

Iktomi and the Turtle, Skunk, and Turkey



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TURTLE, SKUNK, AND TURKEY

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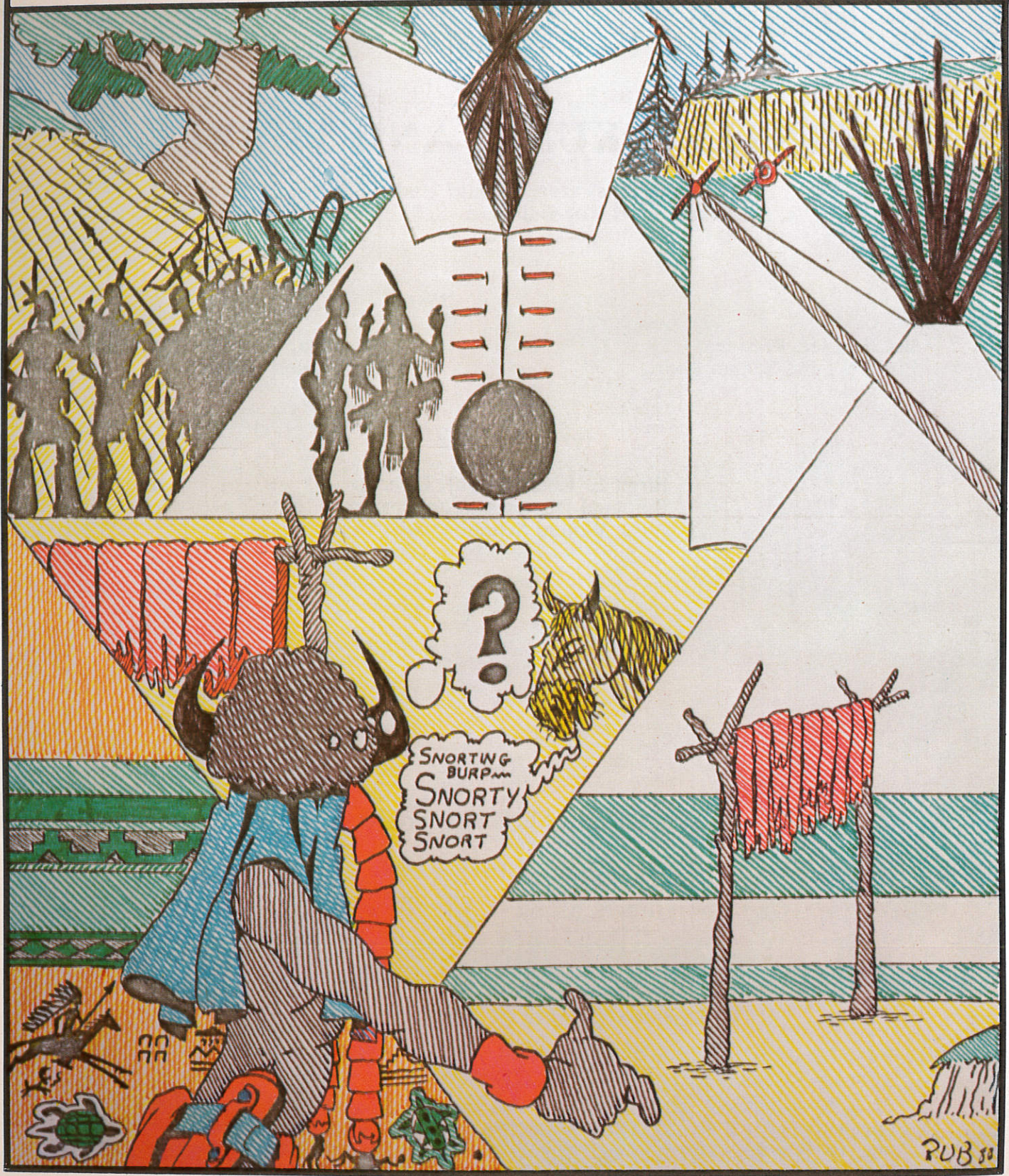
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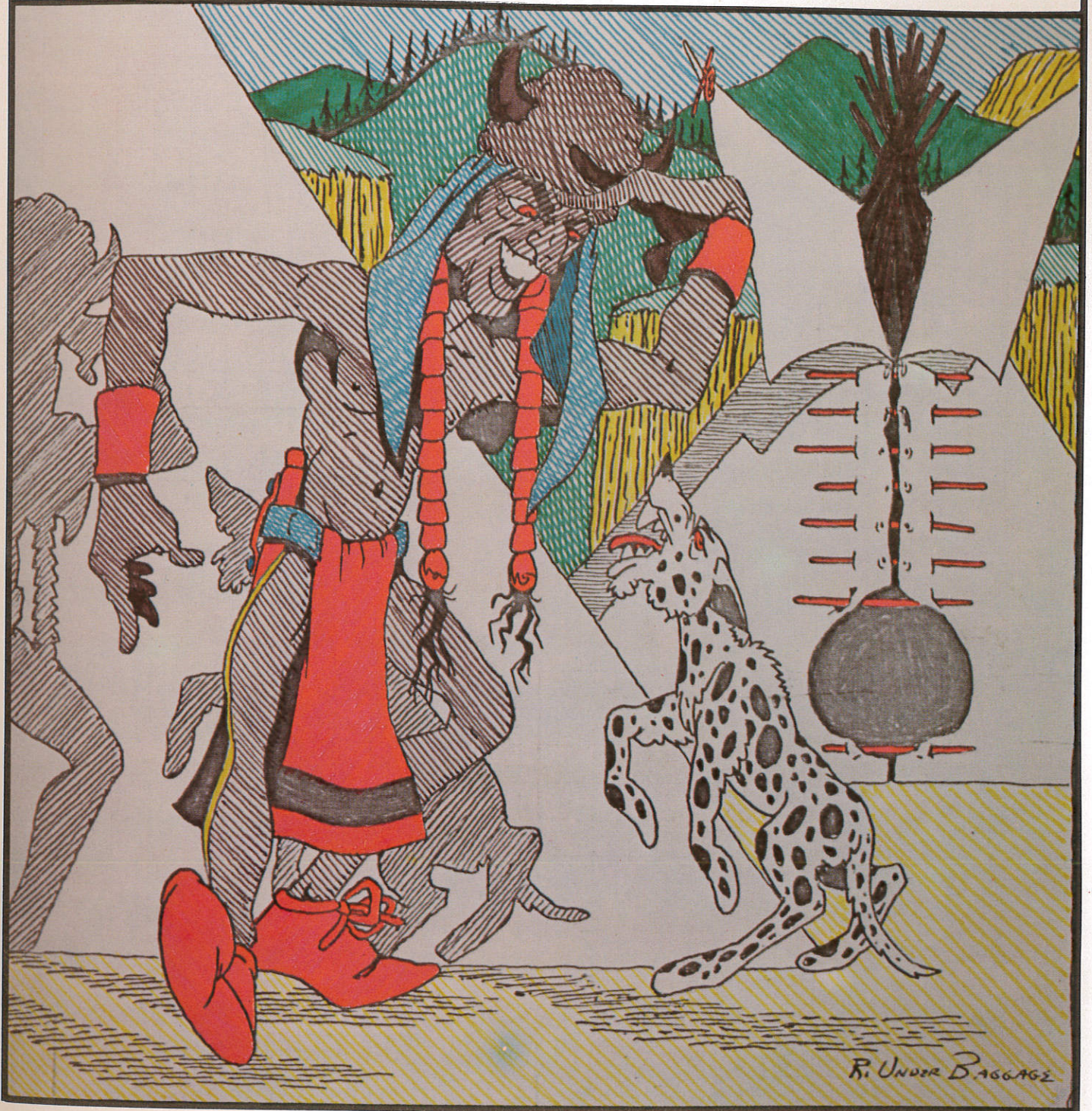
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Iktomi was restless and bored as he walked amongst the tipis of the village on a hot and dry summer day. He was up and about looking for excitement and action. Coming around one of the tipis, he noticed a group of young warriors all painted up for war, hearing their excited voices, he decided to find out what the excitement was all about.



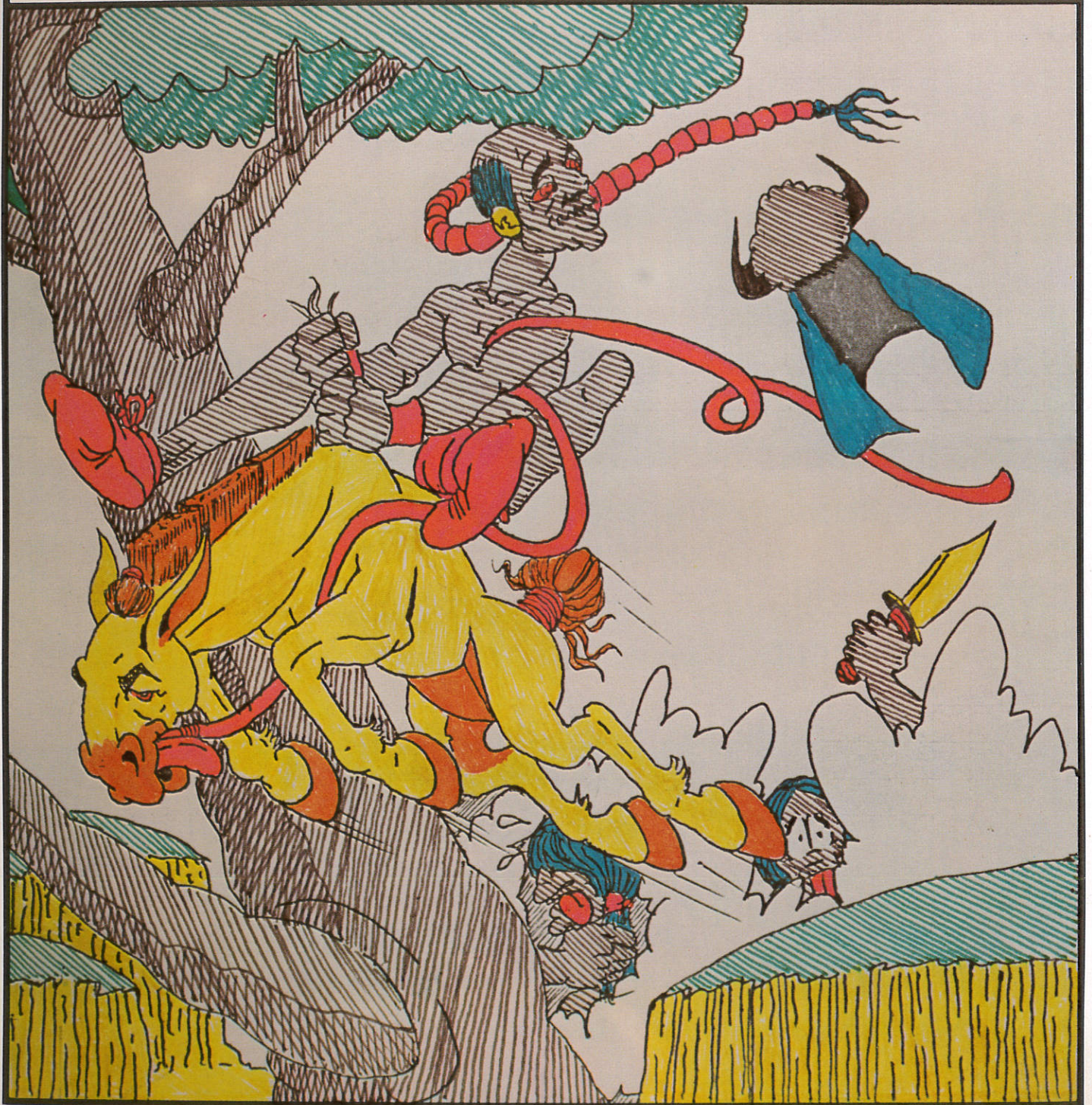
Approaching the men he asked them why all the commotion, they answered him, that they were preparing to go on a warpath against the enemy from the north. Iktomi asked them if he could go along with them and he proceeded to brag about himself, making himself to be a fearsome apponent. Instead the men laughed at him about how great of a hero he said he was.



Iktomi wouldn't be put off, after a lot of begging and pleading, the warriors finally agreed to take him along. After the ceremonial preparations the warparty set off on their grim mission. After many days and nights of weary traveling, they encountered the enemy. In a moment a terrible battle was under way. Upon the first on-slaught of the enemy,



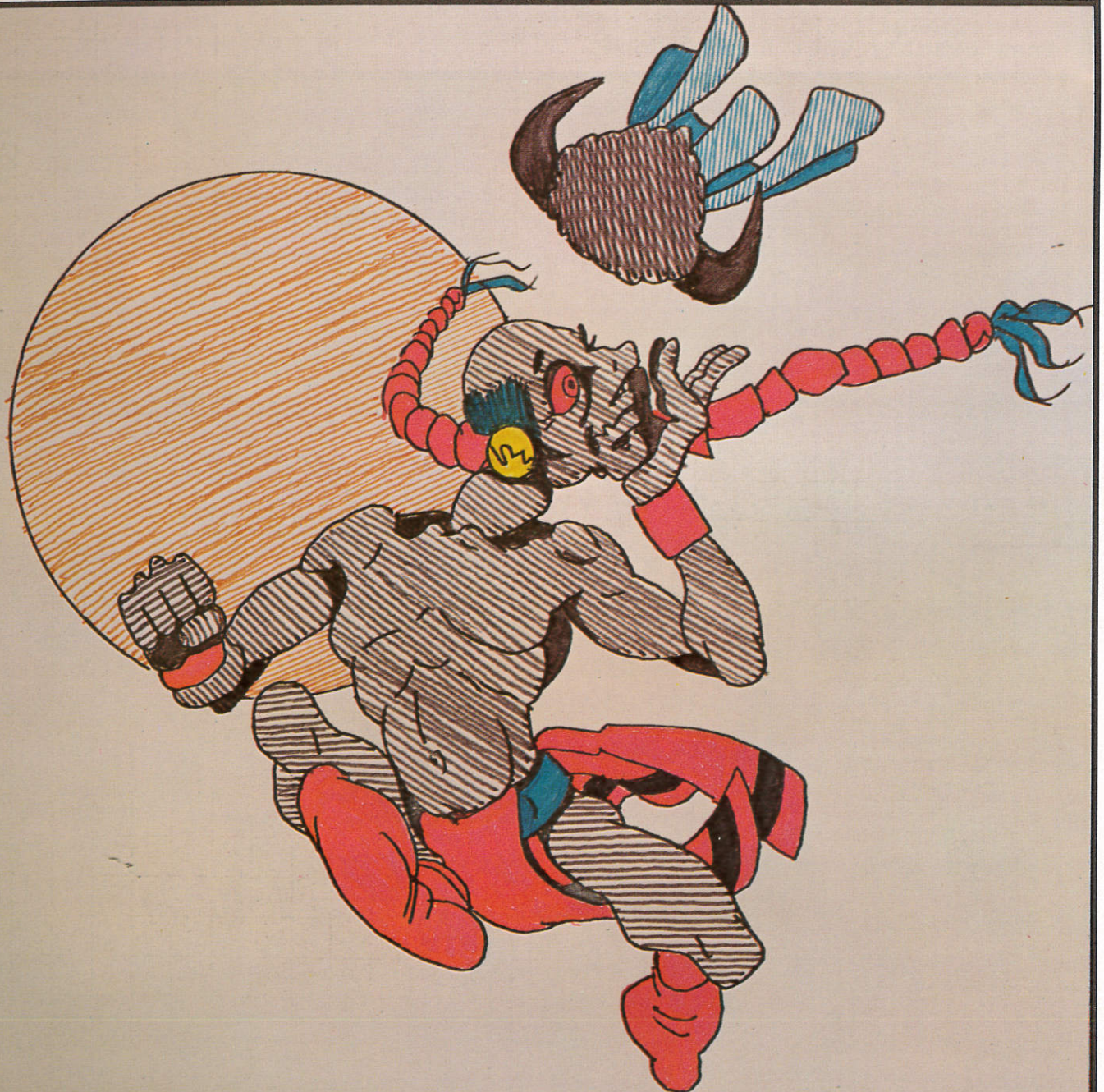
advanced Iktomi flees for his worthless hide leaving the men of his party behind in a cowardly retreat. After the battle Iktomi met up with the men.



The war party returned to camp in a victorious mood, they had a big welcome back ceremony, soon one by one each men told his deeds and exploits in the heat of the battle. Finally it was Iktomis turn to speak, standing before the people he proceeded to exaggerate his deeds and exploits, bragging and lying to them. But the people already knew exactly what he had done.



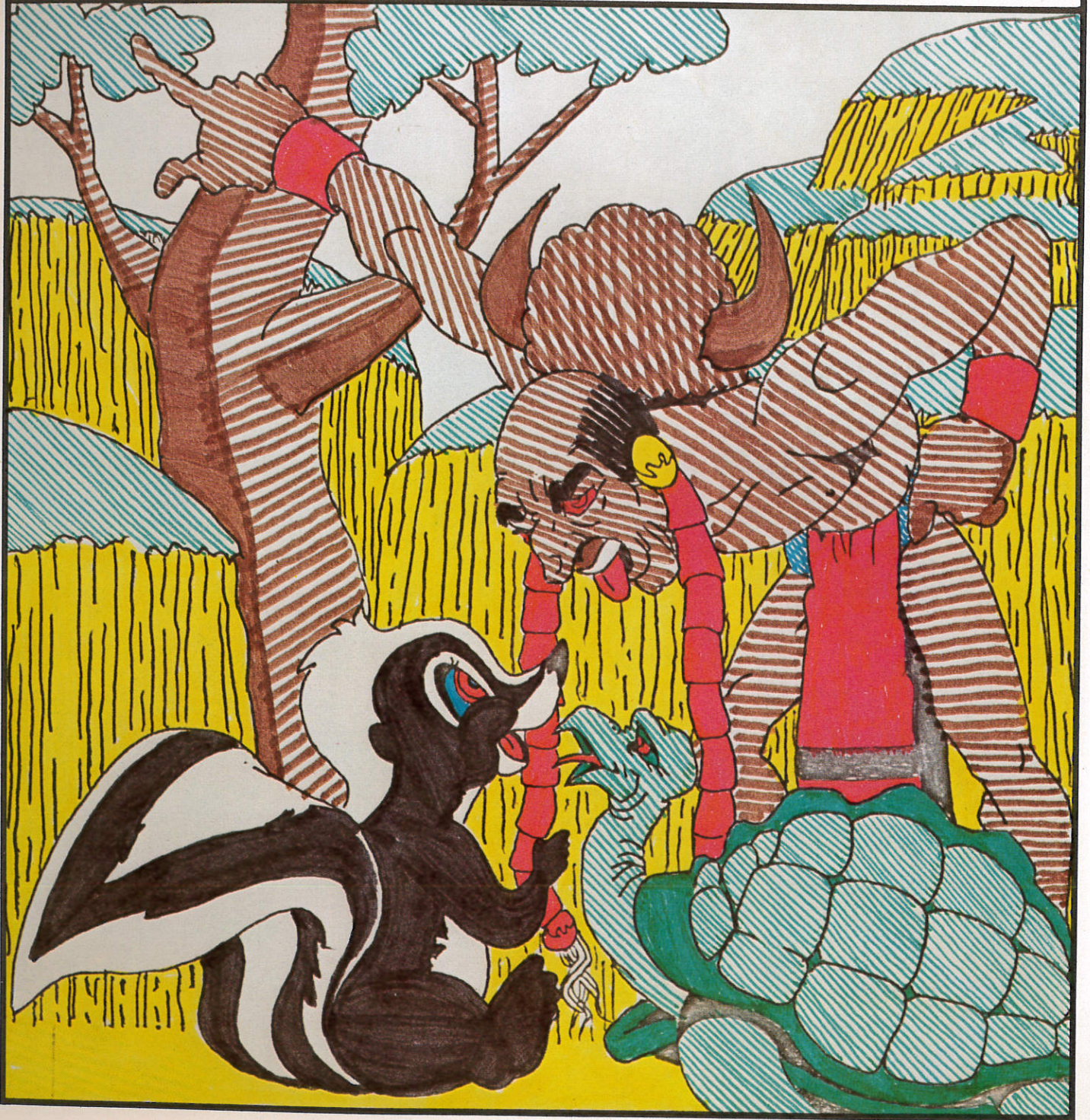
He had run for his life. That was just what the people of the village made him do. They chased him out of camp, telling him never to show himself around them again.



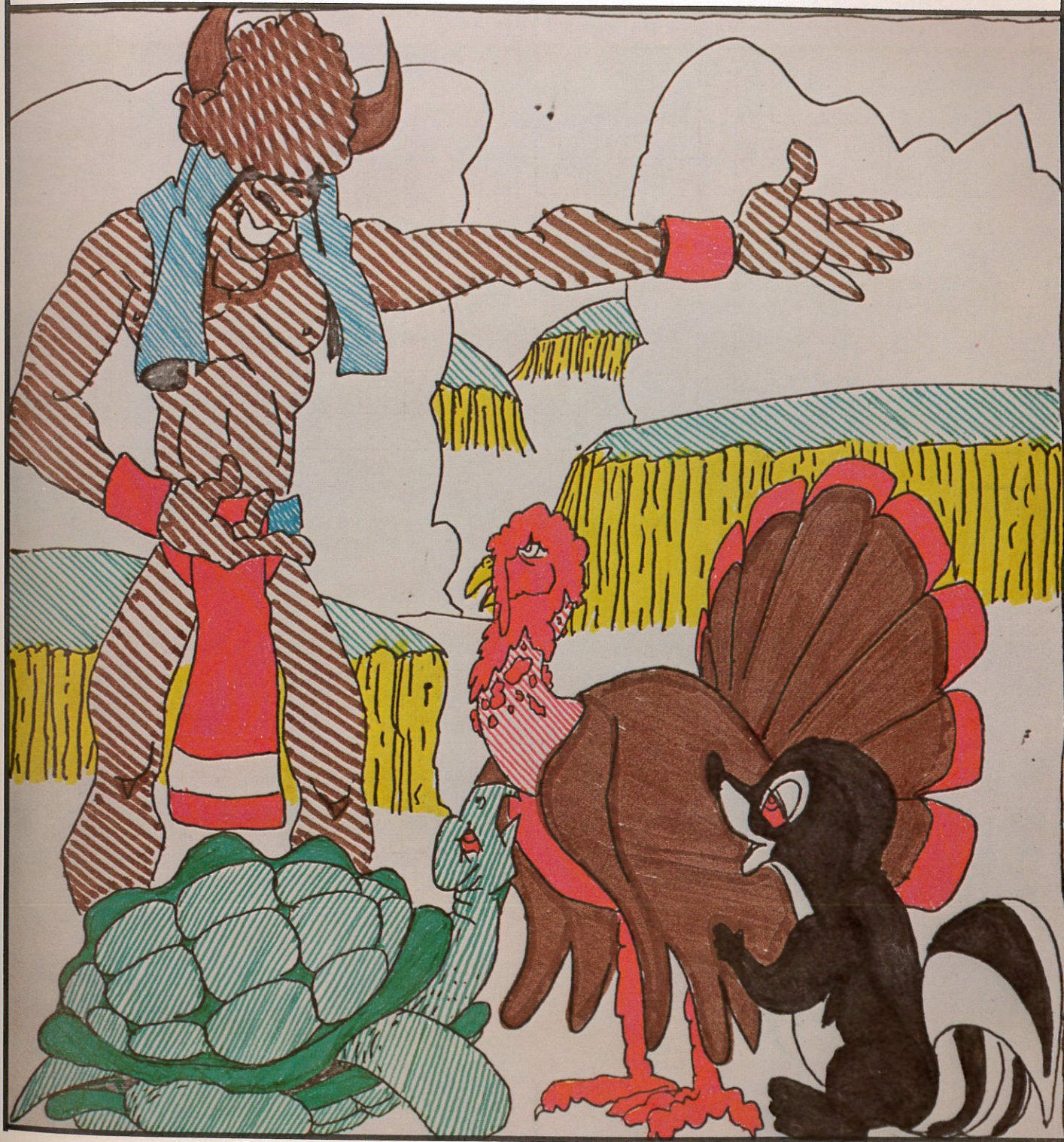
After being chased out the village, Iktomi decided to prove to himself of how good he could be. Off on a wild fantasy he goes, dreaming of all the brave deeds he would do, he would ride into the camp with a lot of horses, and gifts for all the people. Iktomi would collect scalps and prove to the people once and for all, how he was fit to be the chief. Iktomi had ambitious thought sitting by the creek banks deluding himself. By and by a huge snapping turtle pokes his head out of the water and asked Iktomi why he had such a long and glum expression on his face. Iktomi spoke about his misfortunes to the turtle, referring to the snapper as his only brother. Than Iktomi lets the turtle in on his plans of collecting scalps, horses, weapons and gifts for the people, not to mention all the glory of victory.



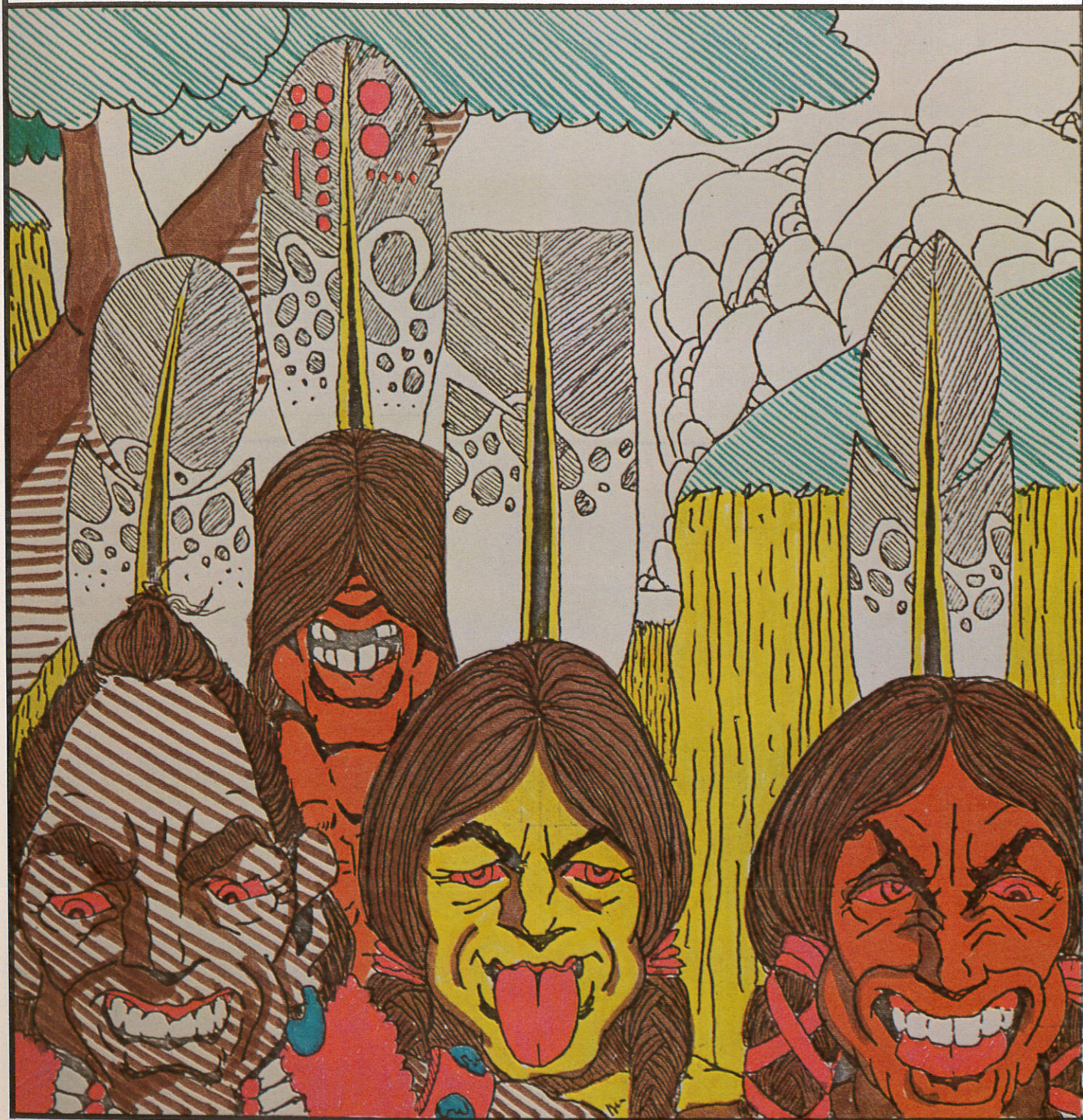
The turtle agreed and so now the two brave warriors set out, only to encounter a skunk whom they talked into going with them. Now they are a trio. Iktomi, a turtle, and a skunk.



Soon they met up with a turkey which was also a victim of the journey. Iktomi's wild fantasies and lies were coming along just great. The odd war party continued on all day, but soon they felt hardships like fatigue, thirst and hunger. The followers of Iktomi started arguing amongst themselves. Iktomi, the leader called for a rest for the night, after making camp they fell right off to sleep.



The war party discovered upon awakening the next morning, that they were surrounded by the enemy.



Iktomi quickly disappears into the bushes and climbs up the tree to the branches above the enemy. The enemy searched and searched for Iktomi but couldn't find him, so after a while they gave up and proceeded to torment the remaining captives, turtle, skunk and turkey.

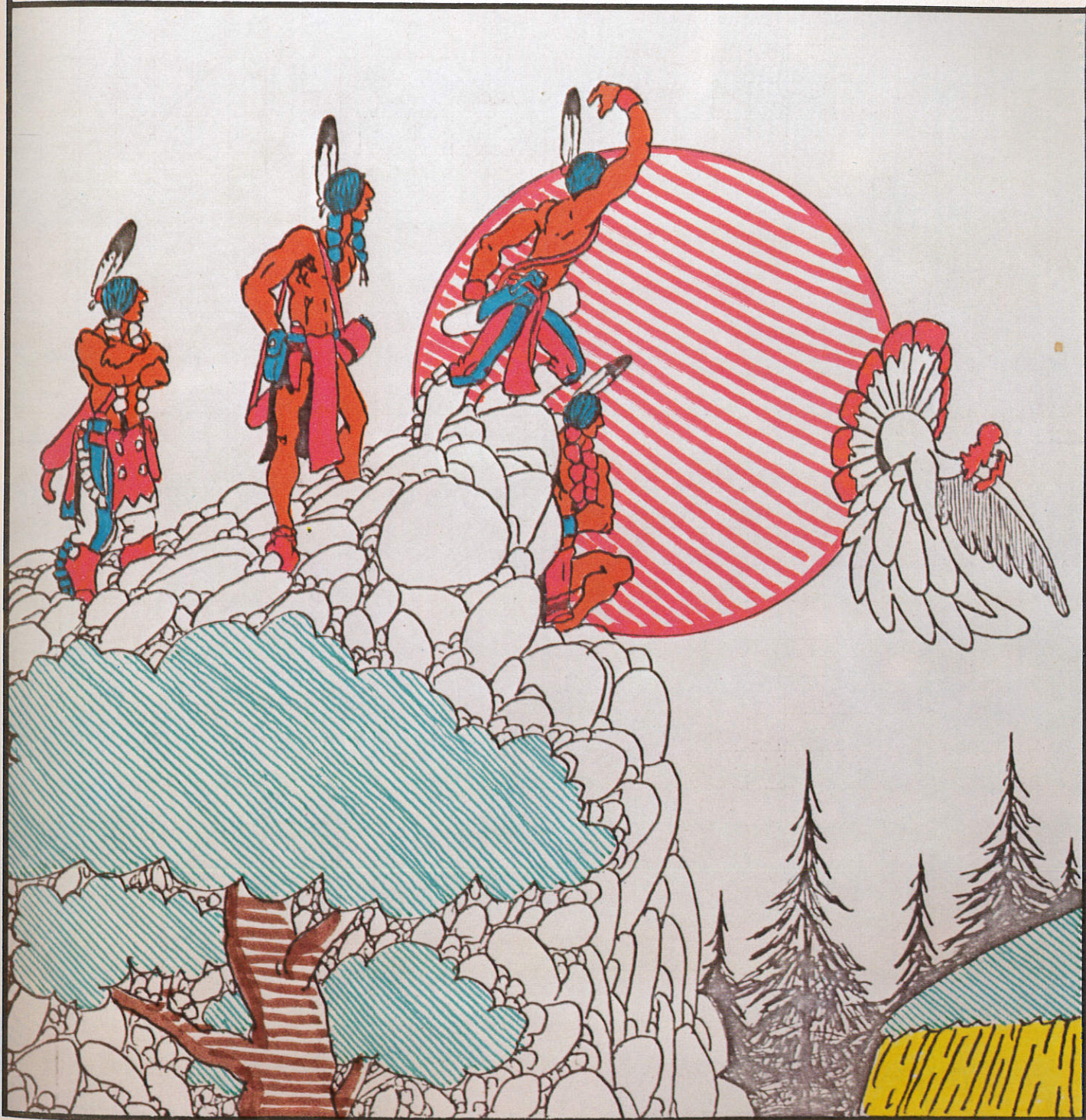


The enemy warriors teased the snapping turtle intending to kill him with his own fear. They asked the turtle what he feared the most in his miserable life.

The turtle pleaded with them to spare his life, explaining his dreadful fear of water. The enemy warriors started shouting and whooping with evil laughter. One of them grabbed the turtle, lifted him up on his shoulder and heaved the snapper far into the water. The turtle disappeared into the water and the enemy waited but he



never surfaced again so they assumed he had drowned. Next they started on the turkey. The turkey gobbled for his life, but the enemy forced him to admit his fear. So the turkey told them about his intense fear of heights such as cliffs and high places. So despite his pitiful gobbling, the enemy drug him to the top of the highest cliff and tossed the turkey over. He flew down and disappeared amongst the bushes far below. The enemy congratulated each other for killing the turkey, which they thought had smashed into the ground below.



Next they turned against the skunk, The skunk told them to do whatever harm they wanted to do to him, anything but lift his tail. THE END



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