

tim'néepe

“At the Heart”

‘Heart of the Monster’



'iceyéeye – coyote

'ilcwéew'cix - monster

tilípe' – fox

qócqoc – meadowlark (used
in Sam Watters version).

'eek'ex – magpie (used by Mari
Watters, instead of meadowlark).

xáxaac – grizzly bear

wéɛpus – rattlesnake

páptic – muskrat

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Coyote and the Swallowing Monster

– this version was by the late *Mari Watters* –Nimiipuu, 1991. -

Coyote . . . was going upstream. **Coyote** is a-a-lways going upstream. And . . . he's going upstream, and he's going along the Clearwater and he noticed . . . that Salmon . . . were having some difficulty there, so, "**I'll** build a fish ladder so that the Salmon can go upriver and feed my people." And so he's busy working along there, and . . . a **Magpie** flew over and says "**Wha-a-t's you doin**, Coyote?" And Coyote looked up and says "**I-'m-m** building a fish ladder for the fish to go up, you know, to feed my people." And . . . Magpie looked at him "**Ah-h-h-h**, there's **no reason** for the fish to go up there. **The Monster, Its-welks**, ate them all up."

He's up in the valley, near Kamiah." And Coyote says, "Oh-h-h-h, **that's** what happened to them. Oh, no wonder **nobody's** been around to help me."

So . . he starts up that way and he stops along the way and he takes a sweat bath. He **cleans** himself up **re-e-al** nice, you know, and he says, "Well, I'd better sweat real good to get my **power**, and also to clean myself in case the Monster . .

if he should **eat me** he won't find me repulsive!" And so he takes a sweat bath. And along the way he's going up over . . the Camas Prairie, and he stops and he gets some flint and makes some knives, flint knives, and makes something to start fire and he grabs some . . dry moss and things. As he goes along, he gets some . . camas and some . . elderberries and other . . serviceberries and things like this and he puts them . . all in his . . . pack And . . . he gets himself and he's on his way, and he's making these **ropes** out of hemp. And he **goes** along, ah-h he's thinking of a plan. He said, "Oh-h-h, I miss all my friends. **I was wondering** where Fox went, you know, **Oh-h-h**"

So he . . gets up to the top of the prairie, "Well . . . , I'd better tie this rope around Mason Butte . . "

And he goes and ties it around there And he goes up and ties one rope around Seven Devil Mountains, and the other around . . . **Cottonwood** Butte . . And he ties them around his waist And Coyote gets up to the Breaks and looking into Kamiah, and, "Ah-h-h, I don't want him to see me right away."

So he **covers** himself . . with clay and he's sort of . . . hard to see And he **pe-e-e-ks** over the side there, you know, and spreads the weeds . . . and grass and what not and **lo-o-o-ks** over and sees the Monster. **Monster** has just eaten a whole bunch, and he's sort of laying there . . . sleeping, with his head on his hands, you know, sleeping away, "ah-ah-ah-ah." (whispering voice) Coyote yells out, (whispering voice) "**Its-we-e-lks, Its-we-e-lks . . !**" (loud voice) The Monster looks around, "**Who's** that? you know, who's that calling me?" He looks around . . over . . the Breaks, and he can't see anybody. Coyote is well-camouflaged . . .And . . he says,

"**Who is** that?" And Coyote says, "**It's me . . !**" (louder) Monster looks, "'It's me'? Who's 'It's me'? I don't know anybody named, 'It's me' . . !" And Coyote **stood** up and he said "**It's me, Coyote.**" (loud voice) "**Oh-h-h, there you are. What are you** doing up there . . ?" "**Well,** I come down and we're . . going to test our powers out. We're going to . . . see who's going to **draw** each other in . . " And the Monster, "Haugh, haugh, **okay, alright,** you go first. We'll do it **three** times . . " So Coyote gets up there and he checks his ropes, you know, and he's all tied up nice. And he goes "Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh!" And the only thing that happens is that maybe a hair on Monster's ear . . . wiggles around. "Haugh, haugh, haugh." Coyote yells down at him "**It's your turn,** Its-welks, **you try** to suck me in."

So Its-welks opens his mouth and, "Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh!" And the Coyote starts going down but the ropes hold him back And Its-welks looks "**He-e-e-y!** He's got a lot more power than I thought, you know!" "Okay, it's your turn." And Coyote gets up there, "Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh!" A-a-a-nd nothing happens, you know Monster goes "Hey-hey-hey-hey, haugh haugh haugh. I knew he couldn't do anything, you know. He thinks he's got power. **I-'ve** got more power." And Coyote says "**Ok-a-ay, it's** your turn."

So . . Its-welks, he opens his mouth and drives in the **biggest** air. "Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh." And with that Coyote cuts some of the ropes and starts sli-i-ding down the hill, you know. And the Monster's just about got him, maybe the next time... "**Your** turn Coyote." And Coyote, "Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh." And no-o-thing happened and Monster's sitting there, "**Hey-hey-hey**, haugh-haugh-haugh." "**Ok-a-ay** get ready now!" And he opens his mouth, "Ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh-ooh." And Coyote goes **flying** through the air, he reaches into his backpack, and throws out the roots and berries he brought with him. And he says, "Soon, the human beings will be coming, and they will find these and be happy!"

And Coyote went **scotching** into his mouth, you know "Aam-aam-aam-ay-ay-ay." Its-welks lies down . . . ,and he's content there And Coyote is inside, he gets his flint and makes a little torch And he goes along, and . . . sees all these animals, all these friends . . . and what not and, "**Hello hello.**" And they're glad to see him, some of them are jumping up and down. And Old Grizzly Bear comes up, Bear comes up, "**Gra-ah, r-a-a-ah!**" "**What are** you doing here? **I was** going to save the people. **You didn't** have to come down." And Coyote looks at him, "What are you getting so worked up for? You are so **ferocious** to **m-e-e, why** are you doing that?" And pushed him in the nose, you know, pushed him back out of the way. And that's why the Grizzly Bear has a different kind of nose than the Black Bear . . . !

And . . . he's going along with his light, you know, and Fox ran up to him. "**Fox,** how are you?" "I'm doing just fine! I was wondering when you were going to come and save us." "Well . . . , I need some help. You go and get all the boys together, and you have them gather all the bones of all the dead people, and put them by all the openings, and then have them gather a-a-ll the wood and bring it to the heart. But you have to show me where the heart is, you know." And so Coyote goes on. Fox runs on, and tells all the boys, and they gather the bones of the dead people and they put them by **a-a-ll** the openings, you know. They gather wood, and they show him where the **heart is** . . .

But on the way there . . . they run into Rattlesnake, and Rattlesnake is just **mad** . . . and **rattling**, "Chish, chish, chish, . . . wish, chish, chish **What** are you doing here? I was going to save the people. I'm the one who has the **power**." you know And Coyote says, "**Oh**, you are so ferocious to everybody else, and to me! you know. **Ah**, you are nothing but a **pest!**" And **stepped** on his . . . head, and that's why a Rattlesnake has a flat head. And he says, "From now on, you're just going to be a **pest**. And you'll really be . . . **scared** of people and you'll **run away** when they come by. But . . . sometimes you'll be brave and they'll **kill** you." And that's what happens to rattlesnakes today . . . !

But he found the heart. Coyote takes pitch from his backpack, and starts a fire with the gathered wood under the Monster's heart.

He jumped on the heart. Took one of his five knives out and he starts cutting away at the heart. Smoke begins to come out the Monster's eyes, ears, nose and back end. And as he cuts into the heart Its-welks, Monster, "O-o-oh, I'm getting heart burn.

O-o-oh, I knew I shouldn't have eaten that Coyote, O-o-oh." And he opens his mouth and some of his openings and . . . **a-a-ll** the boys throw out the bones, as many as possible. And he keeps cutting, and every time he'd do that the Monster, Its-welks, "**O-o-o-oh**, o-o-oh." And Coyote keeps cutting, and everything he does, that Monster, "**O-o-o-oh**," and everything opens up and the boys throw out more bones. Coyote breaks one knife, and then another, and finally he is down to his **last** knife, and what not.

Coyote keeps cutting away at the heart. And he says to the people, "As soon . . . as he opens up again, you all **run out** and I'll **run** out too . . . , and he'll be **dead**." So he cuts it and cuts it and cuts it, and finally the **last** knife breaks and the heart falls off. And the Monster goes, "**O-o-o-o-o-oh!**" And with that . . . **everybody** runs out . . . , out of his **nose**, out of his **eyes**, out of his **ears**, out his **mouth**, out of the **back end** . . . And . . . **Muskrat** . . . was the last one to run out of the back end. But he was **slo-o-ow** . . . And as the Monster died he closed his back end over the Muskrat's furry tail, **beautiful** furry tail. And Muskrat, "**Oh, no!**" And he's sitting there, pulling his tail, and he's pulled all his hair off. And Coyote looked at him, "**And** now what will you do? You're **always** being the last one out. You'll be just a scavenger the rest of your life!" That's why Muskrat doesn't have any hair on his tail . . . !

And at this point . . . the . . . animals all are standing around and . . . he starts . . . cutting the Monster up. And gets some blood, and . . . sprinkles it on the bones . . . , and **a-a-ll** those . . . dead people come to life. And **everybody's** going, "**Yeah, yeah, yeah,**" you know. Monster's all dead, and . . . with the help of his friends, they cut up the Monster, and they throw different parts into different areas.

The feet landed over toward Montana and that's where the **Blackfeet** came from. Part of the head he threw over to another part of Montana, and the **Flatheads**, you know, came over from there. And . . . part of the tail, they threw over to . . . the **Umatillas**. And they threw some south, the **Navajos** . . . , and the **Shoshone**, and every place . . . else. They threw part of the belly over into Montana and that's the **Assiniboine** . . . the "**big bellies!**" And . . . ah, he was busy just **throwing** meat every which way, parts of the Monster
And Fox comes up to him and says . . . ,
"**What about the people here?** . . .
You forgot all about them."
The only thing left was the heart,
the kidney,
and a breast.
I guess the Monster was a woman.
Anyway,
and he says,
"**Oh**, I forgot **a-a-ll** about that
Go get some water from this clear . . . river,
the Clearwater [River]."
And he got him water.
"Now **pour** it over my hands."
And Coyote washed his blood off, you know,
and it dripped down.....

He said,
"Where this blood . . . lands
and with this heart will grow a people
. . .
They'll be **strong**.
They'll be **brave**.
They'll have **good** hearts.
They will lead good lives.
And these will be the Nez Perce "
And that's where the Nez Perce came
from . . . <the end>



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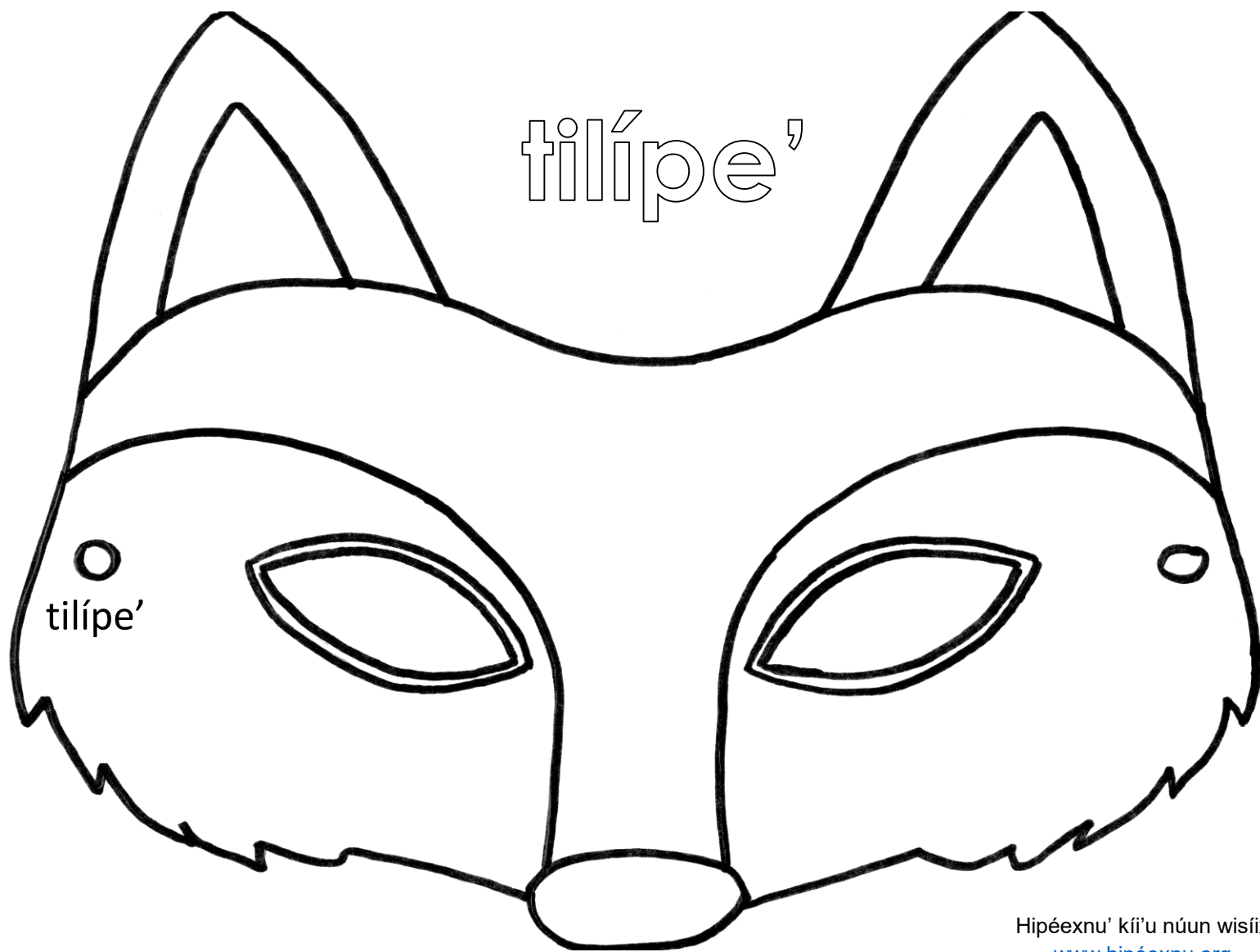
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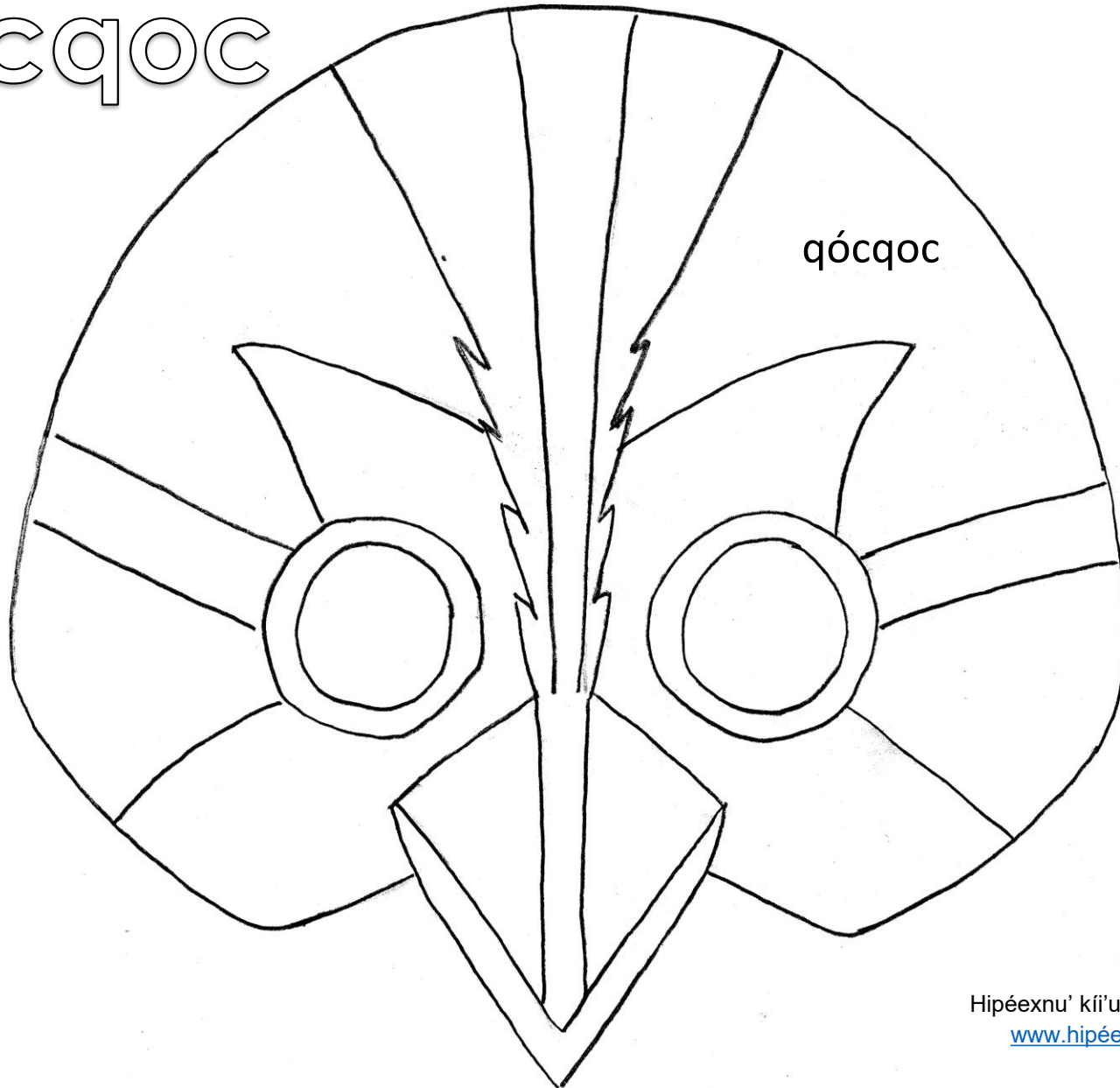




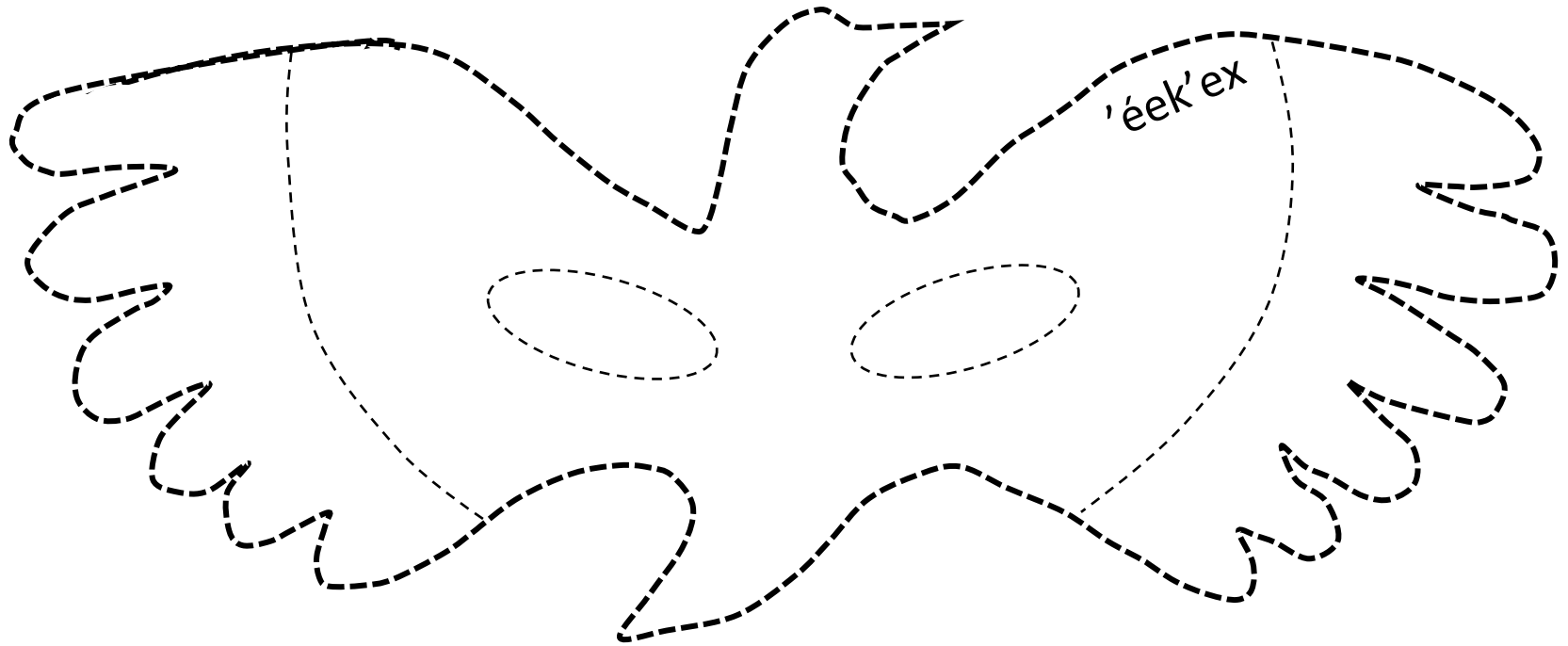
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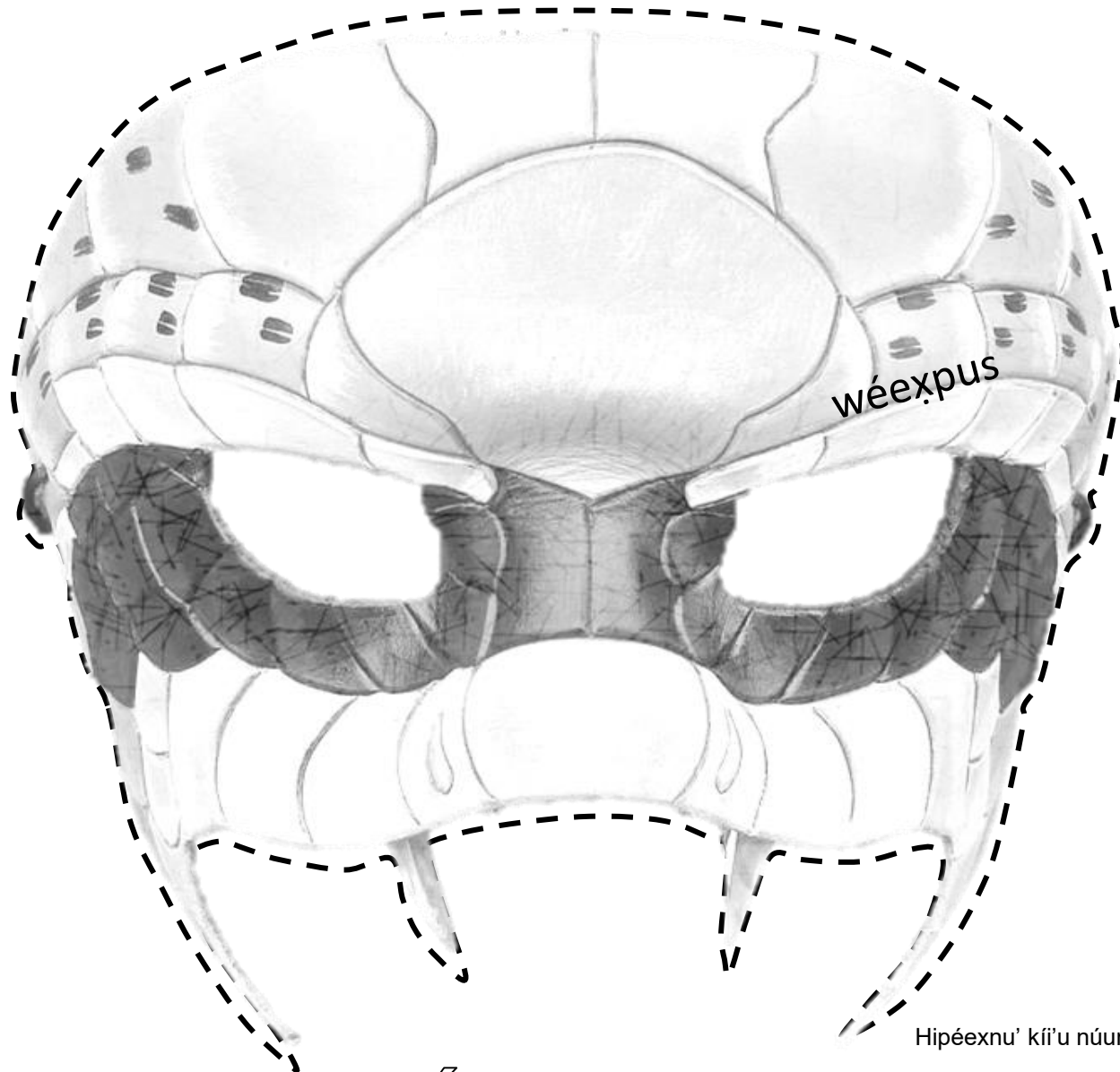


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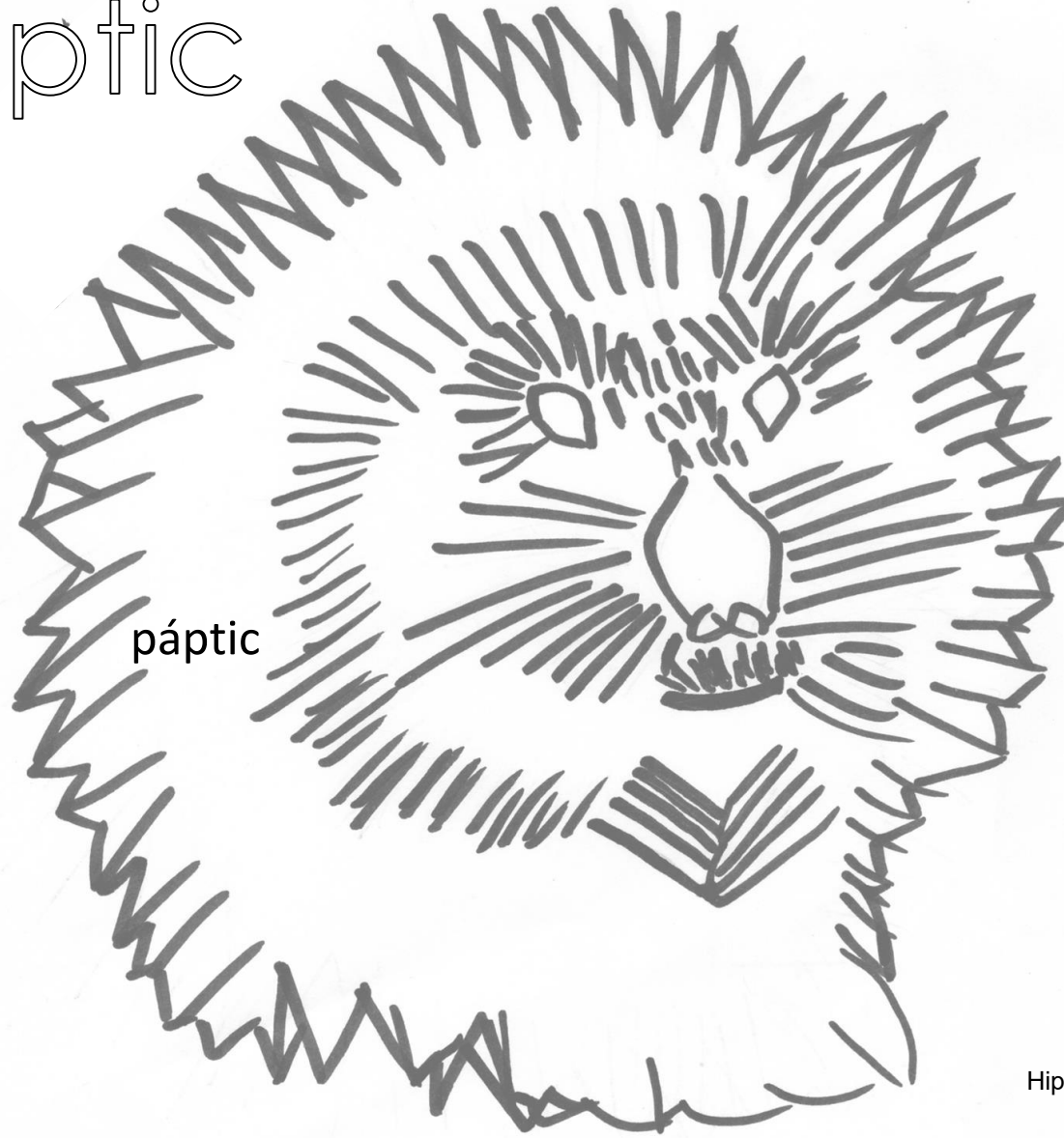
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