

Tepee, Sun and Time

The Indian Reading Series



THE INDIAN READING SERIES: Stories and Legends of the Northwest is a collection of authentic material cooperatively developed by Indian people from twelve reservations. Development activities are guided by a Policy Board which represents the Indian community of the Pacific Northwest. The Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program Policy Board members are:

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THE INDIAN READING SERIES:
Stories and Legends of the Northwest

Tepee, Sun and Time

Level II Book 14

A Crow Story

Written and illustrated by Henry Real Bird

**Joseph Coburn, Director
Pacific Northwest Indian Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory**

Developed by the Pacific Northwest Indian Reading and Language Development Program
Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory, 710 Southwest Second Avenue, Portland, Oregon 97204

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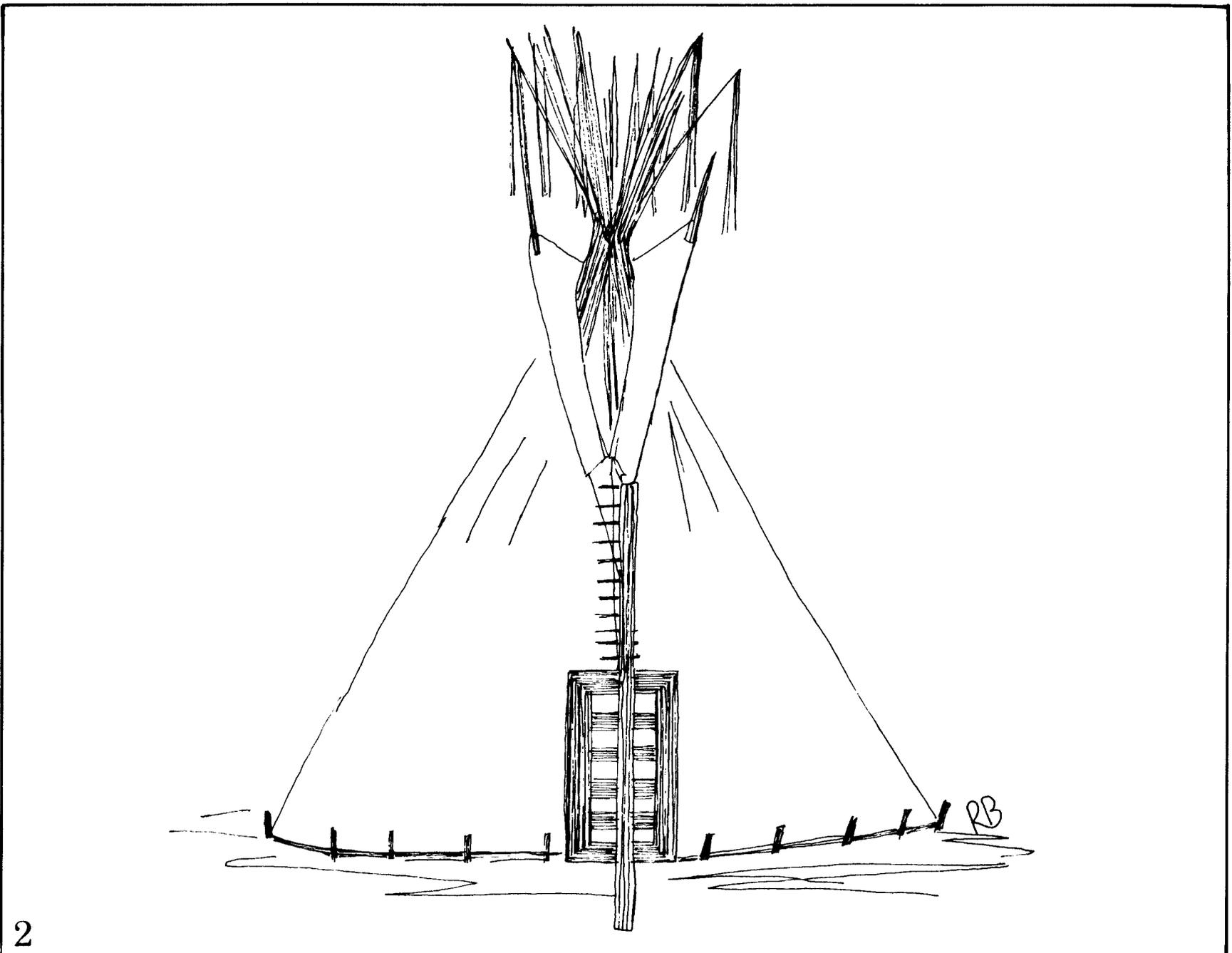
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This story is about the thoughts running through a little Crow Indian boy's mind the night before the first day of school. He thinks of the good summer he has had, ending with the Crow Fair.

Now it's time to go back to school, and he's wondering about tomorrow. Have you done this?

This story was told in the Crow Indian language and written in English. So, at times the sequence of the words in some of the sentences may sound different.



The tepee is the home, respect it.
It is your place.
When something is bothering you,
that is where you can go.

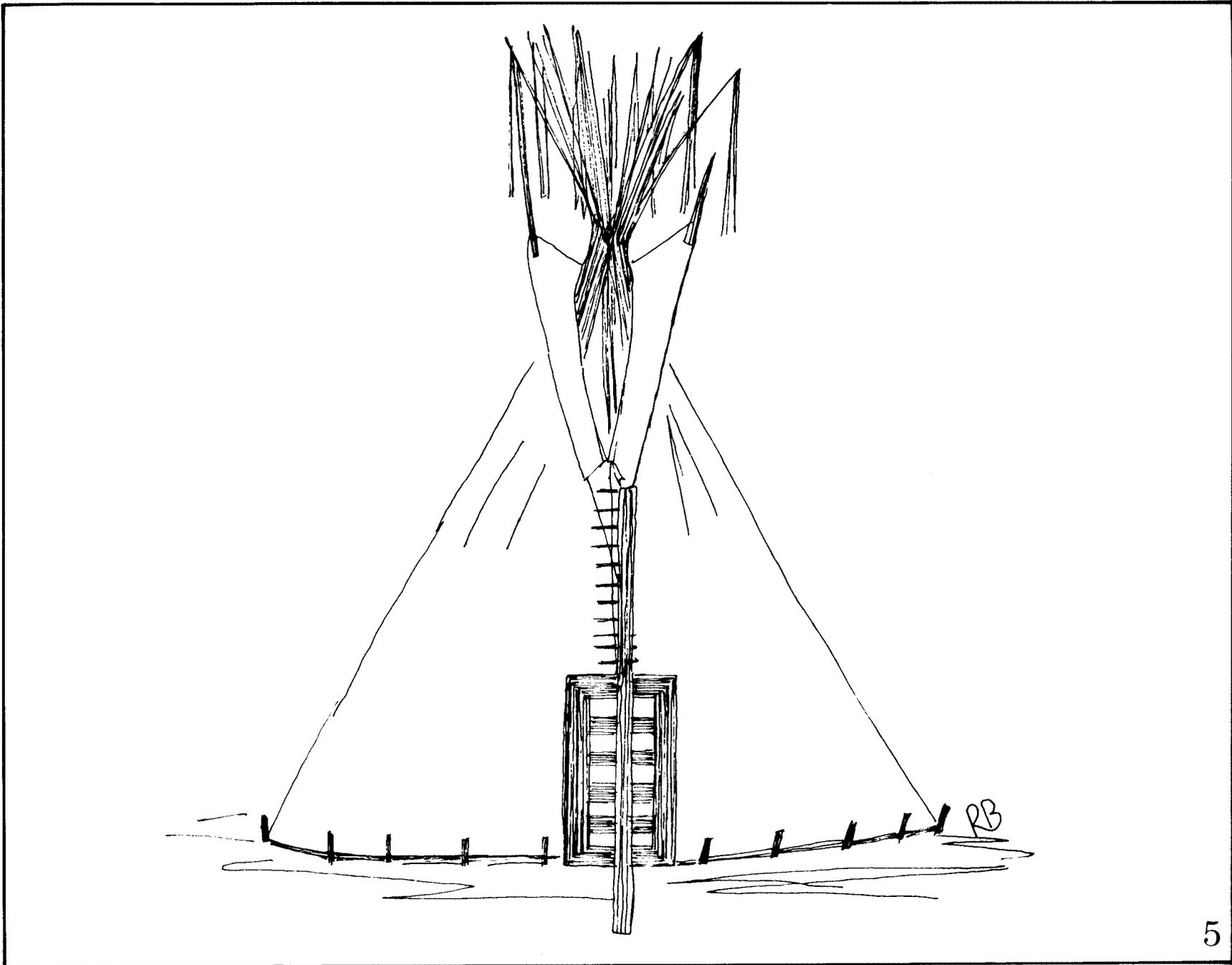
Don't go in just anywhere.

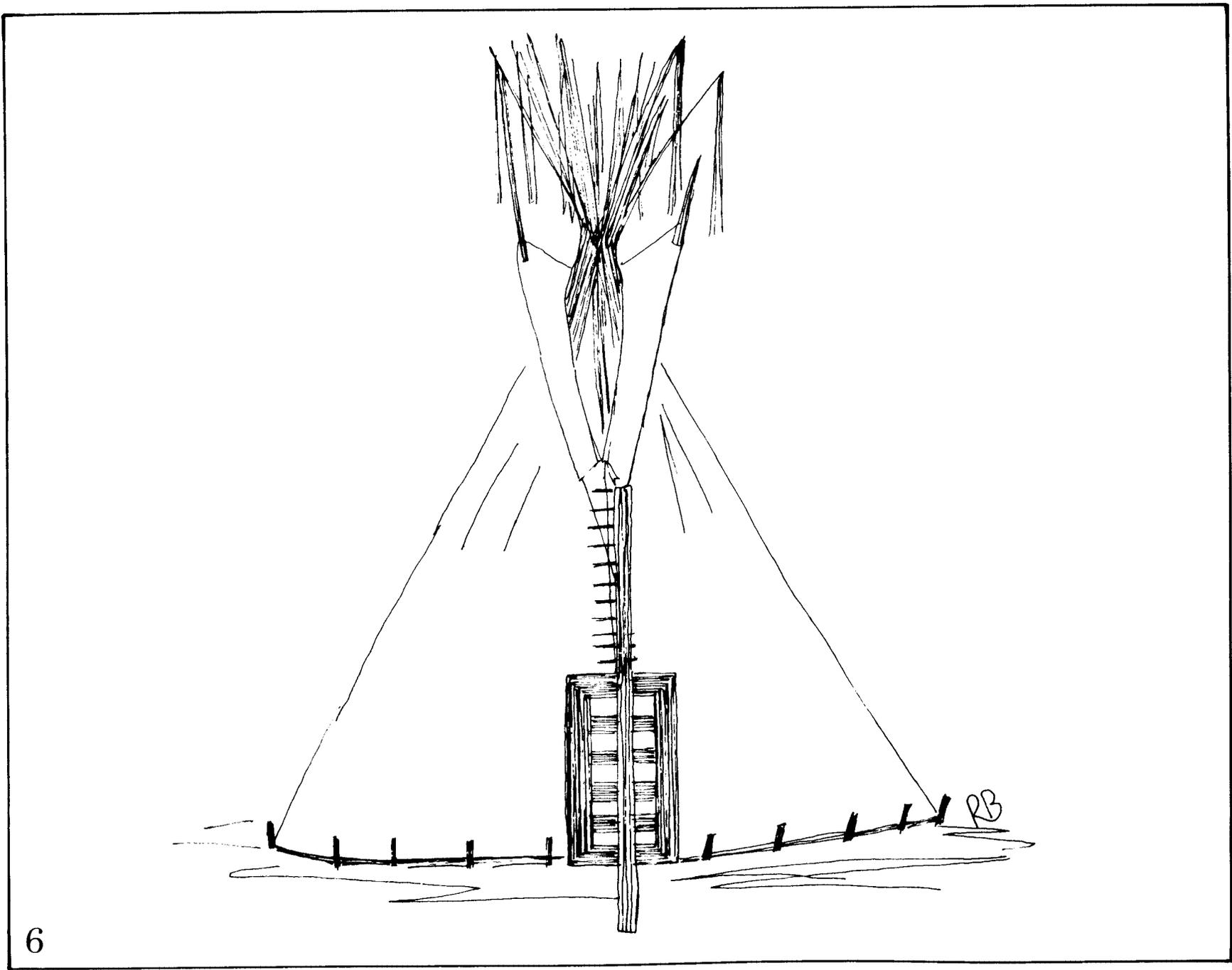
Use the door.

The dead are taken out through the sides
or the back door of the tepee.

The dead can no longer walk
and can't use the door.

This is why they are taken out the
the back or the sides.





6

RB

Don't throw things on the tepee.

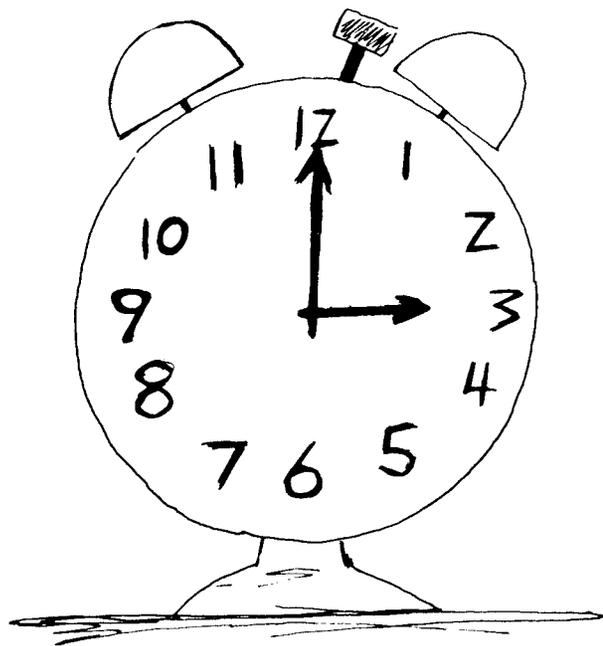
Don't burn the tepee poles
or the tepee materials.

When you are inside, don't run and jump
all over the place.

The tepee is your home, care for it.

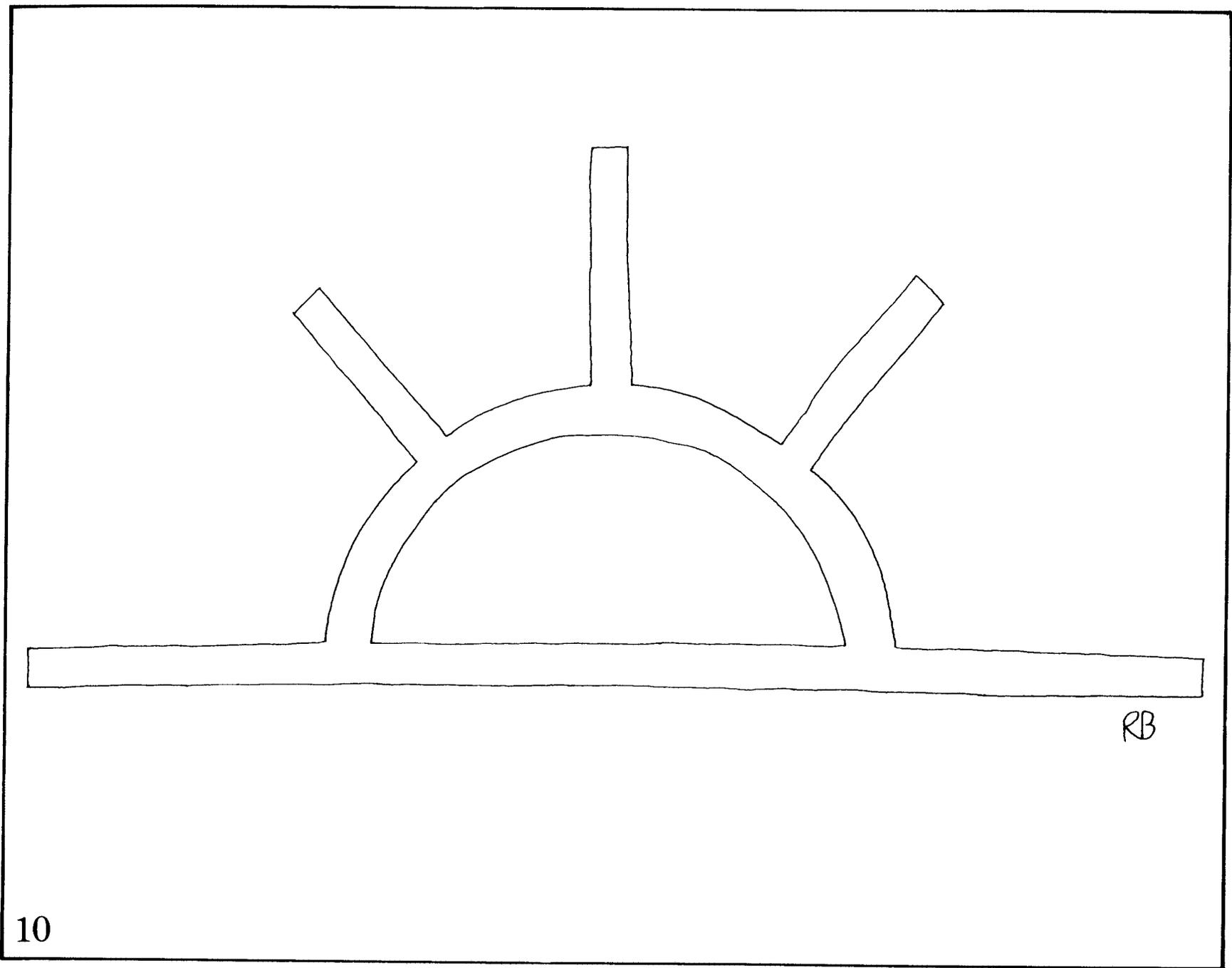
The tepee is your home, respect it.

In the old days the Indians didn't have
a tick tock tin clock
or a flip flop paper calendar
to tell time.



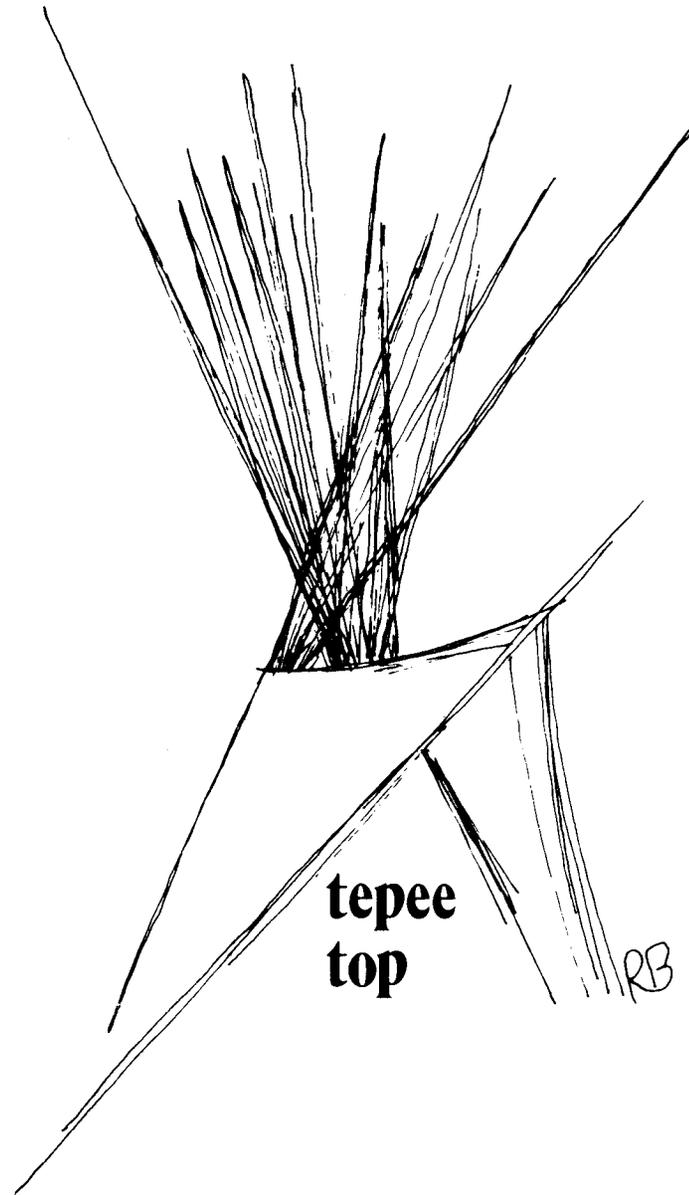
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30	31					

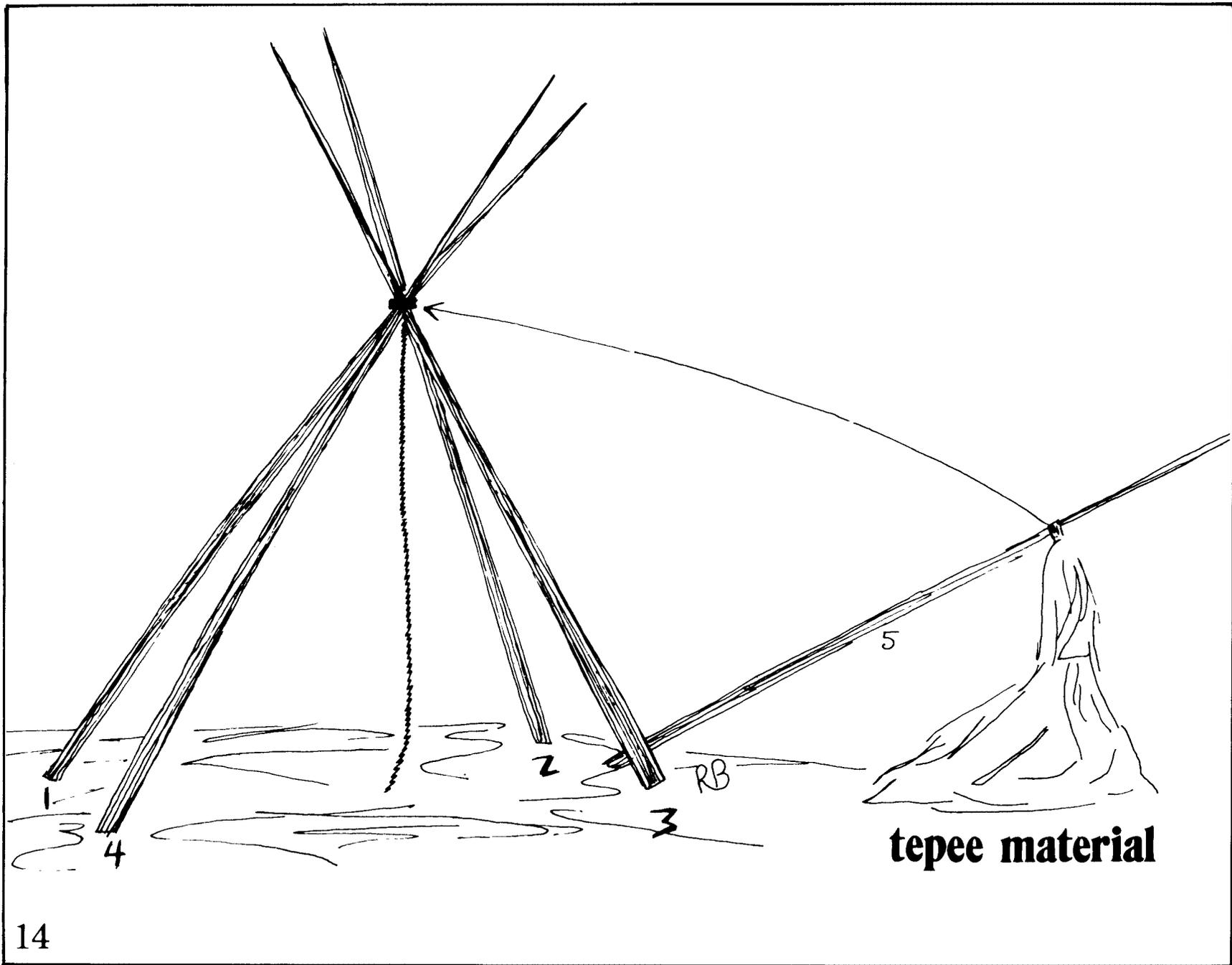
RB



The sun told the Indians the time.
The sun, like the ground, water,
air, moon and stars,
is always a part of this world.

Some of the Indians who lived in tepees
used the tepee poles to tell time.
The tepee always faced where the sun came out.





Today we still pitch tepees
like in the old times.

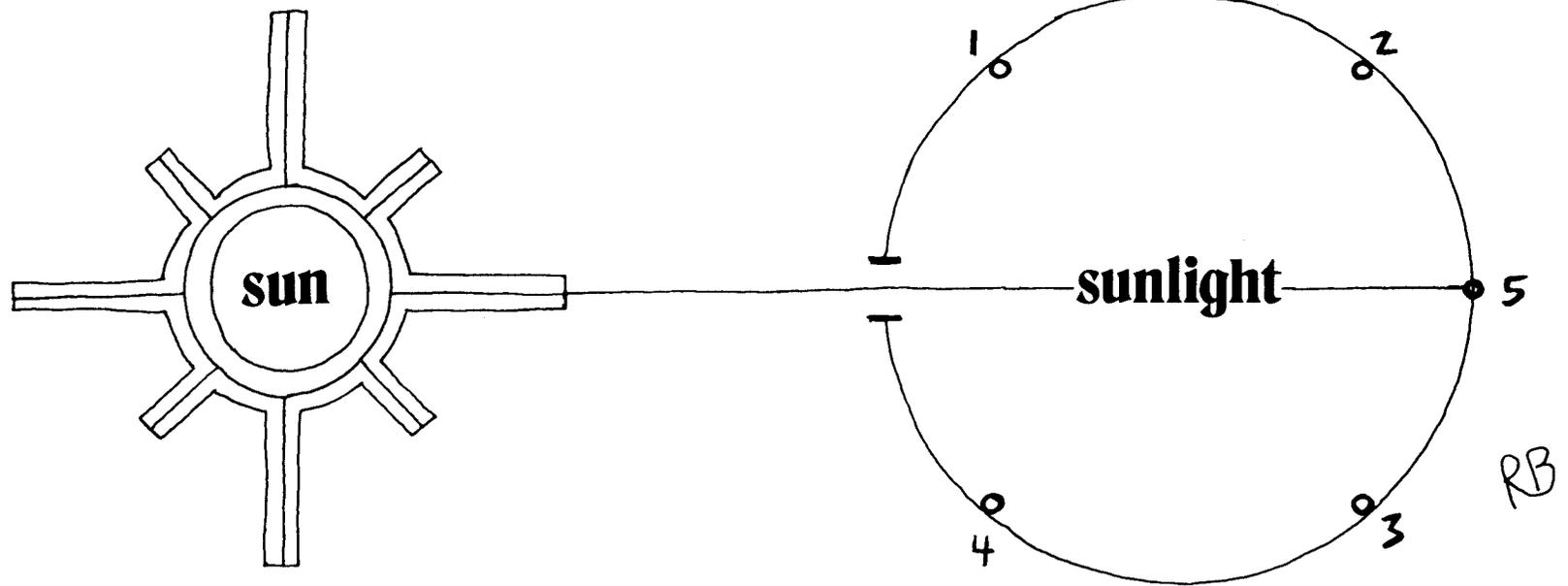
To make the tepee base,
four poles are tied together
and spread apart.

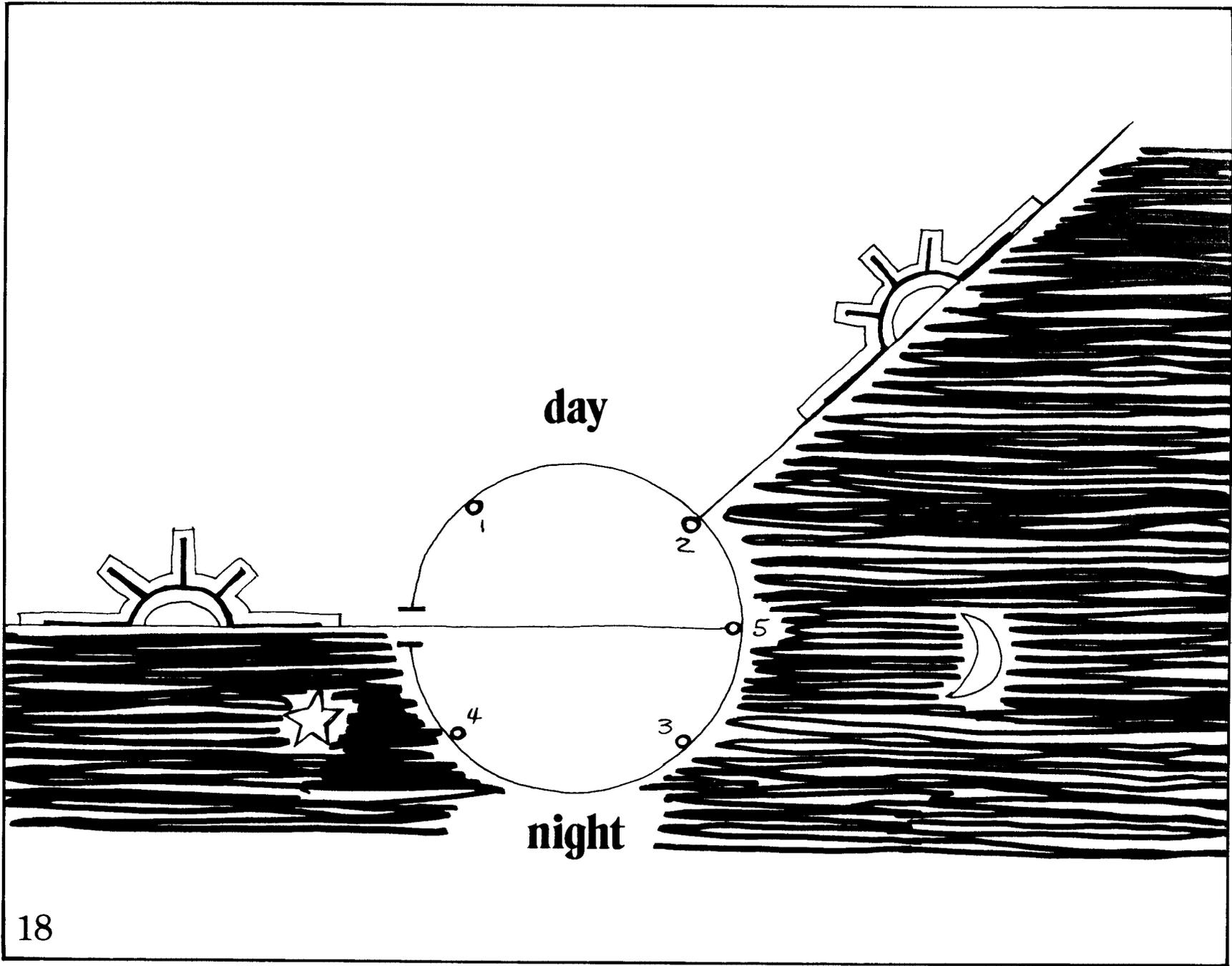
Each pole leans on the other poles.

The tepee material is tied to a fifth pole
which is directly across from the door.

These five poles are important.

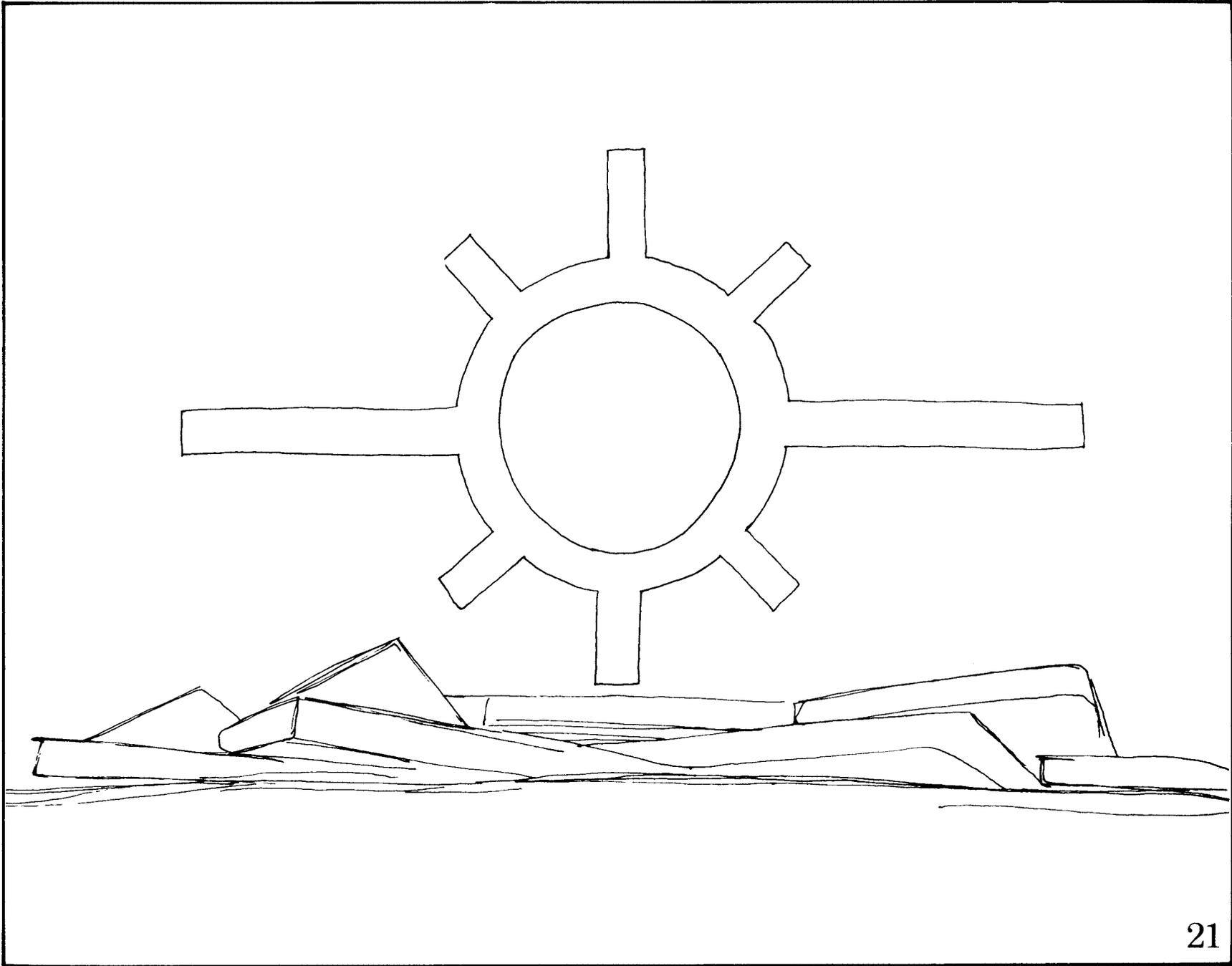
When the sun appears and the door is open,
the first sunlight hits the number five pole.

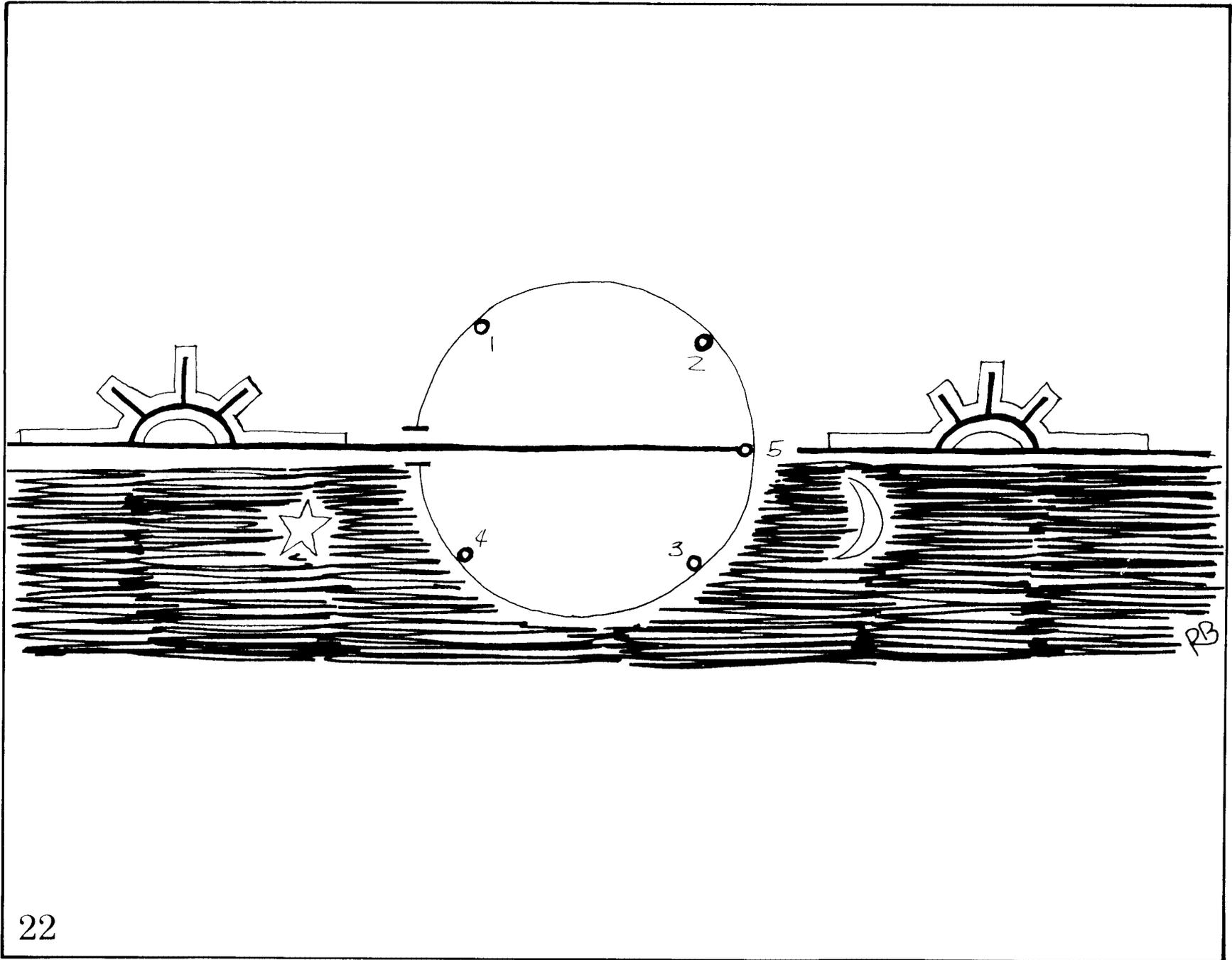




During the year the sunset moves around the tepee.
When it is winter, the sun sets
 at the number two pole.
This is the shortest day of the year, December 21.
This is the time for story telling
 and playing stick or hand games.
Pemmican is made at this time.

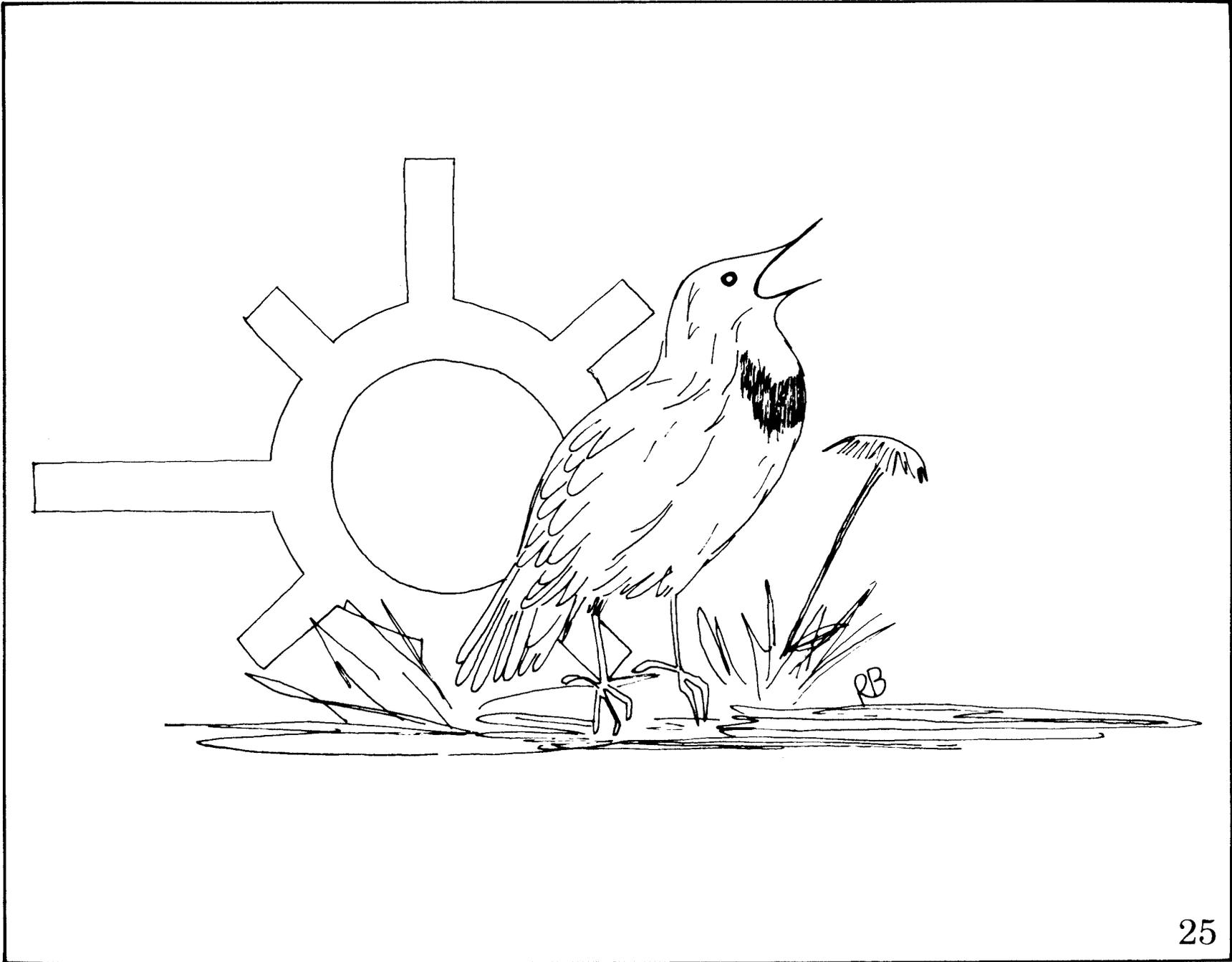
Each day the sunset slowly moves
toward the number five pole.
Before it gets to the number five pole,
the first flood comes and breaks the winter ice.

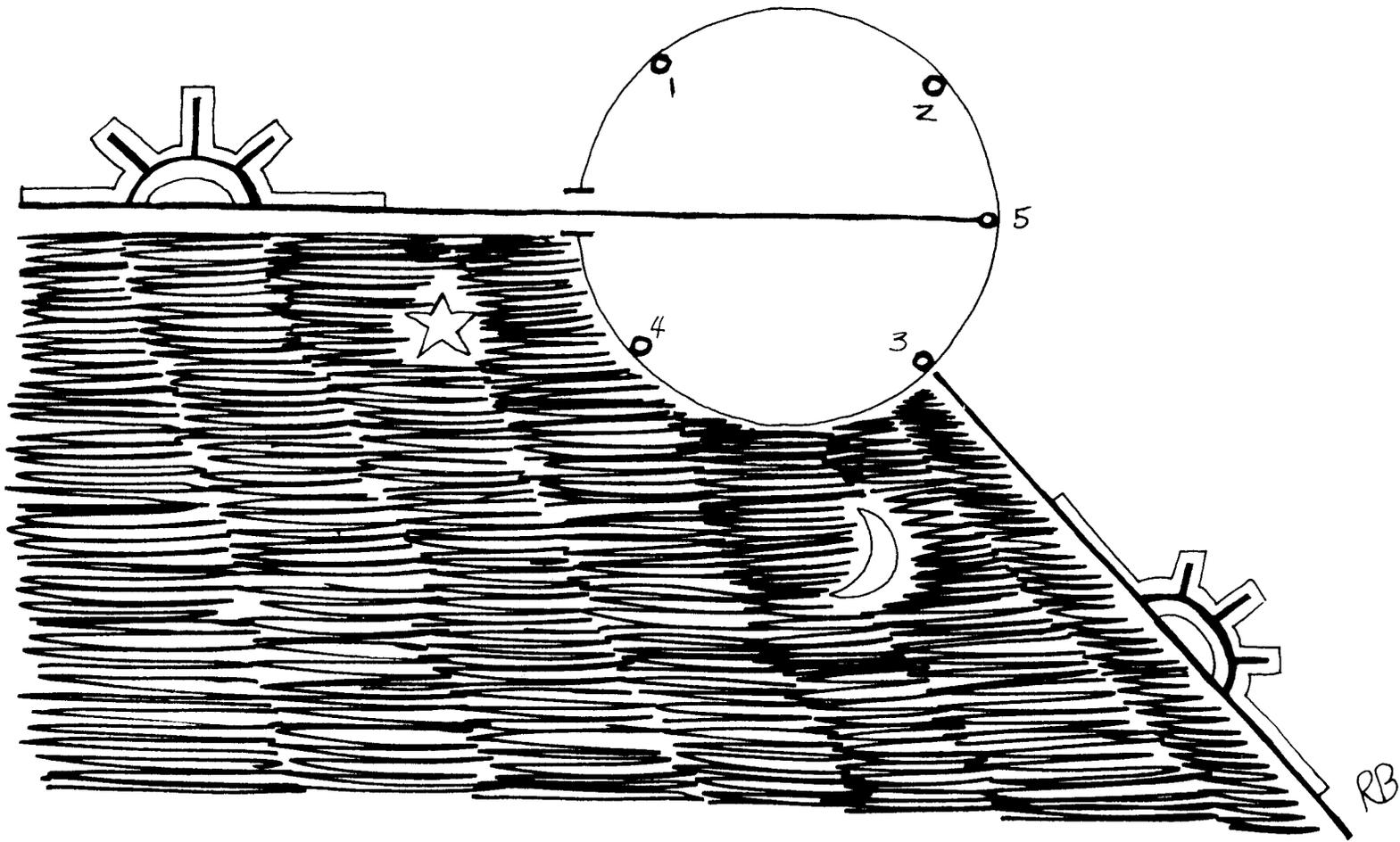




When the sun sets at the number five pole,
the days and nights are equal.
This day is March 21.

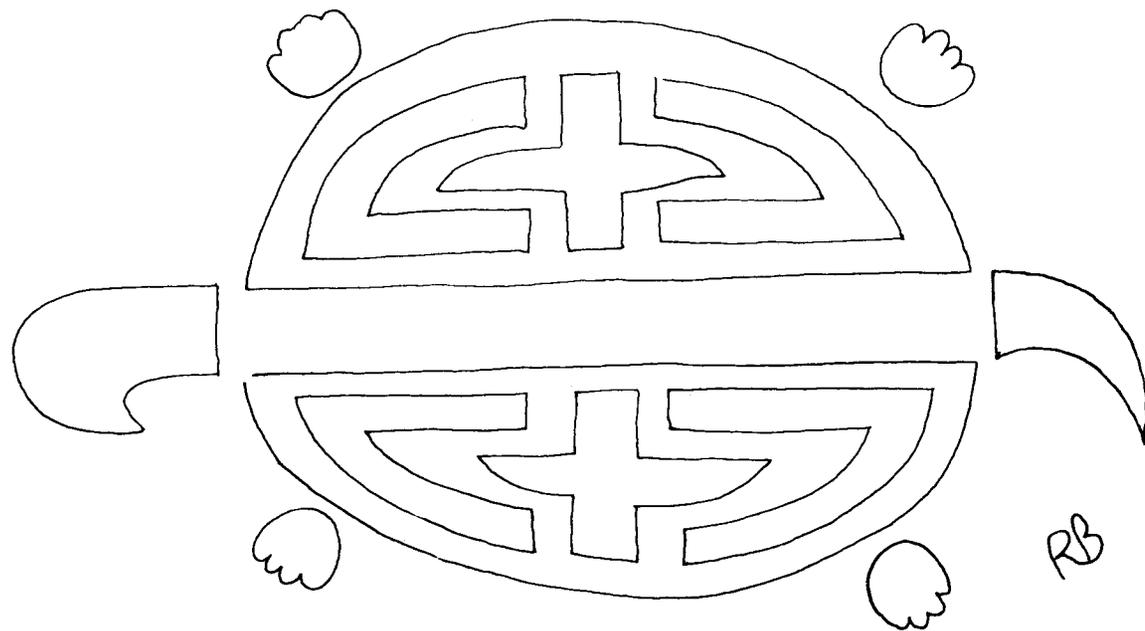
The sunset moves closer and closer
toward the number four pole.
The leaves, flowers, baby animals and birds come out.
It is time for the second flood.

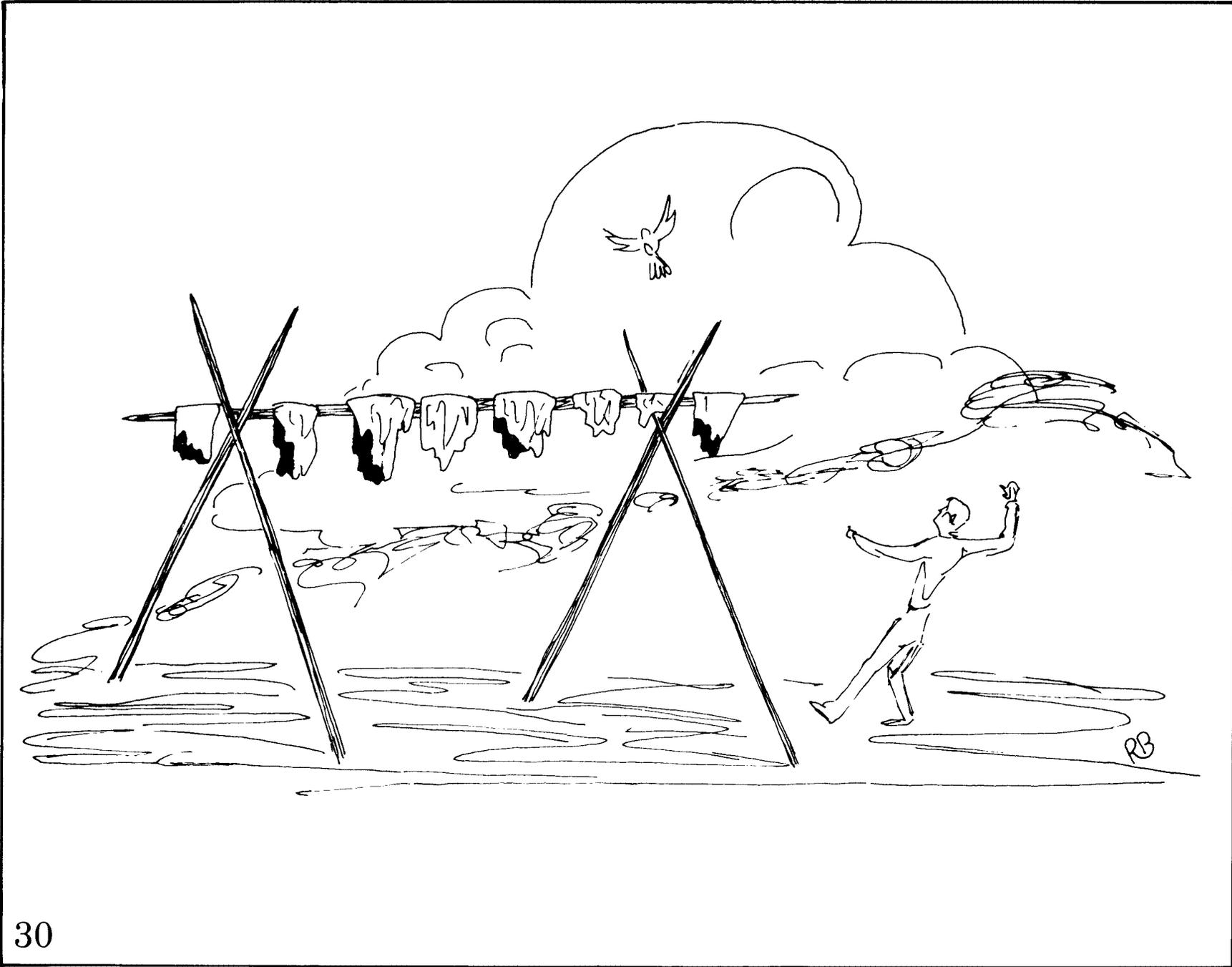




The sun finally sets at the number three pole
on June 21.
This is the longest day of the year.

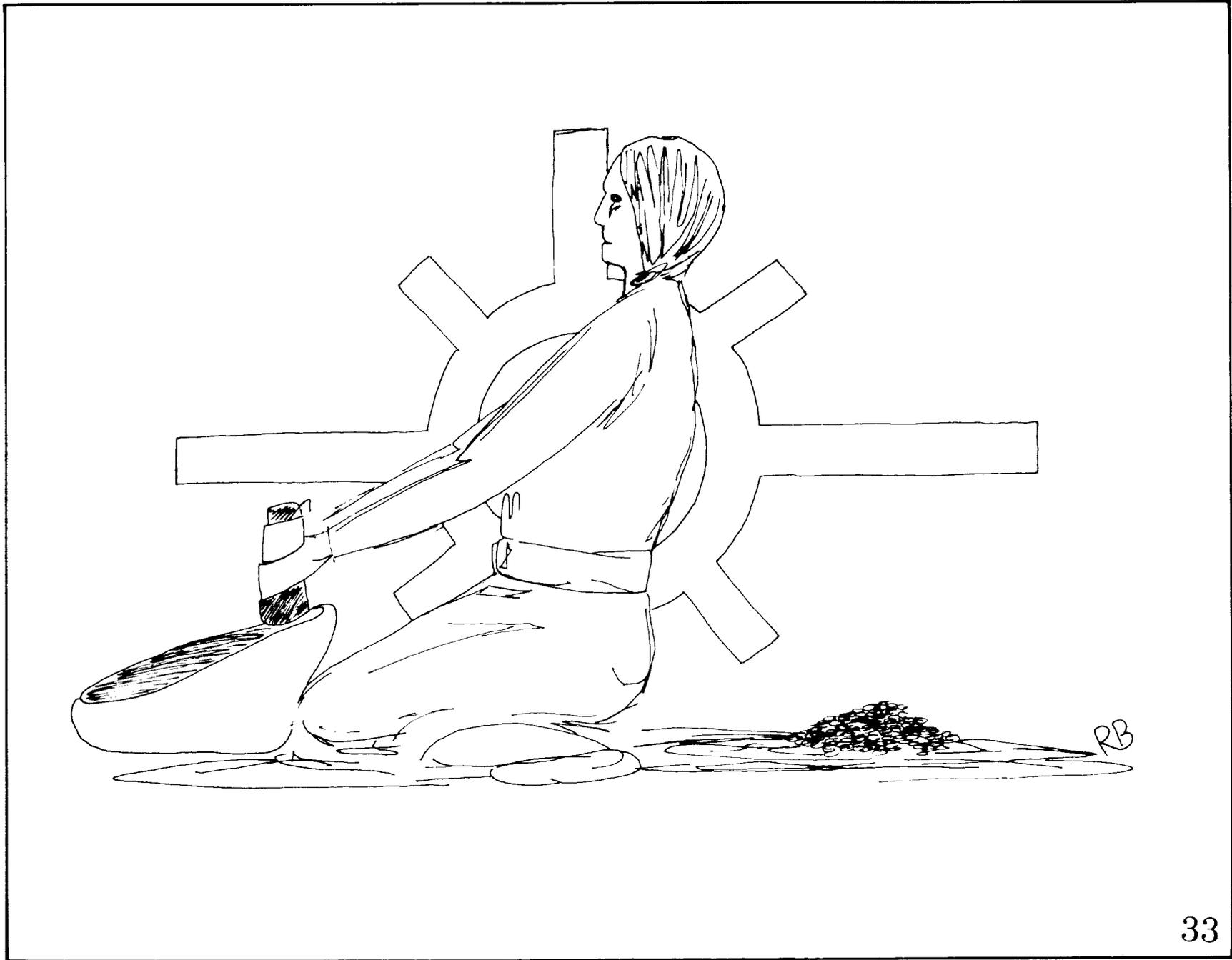
About this time, the leaves get as big
as they are going to get.
The snapping turtle babies have their eyes.

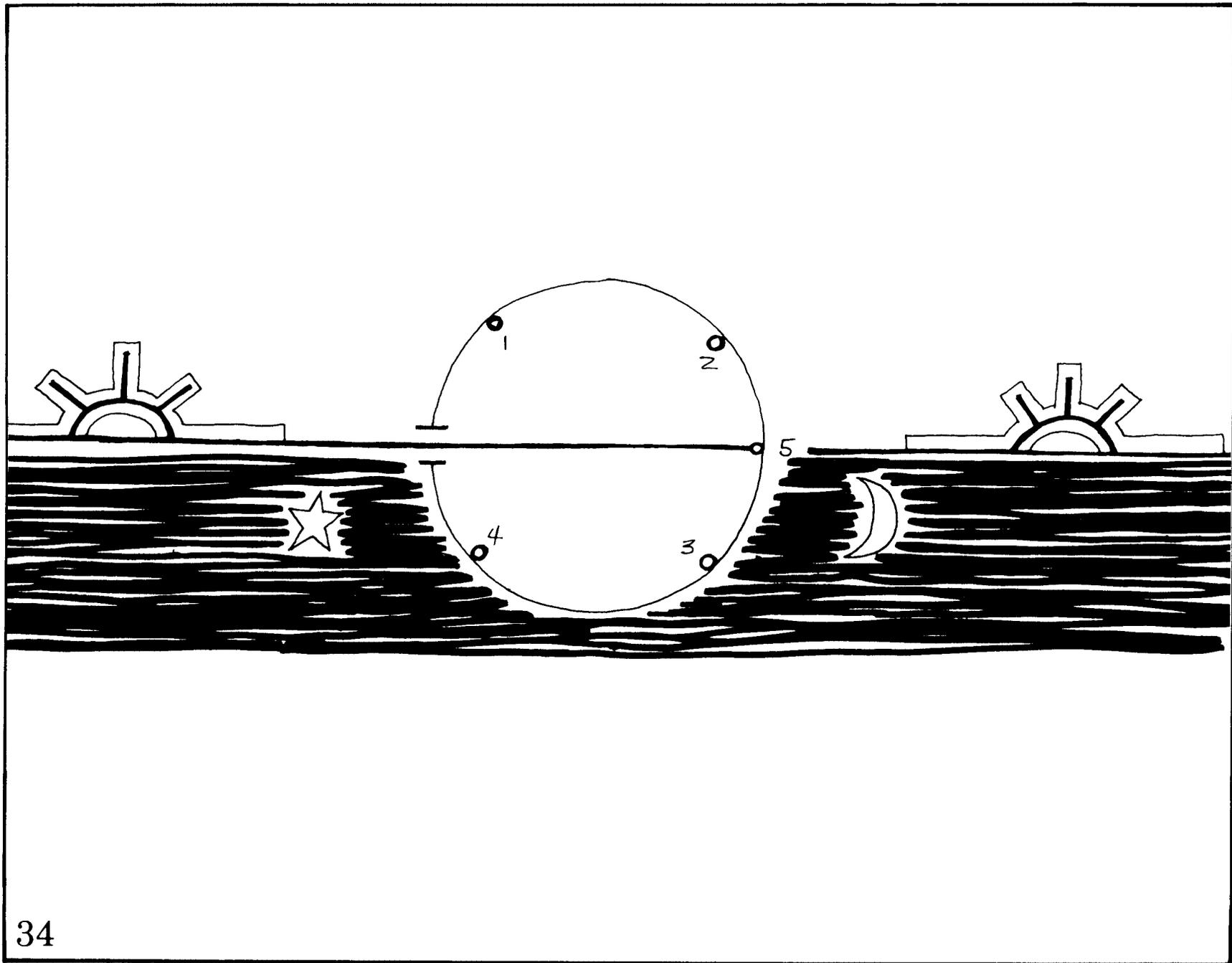




With each day, the sunset moves back
toward the number five pole.
This is the time to make dry meat
and to tan hides for tepees and clothes.
Little boys stand guard
and practice shooting magpies.

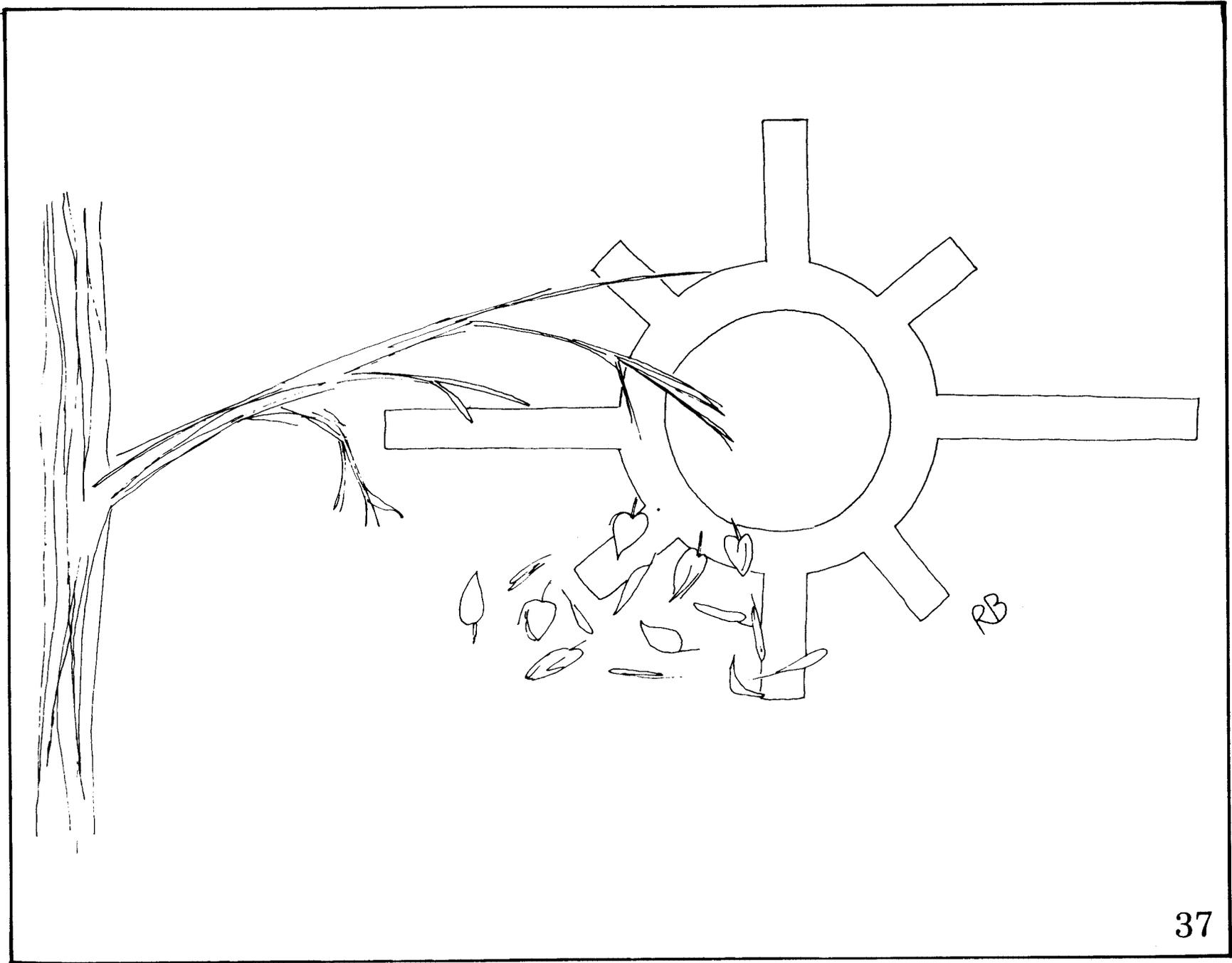
When the nights become cooler,
the chokecherries become ripe.
They are crushed and dried to save
for the coming winter.





When the sun again sets at the number five pole,
the nights and days are equal.
This day is September 21.
At this time life rests.

As the sunset moves toward the number two pole,
leaves fall and the first snow falls.
This is how the sunset moves around the tepee
to tell the Indians the time.





HENRY REAL BIRD

Henry Real Bird is a Crow Indian who was raised in the traditional Crow way on the Crow Indian reservation in Montana. He entered first grade speaking only the Crow Indian language and has an intimate knowledge of problems Indian children encounter in the public school system. He received his B.S. in Elementary Education from Montana State University and has taught reading in all the elementary grades. He served as Curriculum Coordinator for Project Head Start, Language Arts Supervisor at St. Xavier Indian Mission and Summer Program Planner for 4-H and Youth Programs on the Crow Indian reservation. As the Teacher Orientation Specialist for the Pacific Northwest Indian Program, he was responsible for developing a teacher's manual and accompanying teaching inservice program, in addition to writing and illustrating books designed for Indian children. He has served on the Montana Advisory Committee on Children and Youth and the Crow Central Education Commission, and was a delegate to the 1971 White House Conference on Youth. He also is a saddle horse rider and member of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association.

Booklets available in the Level II sequence are listed below. Numbers refer to the planned sequence of use in the *Teacher's Manual*. Materials developed by these tribes and others in the Northwest are included in the Levels I and III sequences.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 <i>End of Summer</i>
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Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead
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| 2 <i>Thunder and the Mosquito</i>
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| 3 <i>Why the Codfish Has a Red Face</i>
Skokomish Tribe | 14 <i>Tepee, Sun and Time</i>
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| 11 <i>The Time the Whale Came to Jackson's
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Skokomish Tribe | |

For order information and prices of the above booklets and the *Teacher's Manual*, contact the publisher:

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