

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

### **Roy DeBoer**

Mr. DeBoer has served the realm of public education for 34 years. An enrolled and registered Lummi Indian Elder, he earned an Associates of Arts from Olympic College, a Bachelors in English from Washington State University and a Masters in Education Administration and Reading Development from the University of Puget Sound. He taught high school English and Journalism before becoming an elementary school principal. He started the Indian Education Program at South Kitsap High School, was the first superintendent of the Muckleshoot Tribal school, a charter member of the Indian Education Advisory Commission to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and has served as vice president of the Washington State Indian Education Association (WSIEA). In addition to his leadership in education, Mr. DeBoer served in the United States Air Force and is active in the First Lutheran Church, where he is currently president of the Congregation and participates in national church programs. He has been awarded the Indian Educator of the Year in 1996 by WSIEA, the Quill and Scroll Adult Leadership in Journalism Award, and is currently chairperson of the Washington State Indian Education Advisory Commission to OSPI.

### **Tyrone Stewart**

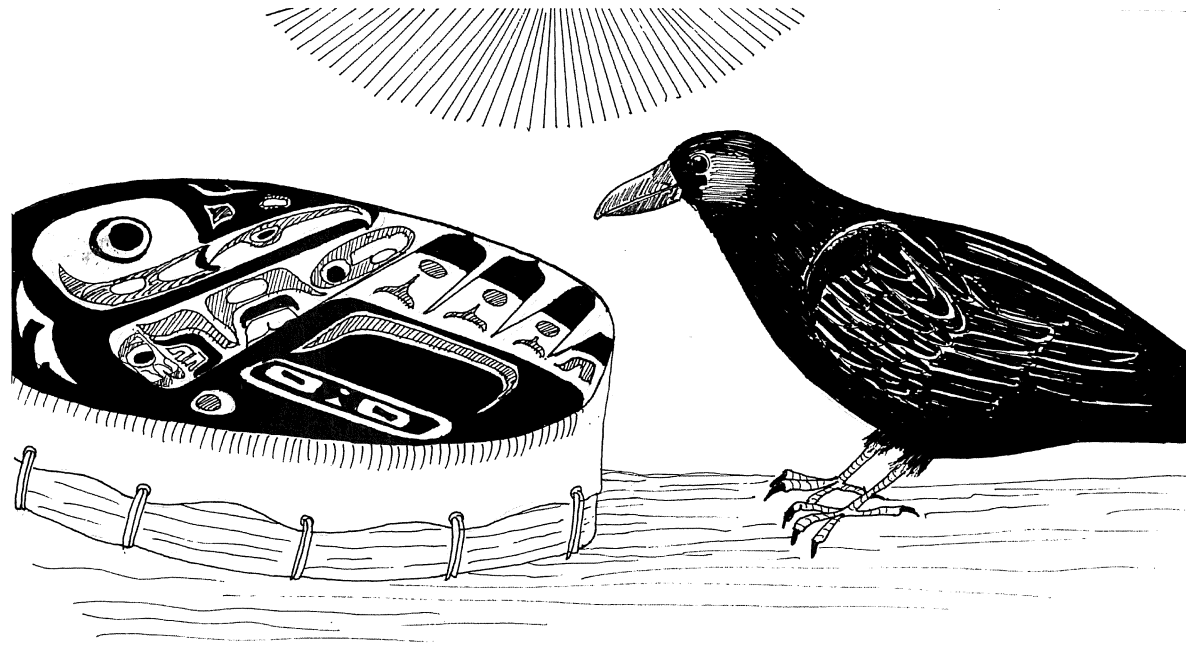
Mr. Stewart is a former editor/publisher of *American Indian Crafts and Culture Magazine*. He collaborated with Frederick Dockstader and Barton Wright to create essays for *The Year of the Hopi: Paintings and Photographs by Joseph Mora, 1904-06* for the Smithsonian Institution traveling exhibition service. He assisted in the development of the *Study Guide of the Dakota Collection* for the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of Natural History. Mr. Stewart is an artist, illustrator, writer and award-winning graphic artist and architectural designer. His Canadian roots include the founders of Quebec City and Chippewa-Cree ancestry.



TAKEN FROM SKOKOMISH STORIES AS TOLD BY BRUCE MILLER

ADAPTED BY ROY DEBOER  
ILLUSTRATED BY TYRONE STEWART

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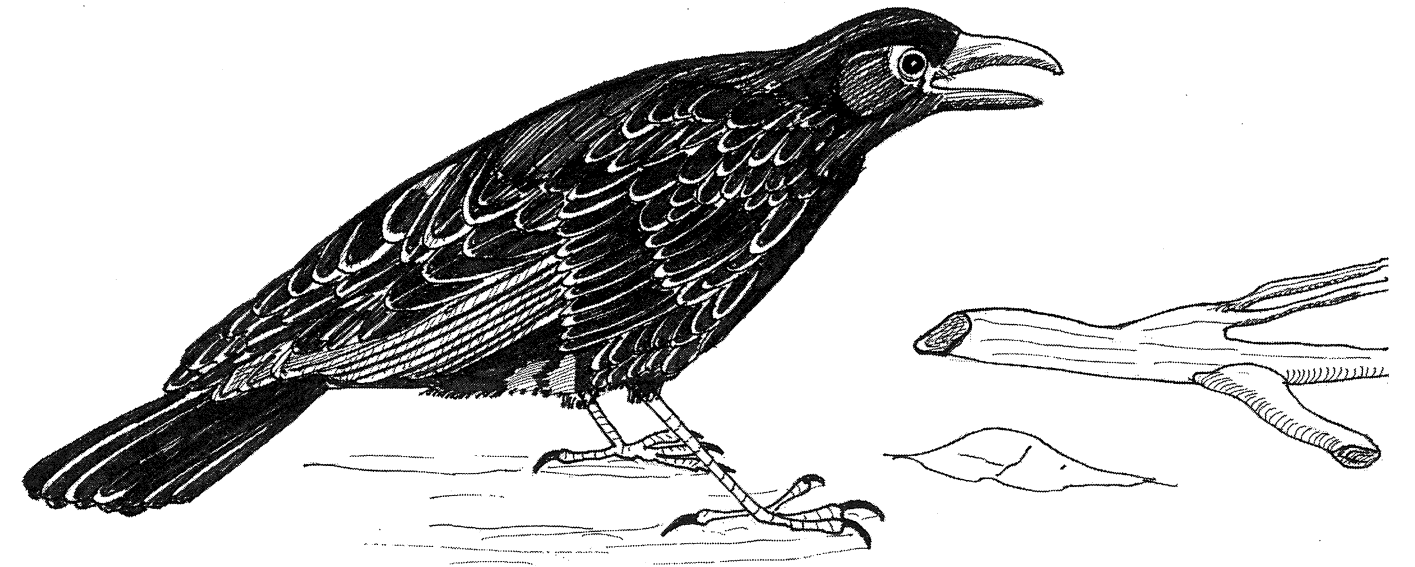
**All of the animal people got together and made their own sacred circles and called them drums, after the drum sound of the heart.**

**Soon the animal people were dancing their own stories to the pulse of the drum and singing the songs of their lives to the cadence of their hearts.**

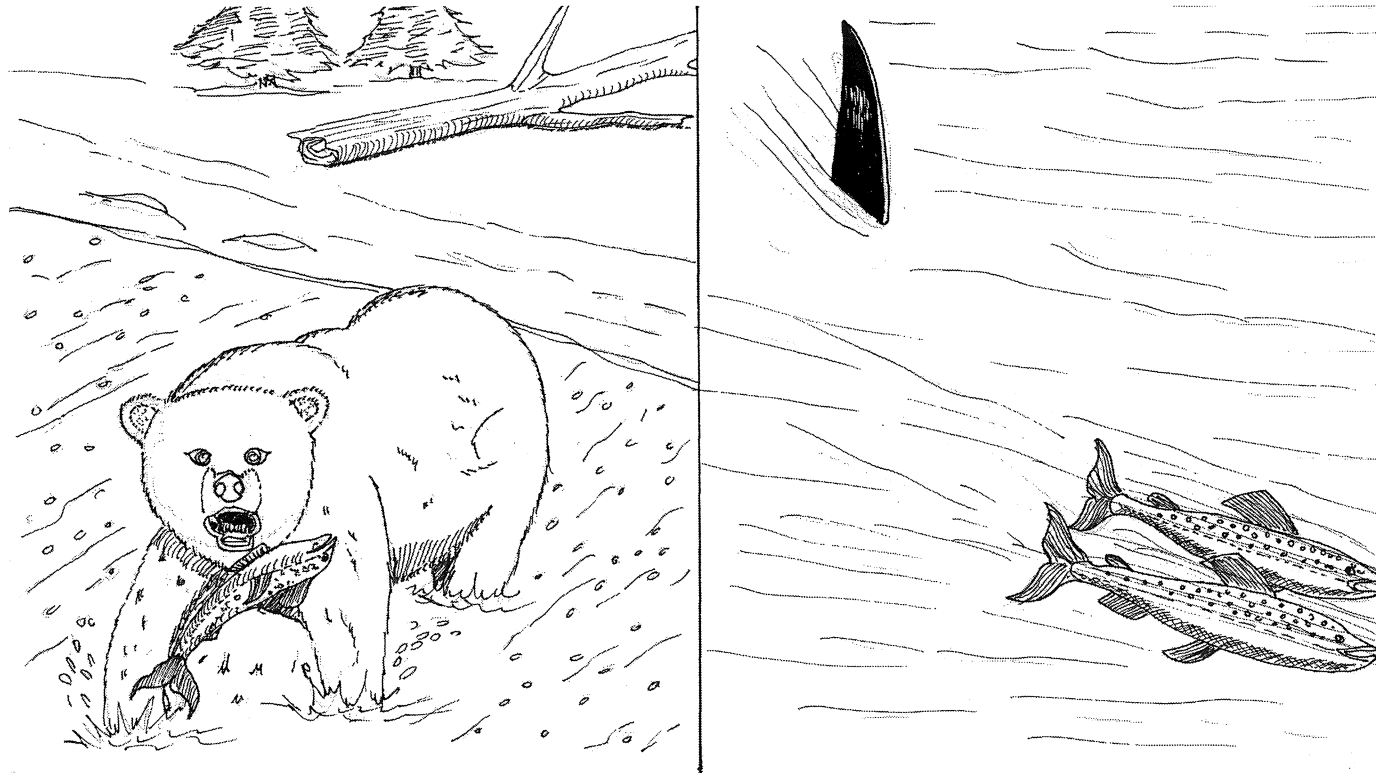
**Raven knew that the Creator had shown him the path to harmony by honoring their common culture.**



**Raven and animal people saw that this was what was missing from their lives. The measured throbbing of the deer hide cedar circle touched the hearts of all the animal people and brought them together, bound by the heartthrobs of life.**



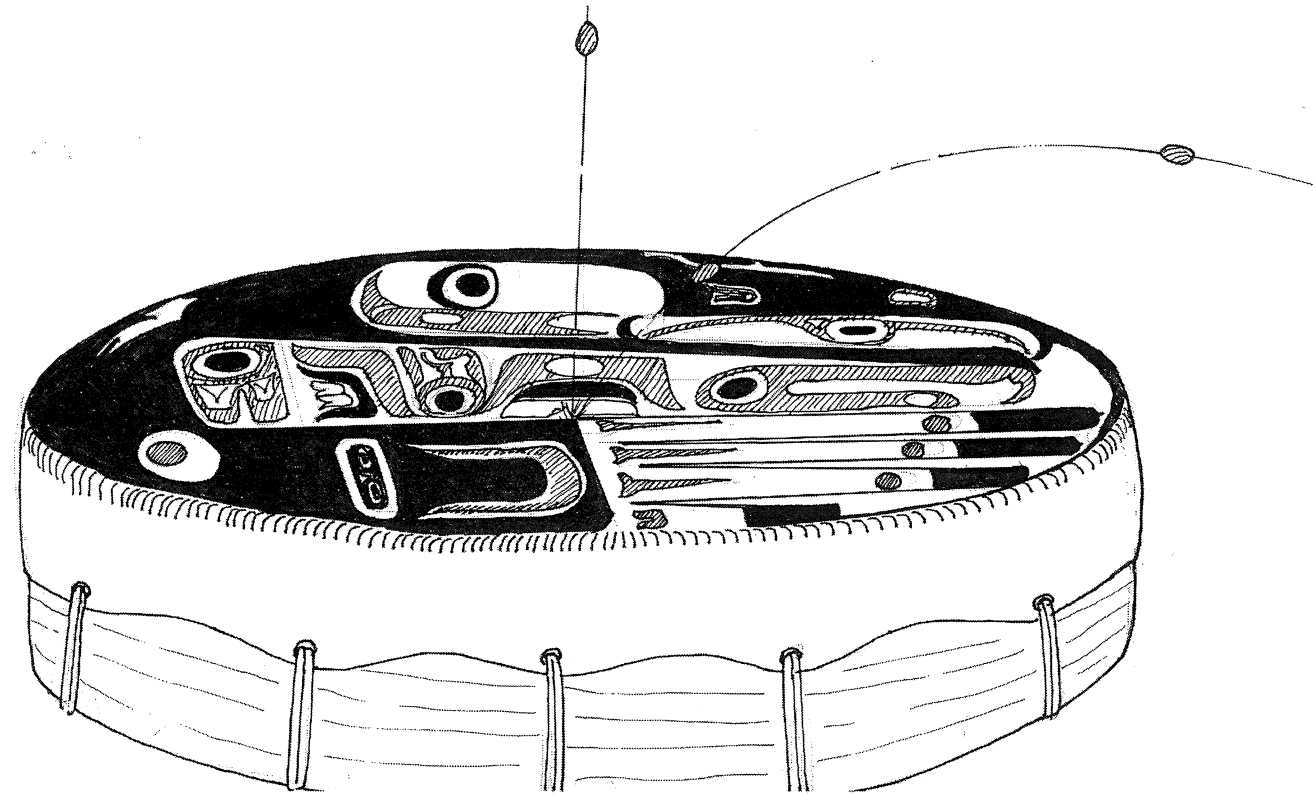
**Raven was very worried. Many of the animal people were behaving badly. The animal people had been warned by the Creator to behave themselves and to avoid the four seeds of destruction!**



**Now, the Bear people and the Killer Whale people were taking all of the salmon for themselves. The Salmon people were blaming one another for their problems, along with the bears and killer whales.**

**Raven looked about and saw that Sea Gull was dropping pebbles on the deer hide circle and causing the drum circle to speak.**

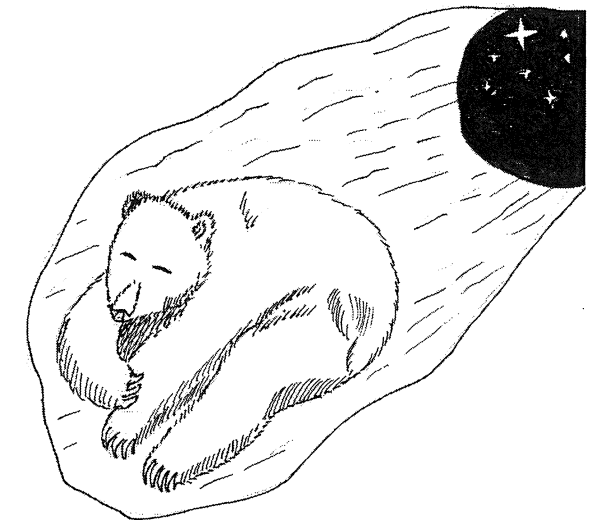
**The throbbing of the heart sound caught the attention of all of the animal people, and they drew near to better hear the comforting beating sounds-and the memory of their mother's safe, warm womb.**

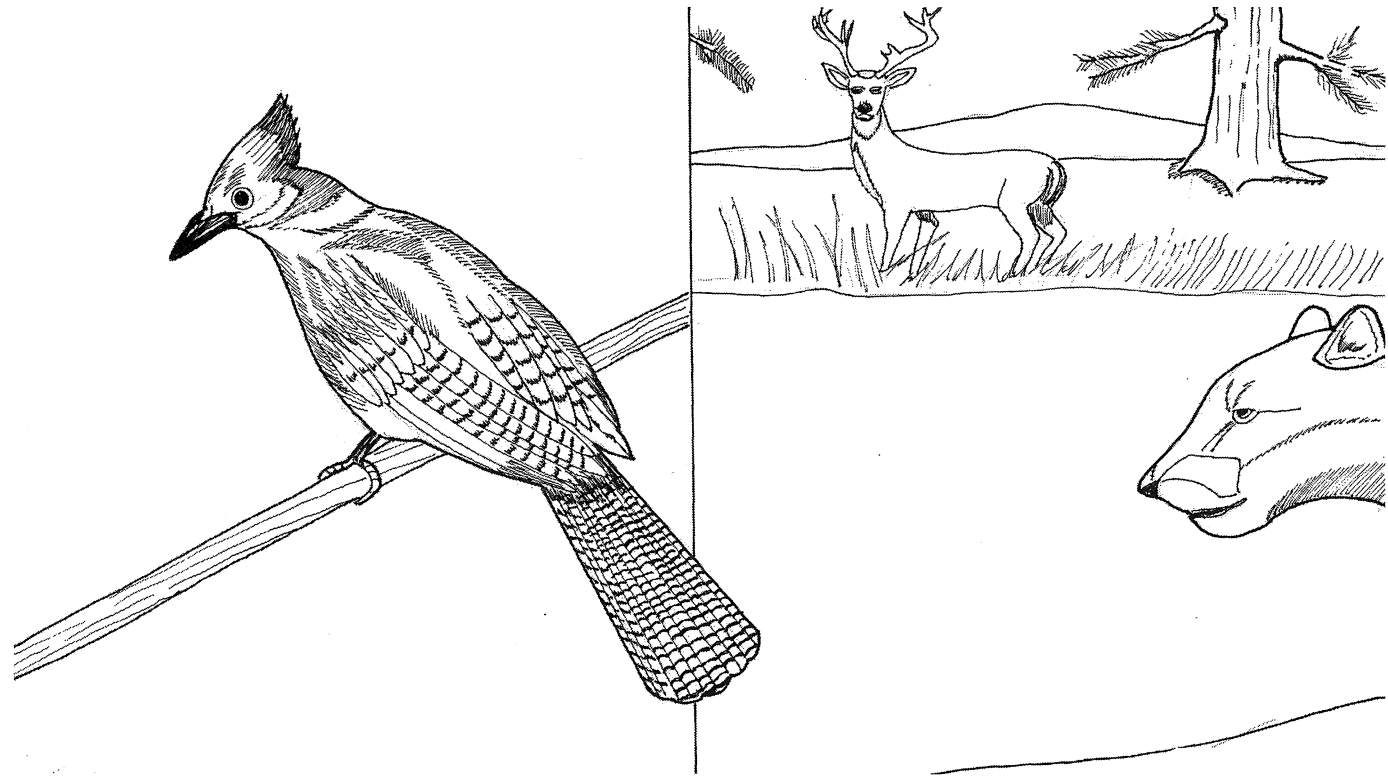


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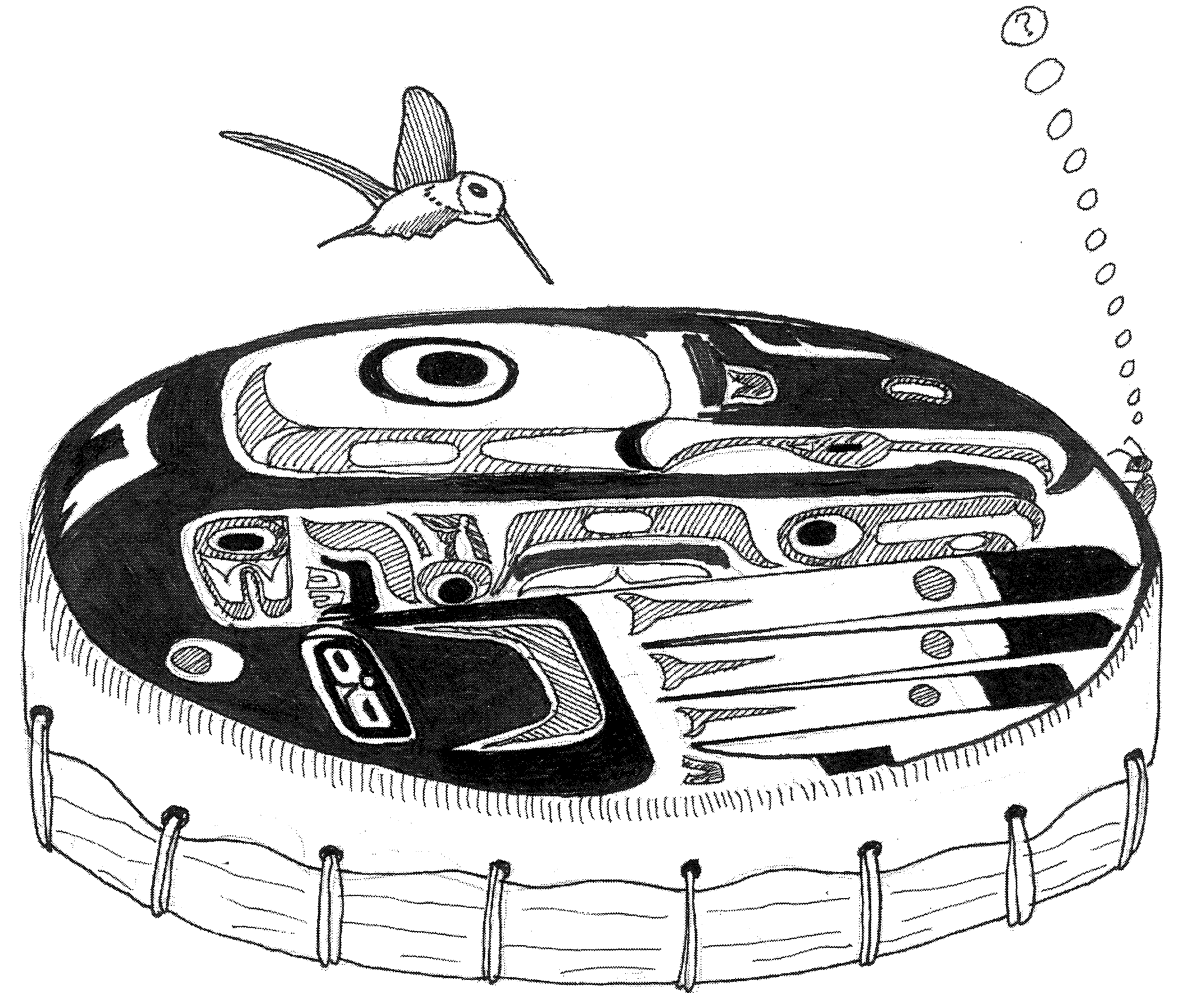


**The Ant people wanted it to be daylight all of the time so they could see as they worked. The Bear people, however, wanted it to be dark all of the time so that they could sleep when they were too tired to hoard the salmon.**





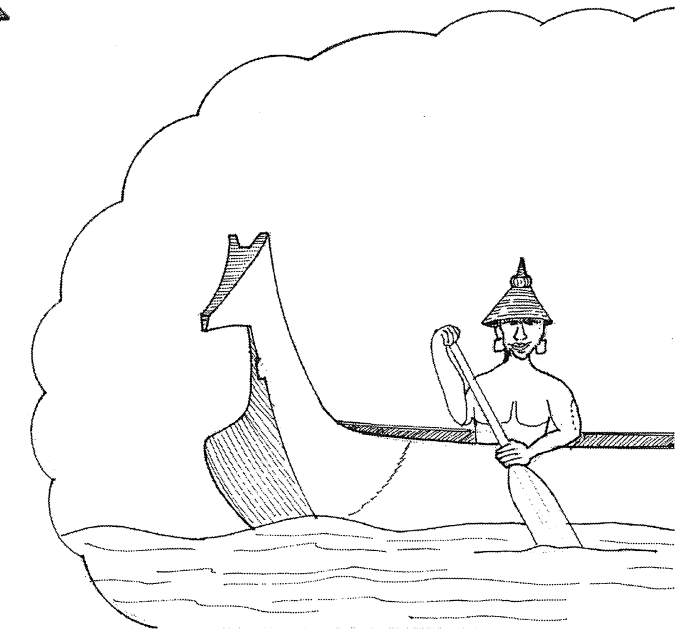
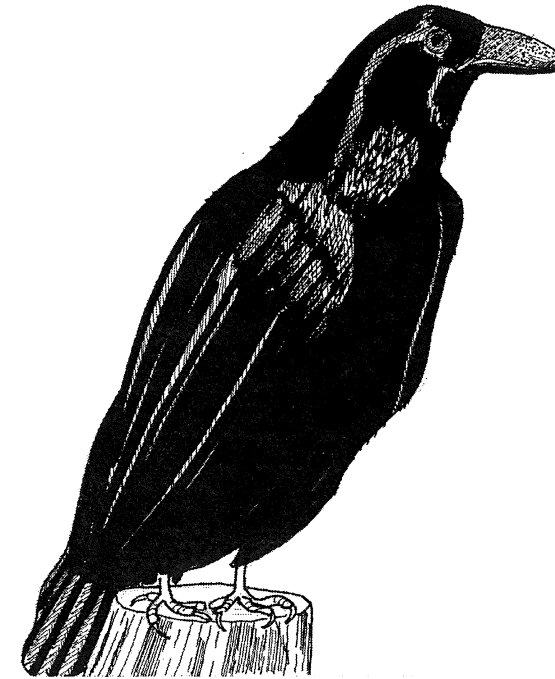
**The Blue Jay people were stealing everything they could take away from the other animal people, while the Cougar people were eating the Deer, Elk, and many of the smaller or weaker animal people.**



**Hummingbird, using colors from Mother Earth, painted the deer hide with powerful symbols of the spirit world, and now, the circle object seemed complete. But, somehow, the question of how the deer hide circle would restore harmony remained. “Now what,” asked Ant, “What do we do with the circle object?”**

**That was a good question. The deer hide circle object was indeed beautiful, but nothing was happening. The Salmon people were still being eaten at an alarming<sup>1</sup> rate. The Elk were eating all of the Deer’s food, and the Cougar people were preying on nearly everyone else.**

**Raven set the circle object next to a large rock near the beach. Raven and all of his friends and relatives thought, and thought, and then thought some more.**



**No one was safe. Even family members were afraid of other members of their own family. Indeed, something had to be done to restore order and harmony to the animal people. The Creator had warned them that they must live in peace and harmony, or their world would be turned “upside down” and that the human beings, who were coming, would rule the world.**

Raven knew he had to do *something*, but what? Even with his special powers, Raven knew that he could not change the hearts of the animal people. Yet, he had to do something to save the animal people. Raven thought, and thought, and thought some more.

One of the Snipe people suggested to Raven that he fly up as high in the sky as he could to see if he could see an answer for the problem. Raven flew high above the land and sea and looked all about him for a possible answer.

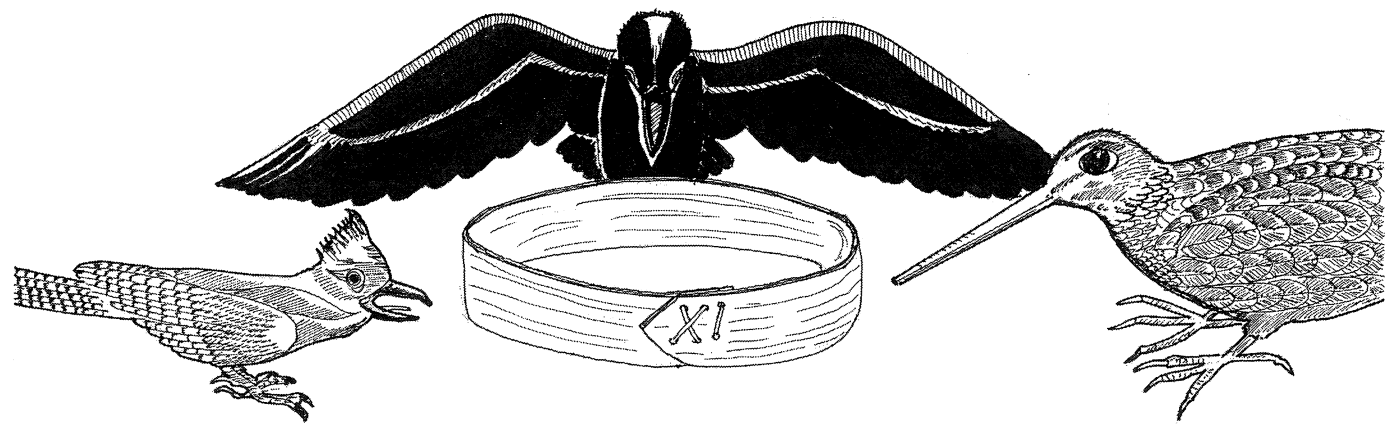


“Now what?” said Cougar, who had been watching from a nearby rock. Raven didn’t know. The circle looked beautiful, but what to do with it?

Then Deer spoke up. “I’m near to the end of my life. When I pass to the spirit world, take my hide and stretch it over the circle. Decorate my skin with our sacred symbols. Maybe this will give us the answer.”

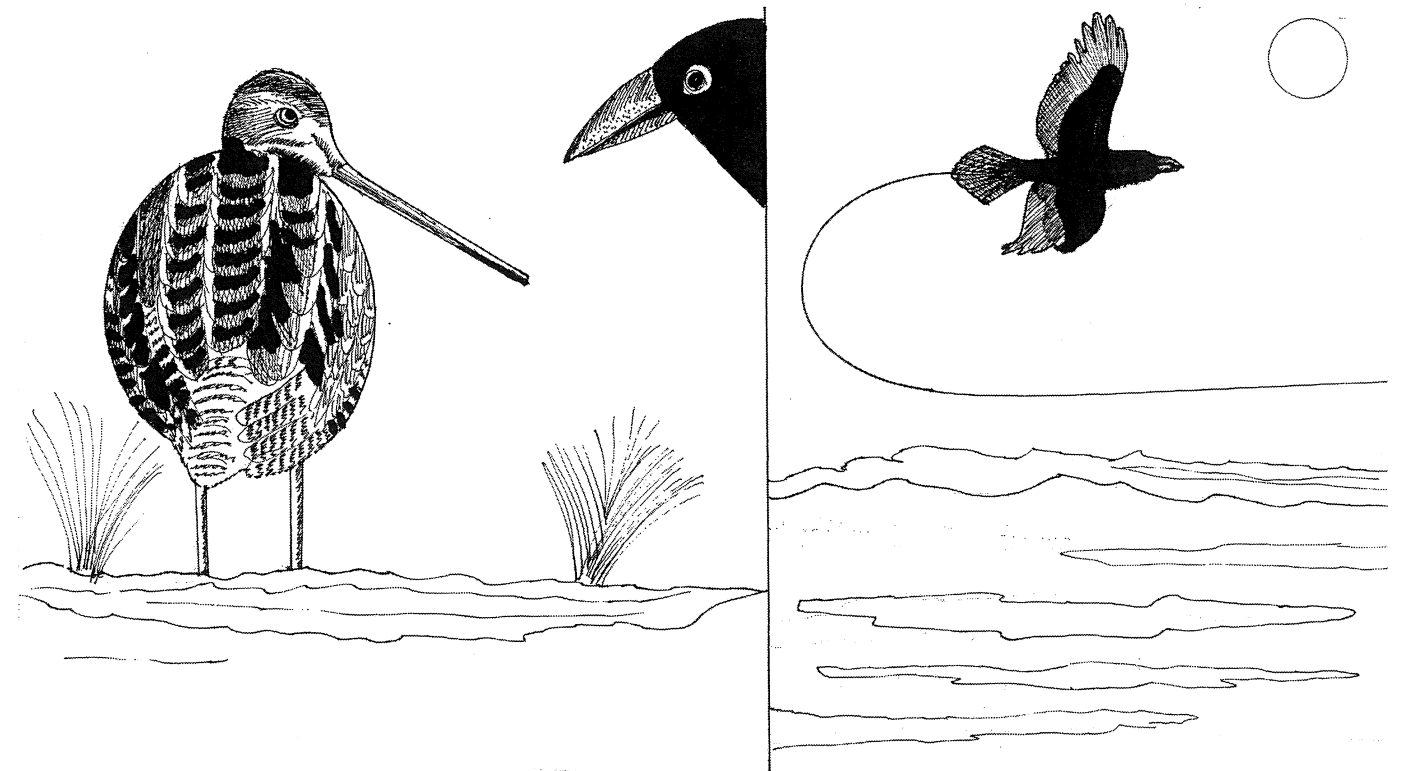
When Deer passed on to the spirit world, Cougar removed Deer’s skin, and Raven attached it to the cedar circle.

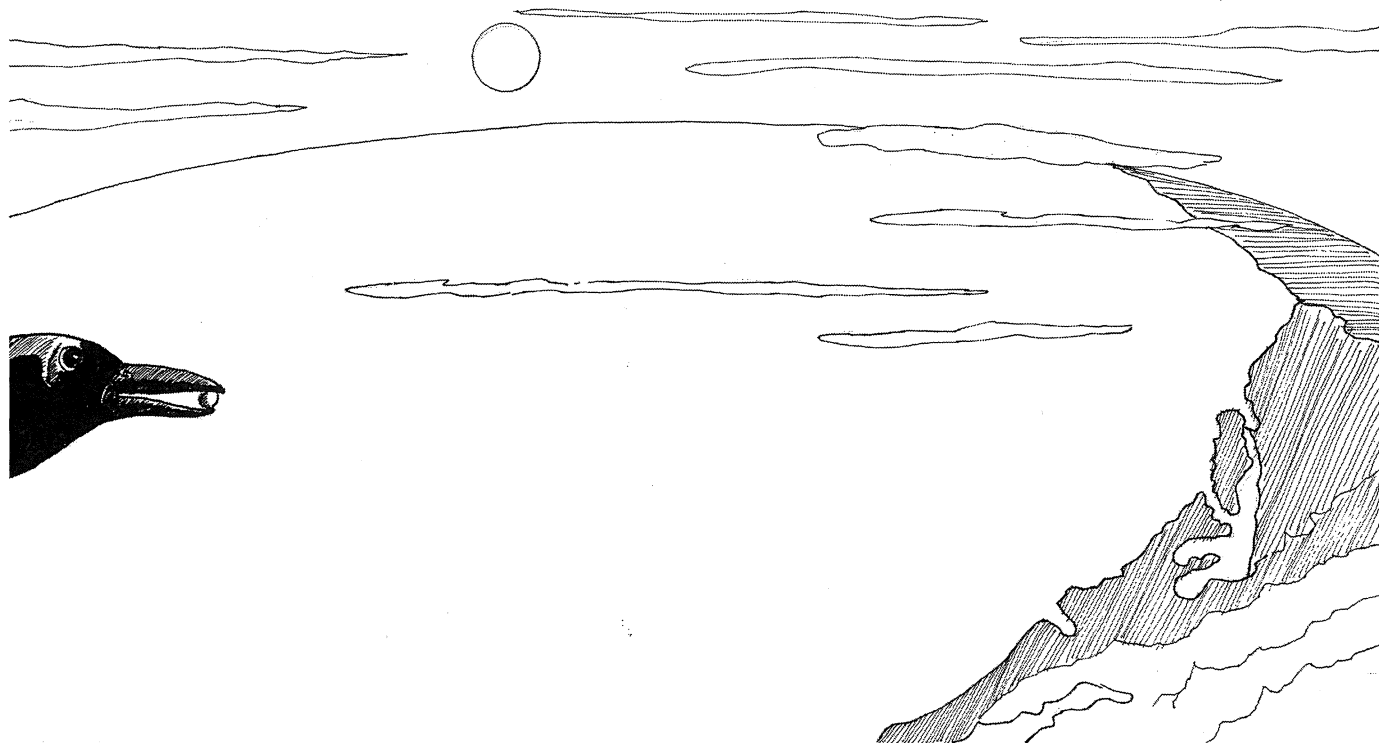




**Cedar Tree agreed. "Take a thin piece of wood from my side and bend it into a circle."**

**One of the Bear people, using his sharp claws, cut into the side of Cedar Tree and pulled off a thin strip of cedar wood. Raven, Snipe, and Blue Jay bent the cedar strip, using steam from the hot springs to soften the wood, allowing the wood to bend without cracking. The ends of the cedar strip were fastened together with bear grass and now they had a circle made from the body of their brother Cedar Tree.**





**Then he saw it! The world below him appeared to be curved. The sky above was curved too. A pebble Raven was carrying fell into the sea below him, and circular ripples emerged from the spot where the pebble fell. Raven saw that the sun and the moon were also circular.**



**Raven knew in his heart that the circle had to be a sacred thing. The circle had no beginning or ending point and seemed to say that everything was connected.**

**Raven flew back to earth and told some of the animal people what he saw. But how does the idea of a circle solve their problem? Frog spoke up, "Why don't we make our own circle and see what happens?"**