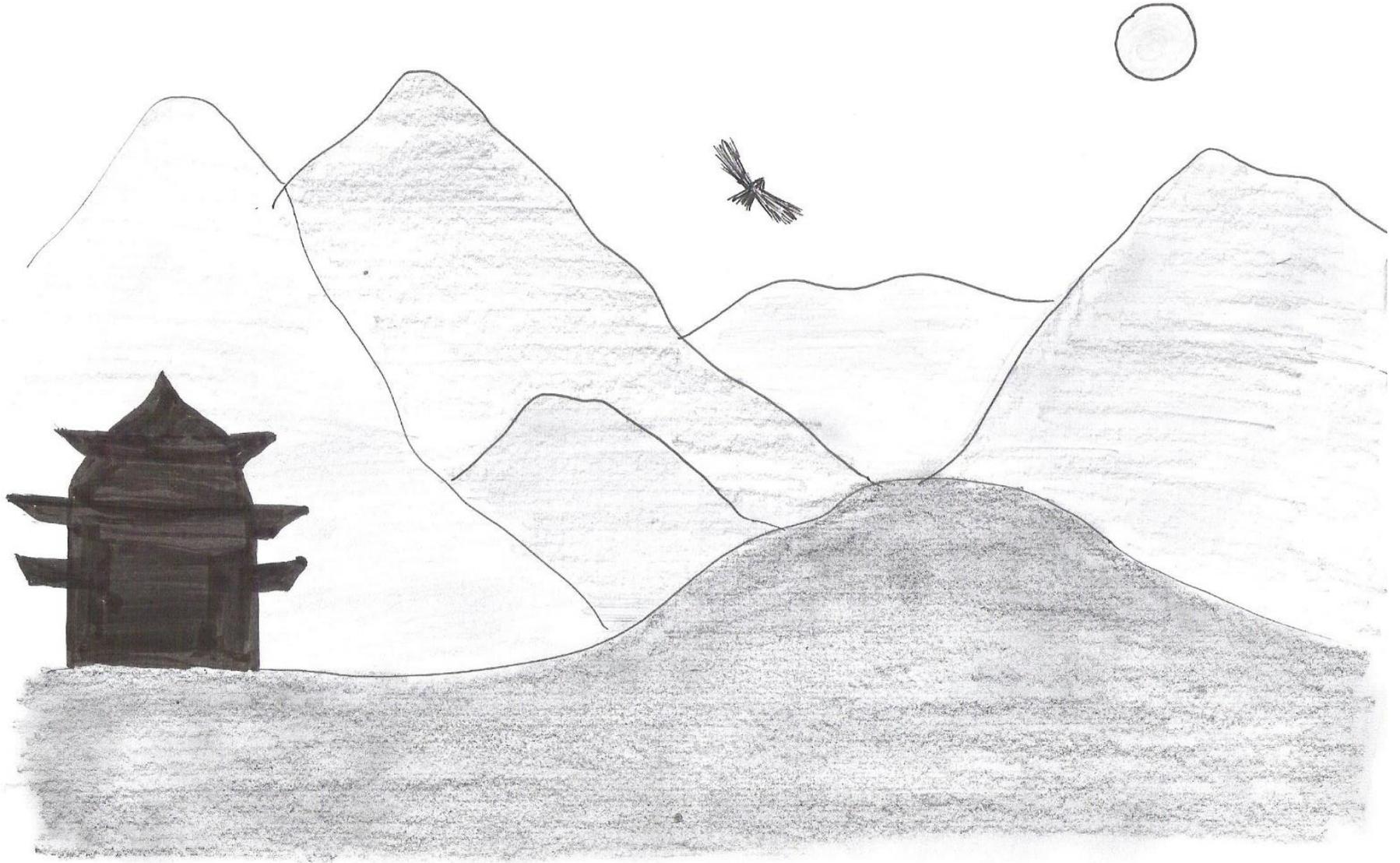


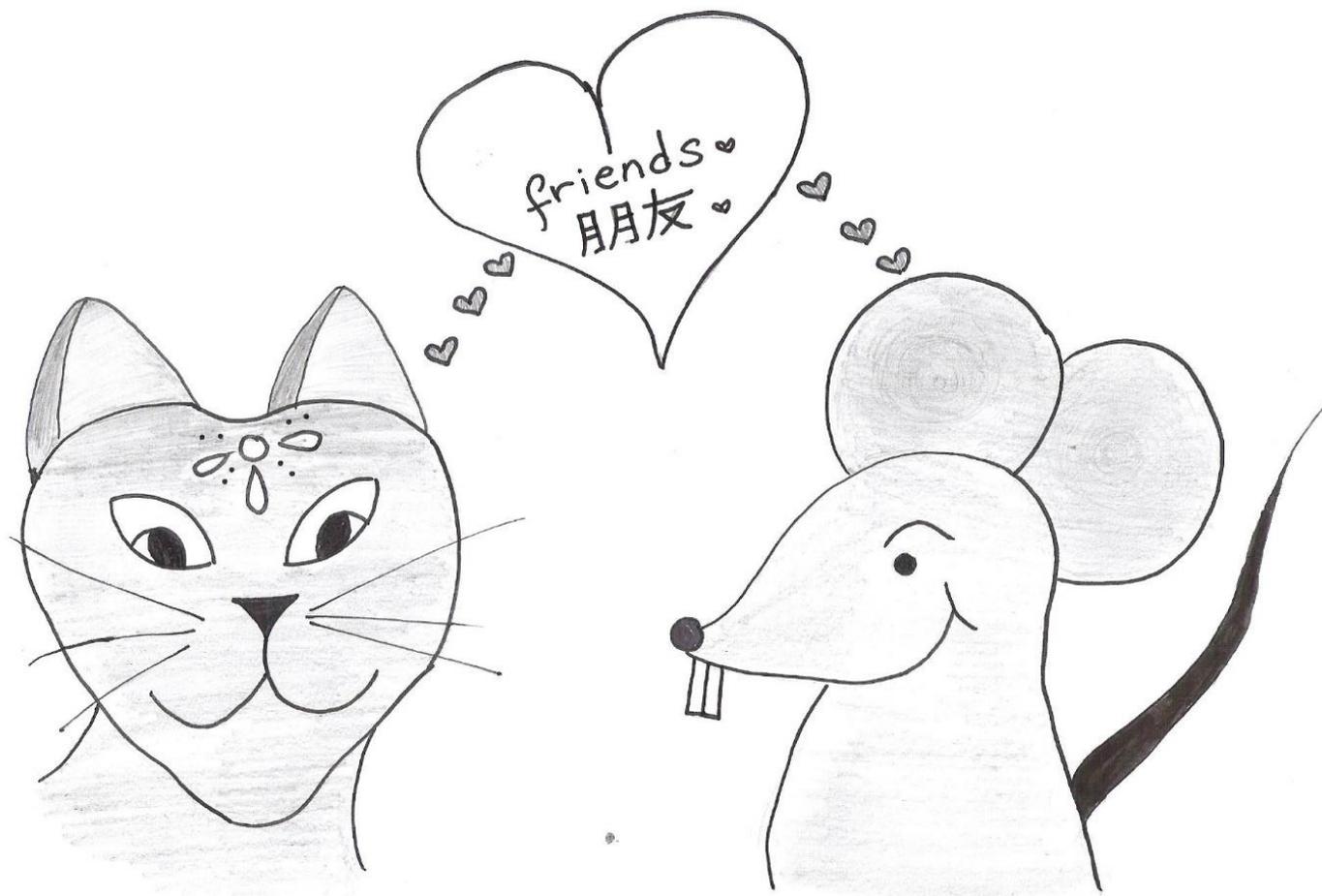
The Great Animal Race

Story Adapted by: Samantha Di Fazio,
Hailun Ma, Li Ji & Sandra Raffoul

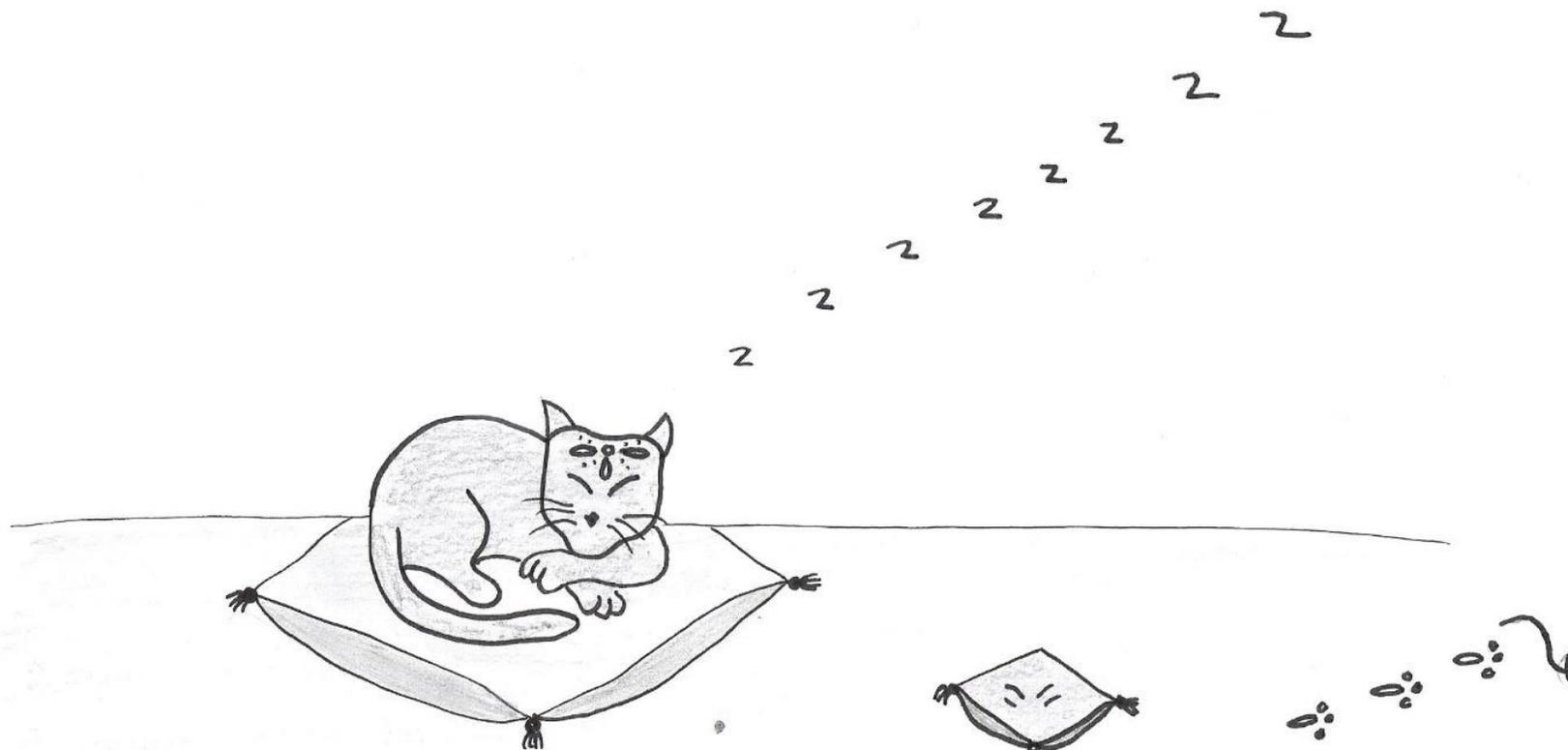
A long time ago, there was a Jade Emperor. The Jade Emperor wanted to select 12 animals to be his guards. He sent a messenger to all the lands and said, "The first 12 animals who go through the heavenly gate will be his loyal guards."



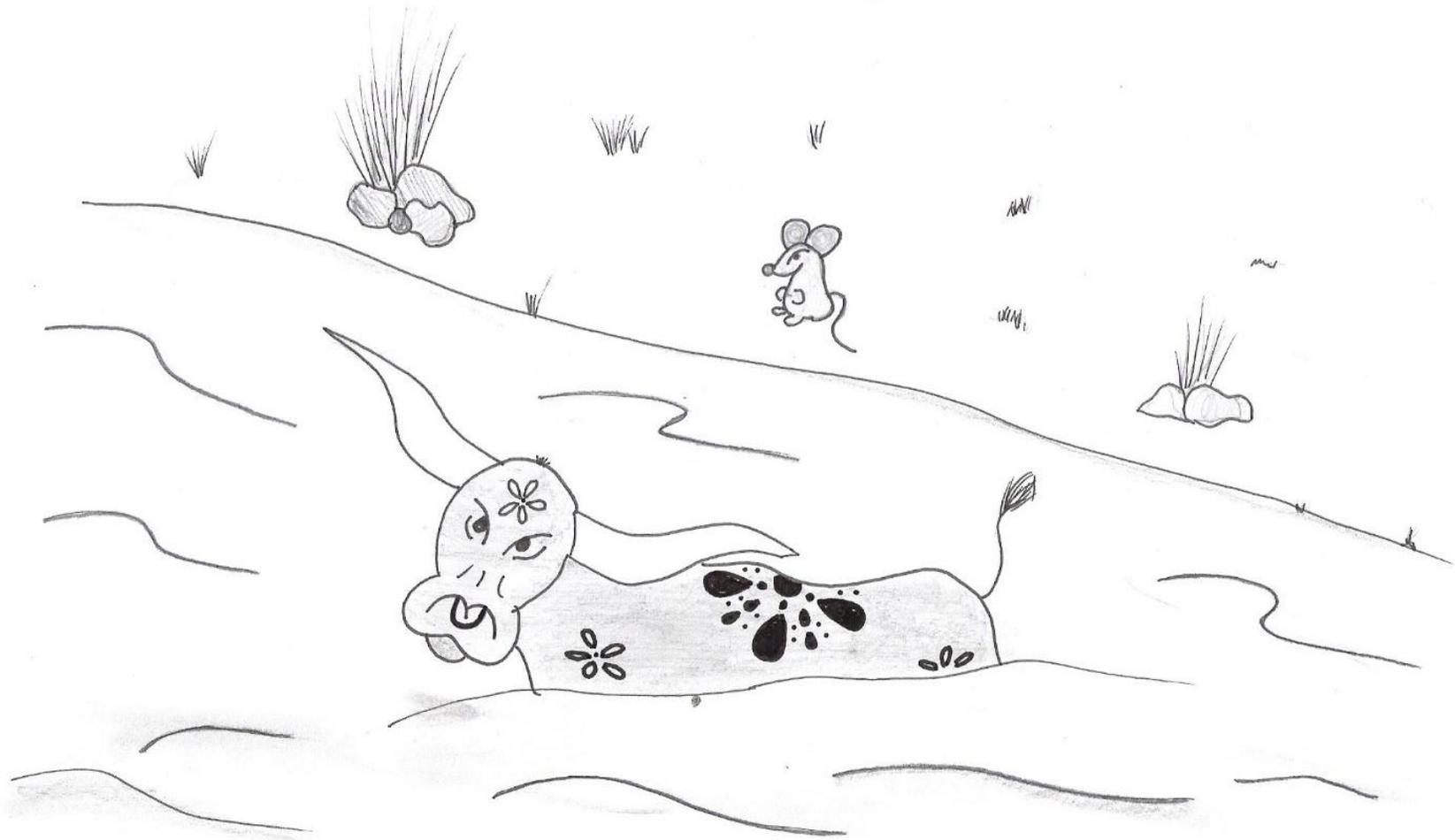
Best friends, the rat and the cat heard this news and were delighted. They planned that the day of the race the two animals would run the race together. The cat reminded the rat to wake her up since she has a bad habit of sleeping in.



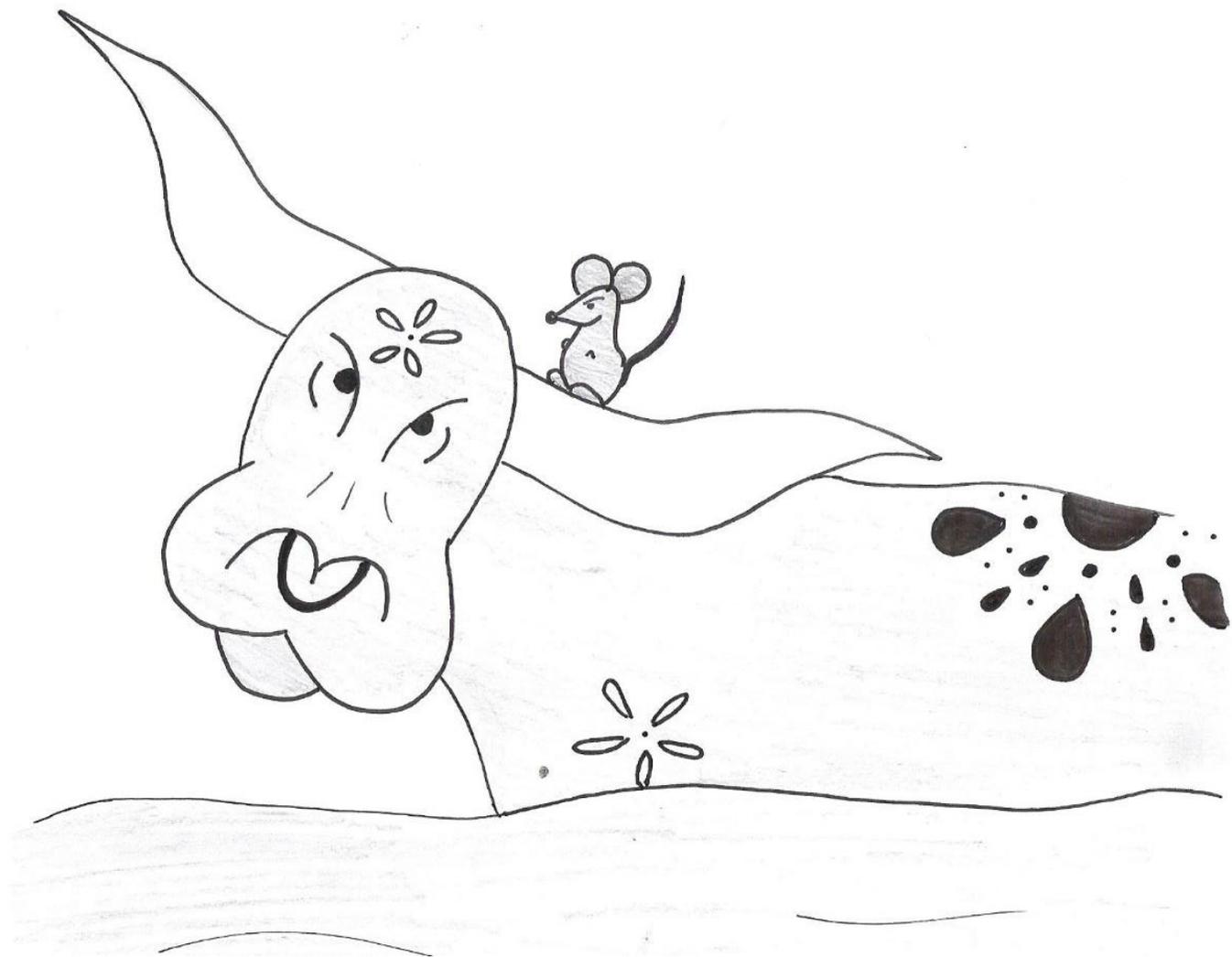
The next day, the animals set off to cross the heavenly gate. The rat got up very early. Cunningly, he wanted to be the first animal to cross the gate. So, the rat left his sleeping friend the cat, fast asleep and set off to win the race.



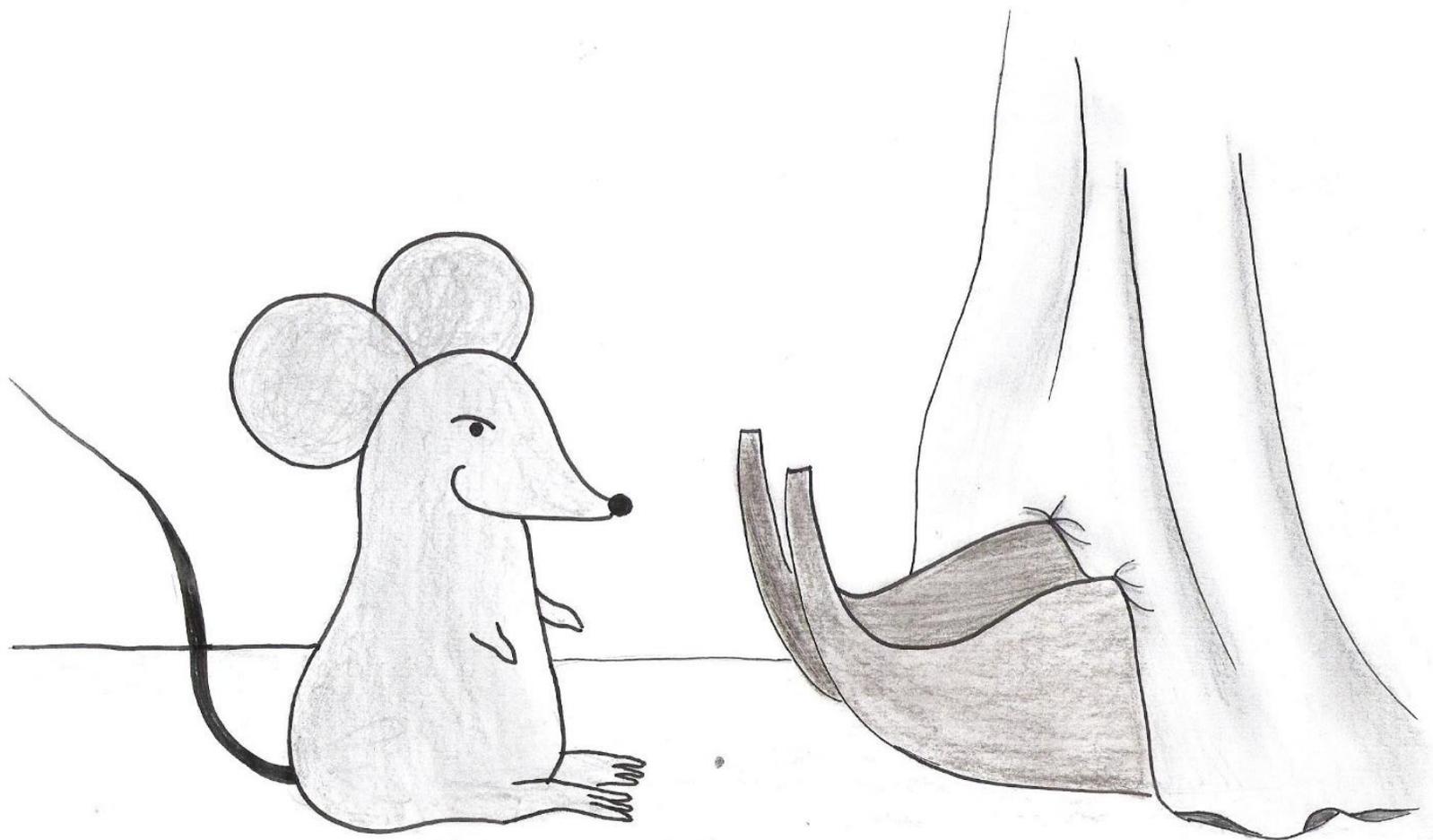
On the way to the gate, the rat came across a river that had a strong current. The rat knew that if he tried to swim across the river by himself, he would drown because he is too small. The rat waited. Just like the rat, the ox got up very early to run the race. When the ox came across the river, he saw the rat. The ox knew he was big and strong and that no water could hurt him, so the ox made his way across the river easily.



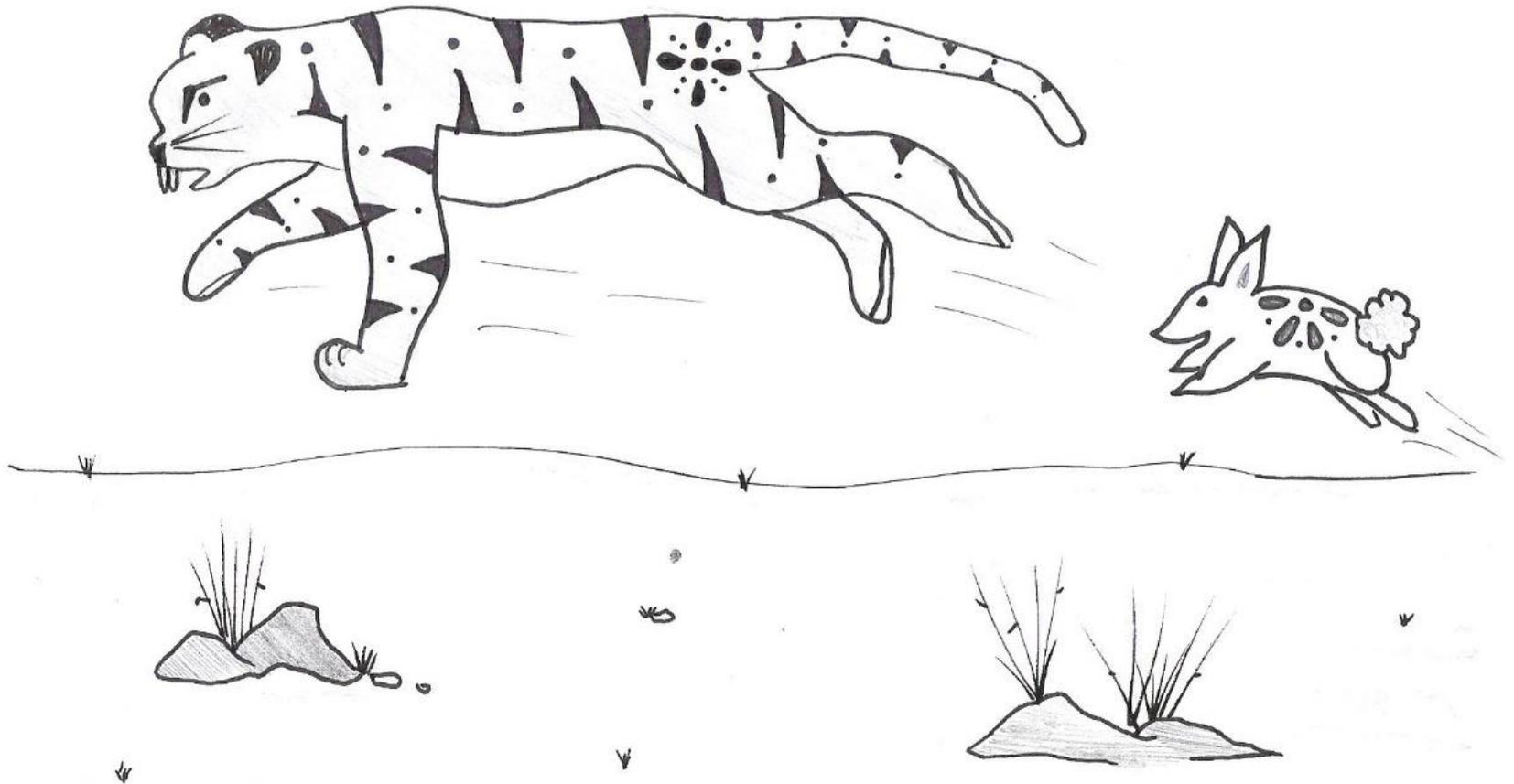
Quick-thinking, the rat jumped on the ox's back to help him cross the river. The diligent ox did not mind and let the rat stay on his back.



After crossing the river, the ox raced towards the gate of the Jade Emperor. When the ox is about to meet the finish line; suddenly, the rat jumped out from the ox's back and dashed to the feet of the Jade emperor. So, the rat won first place and the ox came in second.



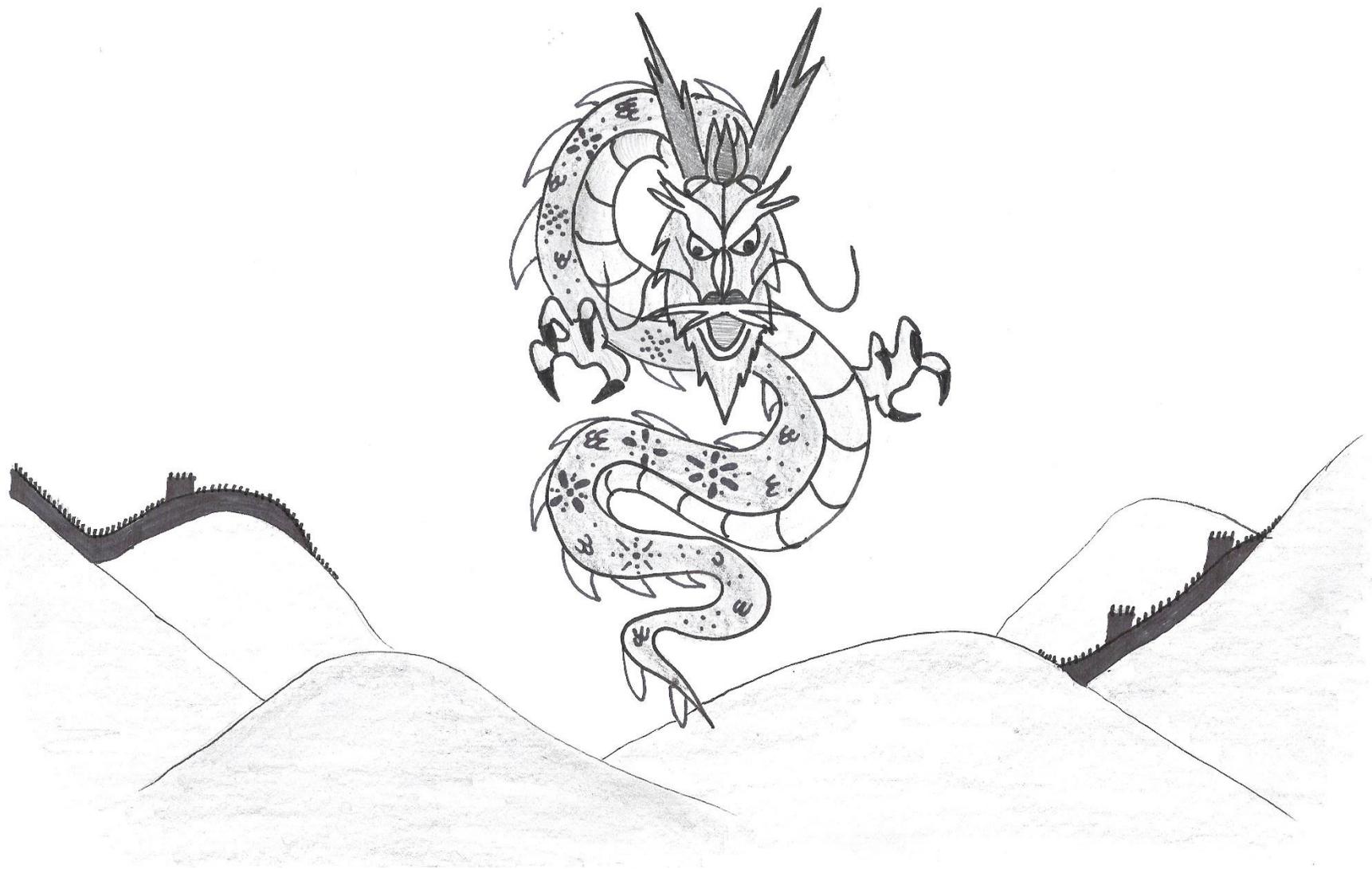
Next came the competitive tiger and the fast rabbit. The tiger and the rabbit were both very fast and very competitive, but the tiger was faster because the tiger was able to make it across the river no problem.



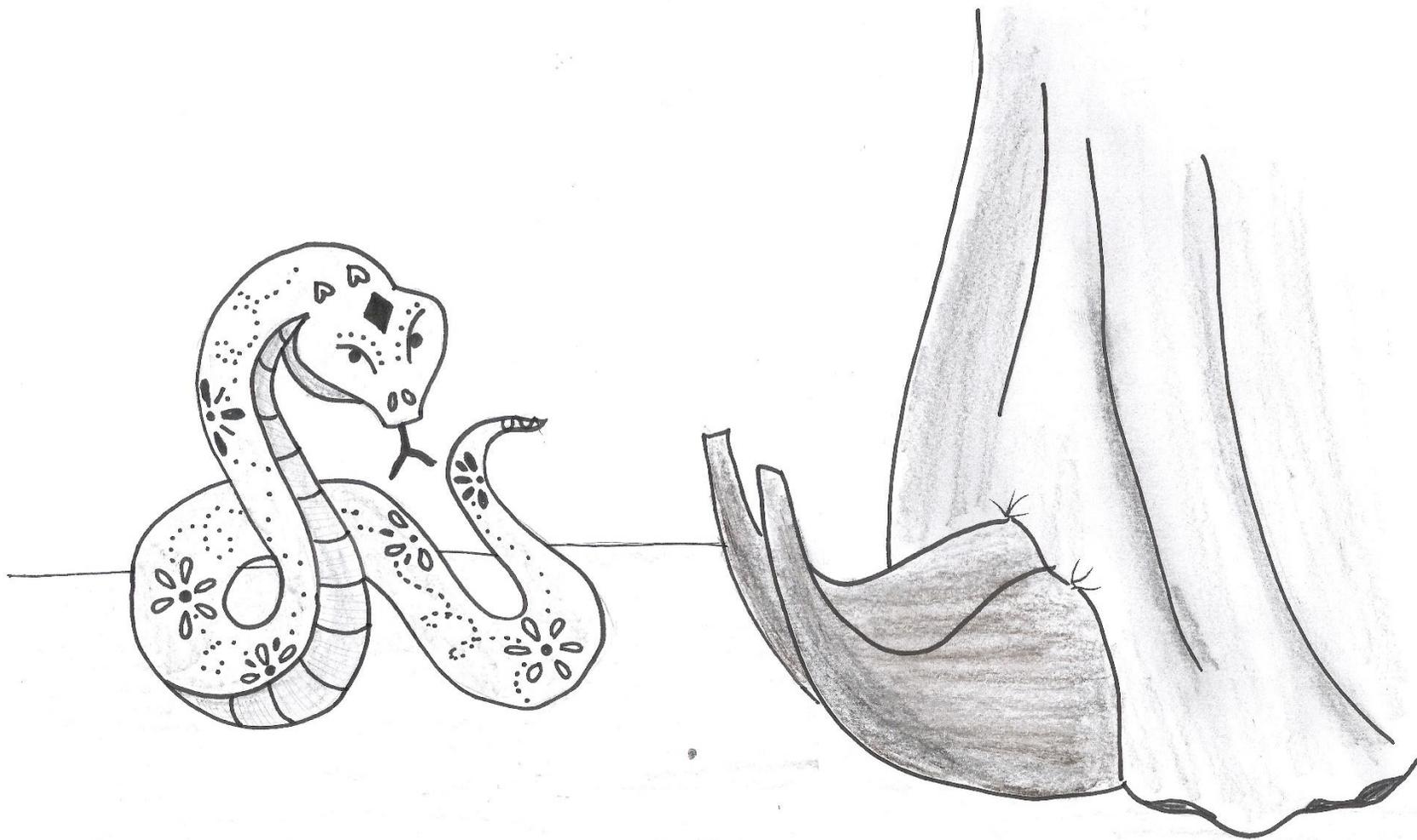
While the rabbit had to cross the river by hopping on steppingstones. The tiger made it to the Jade Emperor the fastest claiming the third spot and the rabbit followed shortly claiming the fourth.



Next came the beautiful dragon and then the crafty snakes. The dragon flew through the race. When he arrived at the feet of the Jade Emperor, the emperor noticed how beautiful the dragon was. Overcome by his looks he gave the dragon the fifth rank.



He then told the dragon that he would give his child the sixth rank. But Dragon did not bring his son. Close to the finish line the crafty snake heard this conversation. The snake then raced, forward to tell the emperor that he was the son of the dragon and the dragon was his adoptive father. The snake then ranked sixth.



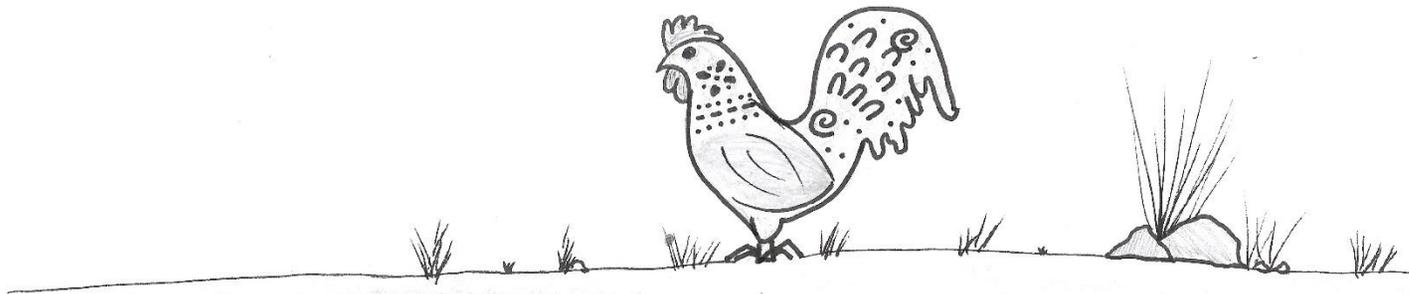
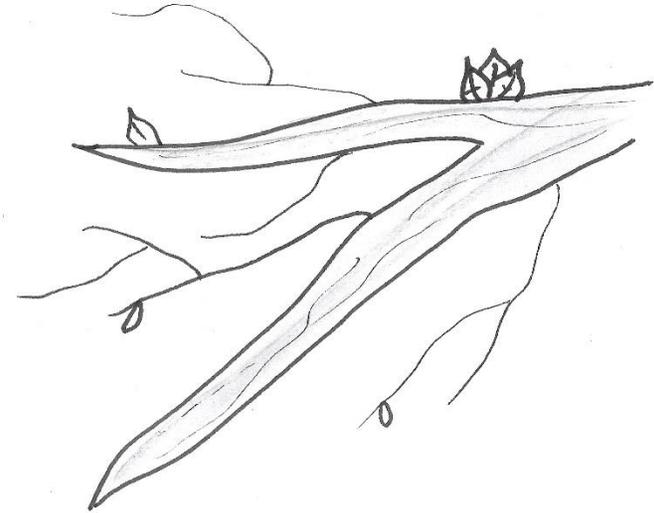
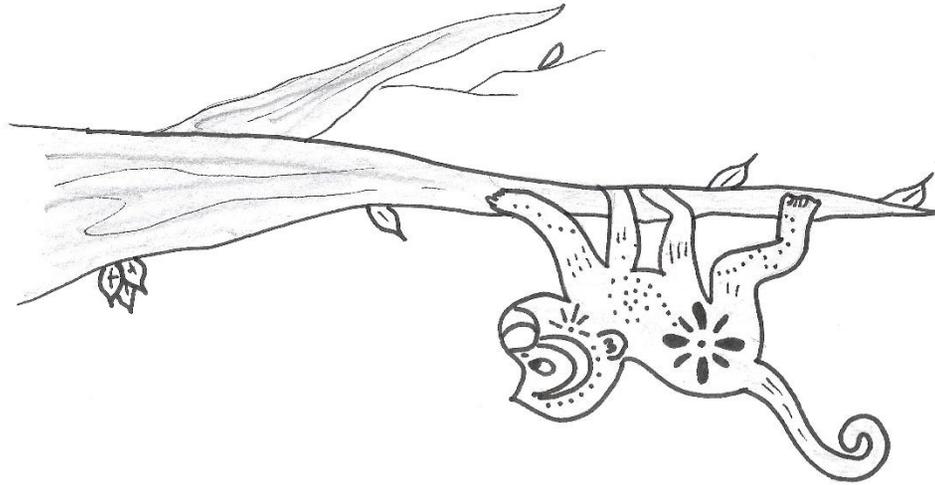
Shortly after both the horse and the goat arrived at the same time. The horse was kind and said that the goat arrived first and the goat was modest saying that the horse arrived before him. Seeing how polite each animal was to one another, the emperor ranked the horse seventh and the goat eight.



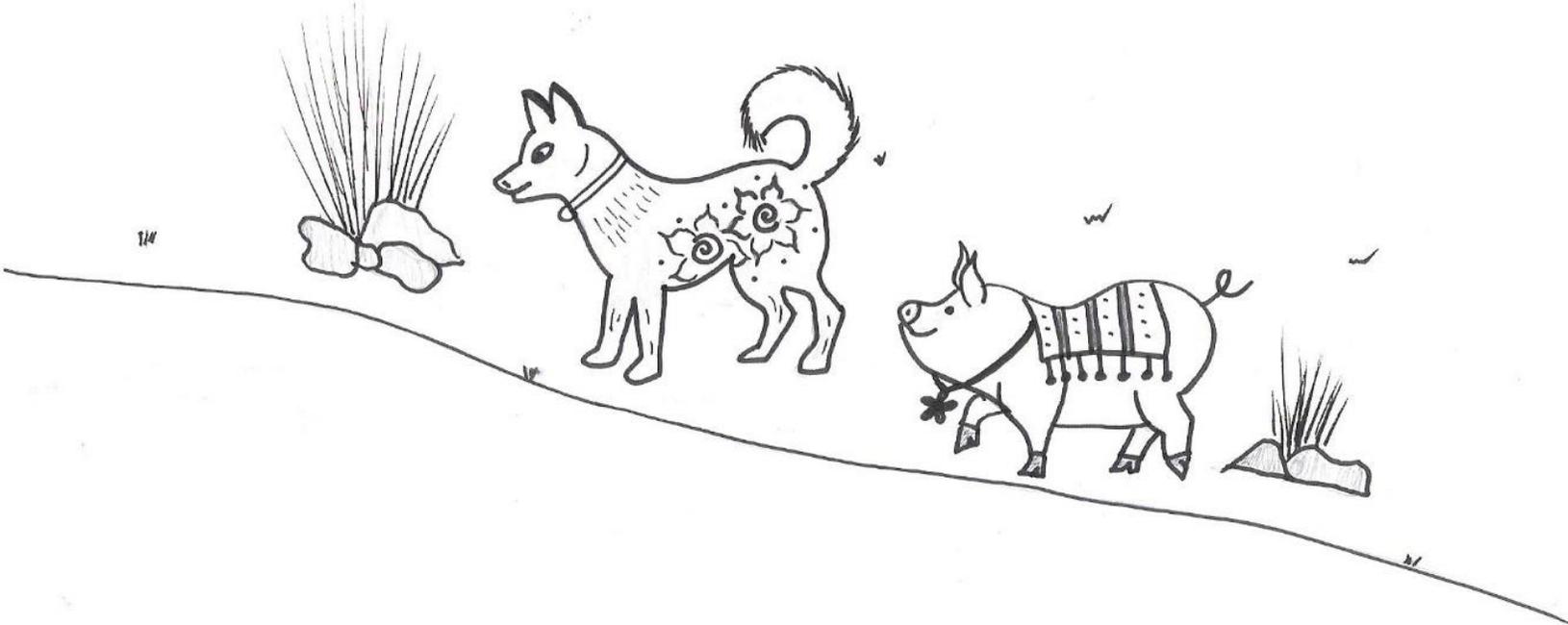
The monkey who had started the race early on had fallen behind because he spent his time jumping between trees and stones.



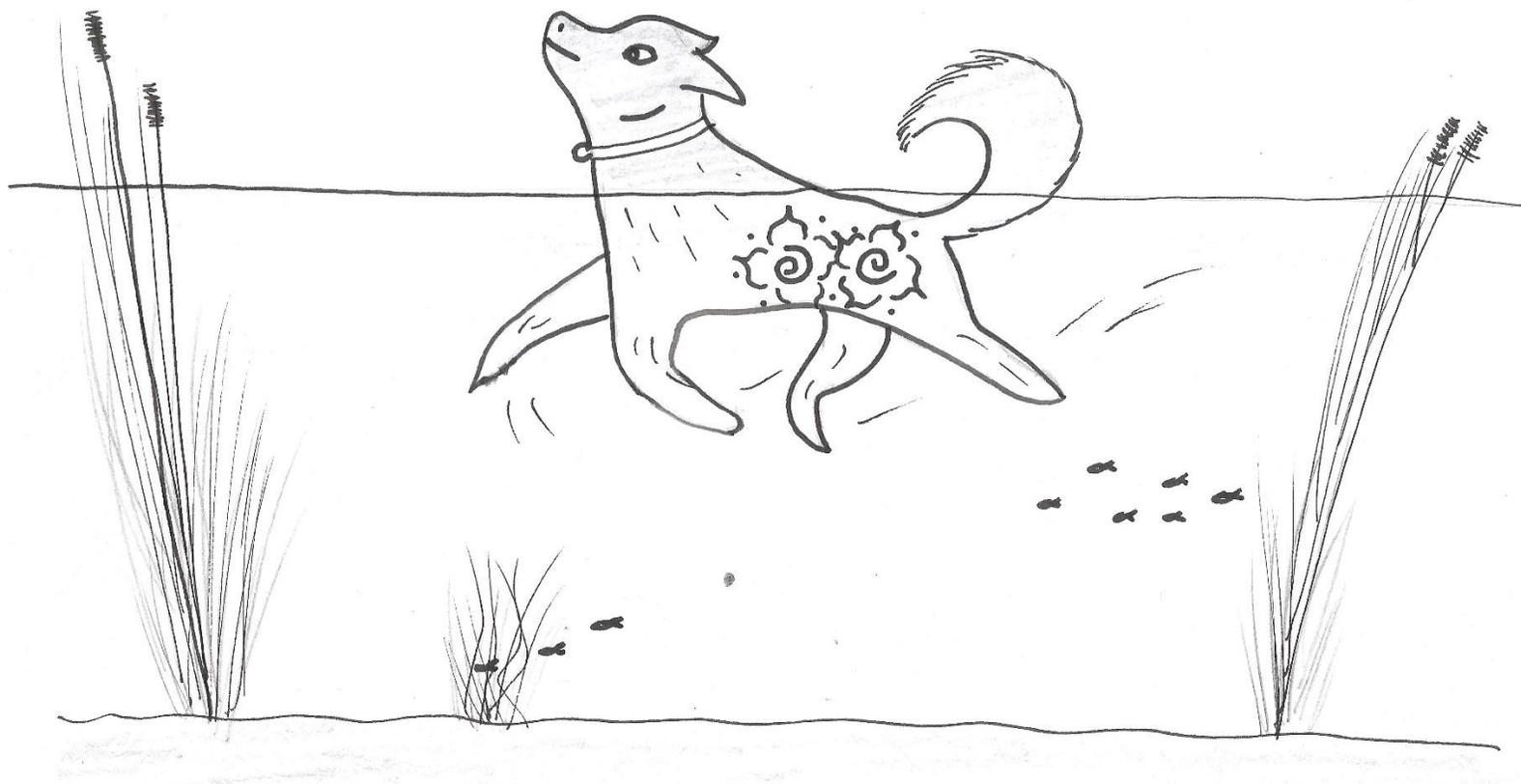
The rooster was about to cross the river when he saw the monkey. The rooster suggested that they build a raft and help each other across the river. The monkey listened and the two crossed the river together on the raft. The monkey swung to the Emperor stealing the ninth place, and the rooster followed shortly as the tenth animal.



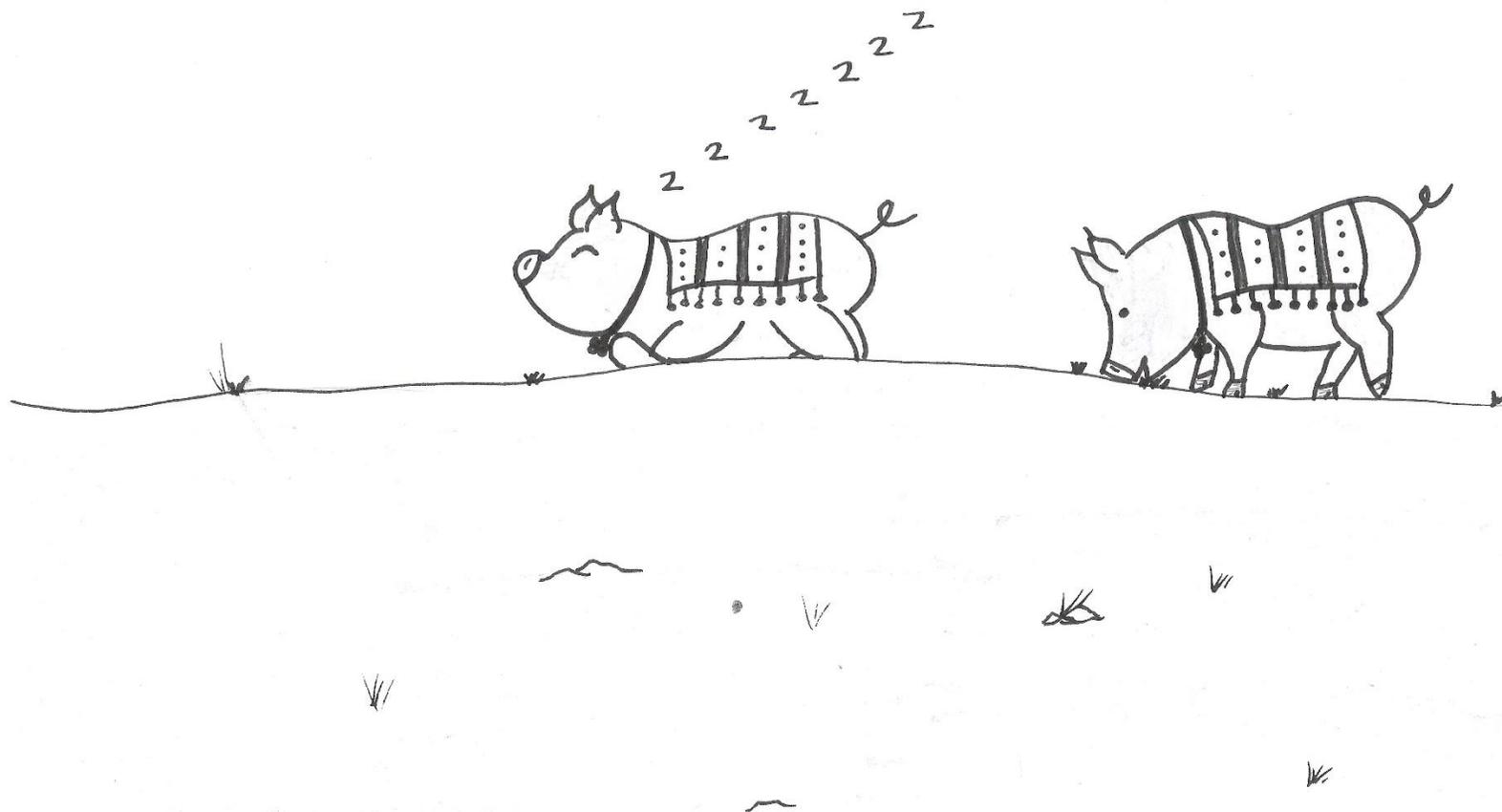
Following after were the dog and the pig. The two animals were too small to cross the river, so they had to wait for the stream to calm down before they were finally able to cross the stream and make it to the Emperor.



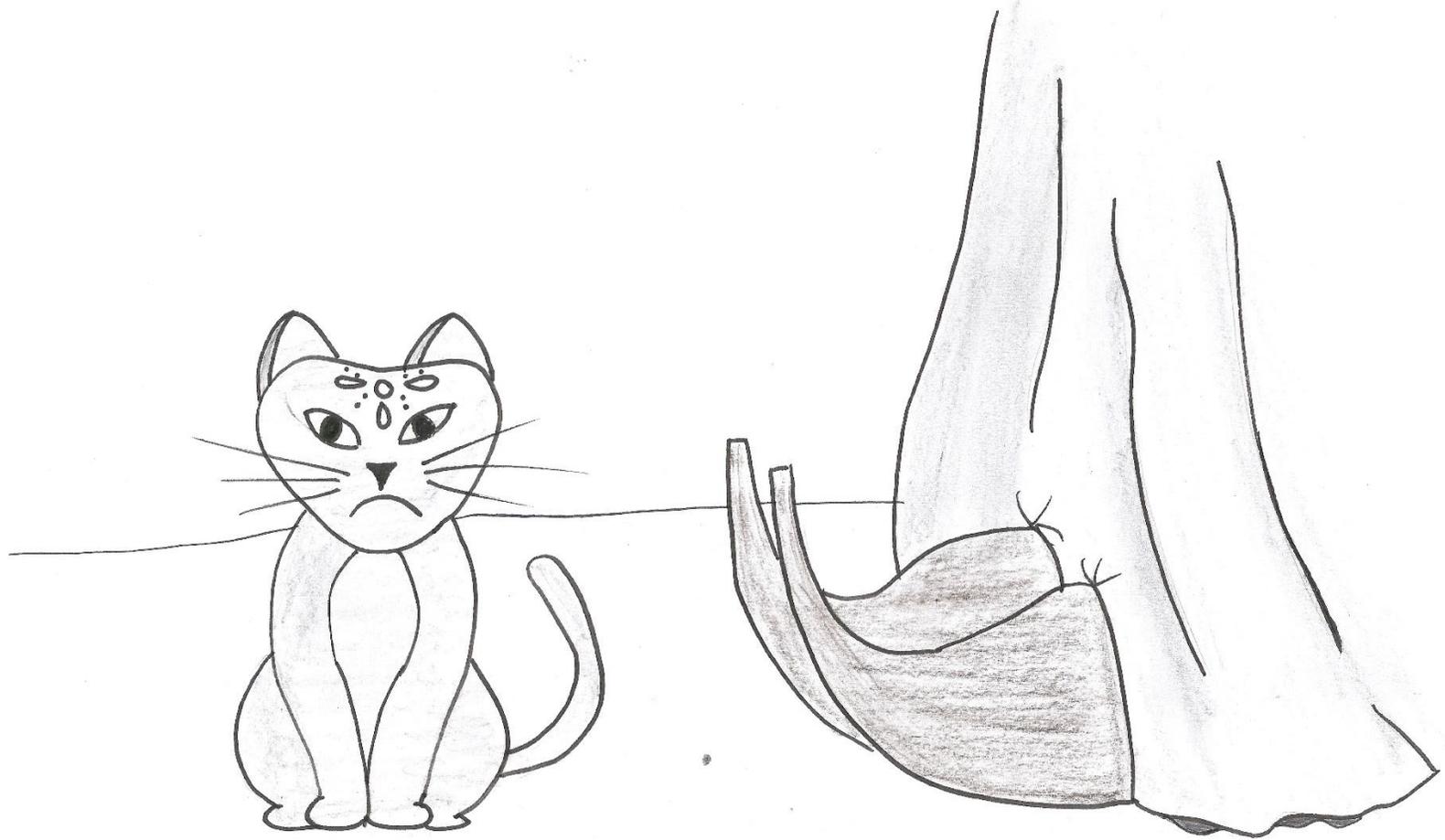
The playful dog was more interested in spending his time splashing about in the river, instead of running the race. After having his fun, the dog finally crossed the gate and took 11th place.



The pig got a bit hungry during the race. He made sure to stop for food and became sleepy and dozed off. The pig managed to make his way to the gate sealing the 12th place.



As for the cat, the cat finally woke up and realized that she had slept in and that the rat did not wake her up. The cat ran as quickly as she could to the jade emperor to find out that all his guards had been chosen and that the rat had won the first spot. angry at the rat, the cat and rat lost their friendship. The two never made up and to this day the cat is still angry at the rat.

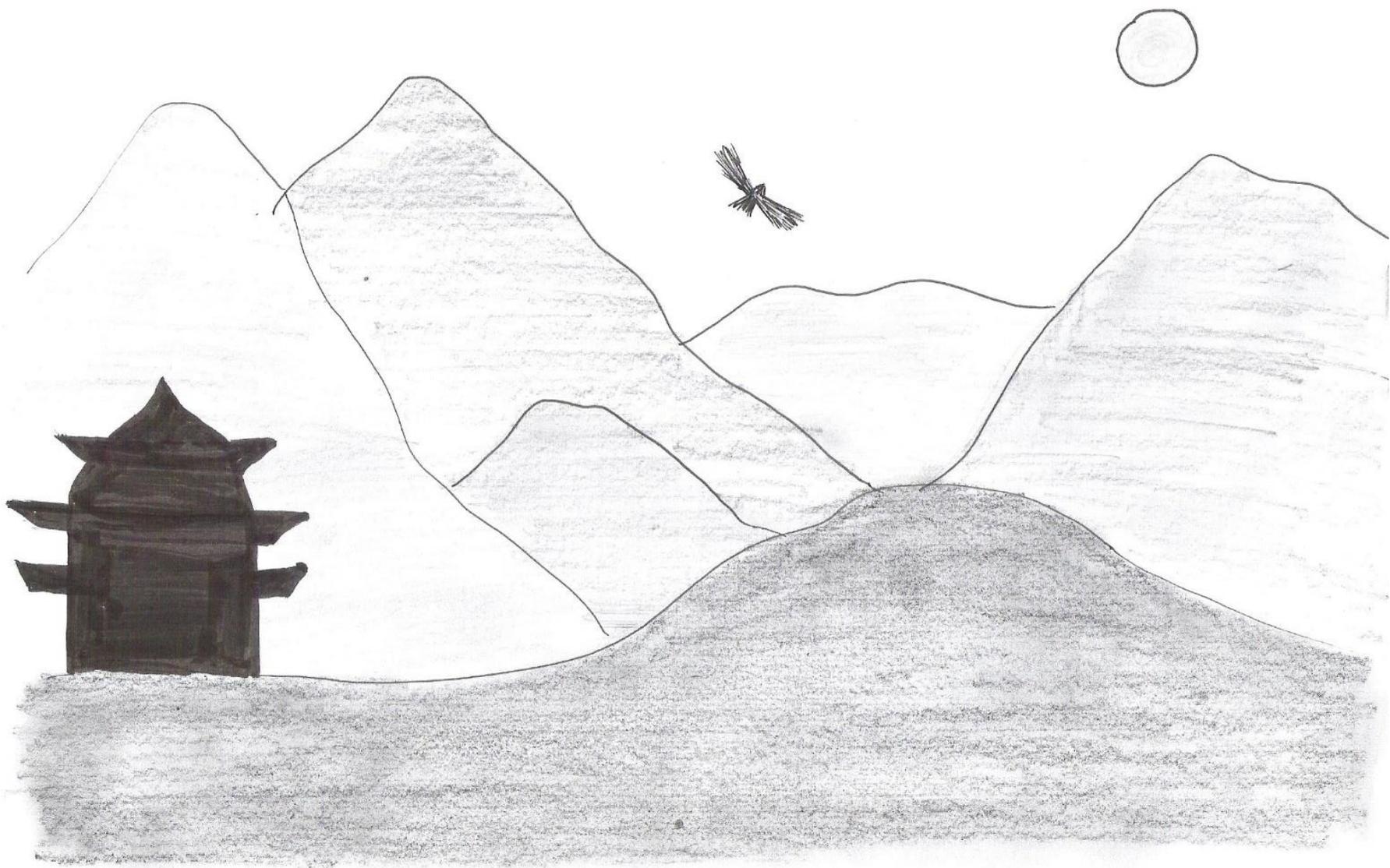


十二生肖动物赛跑

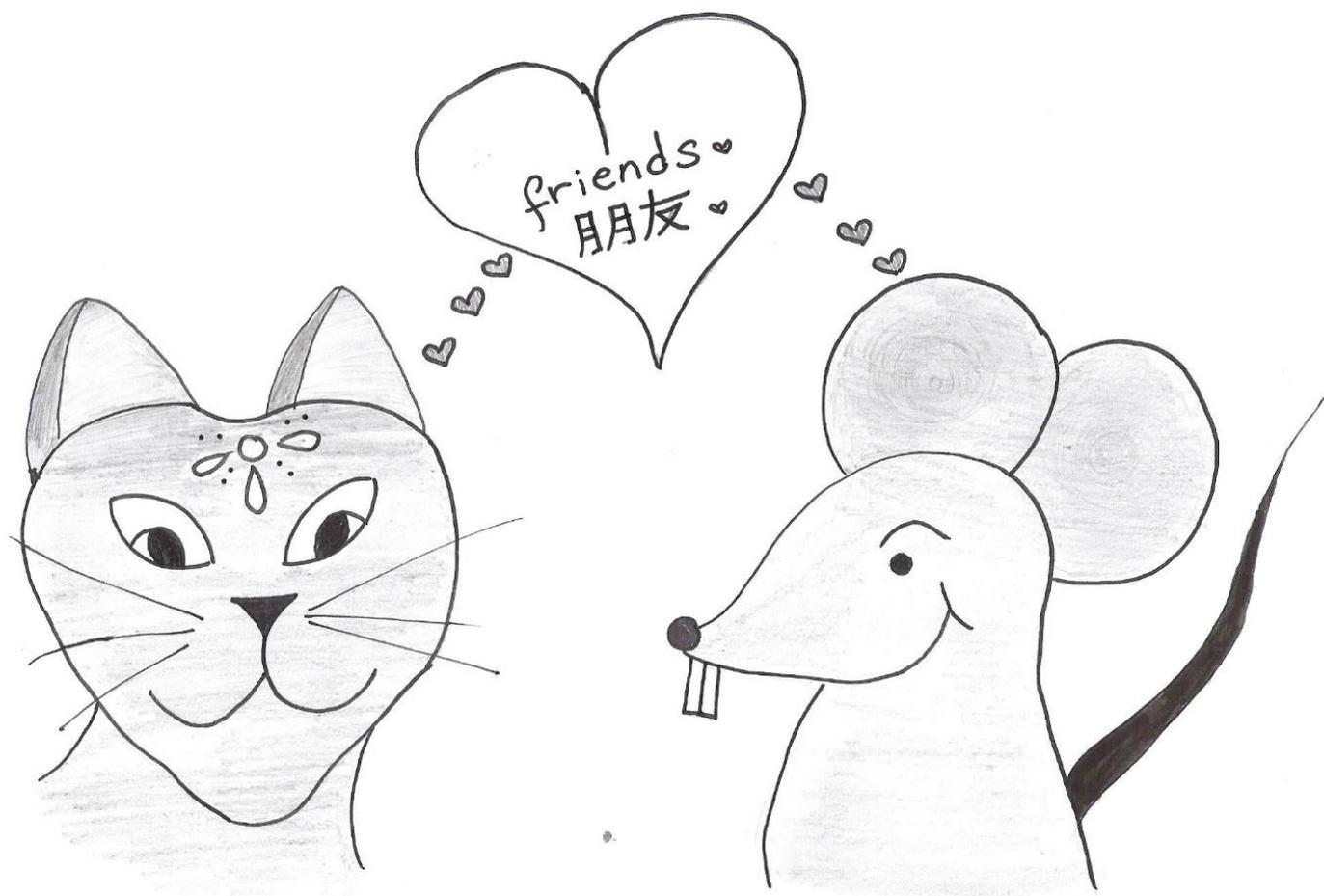
故事改编自: Samantha Di Fazio 狄小美,

Hailun Ma 马海伦, Li Ji 姬莉 & Sandra Raffoul 桑德拉

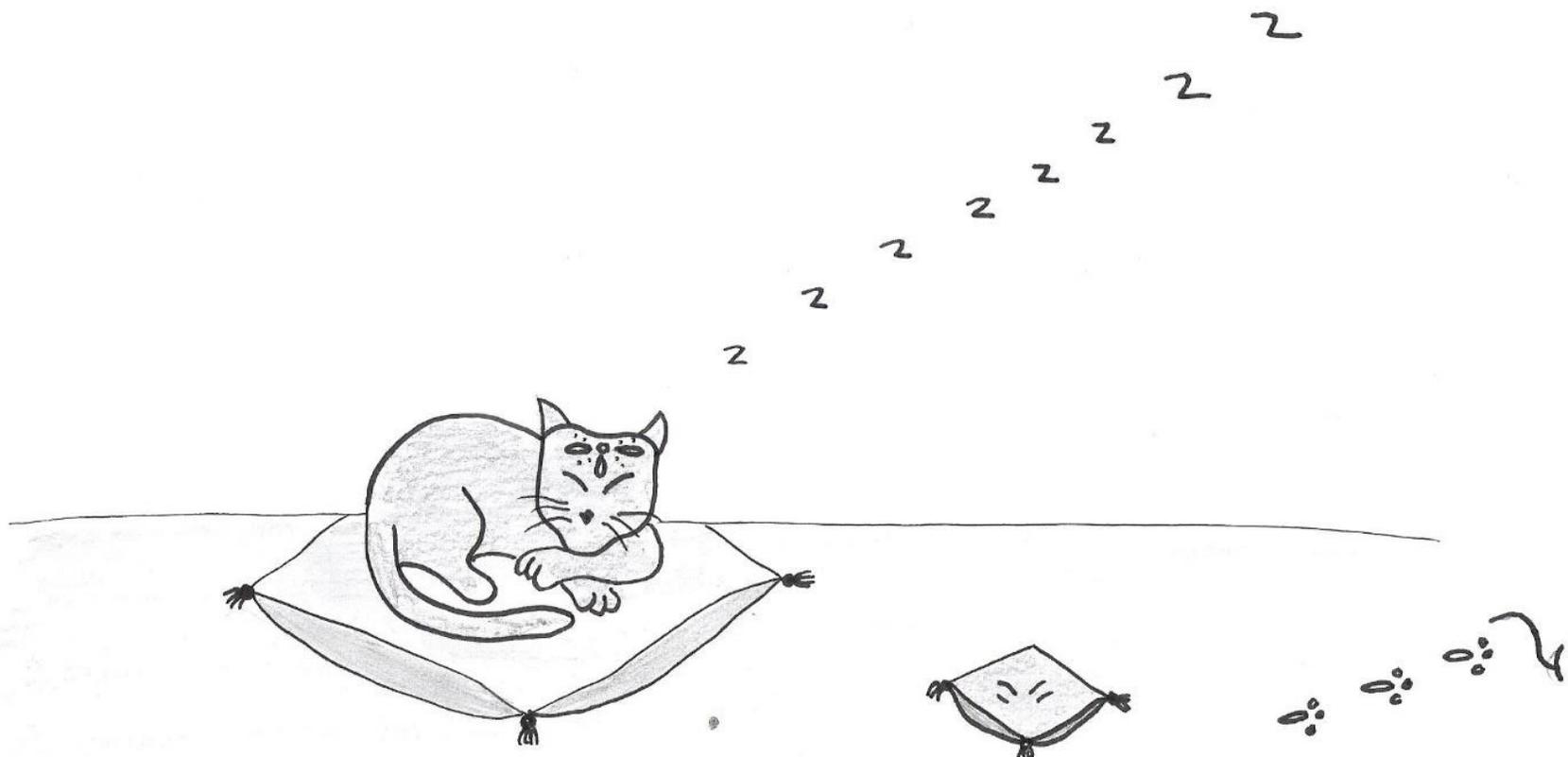
很久以前，有一个玉皇大帝。玉皇大帝想挑选12只动物作为他的护卫。于是他派信使传旨到各地说：“首先到达天门的12只动物，将成为他的皇家护卫。”



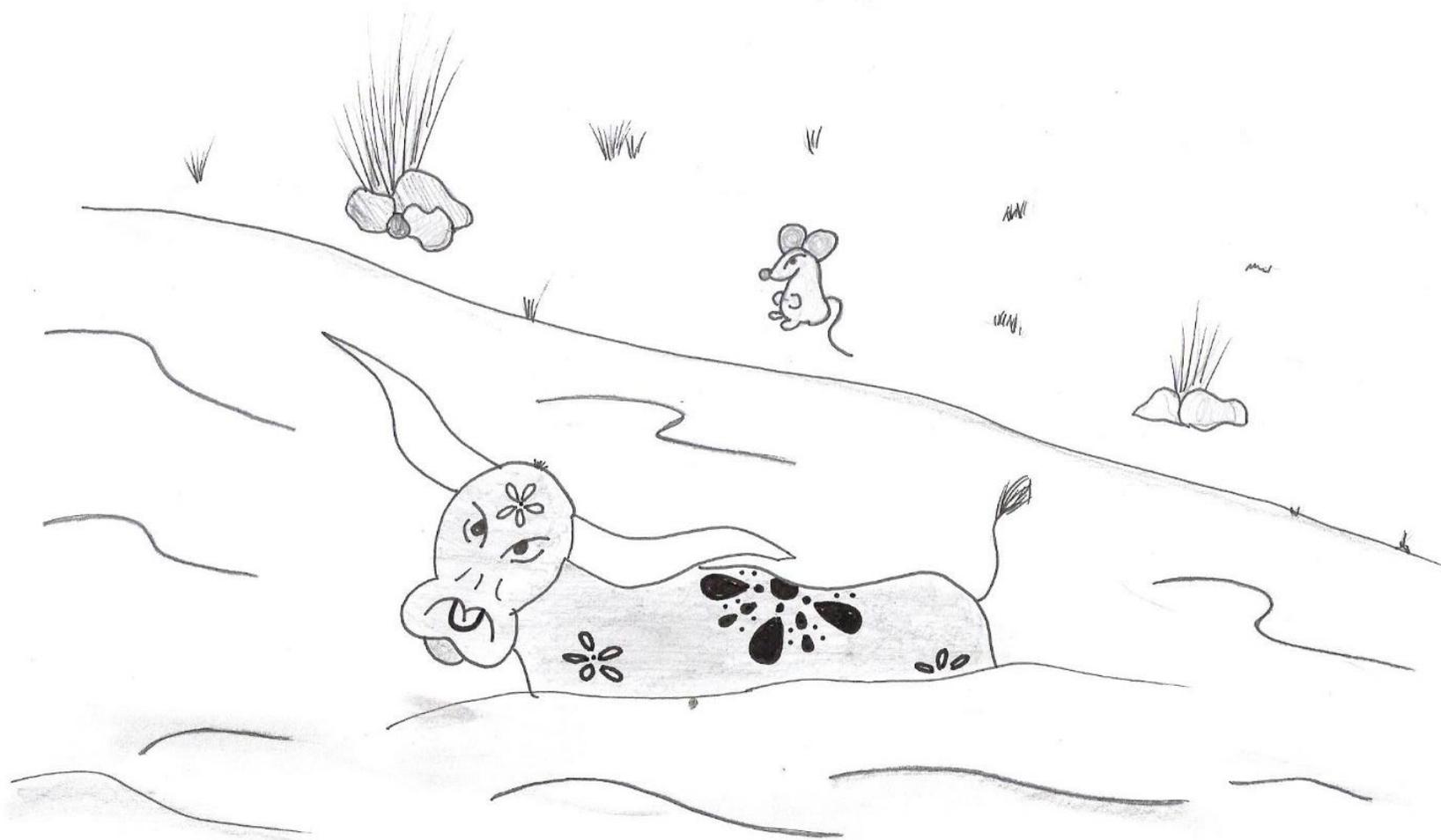
老鼠和猫是最好的朋友，听到这个消息，它们非常激动。它们计划在比赛当天，一起参加赛跑。猫提醒老鼠把它叫醒，因为它有睡懒觉的坏习惯。



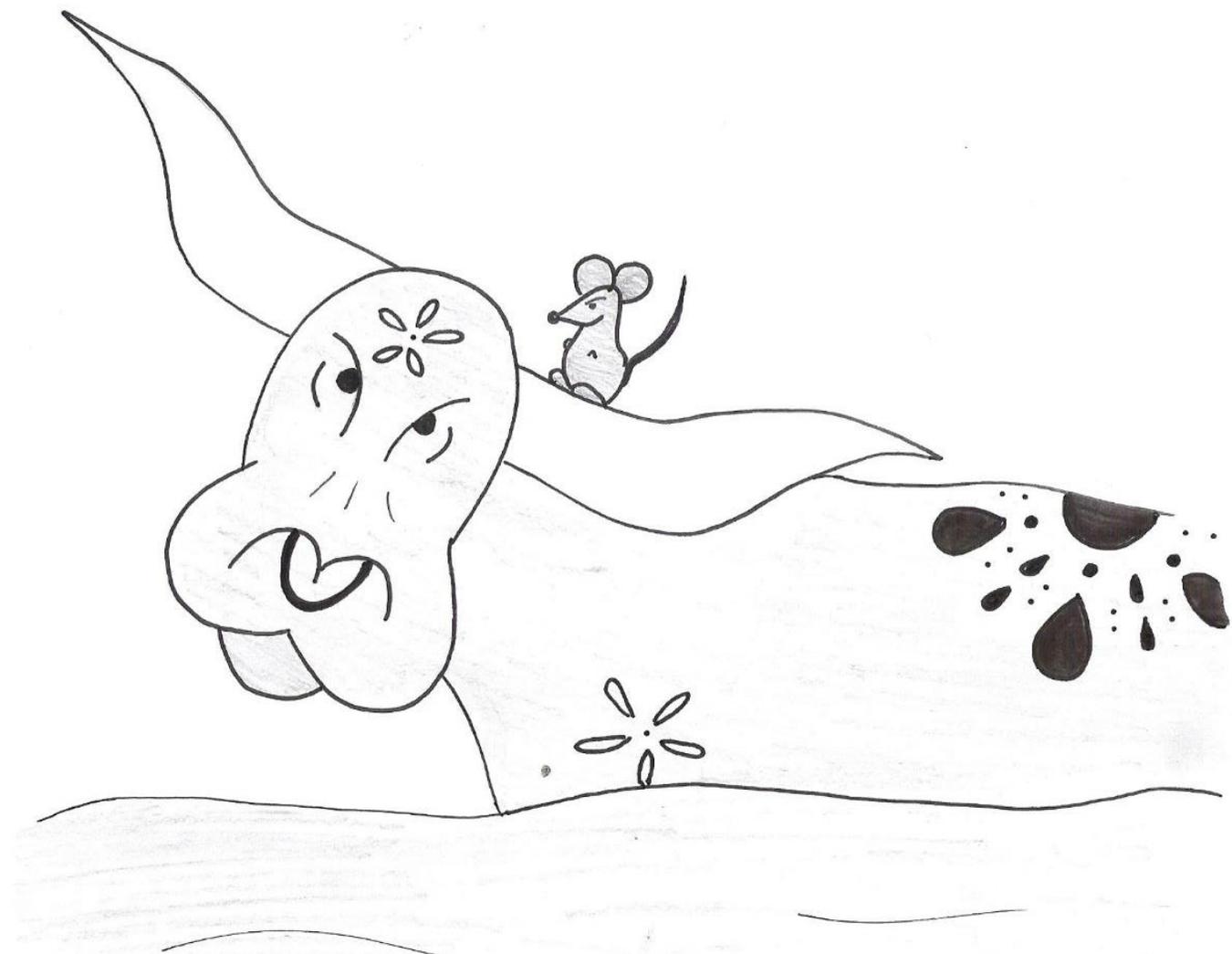
第二天，动物们整备充分去跨越天门。老鼠起得很早。但它狡猾的想成为第一个穿过天门的动物，于是，老鼠撇下了它熟睡的朋友猫，独自跑去想要赢得比赛。但在去城门的路上，老鼠遇到了一条水流湍急的河。它知道，如果它独自游过河去，可能会被淹死，因为它体型太小了。因此它在原地等待着。



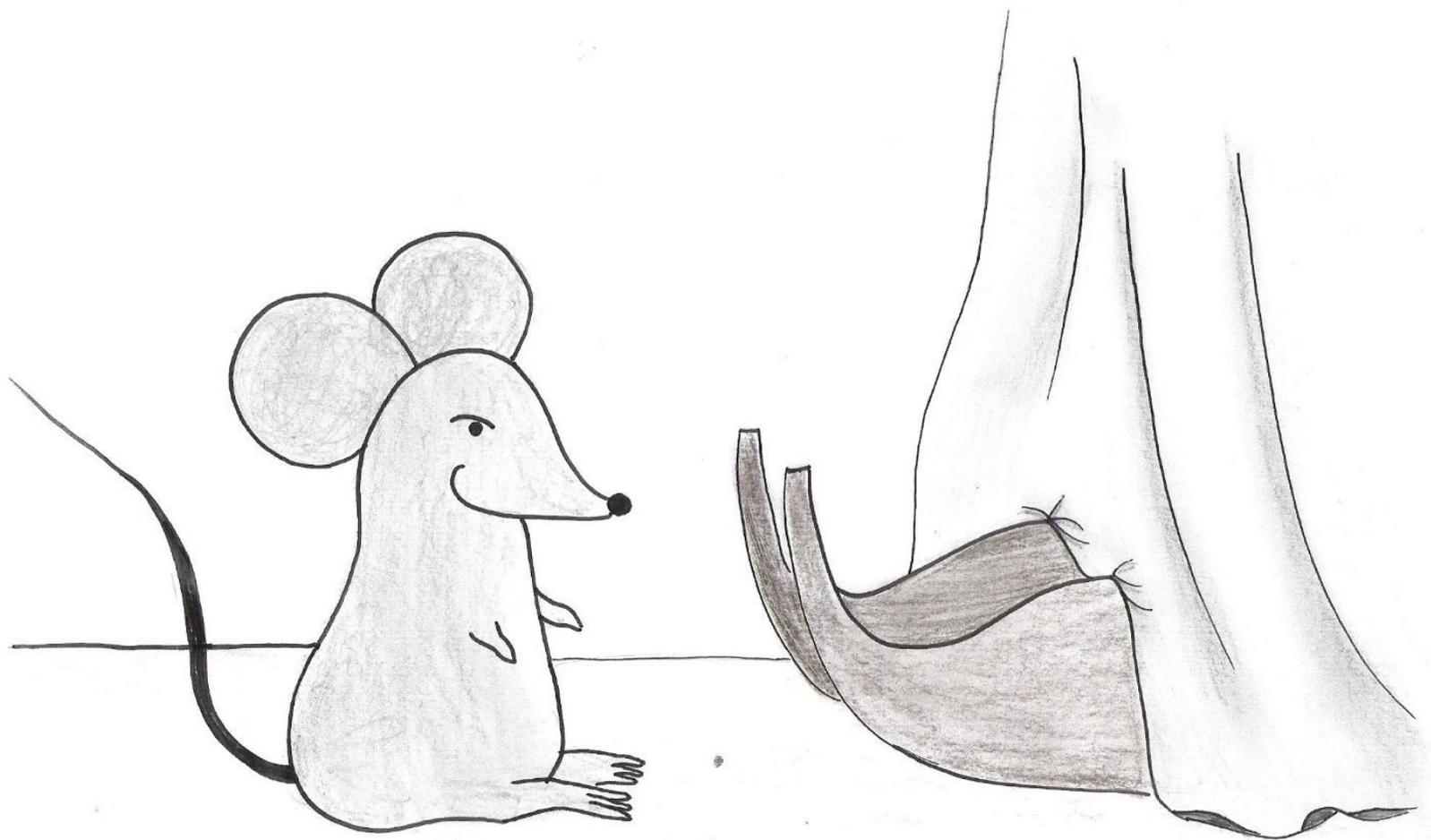
就像老鼠一样，牛也起得很早去赛跑。当牛准备过河时，它看到了老鼠。牛知道自己又大又壮，水是伤害不了它的，所以它悠然渡过了。



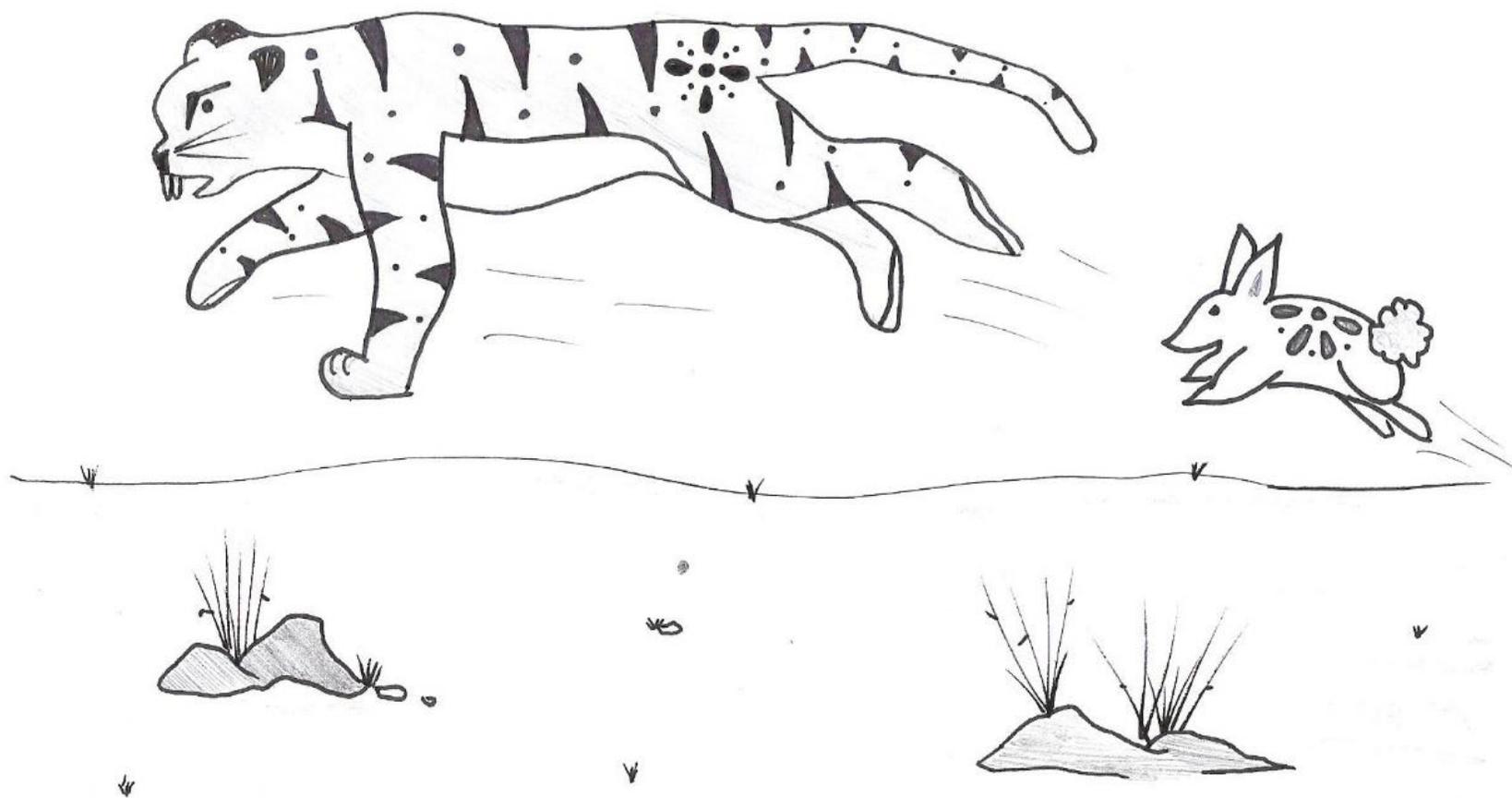
小老鼠灵机一动，跳上牛背，借机过河。勤奋的牛不介意，便让老鼠呆在了它的背上。



过了河，牛直奔玉皇大帝的城门。就在牛即将到达终点线时，突然，老鼠从牛背上跳出来，扑向玉皇大帝的脚边。所以老鼠得了第一，牛得了第二。



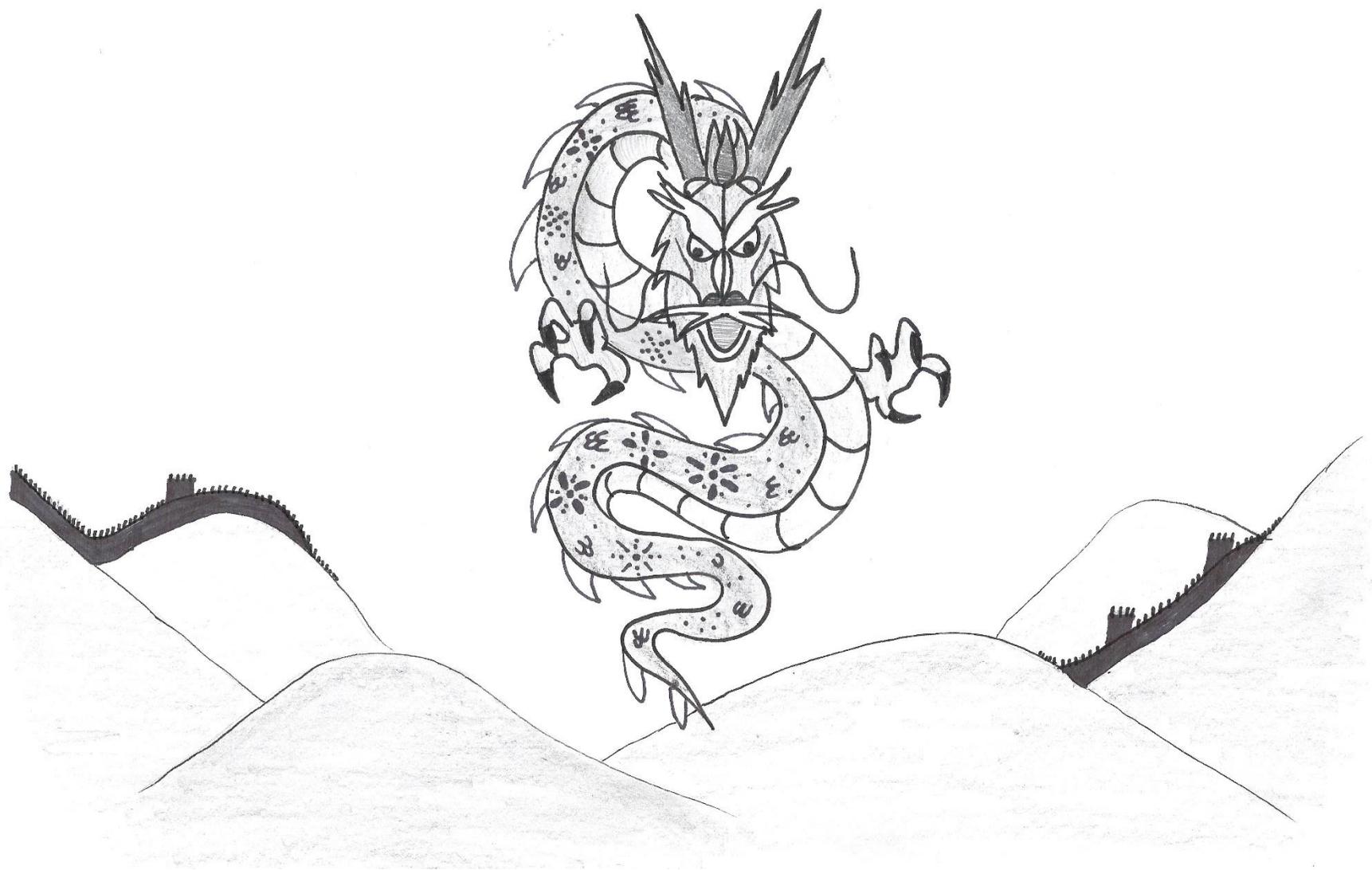
接下来是竞争激烈的老虎和飞快的兔子。老虎和兔子都跑得很快，也很有竞争力，但是老虎领先了，因为老虎能毫无困难地渡河。



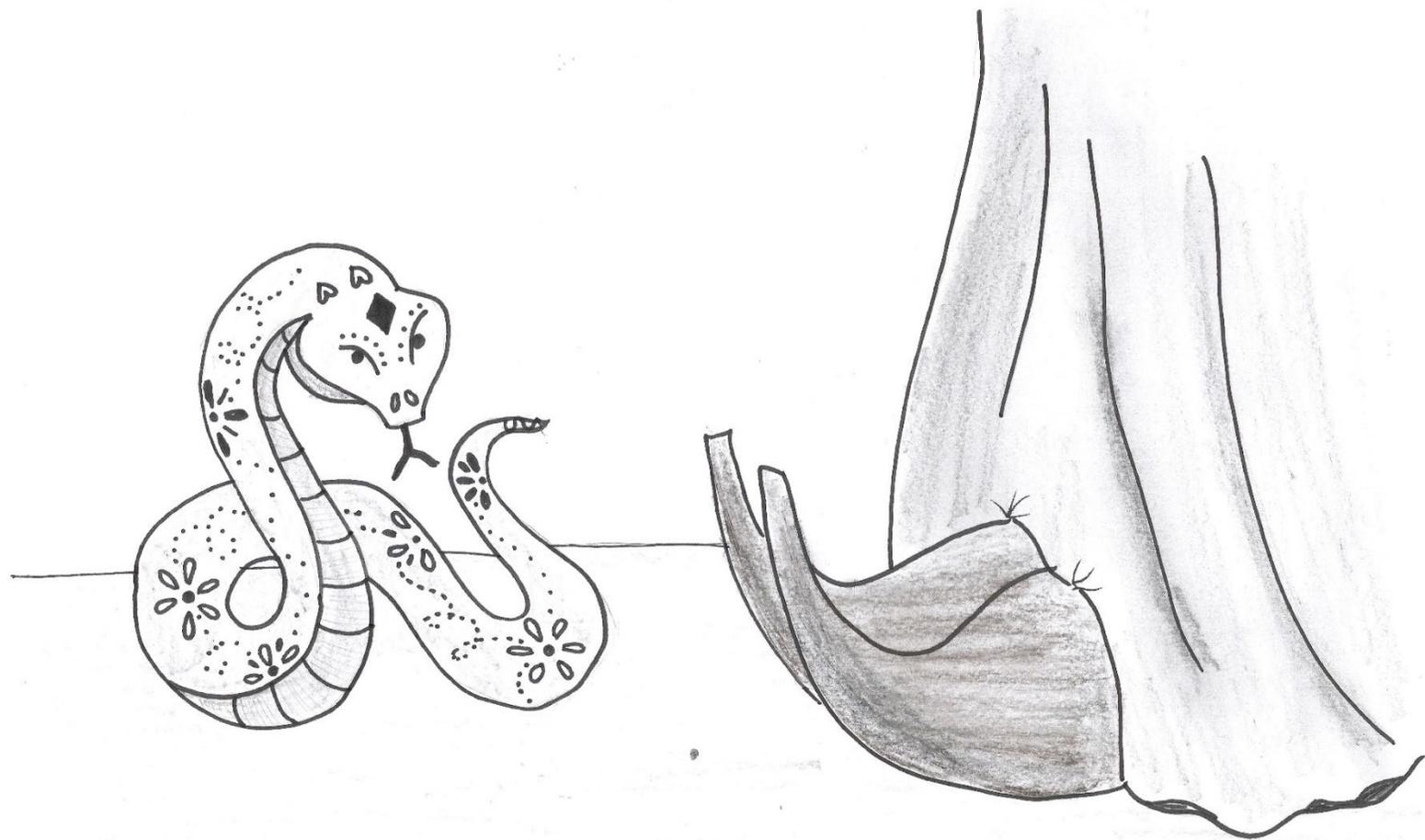
而兔子却不得不踩着垫脚石过河。老虎以最快的速度跑向玉皇大帝，获得第三名，兔子紧随其后，获得第四名。



接下来是吉祥的龙和狡猾的蛇。龙飞跑过了比赛。当他来到玉皇大帝的脚下时，玉皇大帝发现龙是那么的美丽。看了看它的脸，他把龙列为第五名。



他接着告诉龙，他可以让它的孩子成为六名。但是龙并没有带它的儿子来参赛。快到终点线的狡猾的蛇听到了他们的对话。于是，蛇就跑去告诉玉皇大帝，它就是龙的儿子，龙是它的养父，因此蛇成为了第六名。不久，马和山羊同时到达。马很善良，说山羊先到，山羊也很谦虚，表示马比它先到。



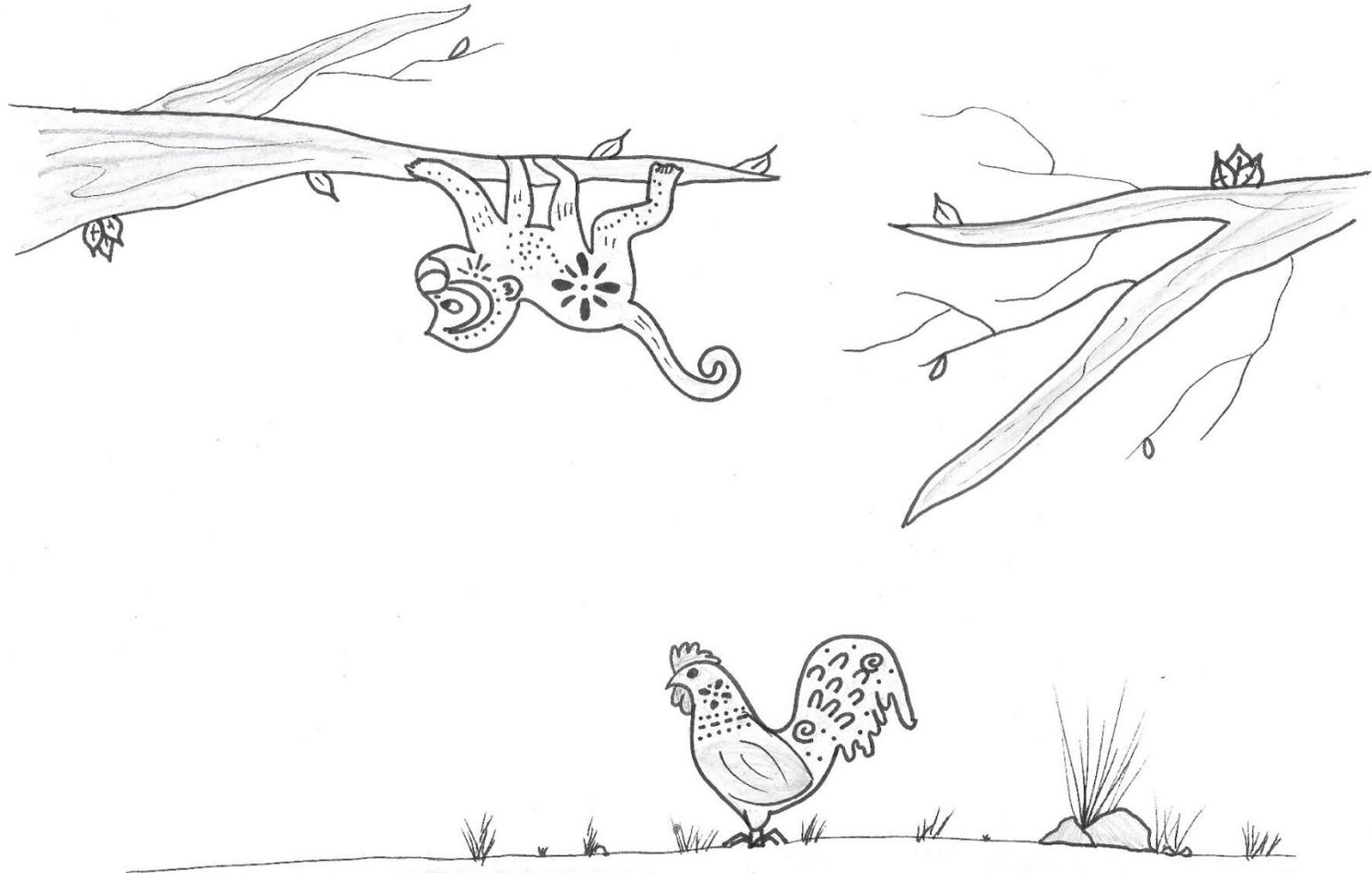
看到两个动物对彼此都很礼貌，玉皇大帝便把马排在第七位，山羊排在第八位。



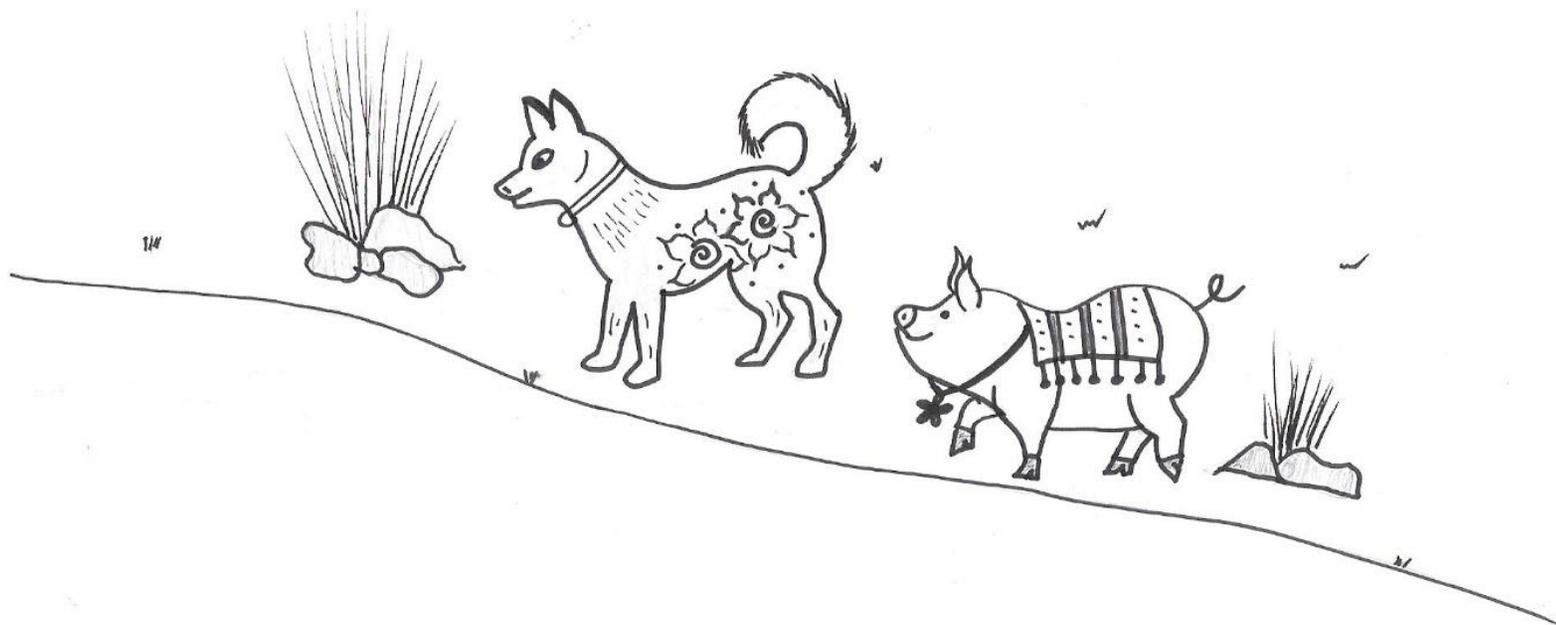
那只早早出发的猴子却落在了后面因为它将时间花在了在树木和石头之间跳来跳去玩耍。



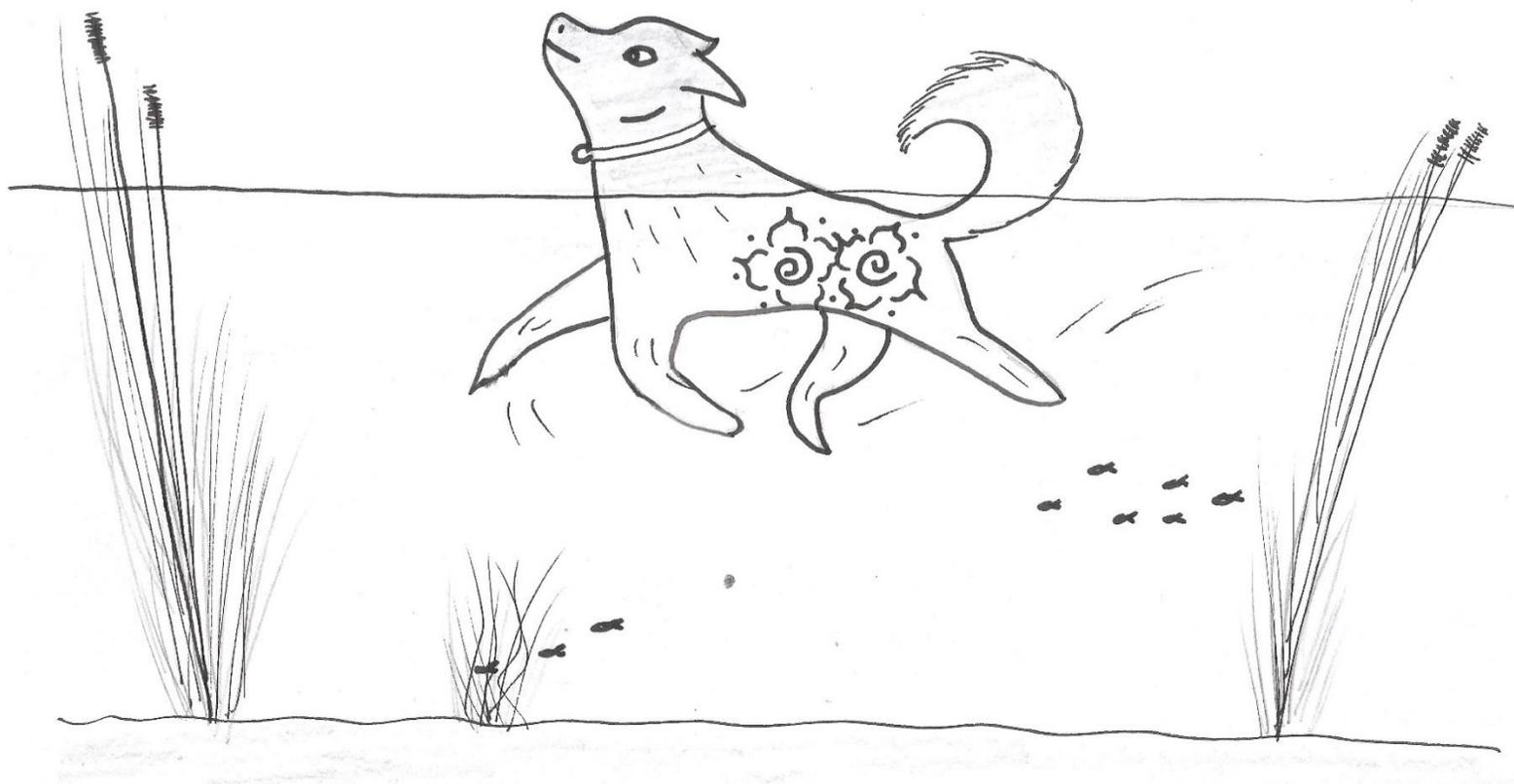
公鸡正要过河时，看见了猴子。公鸡提议搭个竹筏，互相帮助过河。猴子听后，两人一起坐在竹筏上过了河。猴子扑向玉皇大帝，偷走了第九名，公鸡紧随其后，成为第十名。



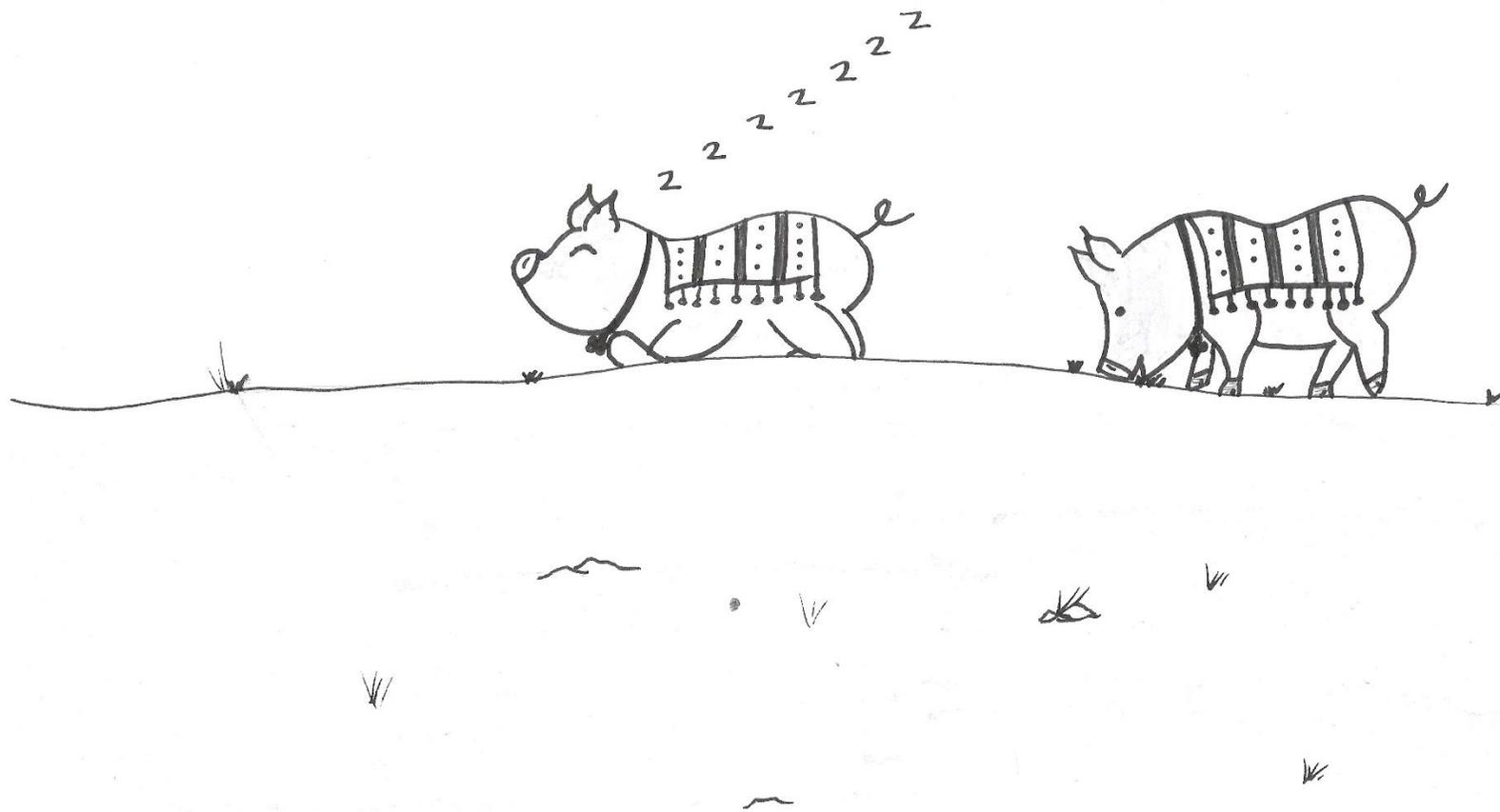
狗和猪跟在后面。但这两只动物太小了，无法过河，所以它们只好静待河水平缓下来，最后才过河去见玉皇大帝。



爱玩的狗比起赛跑更喜欢在河里玩水。玩得尽兴之后，这只狗才终于穿过了天门，获得了第11名。



猪在赛跑中有点饿了。它一定要停下来吃点东西，但吃完就困了，打起瞌睡来。所以猪成为了最后一名——第12名。



至于那只猫，等它终于醒来，意识到它睡过头了，而老鼠并没有叫醒它。猫以最快的速度跑到玉皇大帝那里，发现他所有的卫士都已选定，而且老鼠还得了第一名。猫对老鼠十分生气，它们失去了友谊。直到今天，它们都没有和好，因为猫还在生老鼠的气。

