

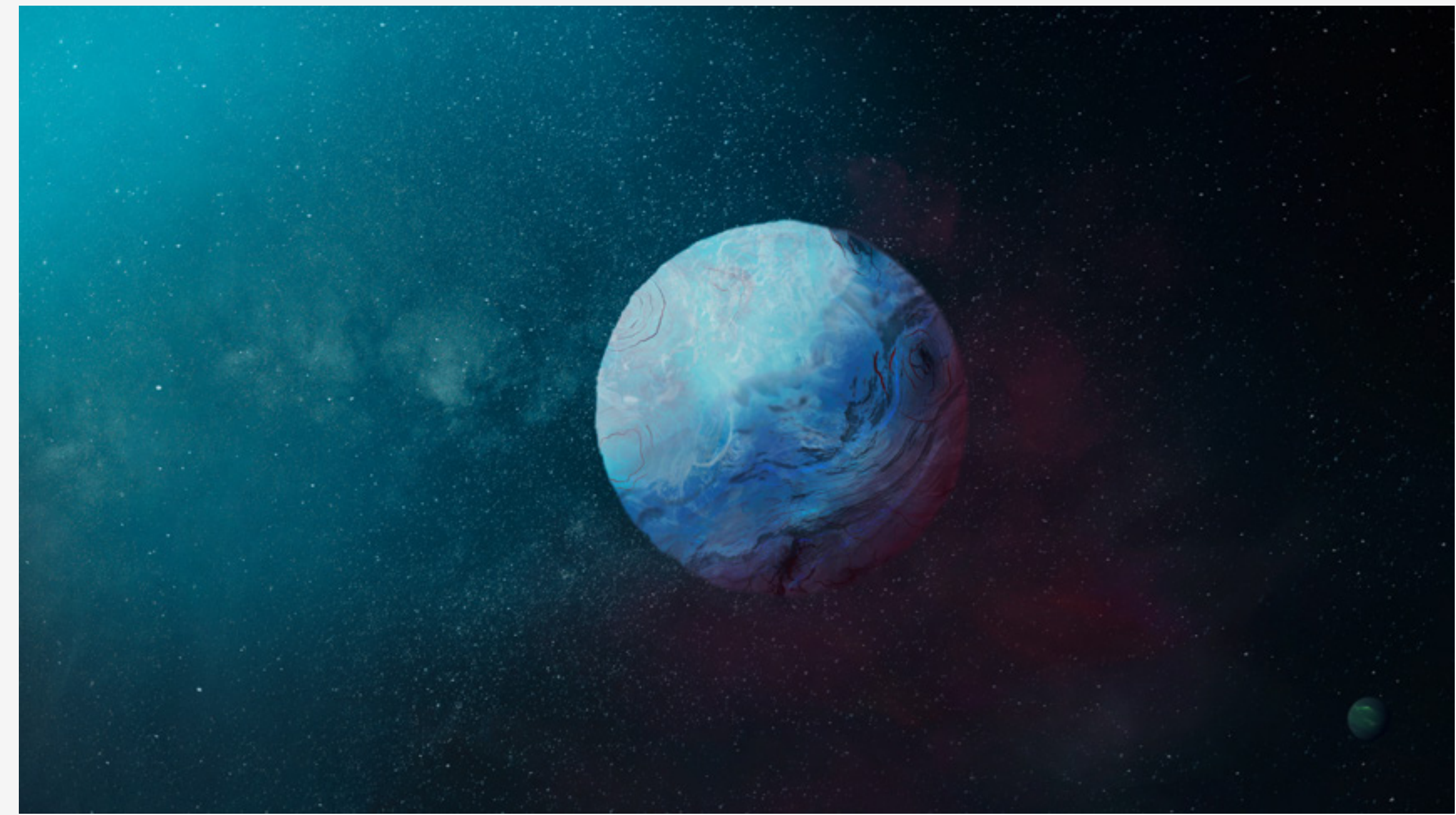
A painting of a reindeer skeleton in a landscape with red mountains and blue water. The skeleton is the central focus, with its antlers and spine clearly visible. The background features a vibrant red mountain range under a blue sky, and a blue body of water in the foreground. The overall style is expressive and colorful.

VIEWION

Planet

Veon is a small planet in the TRAPPIST-1 system. The climate changed drastically after a meteorite shower, transforming what was once a planet covered entirely in water into one with wide plains of ice and land as the tide shifted and grew less and less. Several changes came with the now differing environment, slowly developing over millions of years – such as mountains and a general surge in species in animals and plants. The sometimes-sudden changes of climate resulted in some animals not being able to adapt in finding sufficient or non-toxic nutrients, eventually making them die – the cold preserved their bones, scattering decade-old skeletons all over the planet. Some of the meteorites can be found to this day – making it possible for the people of Veon to use its metals and materials.

Snow storms and heavy blizzards are common, with sunny days coming in second and rain in last place.



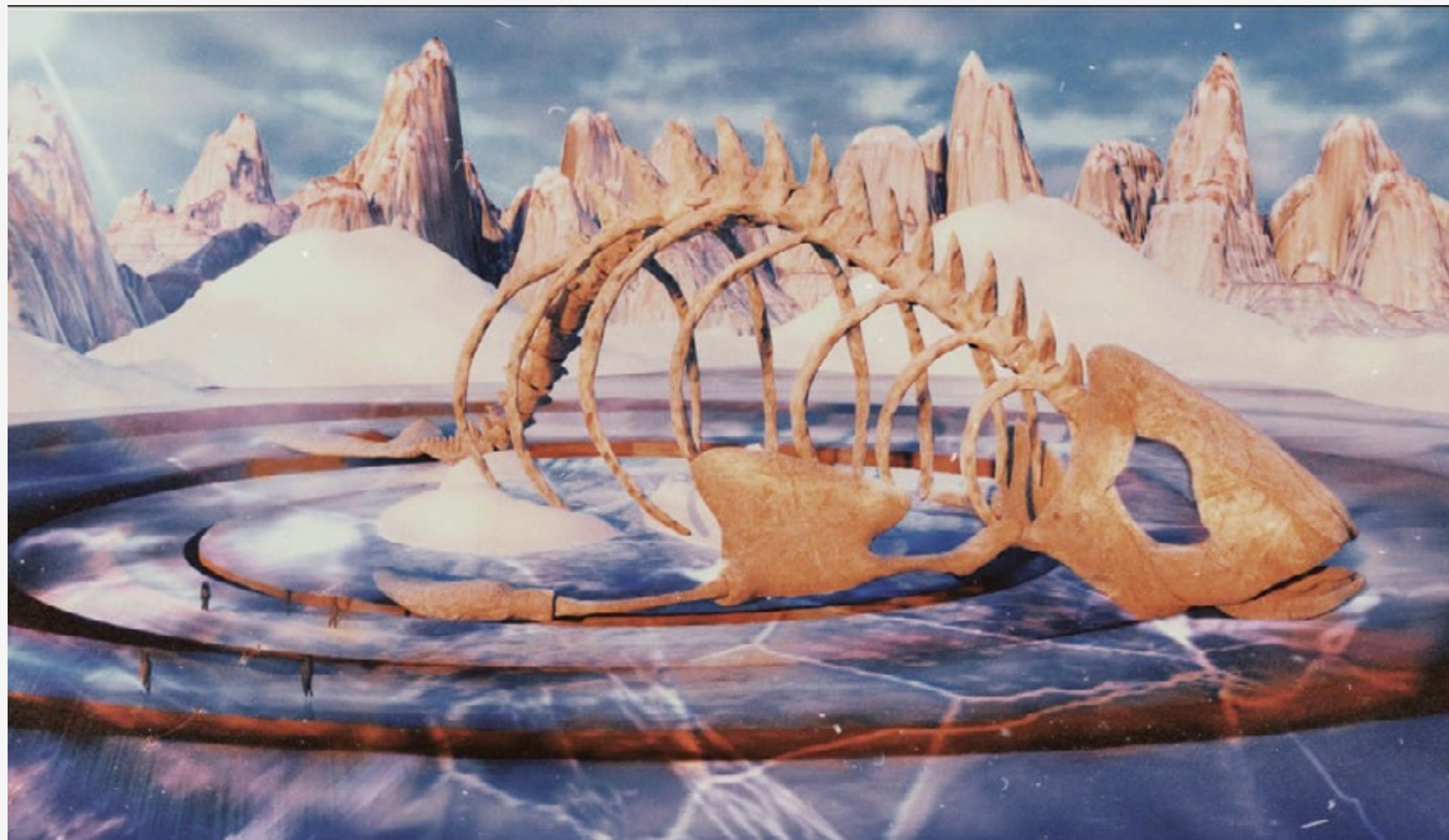
Landscape

The landscape is product of the cold climate; snow-covered mountains, rocks and large bodies of water trapped in ice. In recent years, the climate has gotten warmer, leading to cracks in the ice revealing red algae trapped underneath, as well as hot springs that typically form in the large craters underneath heavy whale skeletons. These changes have made it possible – in some, limited areas of the planet – to harvest and consume plants, making the environment a much less hostile one when it comes to life. In some parts of the planet, small trees and wood can be found. The landscapes differs drastically with changes in climate depending on the location – in some places, the floor is almost entirely covered in red algae and snow, making it difficult and unsafe to walk. In others, snow-covered, rocky mountains lead into miles and miles of icy plains amidst severe blizzards. The most life-friendly, moderate areas are a mixture of snowy mountains and ice, with occasional hot springs – but lots of skeletons.

Red Tide

With the changing tides, algae flourished – resulting in toxic mass growth of the “red tide”. As the ice age began, the algae were locked into the ice, preserved over millions of years. Only recently have they resurfaced through cracks in the ice. The red tide is present all over the planet and stands in stark contrast to the otherwise monotone environment. The people of Veon have developed tools to extract the algae from their icy prisons (page 7) and have made use of it through weaving it into threads or liquifying it, resulting in strong dyeing and – when consumed – slightly hallucinogenic effects. Overconsumption or excessive, long-term exposure can - in the most severe cases - lead to addiction, red rashes all over the skin and slight changes in behaviour.

The color of the algae and shape of the red-tide-filled sacral looking circular craters have become strong symbols of tradition and hope amongst the people of Veon. Several red circles, red paint or red landmarks are considered a symbol of luck.



But red tide isn't the only sacred natural phenomenon on Veon – the large and heavy whale skeletons are also considered a sacred and wondrous blessing; around the dead fish, unexplained circular craters have formed (likely due to pressure). Some of the skeletons are heavy enough to crack deep down into the ice – revealing land and hot springs and a blossoming, much warmer ecosystem where people can build spaces to plant seeds for their food or a warm place to sleep. On the search for a more life-friendly home, people have come across a lot of large fish skeletons – it is considered tradition to cross the craters in the ice (using the tools normally used for extracting algae) and touch the fins of the fish, praying to the whales for prosperity and good luck. Even children and babies are brought along.



Animals

Apart from the large fish that died as a result of the ice changes and the effects it had on the environment, other fish far below the water surface have survived – although the kinds of fish have yet to be explored due to how deep into the sea they live. Smaller fish can be found near the water surface and in places with shallow plains of ice and can therefore be used as food for the people of Veon. In some parts of the planet, seals, snow foxes, rabbits or snow leopards can be found - but the most common animal on Veon is the ice bear, albeit with slight changes in limb length due to evolution over the years. The bears do not have trouble wading through seas of red algae, travel large distances and are generally non-aggressive. When giving birth, ice bear mothers often seek shelter near large skeletons, furthering their symbolism of prosperity and life.

Rain or thunder (being the rarest natural occurrences) occurring throughout a birth is considered a blessing.



Ice bears have long since become the loyal and sacred companions of the people of Veon – although they are wild, they are good natured and can be domesticated. “Domestication” being a loose term, as the people of Veon value and ensure the independence and strength of the bears and train them to come back rather than to stay. It isn’t all too common to have an ice bear companion for normal, non-working families in Veon. The working and hunting have priority in entering a sacred bond with

an ice bear through dyeing red circles into their fur and weaving a collar with algae – the weaving style differs from family to family, making it easier to distinguish one “domesticated” ice bear from the other. If the ice bear has been with its human companion for several years, it is custom to attach a small, handmade wooden good luck charm to the premade string woven into the collar – most of the time consisting of a small, human-like mask, but again, differing from individual to individual. First-time bonders don’t typically use such charms.



Humans

The people of Veon are nomads, organized in tribes. The tribe introduced in this booklet stumbled across one of the largest whale skeletons with a giant hot spring beneath it, resulting in the decision to set up camp and stay. Tying back into the reason why workers and hunters are prioritized in bonding with bears: they travel large distances to extract algae or kill animals; both are not common near skeletons but provide important materials and food to the tribe.

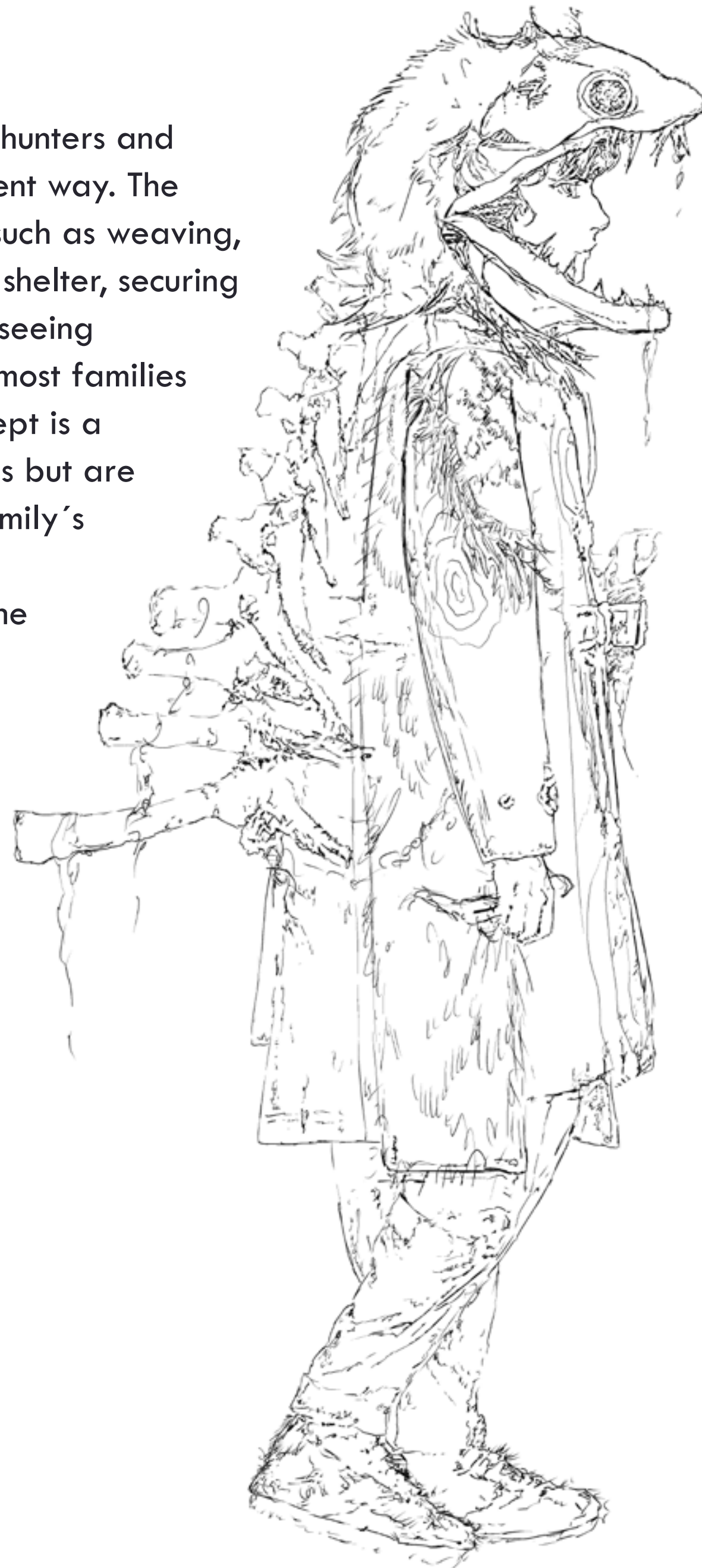
The clothes worn are usually made with animal skin and fur, bones, rock, metal and red algae. Fossils are often incorporated in daily wear; having great significance due to being symbols of connection to the world and a reminder to be grateful for death as it furthers the cycle of life. To protect themselves from the blinding ice and snow, people make snow goggles and masks out of bones or wear large, fish-themed hats. Workers and hunters wear lighter and more tight-fitting clothing in several layers, prioritizing mobility.



Society

The tribes are organized in different sections – workers, hunters and families. Every section contributes to the tribe in a different way. The families distribute the daily tasks amongst themselves – such as weaving, making clothing or weapons, cooking, building places of shelter, securing safe passage ways through the ice or teaching and overseeing children. Gender doesn't play a role in the distribution; most families have something they specialize in and gender as a concept is a foreign one. Hunters and workers are part of the families but are exempt from their working traditions. They carry their family's symbols with them in case of death.

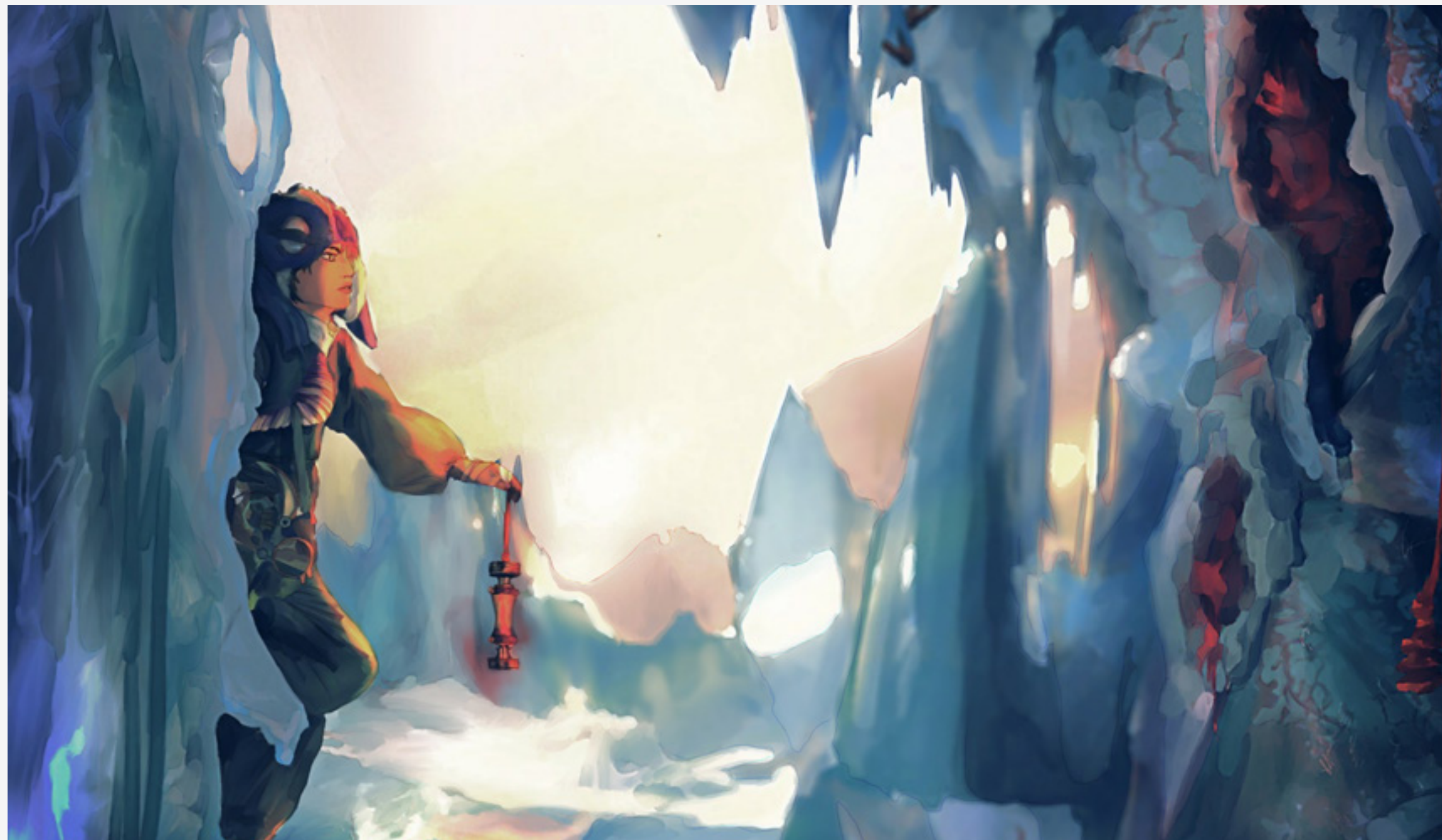
There are several rituals amongst the tribe such as the one of bonding with a bear (first time bonder on the bottom right) through smearing red paint all across its fur and weaving a special collar - or the one of hunting. Hunting happens in groups – each group has a leader who has the most dangerous and honoring role of the bait. They carry a large skeleton on their back and lay down in the snow, disguising themselves as a carcass and luring in animals in search of food. When the animal attempts to feast on it, the other hunters jump out of hiding and stab it with long spears. Each hunting process ends with the painting of red circles on the place the animal died as a symbol of gratefulness and prosperity. The ritual of death is a rather long one. Age is considered an important virtue and elders are immensely cared for even in their death. The families travel long distances with the corpse and lay it into a field of red tide, unifying the body with the soil.



Tools and Weapons

Workers use a specially made device for quick extraction of algae from the ice – albeit in small quantities (for more extraction, other tools have to be used). It has a long, thin thorn located at its head that they place into small holes in the ice (made with nail & hammer). The thorn passes through towards the algae – through pulling on the whale-themed, small stick, it folds out and elongates into a small, sharp pipe, penetrating the algae and extracting its essence through built up pressure with another pull of the stick. The extracted algae is then redirected into a small storing capsule (bottom right) that is then emptied and re-inserted into the “eye” of the fish-themed tool. Quick extraction is typically used to extract small strands of algae that can be woven into threads more easily. Algae extracted in such a way are inferior in quality and dyeing and hallucinogenic effects compared to the algae located deeper into the ice.

Bottom right: How threads of algae are woven into threads or tied into complicated patterns and knots (sometimes used for bear bonding collars).

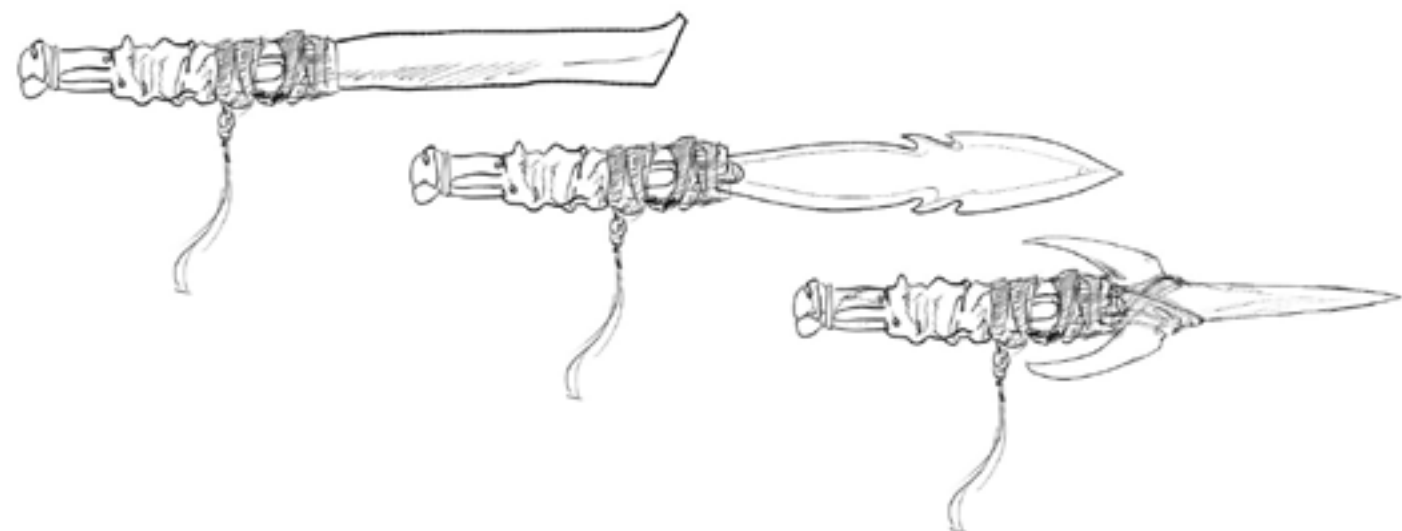


MAKING ALGAE INTO THREADS



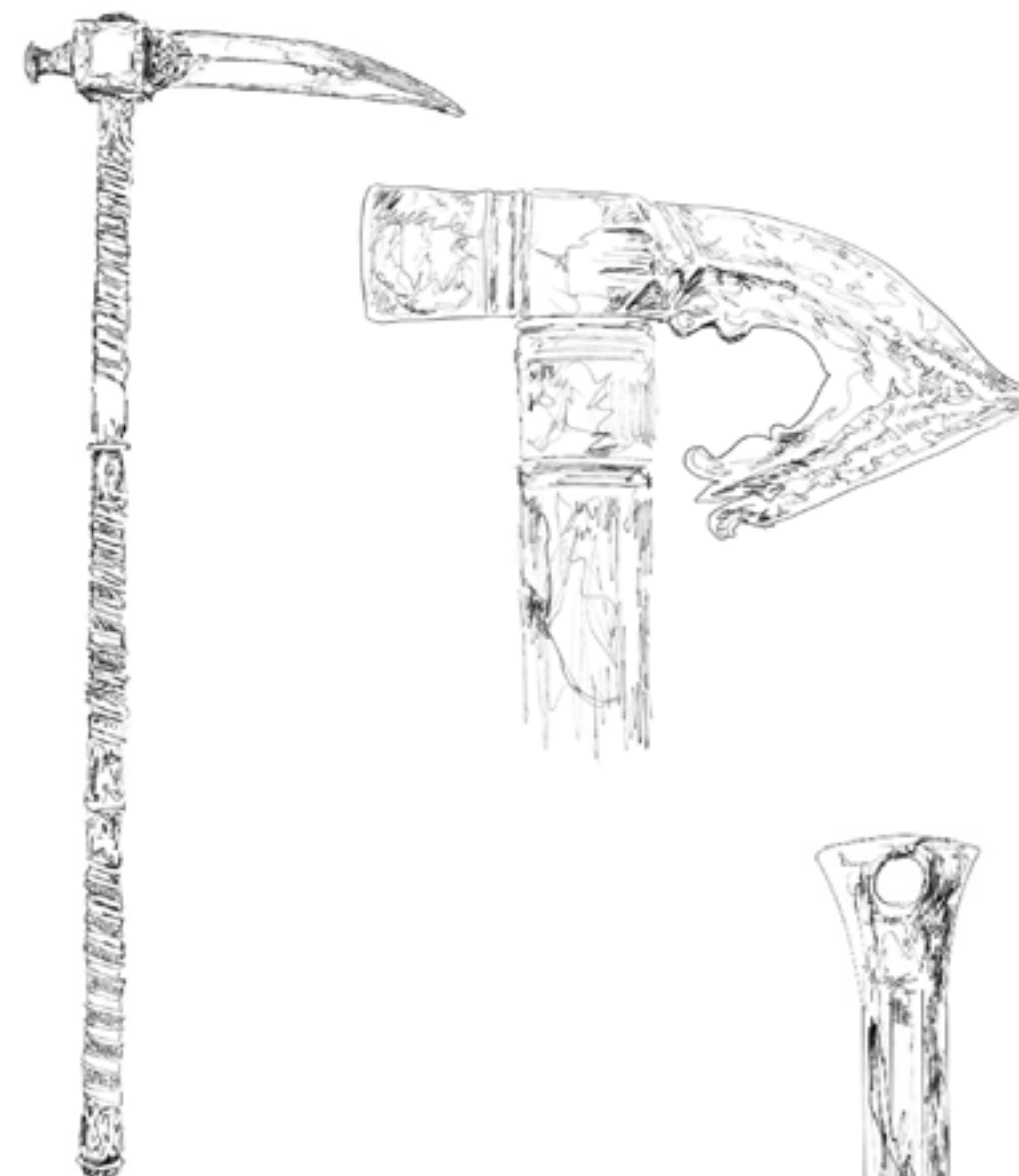
MAKING KNOTS





Daggers - used for hunting and fishing.

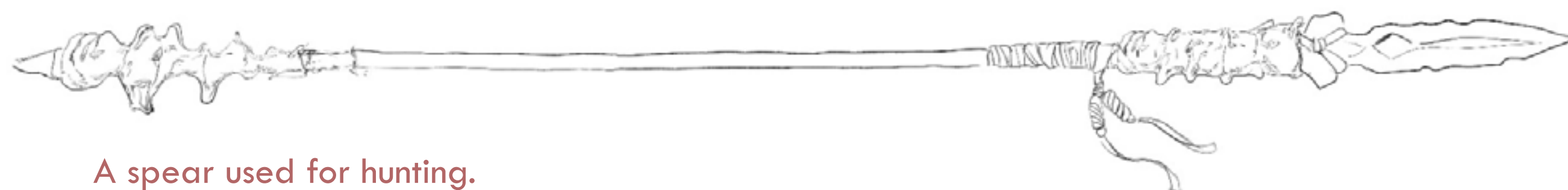
Hammers.



A small knife and ring attached to a rope. Used for climbing or – in emergencies – for restraining and/or following wild, dangerous animals.



A device to avoid getting lost in snow storms or heavy blizzards – one person walks in front, grabbing the front handle while another walks in the back. The handles are not located on the same side in order to not block the view.



A spear used for hunting.

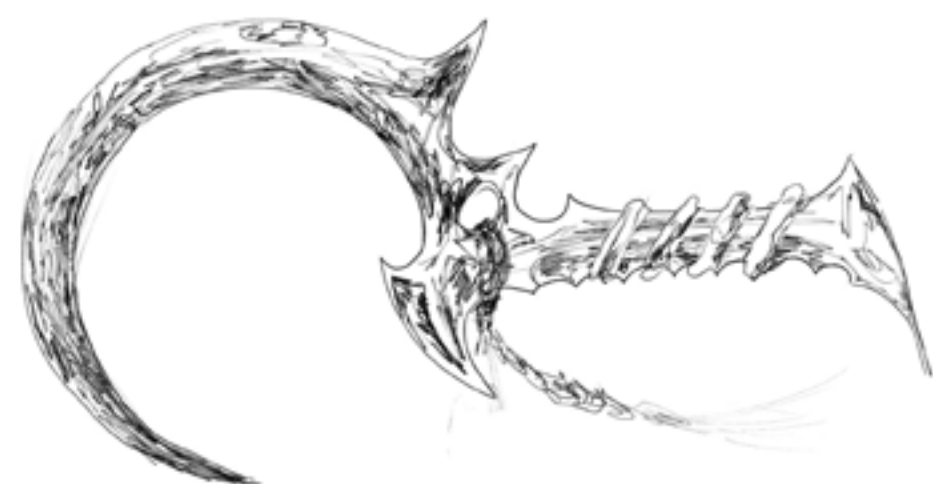
A large, steel nail with barbs that embed themselves in the ice. Used for securing safe passage ways on the ground or in ice caves when mining for algae. Has a hole on top to thread through strings of red algae.



A large knife, primarily used for cooking (preparing dead animals).



A sickle - used in ice caves or for hunting. Versatile.





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