

Peter and the House



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Peter and the House (English)

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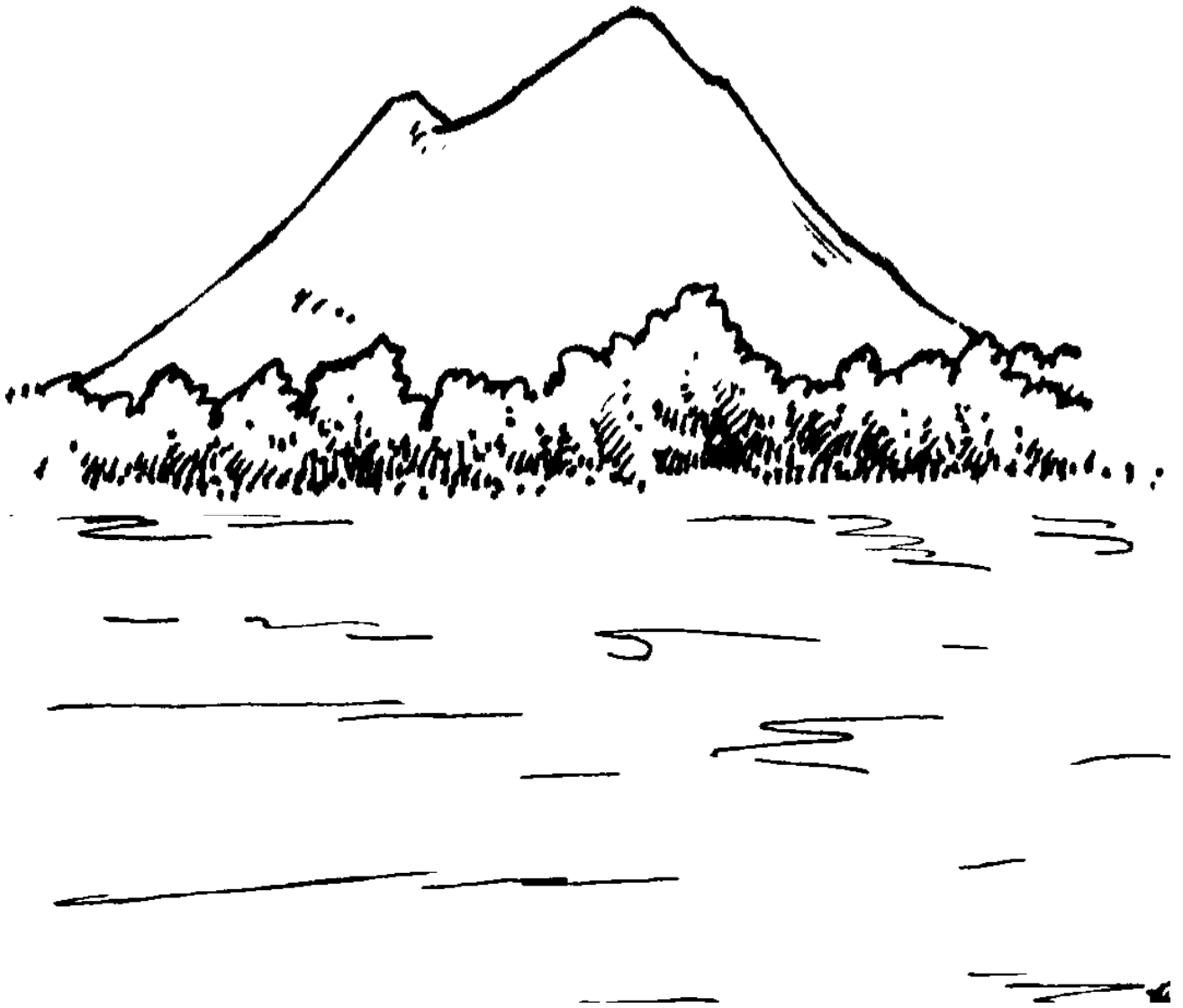
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*Dedicated to God Almighty
and to my beloved friends:
Panmak Yakmap,
Makplang Bitrus,
and Zuhumnan Akila*

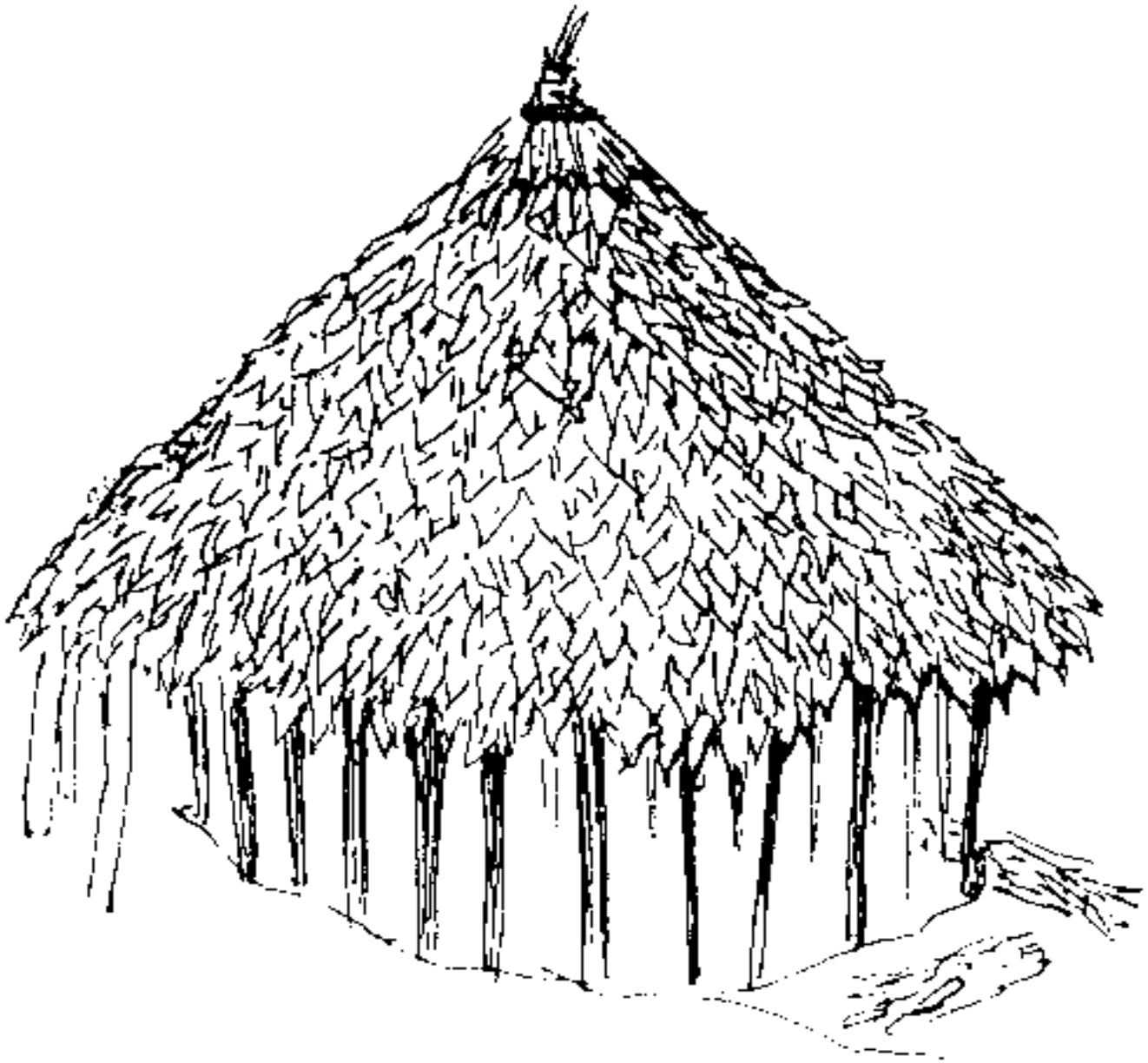


There was once a boy called Peter who lived on an island that was largely inhabited by other children.

The most important scientists on the planet had figured out that climate change would affect this island very badly, almost sinking it.



So each of the children decided to build a house to protect themselves from the flood that would come.



All the other children built their houses in just one day because they were in a hurry to go back to playing.



“Who needs walls?” they said to themselves. So they just tied some palm branches together for a roof. Then they quickly returned to playing games and enjoying themselves.



However, Peter wanted to design his house to withstand the big flood, so he took the time to do careful planning. He wanted stones for the foundation and bricks for the walls so as to make the house strong.



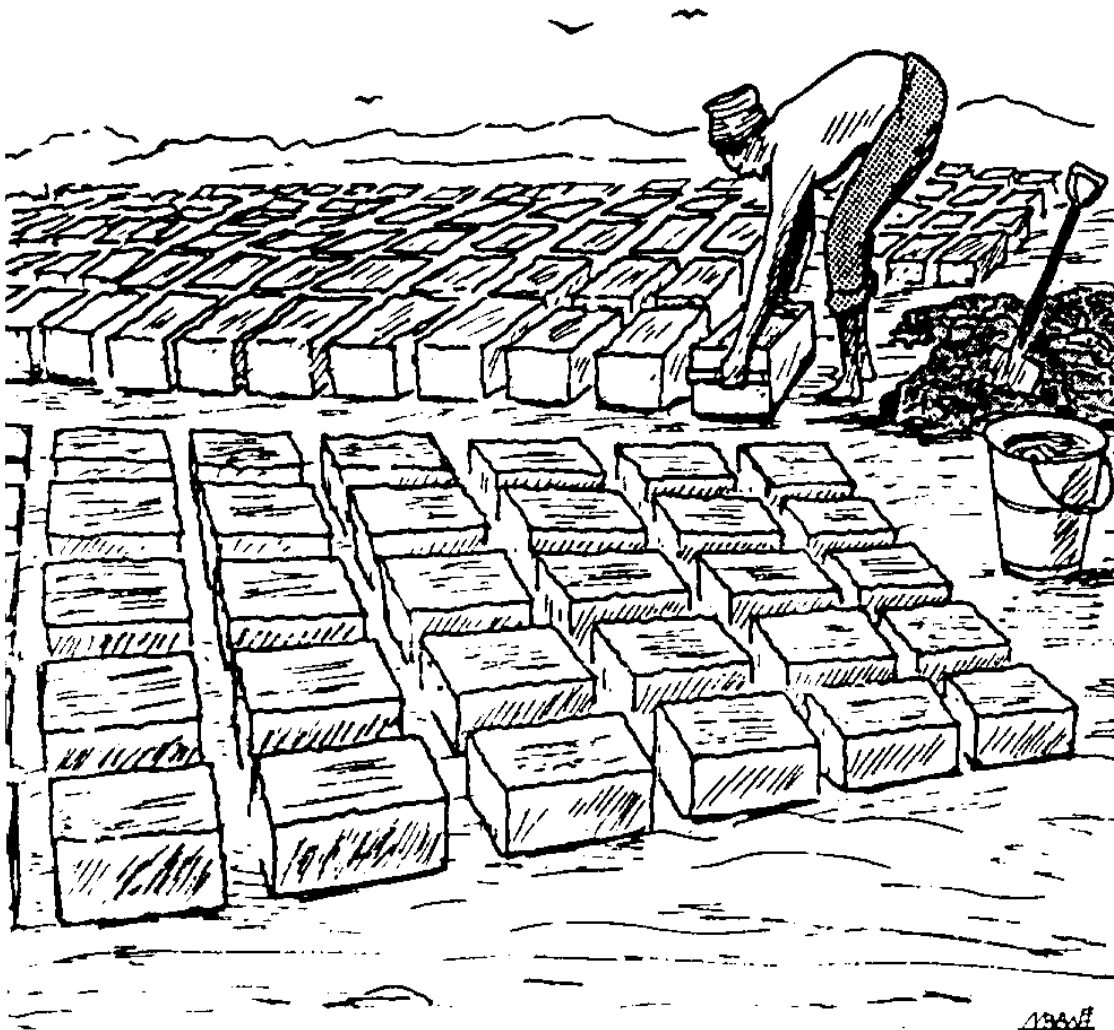
He knew this would take a long time to build, but he didn't care. He said, "It will be worth the wait."

The other children laughed at Peter and said, "Who needs stones or brick?"

Because while they had already built their houses, Peter was still just making plans.

First Peter gathered the stones for the foundation.

Then he started making the bricks for the walls.

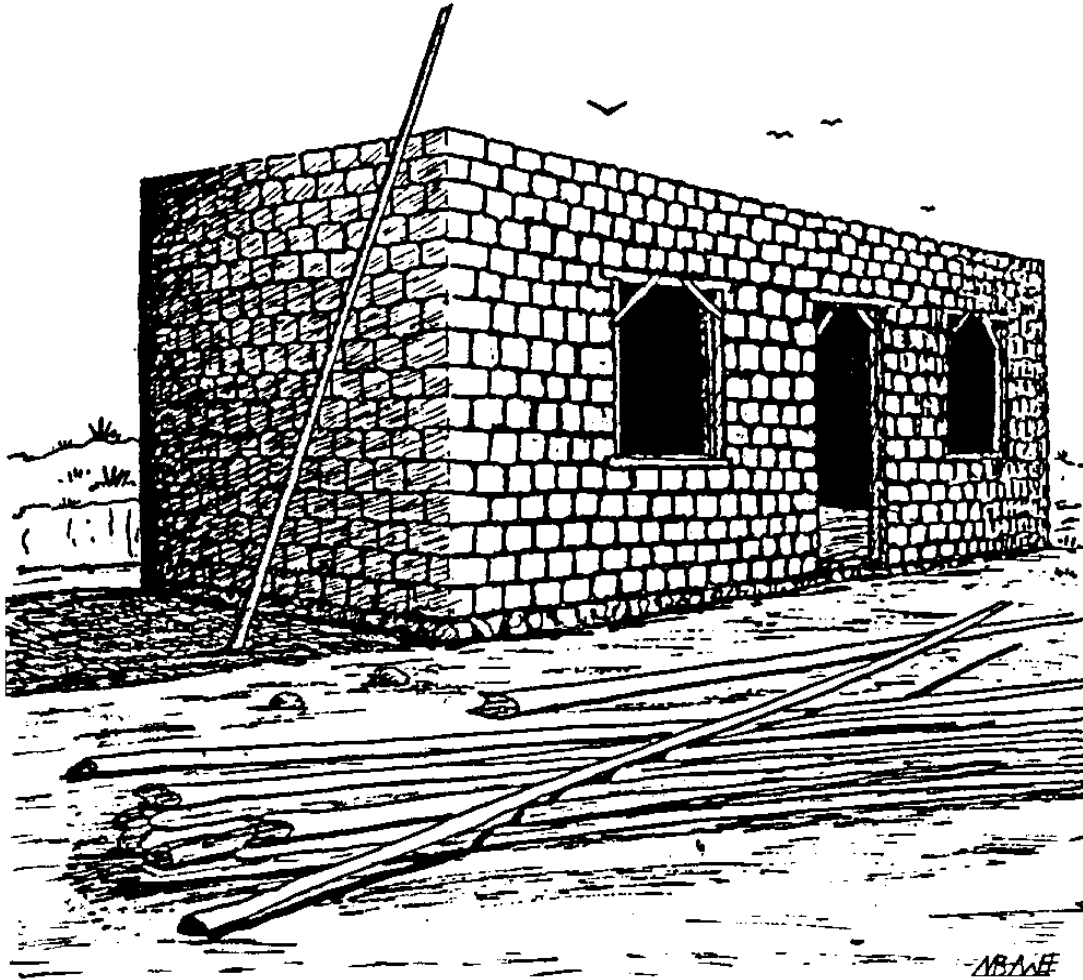


Day after day he worked while the other children laughed at him.

Despite his fatigue, he kept on working.



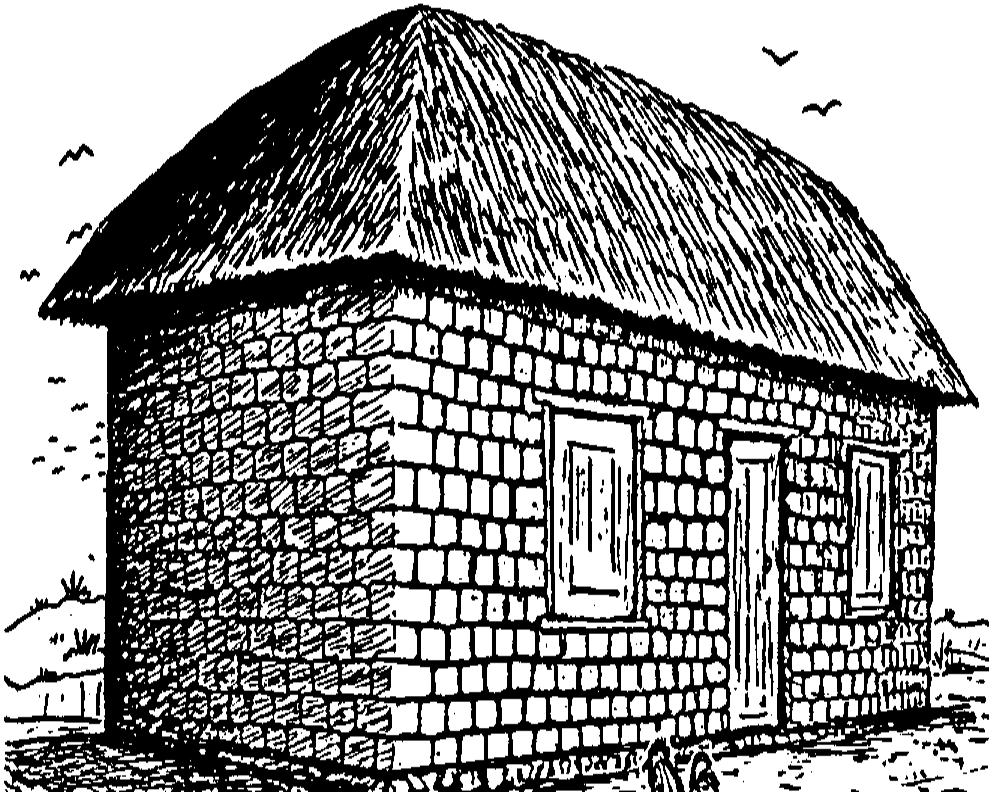
Finally the foundation and walls were done; all that remained was the roof. So Peter went to the forest and cut down wood and thatching.



Meanwhile, the other children had grown tired of their games and just spent the day watching Peter instead.

They weren't laughing anymore.

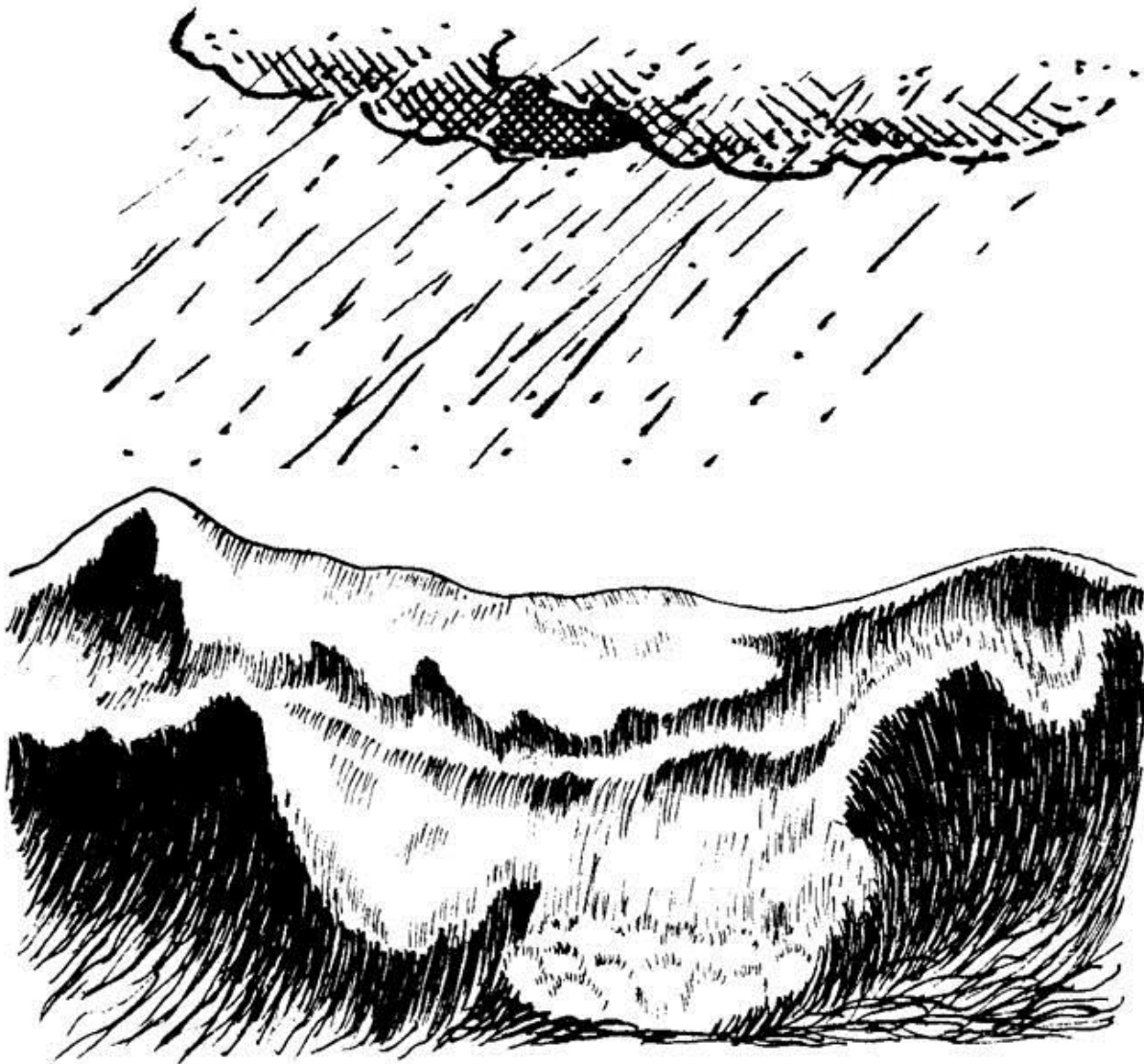




At last the house was finished!

And very proudly, Peter invited all the children on the island to a party at his new home.

But on the very day of the party, the wind began to blow, and the sea level rose without warning. All the children hid in their houses in fear.



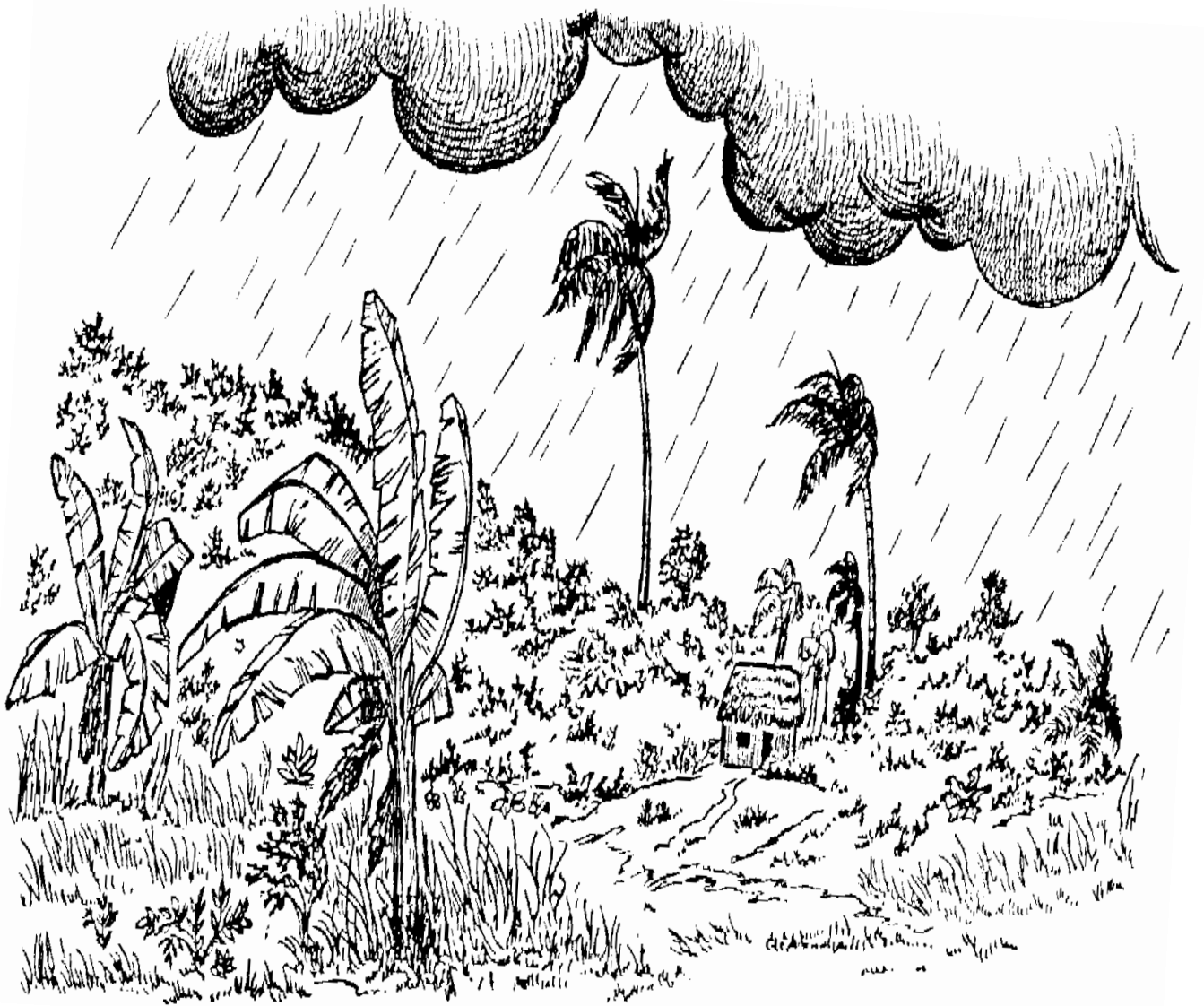
But Peter declared, “Children of the island, I have prepared for this flood, and you all have a place in my new home. While you were laughing at me, I was building a house that would protect us all.”

So all of the children were amazed and ashamed.

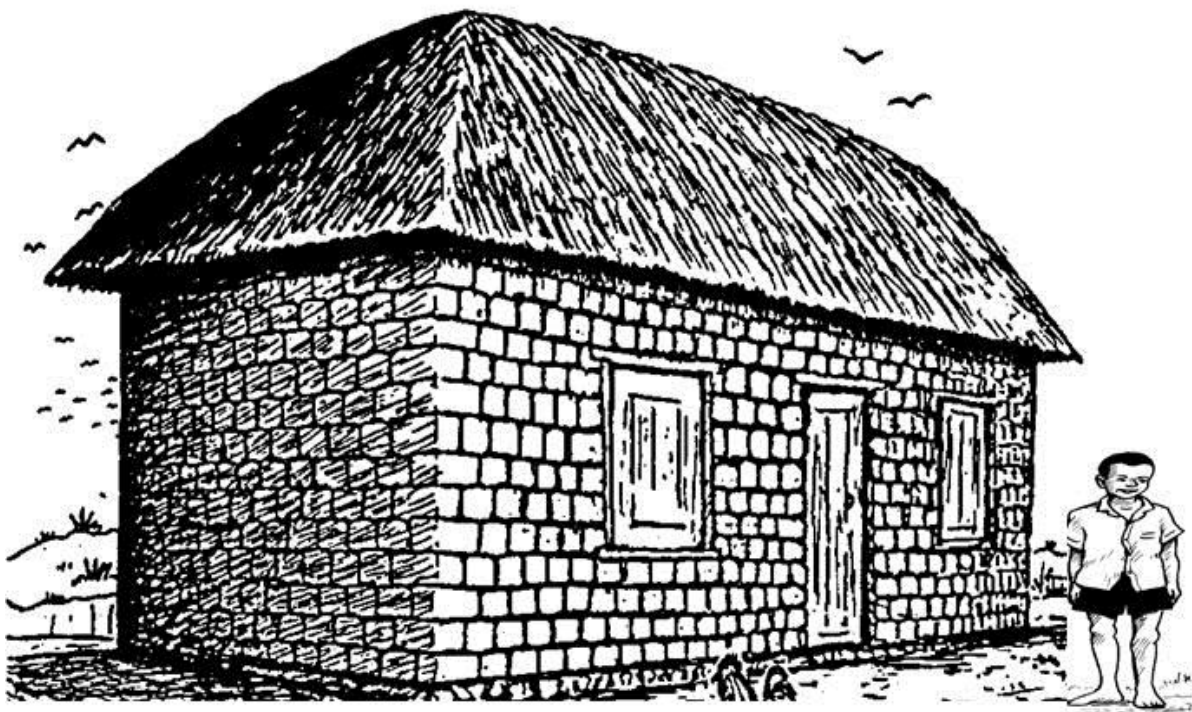
And because the storm frightened them, they fled from their houses to Peter's for shelter.



From there they all watched the storm destroy all the other houses on the island except Peter's.



Then the island children understood that Peter was the most intelligent of them all, as well as the most generous and kind-hearted. For he had saved them from the flood without expecting anything in return.



Check Your Understanding!

1. Who lived on the island?
2. Why did the other children not build their houses with walls?
3. What was Peter doing while the other children were playing?
4. What happened at the end of the story?
5. What lessons have you learned from the story?

