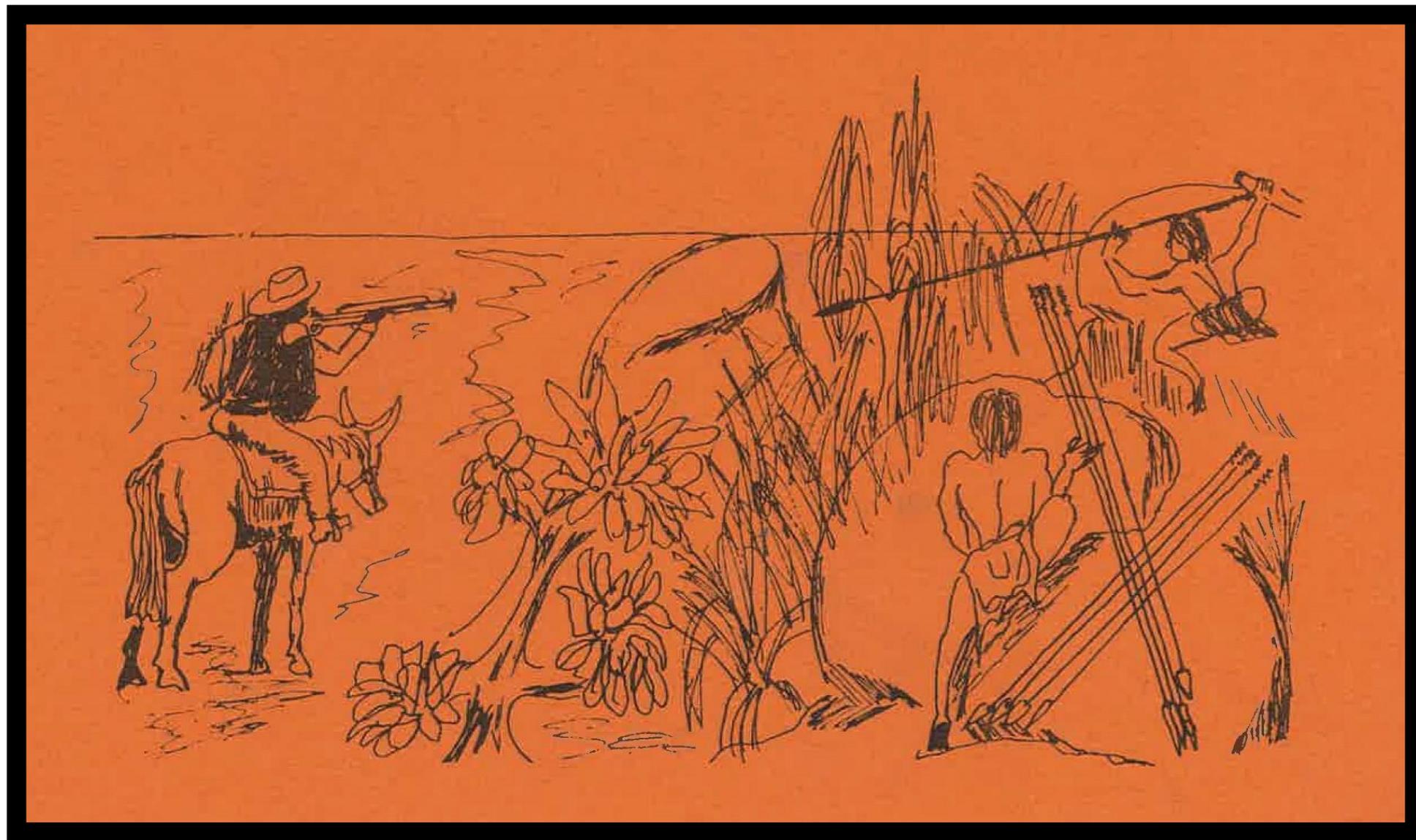


# A Stockman came upon Birriwun and Dhawulmurr



Told by Yänyba

Illustrations by Nyarran

Translated by Warren Warrkmanydjun

The original story, *Birriwungu ga Dhawulmurr'ku Bunana Dhudi-Yarraman'mirri*,  
was written with the financial assistance of the following:

The Aboriginal Arts Board

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Minatome Australia Pty Ltd.

Uranerz Australia Pty Ltd.

Idemitsu Uranium Exploration Australia Pty. Ltd.

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BIRRIWUNGU GA DHAWULMURR'KU

BUNANA DHUDI-YARRAMAN'MIRRI

GUPAPUYNU

WUKIRRIWUY  
*Mä'tjarrawuṅu*

DHÄWU  
*Yänybawuṅu*

WUNULINI'TJA  
*Nyarragguṅu*

# A Stockman came upon Birriwun and Dhawulmurr

Original Language: Gupapuyŋu

Told by: Yänyba

Transcribed by: Mätjarra

Illustrations by: Nyarraŋ

Printed at Milingimbi Literature Production Centre

1983

Translated into English by: Warren Warrkmanydjun

Reproduced at Milingimbi Literature Production Centre



2025



They slept through the night and awoke at dawn.

*"Njali way, napipi; gämuruṅku.<sup>1</sup>*

Uncle, let's get some witchetty grubs.

We can collect them from Mirrinyubirri,"

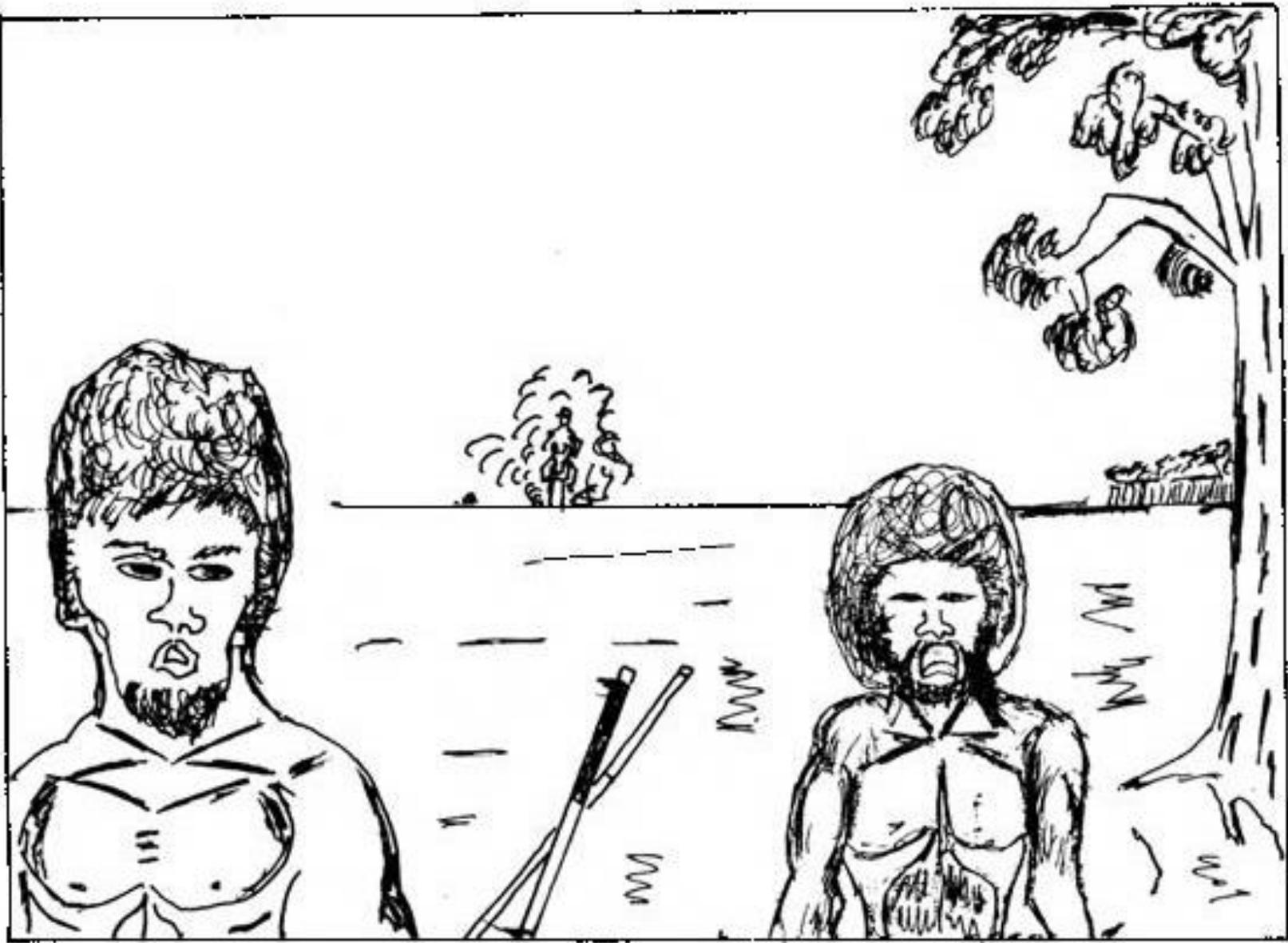
said Birriwuṅ to Dhawuḷmurr.

*"Njali waku! Let's go nephew",* Dhawuḷmurr replied.

Off they went, with one child following them,  
down to the place where they would get the witchetty grubs.  
They got there and sat down to work with their digging sticks.

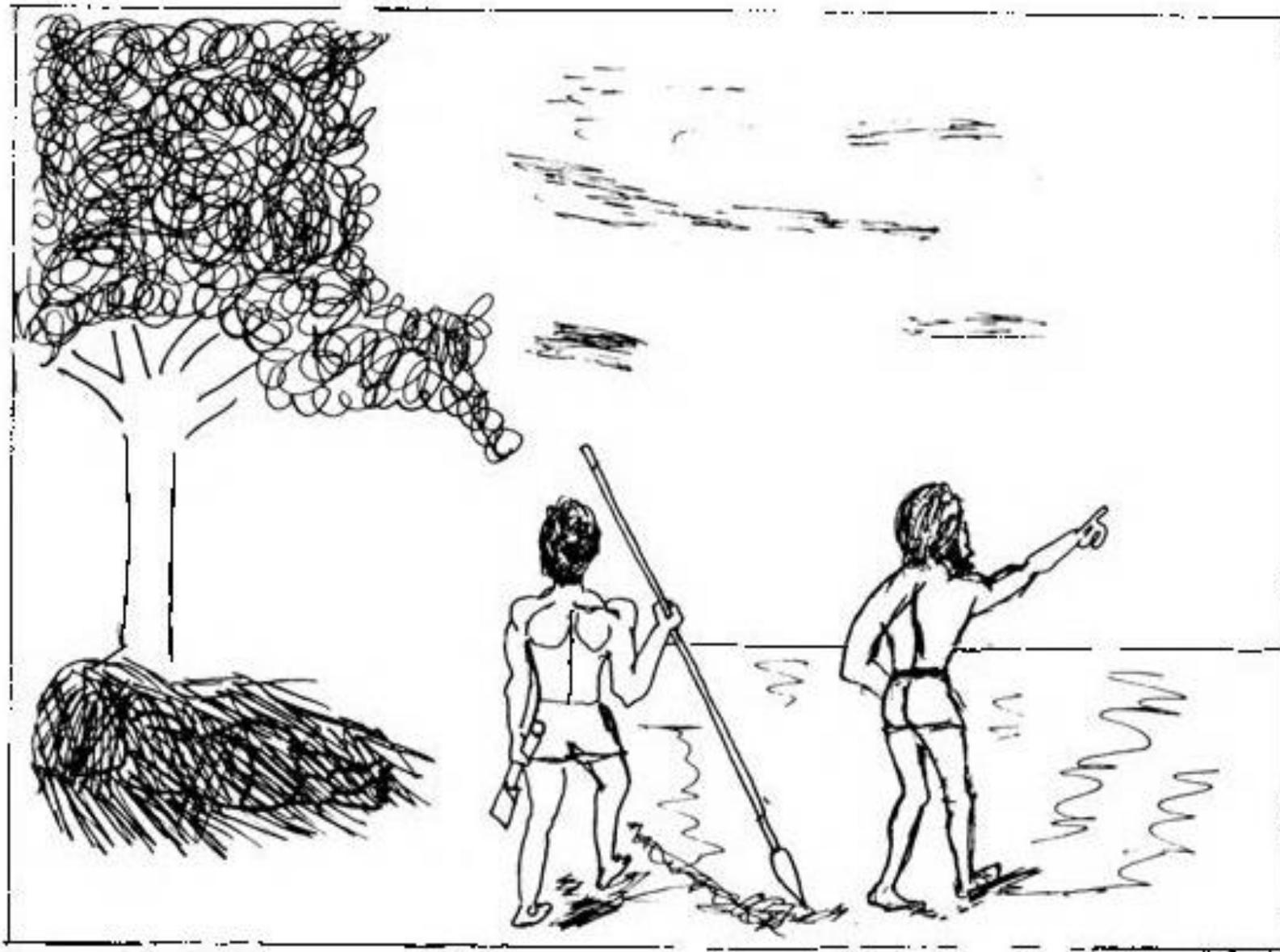
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<sup>1</sup> Njali means we two but is also used as an expression for two, meaning let's go. It is very common for Yolḷu to use relationship terms when talking to each other. Napipi and waku also have larger interpretations than uncle and nephew.

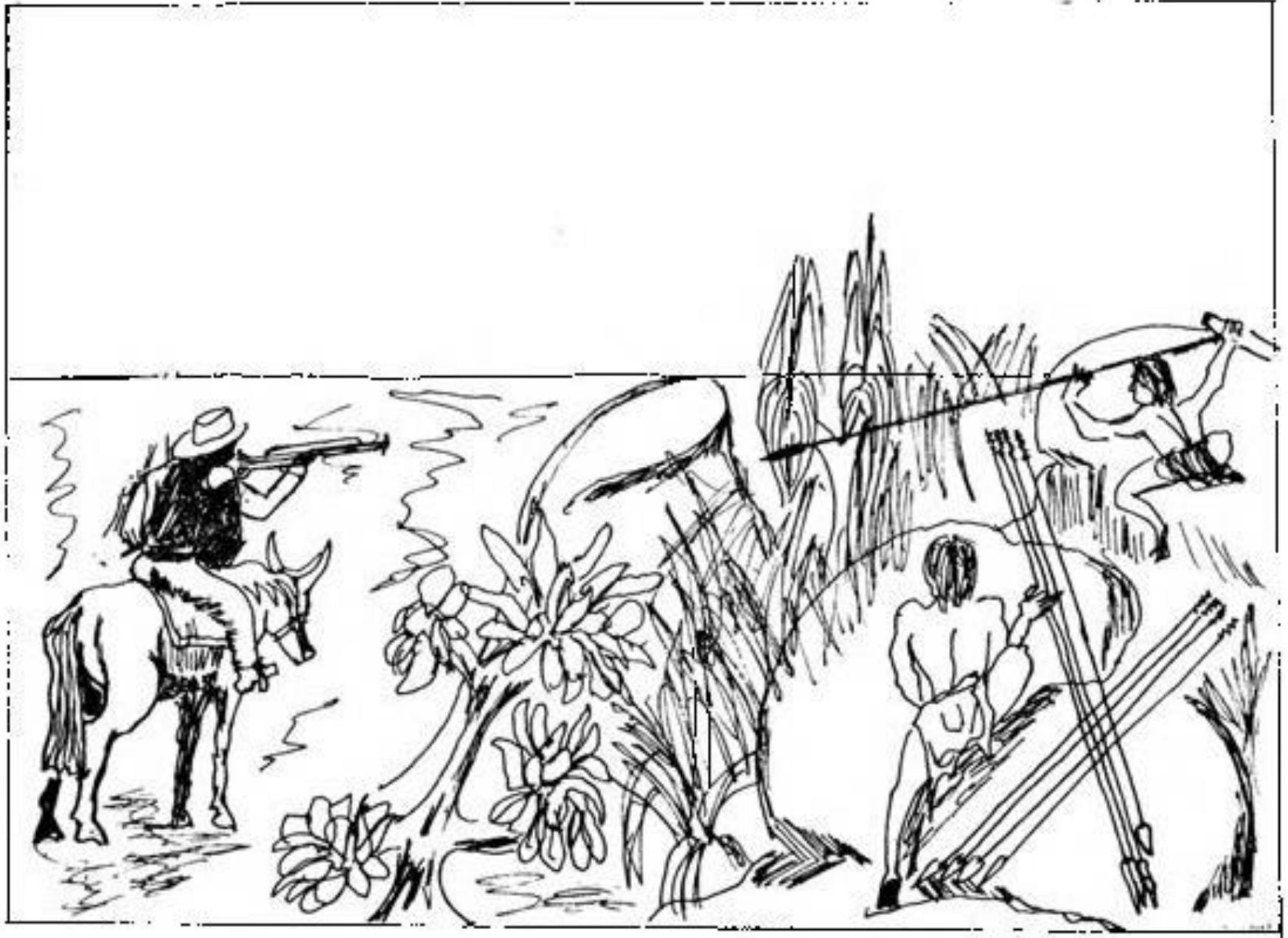


They were digging a while, when they heard the sound of a horse's hooves.

Birriwunu turned around and looked towards the sound,  
"Hey! There's a stockman coming, Uncle", he said quietly.



Dhawulmurr whispered to the child,  
"I will cover you with these reeds, my son.  
Don't get up or move around, just lie still.  
Only when I come for you, then it's ok to get up".

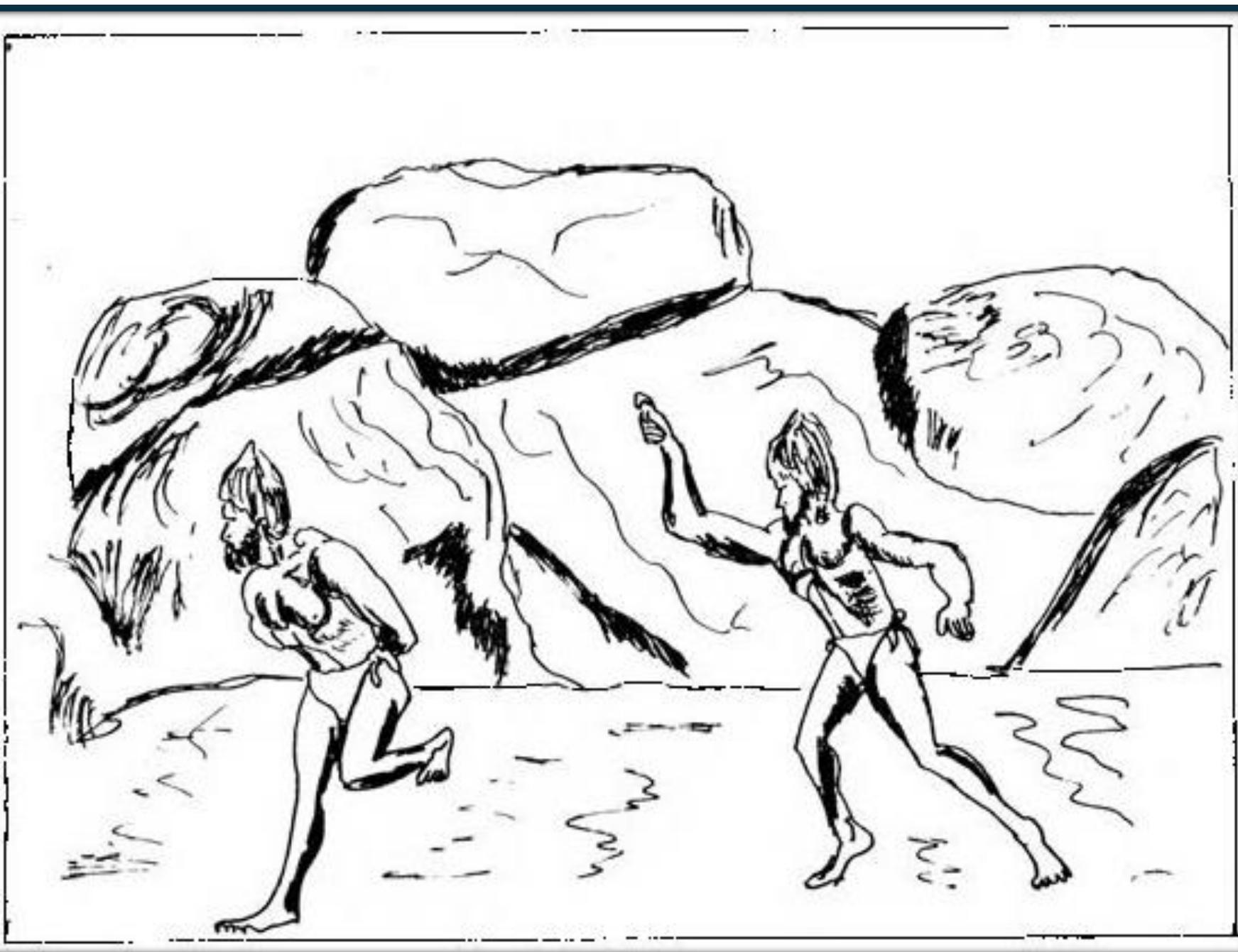


The horseman rode closer to them. They waited, each with a bundle of spears.

They were two and he just one.

As soon as the rider was in range, he drew his gun and aimed at them.

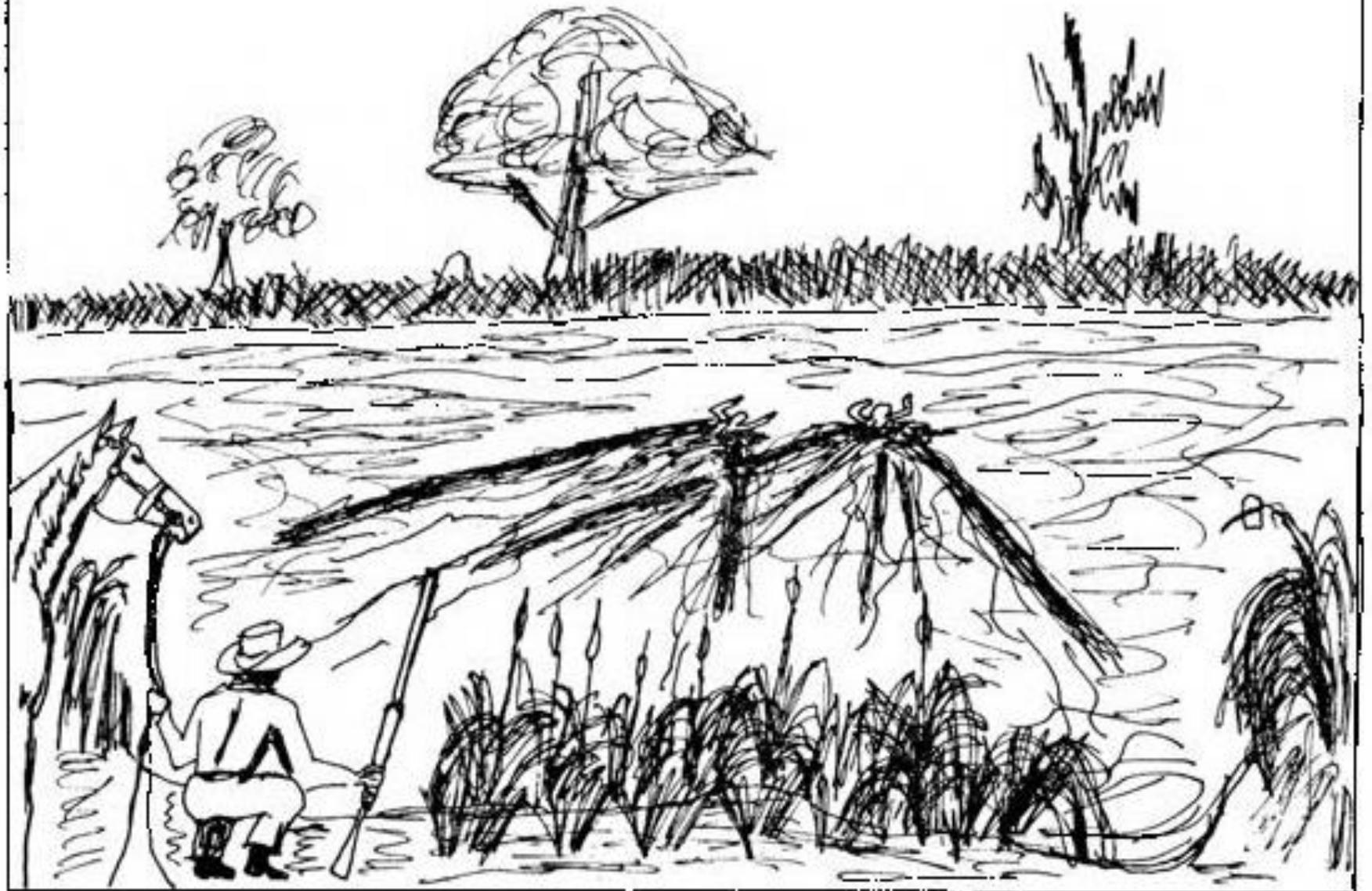
The uncle said to his nephew, "Just watch him, don't make any sudden movements, nothing. If he shoots at us, we will drop to the ground."



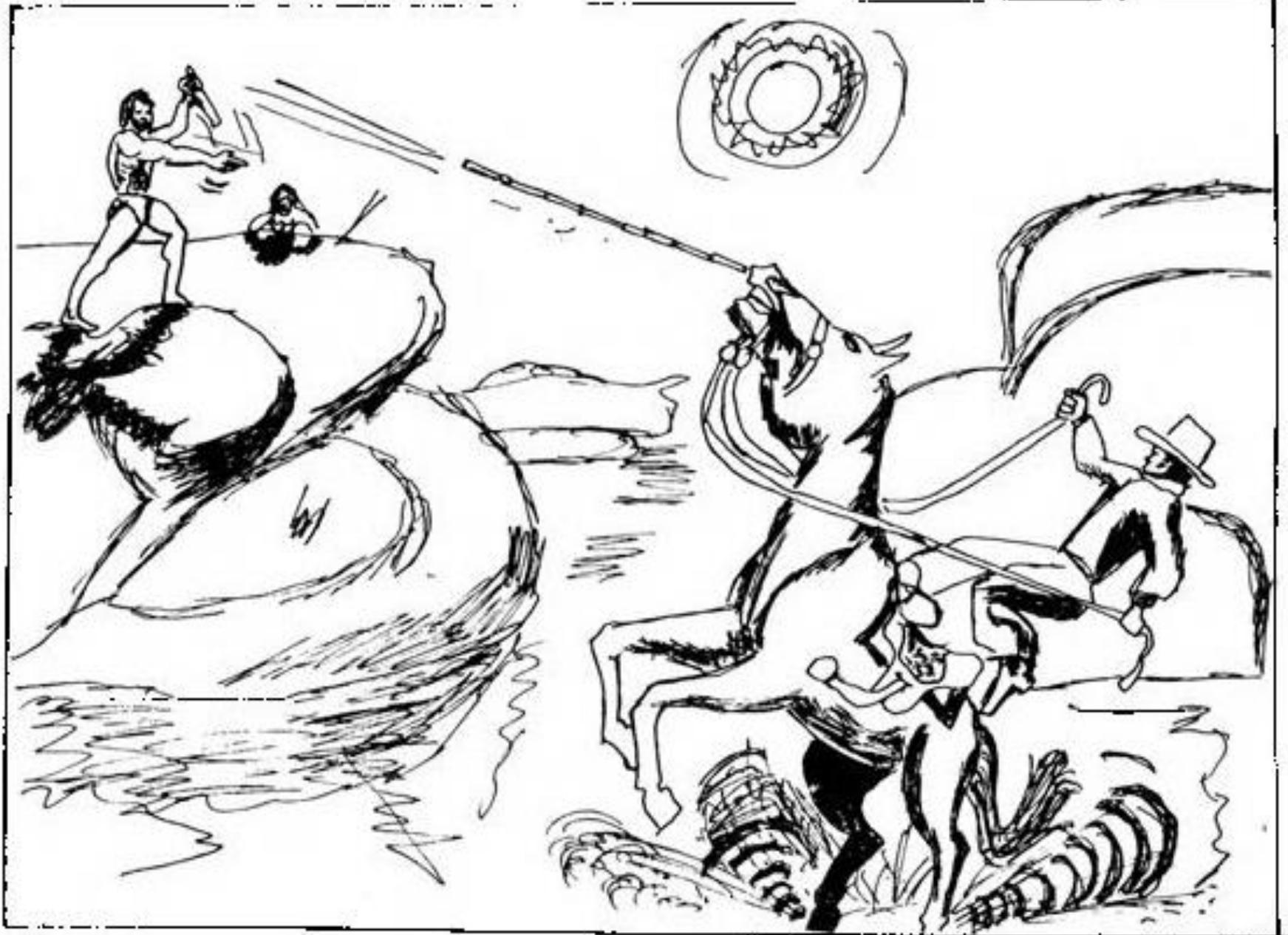
The stockman aimed the gun at them and fired. They threw themselves to the ground and the bullet missed them. They then got up, loaded their spears and sent them flying.

Back and forth they returned fire.

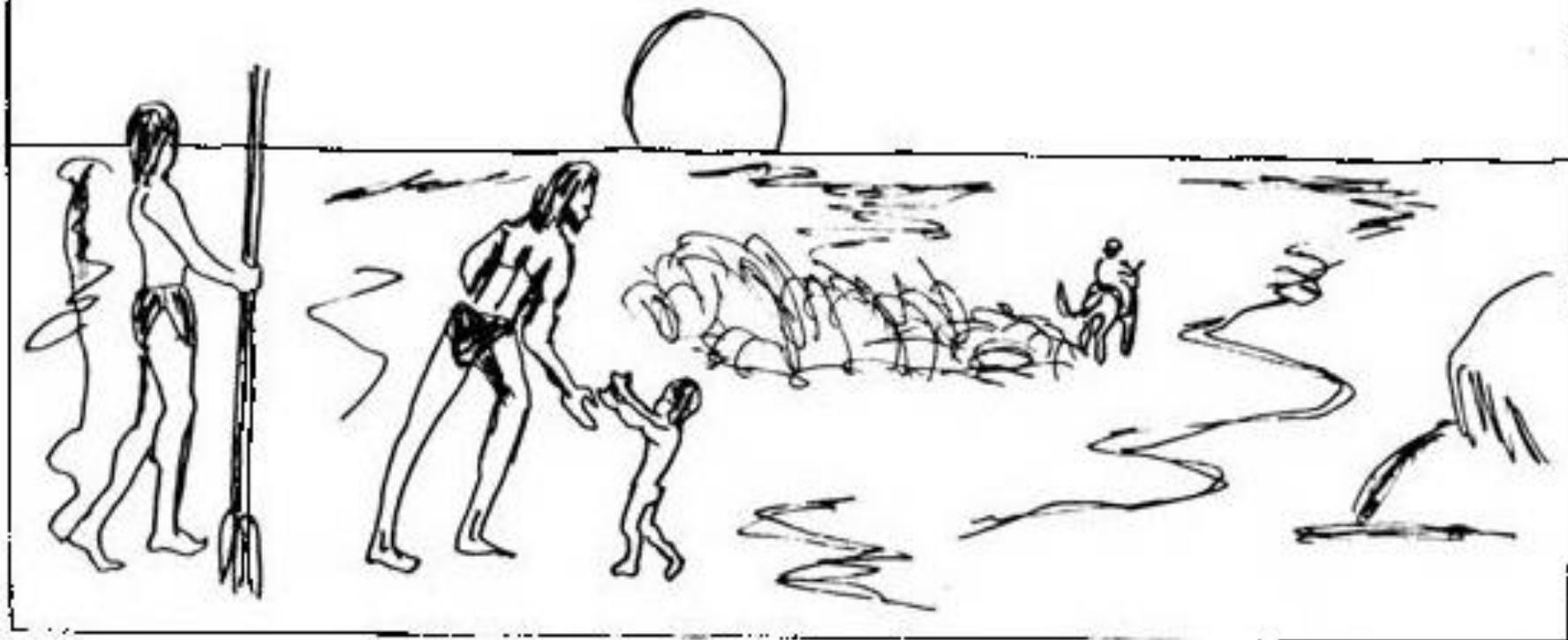
The men danced their war dance, inching closer to the rider. They fought and fought until all had run out of bullets and spears.



The warriors swam through the water away from the stockman with his empty gun.  
He stood there as they waded through the swamp.



They got to the other side, picked up the child who had seen them coming, and climbed a rocky outcrop. One of the men had broken off a long stalk of grass at the water's edge and quickly fashioned a weapon. He aimed that spear shaft and sent it hurtling through the air, it struck the horse's nose.



The horse snorted, whinnied and ran away from them. The makeshift spear had only maimed the horse and so the stockman went on his way and the two Yolju men and the child went back to their camp.

## Birriwungu ga Dhawulmurr'ku Bunana Dhudi-yarraman'mirri

### Original Text:

p.5 Norrana walala gana, djadaw'. "Nali way, napipi; gämurun'ku. Dhuwala limurru dhu ga luka, djarrany'tjun nhawinura. Mirrinyubirri," ga bitjarra wanana Birriwun. "Nali waku!" ga bitjarra nayi wanana Dhawulmurr. Marrtjina walala gana, yarrgupthurrana walala, dhutnha, djarrany'tjurrunana walala marrtjina dhonay mala; ga wanany yothu mandangu malthurrana.

p.7 Djarrany'tjurrana walala marrtjina, näkula walala luku yarraman'. Nayindja daba'yurrana Birriwun, "Way! Dhudi-yarraman'mirri dhuwala wandirri ga napipi."

p. 9 Ga Dhawulmurr wanana bitjarra nuriki yothuwa, "Dhuwala narra nhuna dhu nap-bilkthun, gäthu; räkayyu. Ga norra yäna nhe dhu ga. Yaka nhe dhu rur'yun, ga bingipingiyun. Norra yäna nhe dhu ga. Bäy dhu narrapina hunu buna, ga nunhiyina nhe dhu rur'yundja," ga bitjarra nhanu nayi bäpa'mirrinu.

p.11 Wandina gana balandanydja, galkithina, yurru mandanydja gana gänala gara malkarr, manda yolnuynydja manda; mandanydja märrma', ga nayinydja nayipi wanany. Galkithina marrtjina, bala mandangu yarrarra'maranalana märriyan, "Ga nhänu nhenydja, napipi! Yaka nhe dhu yätjurruyama wapthun, ga nula nhaltjan nhe dhu, yaka yäna. Nhäma yäna nali dhu nanya marrtji, nhaltjan nayi dhu yalala nunhi wutthun litjalanha. Nalinydja dhu nhanu nurrkanhamirr, ga yurrkthun."

p.13 Nayi näthili benuru yarrarra'maranala gana, dey bitjarradhi mandanha. Ga mandanydja nhanu gana nurrkanhamina, ga badatjurrana nayi mandanha. Ga mandanydja muka yarrarra'maranala, ga rarr' bitjarra-dhi, ga bäyu; bitjarrana bili.

Ga manutji märriyan dhawar'yurrana nunhi balandawa dhudi-yarraman'mirriwa. "Nhendja dhu marrtji namathirri nhanu, ga wurrpan'nuru, ga narranydja ga mokuynuru warralawarralanuru."

p.15 Bunhamina walala marrtjina, yäna bili ga lupthurrana manda gapulili. Bala nhanunydja nunhi balandawanydja, ga manutji märriyanha dhawar'yurrana. Dhärrana nayi gana, mandanydja marrtjina yaryurrunana.

17. Ga duwatthurrana manda nunhala bala gali'nura, ga yothu manda nunhi märranala; nayinydja gana mandanha nhänula yäna. Nayinydja ritharr bakmaranala wanganydhu yolnuy, bala djugu'-nhänualana gana, datj bitjarradhi, ga nurru dharradanura dharpunala yarraman' nhanu.

19. Nurrtji'yurrana nayi nunhi yarraman'tja, bala wandina; nayinydja marrtjina nurrunuranydja ga warrtjal'yurrunana manguny'tja. Bala mandanydja yothu märranala, larr'nha wanalilina walala roniyina.

A note about the pronunciation of Yolŋu sounds:

(from Djambarrpuyŋu language learning course, Shepherdson College, 1986 - unpublished)

ä – this is a long vowel, like the 'a' in bath (p.3), 'a' is a short sound like the 'u' in but

o – this is a long vowel in contrast to the short 'u' like in put, 'o' is considered two beats longer than that sound, similar to 'aw' in law. I and e are the same, i short like 'pit', 'e' two beats in length, like 'ee' in bleed (p.3)

ŋ, ɖ ɗ r ɭ - to produce these sounds the tongue is curled back so that the tip of the tongue touches the roof of the mouth (p.6)

ny, dj tj – these are digraphs, two letters but a single sound. The blade of the tongue is pushed towards the upper gum ridge and the tip of the tongue is behind the bottom teeth. 'ny' is like the 'ni' in union (p.5)

nh, dh, th – these are also digraphs. The sound is produced by holding the tip of the tongue between the teeth, the 'th' sound is held longer than the 'nh' and 'dh' sounds (p.5)

ŋ – this sound is produced with the tip of the tongue lying at the bottom of the mouth while the back of the tongue is touching the soft palate. ŋ is like the 'ng' in sing (p.7)

rr – this is a 'rolled r', the tongue is 'flapped' by the flow of air going past it, not the muscles of the tongue

' – this is a glottal stop, the vocal chords are closed, like the English 'uh -oh' between the two words the breath is cut off (p.7)



