

Dzhanduna Kuima



Ramón Gil. Dzhanduna Kuima: The life of Ramón Gil.

Ramón Gil Barros ©

Amazon Conservation Team Colombia ©



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Dzhanduna Kuima

The life of Ramón Gil

Dedicated to all the children of the Sierra



This is the story of how a skinny and scrawny kid grew up to take care of the heart of the world.

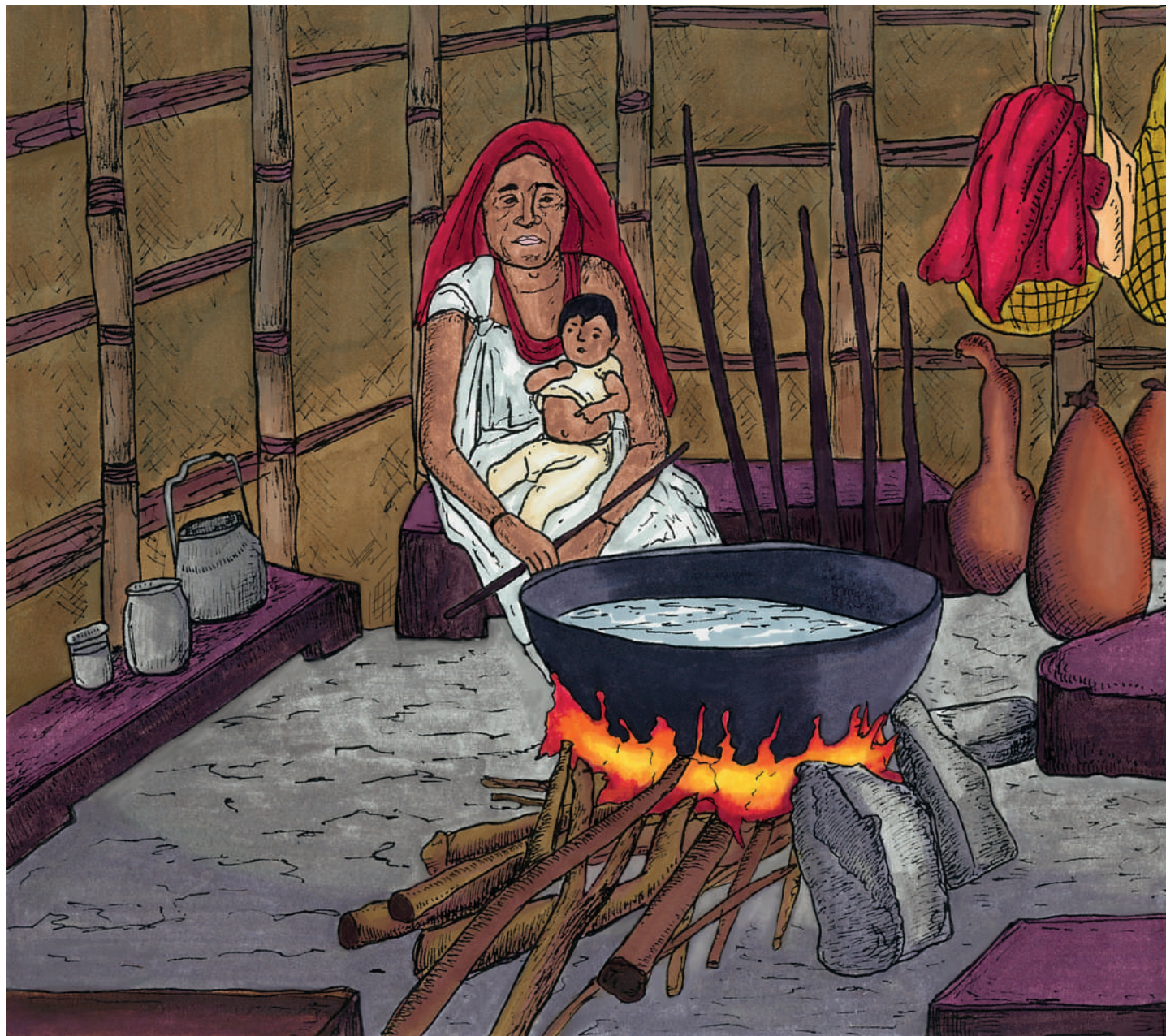
Yet he was not always skinny and scrawny...



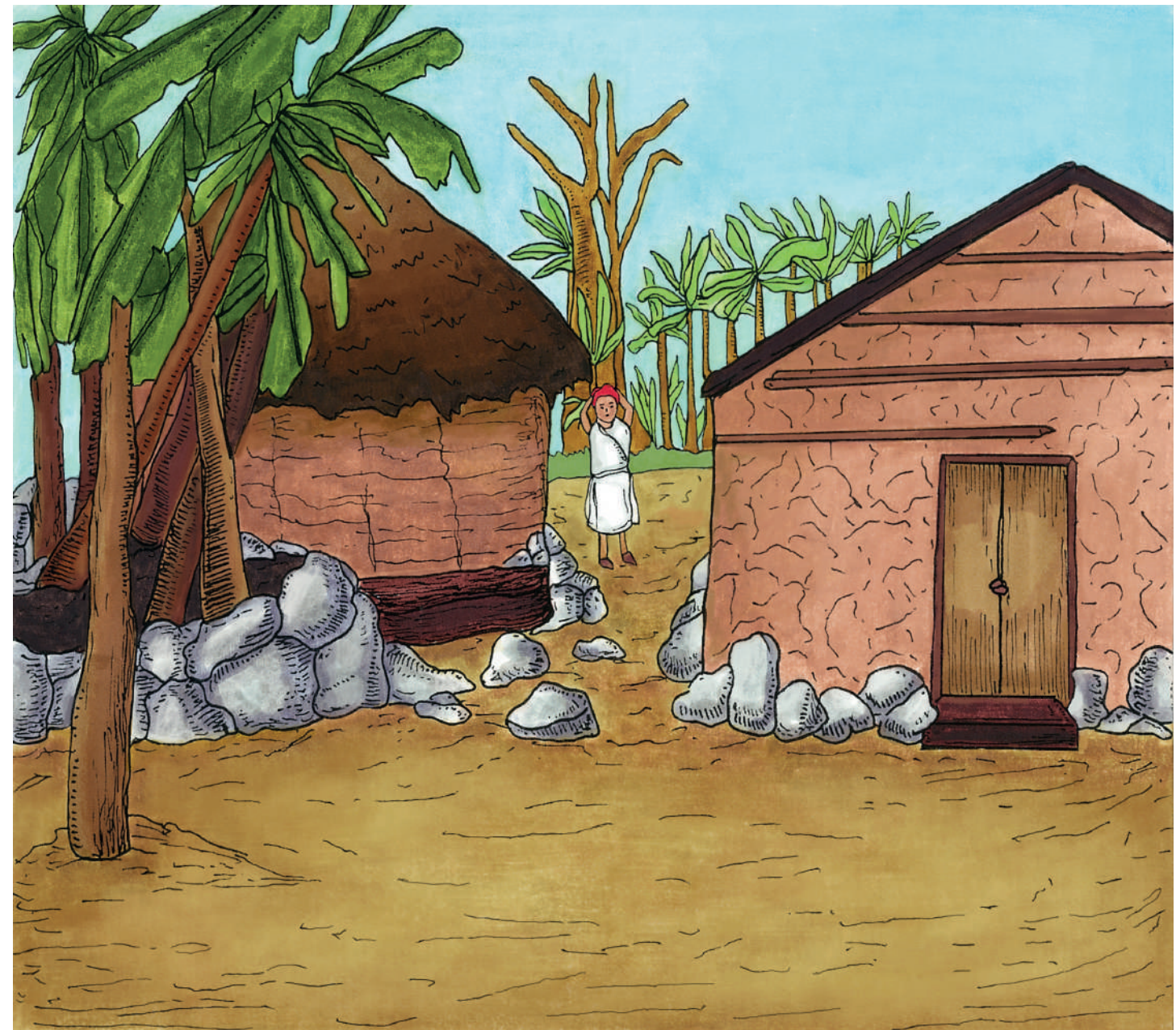
Ramón Gil was born on March 18, 1938 in the village of Avingüe, in the Colombian province of Cesar.



It was known from the beginning that he would be very important, and they baptized him so he could know this world and all the worlds outside it.



Using the wood from a tree and her ancestors' knowledge, his grandmother bathed him so that he would grow strong and be able to walk long distances without ever getting tired.



When his parents separated, his mother would leave him for days to bring back food. Ramón grew so hungry he became ill. But in his solitude, he dreamed of one day having 100 children whom he would take care of very well.



Because he did not live with his father, the other children made fun of him. Sometimes they hit him.

But Ramón did not pay attention to them: he knew he was different.



Before his uncle's visits, Ramón had visions of his arrivals.



And while others changed their traditions, he heard a voice that told him to never lose his indigenous identity.



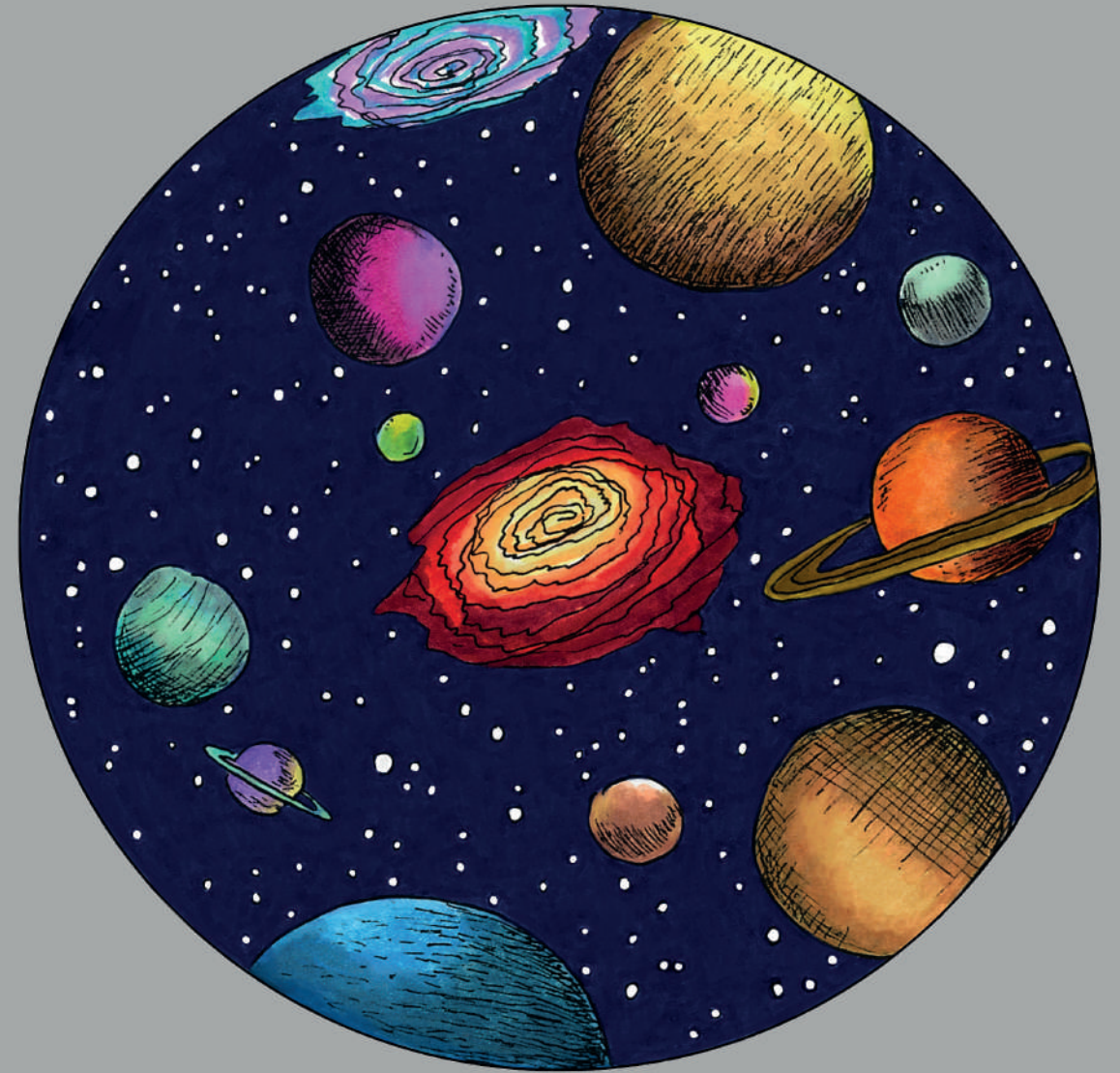
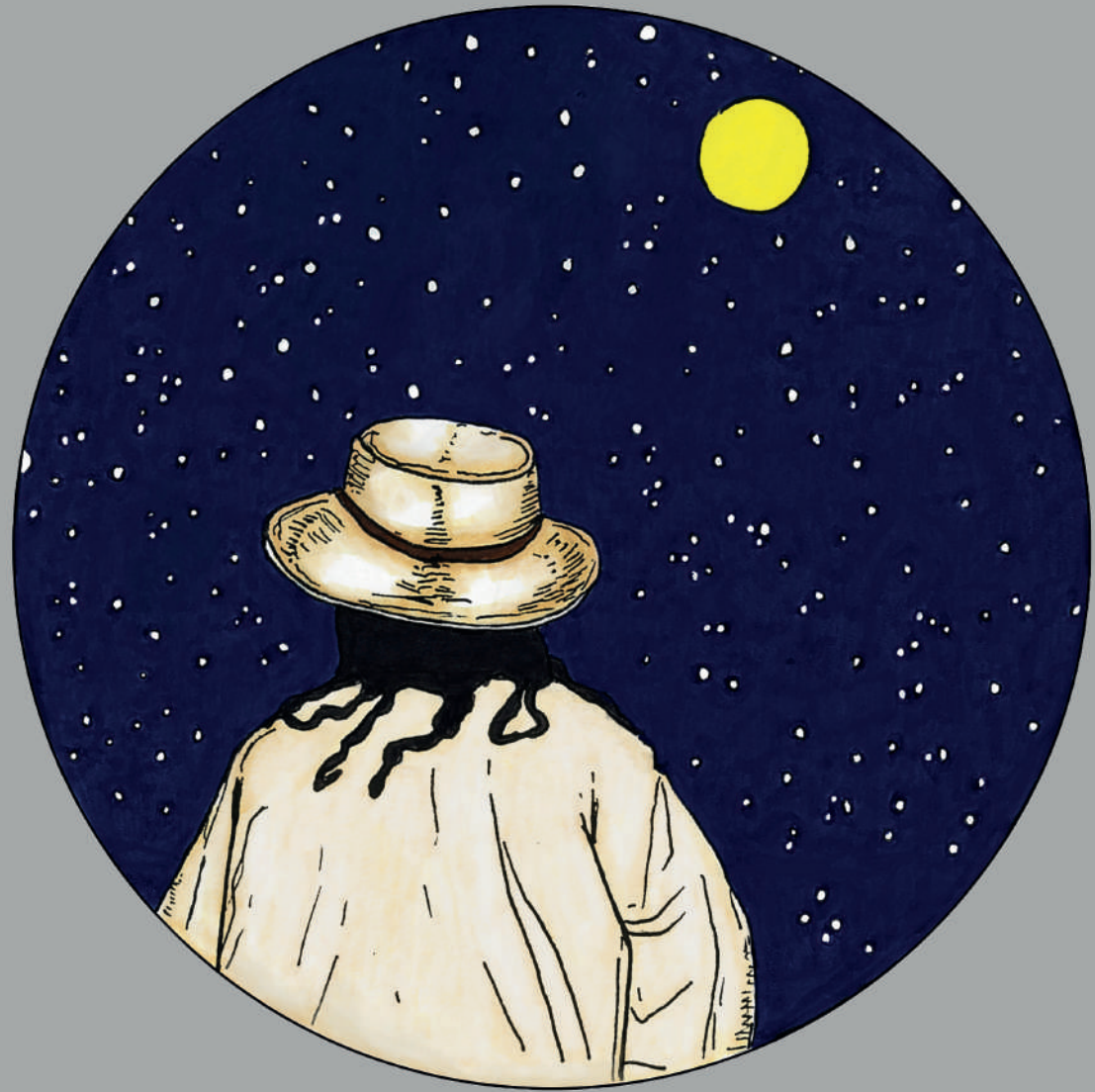
Ramón wanted to understand everything: from the smallest ant to the farthest planet and stars.

He always had many questions.



In this way, little by little, he grew up.

Until he met several wise *mamos* (elder priests) who were able to teach him.



With them, he found the answers he had been seeking.



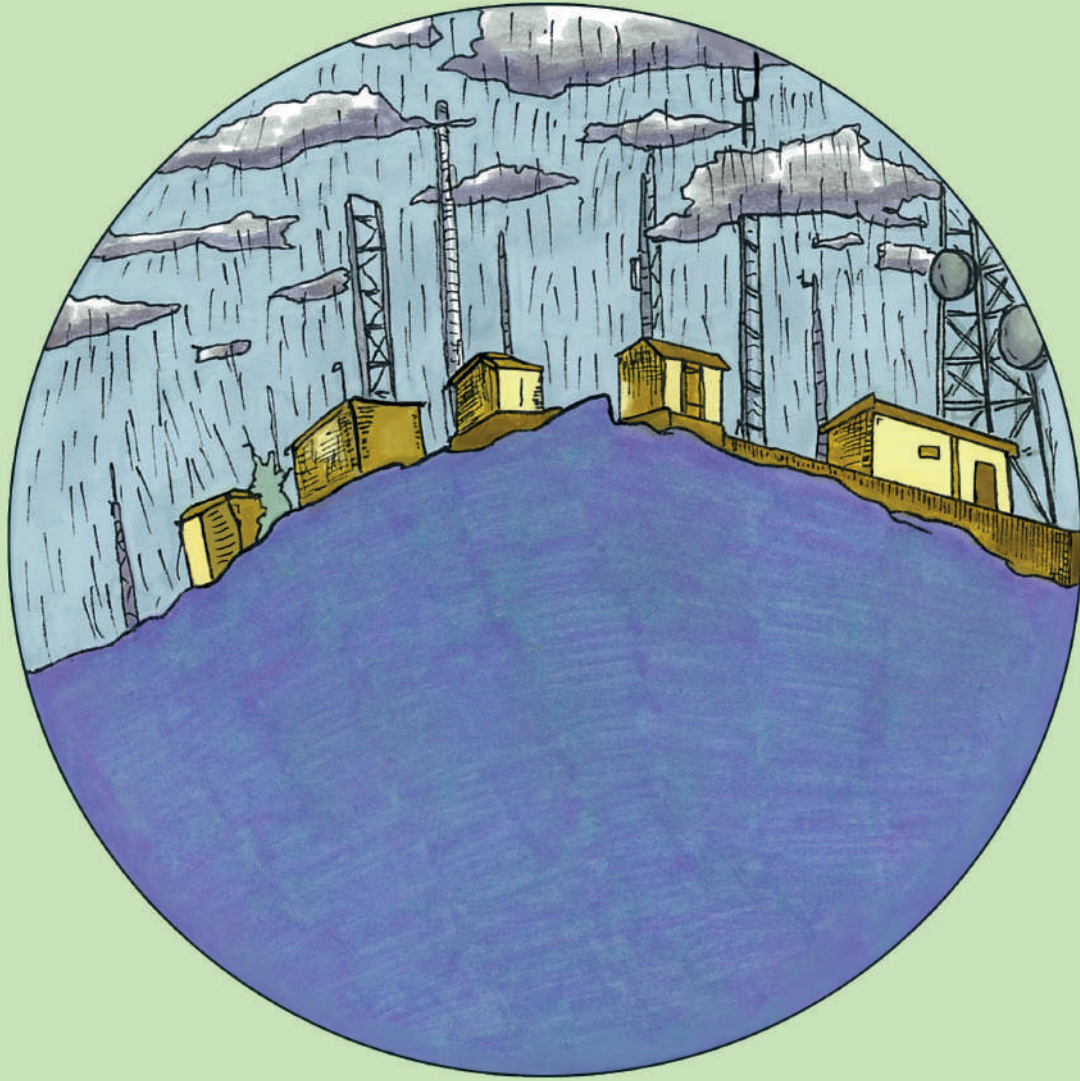
Ramón knew that someday he would have to fulfill the mission his grandmother left him: to seek the ancestral territory of the Wiwa people and bring his community there.



While he prepared for the mission, he helped the Kogui people recover their ancestral land. Using the little Spanish he knew, and with the support of the elders' spiritual strength, he faced many opponents.



Over the years, he traveled and spoke, building unity amongst all.



When he was finally ready, Ramón arrived at the Wiwa' s ancestral lands, those close to the Antenna Mountain.



Despite the constant rain and great deal of work, he established a village.

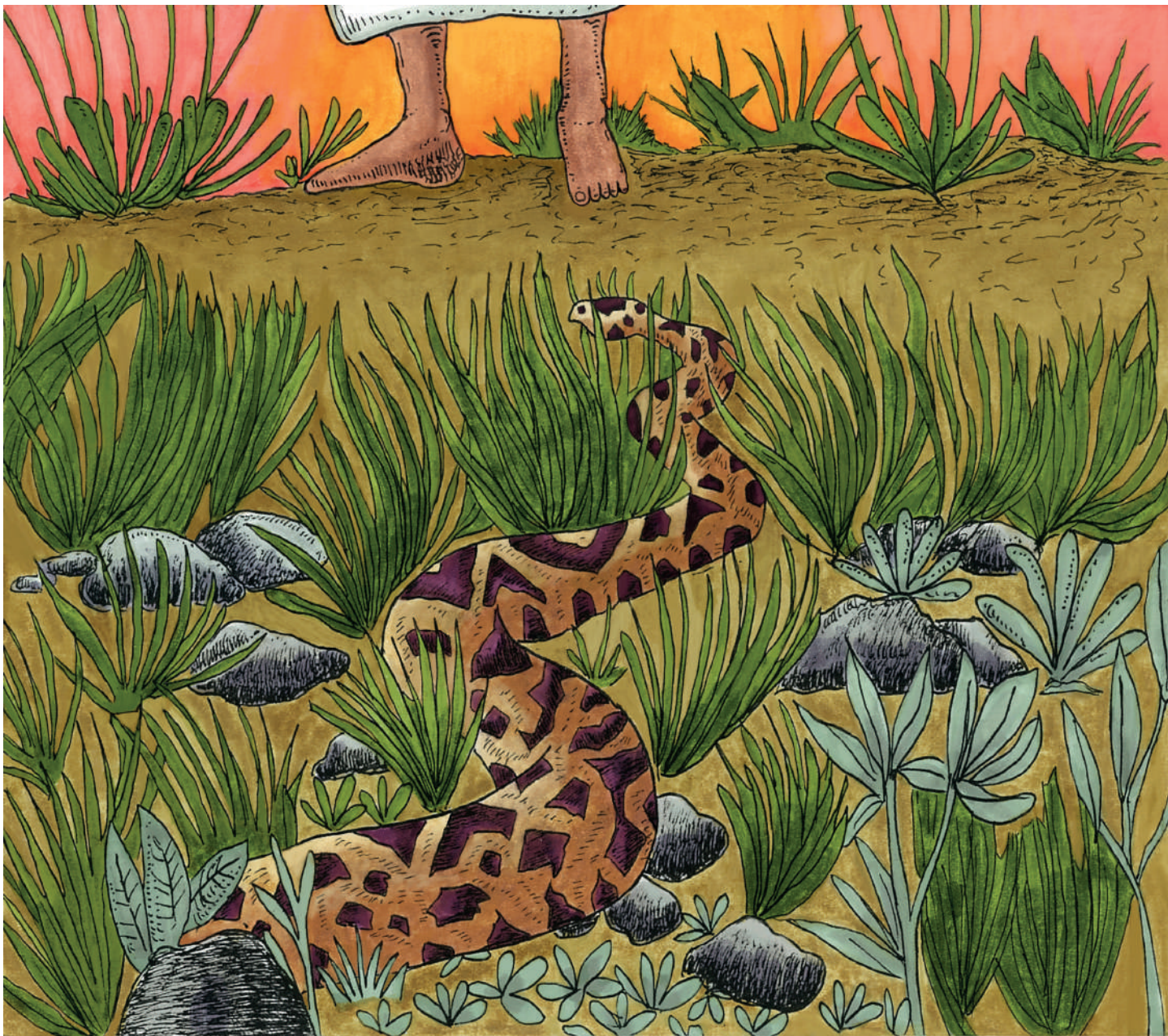


Rules:

- Do not chop down big trees
- Do not plant crops on the hill
- Do not kill mountain animals.
- Do not steal.
- Do not lie.
- Do not get drunk.

All the Wiwa people were welcome.

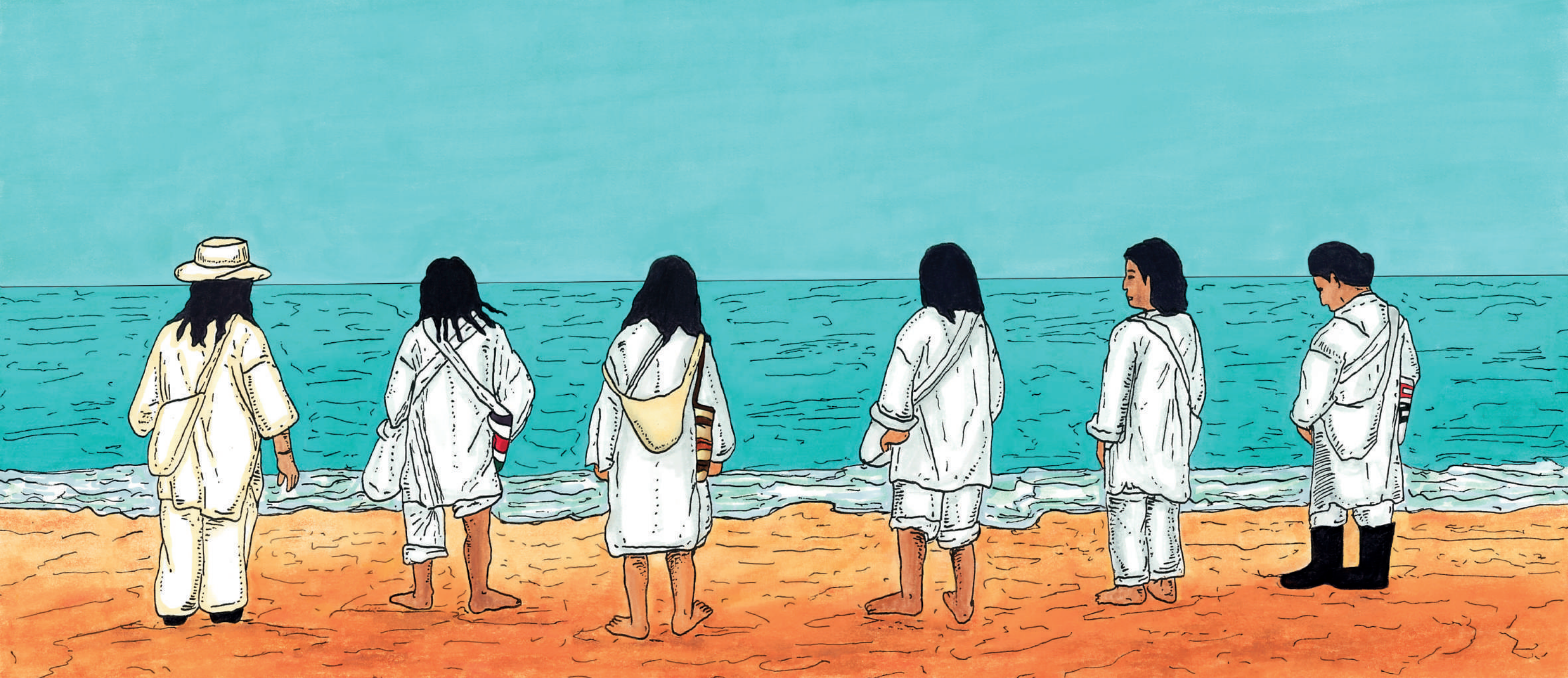
They only needed to follow a few rules to live in harmony.



But living there was not always easy.



One day, a lightning bolt came down as a red man and killed several people. Ramón survived and almost fought him, but the lightning man escaped.



Nevertheless, Ramón never gave up. For 30 years he has carried out spiritual work everyday, all day long, so that there is less negativity in the world, and so we can all live well.



And although he never had 100 children, he did have 30. They all know they can count on him.



This is the life of Ade Ramón Gil, the skinny little boy who grew up to reforest the heart of the world and the spirit of the people.

Today, he and other *mamos* are working in many places to reduce negativity.

How can we all contribute so that there is more harmony in this world?



We wish to thank our donors,
"silent giants" who wish to remain
anonymous while they make
the world a better place.

