whirlpool. Whenever the arrows of Rama hit one of the heads of Ravana, it is immediately replaced with another head!

The demons were increasing their attack at the army of Rama.

"This is not good, Hanuman. How will we rescue Sita?" said Rama.

"Hah! Fools! They're all fools! Sita will never return, because we will win the battle!" Ravana scoffed.



Hanuman approached Rama and whispered in his ears that Ravana's weakness is his foot. There is only one sure way to kill him, with a magic arrow that he has hidden in his palace.

Rama turned to look at Hanuman, but he has already flown towards the palace of Ravana in search of the magic arrow.

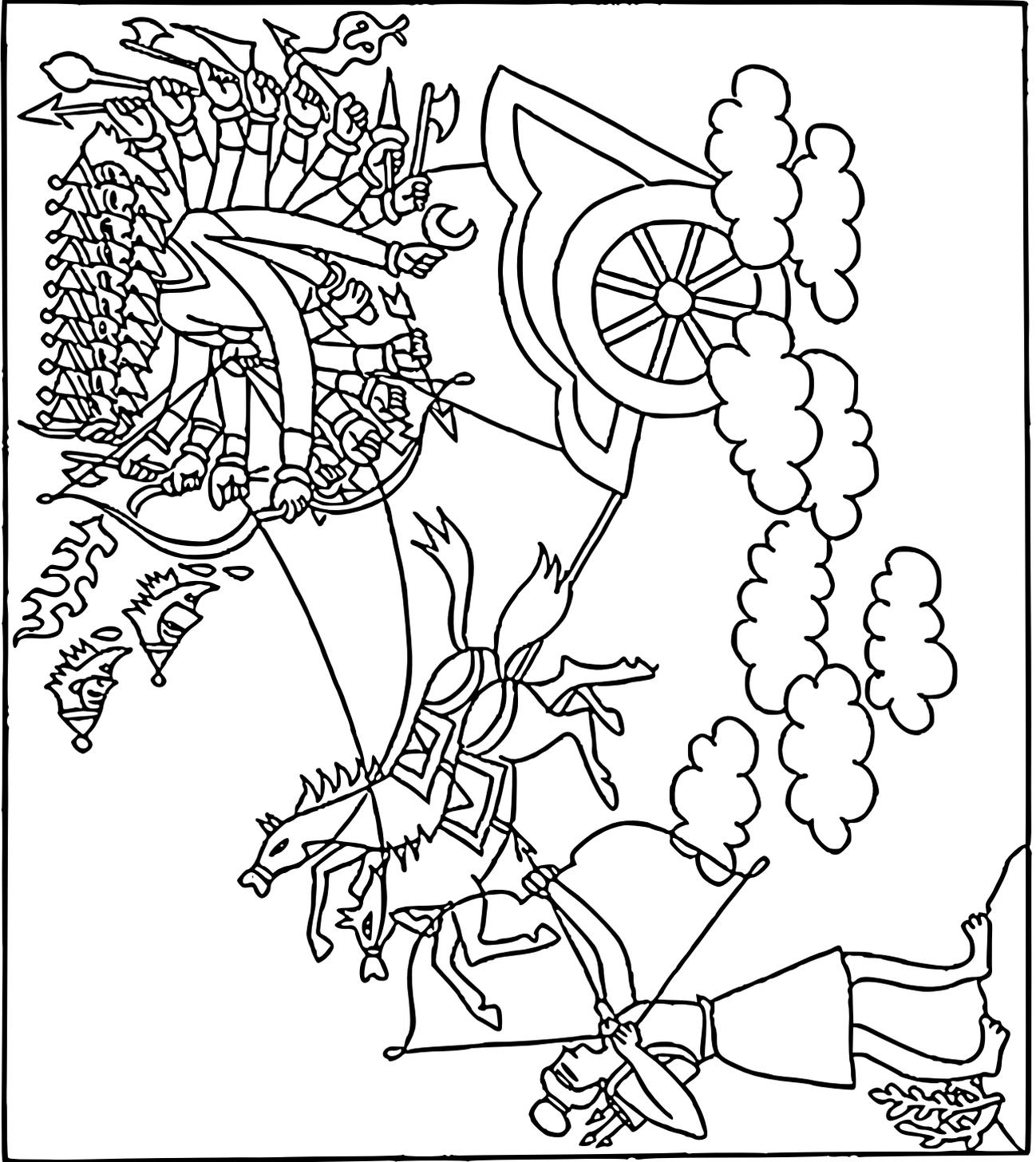
Hanuman returned and told Rama, "Here you go, hope it works."

"It's our last chance." Rama said while he tensed his bow with the magic arrow. Ravana is getting closer, breathing fire and smoke from ten noses and twenty ears. Rama took hold and shot:

ZING-!

The arrow flew straight to the foot of Ravana mortally wounding him.

Suddenly a deafening scream was heard, and then Ravana fell down and died.



Hanuman flew to the palace of Ravana to release Sita. He then led her back into the arms of Rama, who tenderly wrapped her in a big hug.

"I missed you a lot and Hanuman always gave me hope," said Sita.

"Sita, you're really alive!" said Rama

"That is nothing." Hanuman said shyly, looking down at the ground.

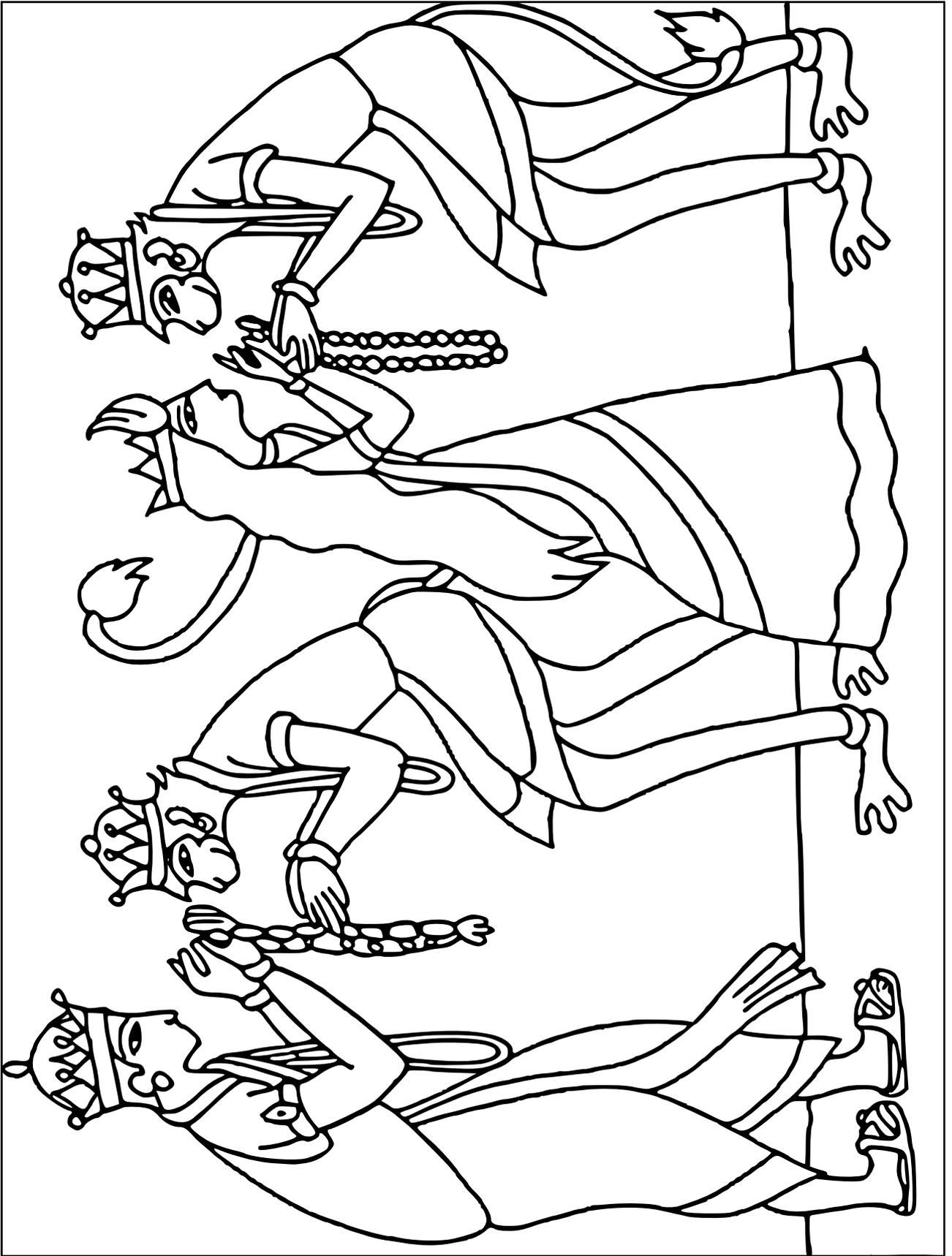
"Come Sugriva, we better go." said Hanuman

Rama replied, "You have done much for us and we thank you all..."

Rama and Sita gave Hanuman and Sugriva some jewelery as gifts.

"From now on you will be our brothers, please accept our friendship." said Sita and Rama

Hanuman accepted and was very happy. He remained an eternal and faithful servant of Rama and Sita. He lived in the forest and have many more fun and exciting adventures.



This story comes from the Hindu epic "The Ramayana", which is over 4,000 years old.

HANUMAN: Designed to be best friends and hero, possessed great strength, intelligence and magic.

INDRA: Controller of the atmosphere and also the climate.

RAMA: incarnation of Vishnu, Rama is the character principal of the Ramayana, represents holiness and purity.

RAVANA: ten-headed demon, cunning and evil. King of Lanka.

SITA: worshiped as goddess. Sita is considered beautiful, intelligent and devoted to her husband, the ideal model for many women.

SUGRIVA: King of the monkeys, loyal and helpful. Hanuman led his army and was his personal adviser.

VAYU: The god of the wind, Vayu controls Northern Hemisphere and travels in a golden carriage guided by 1,000 horses.