



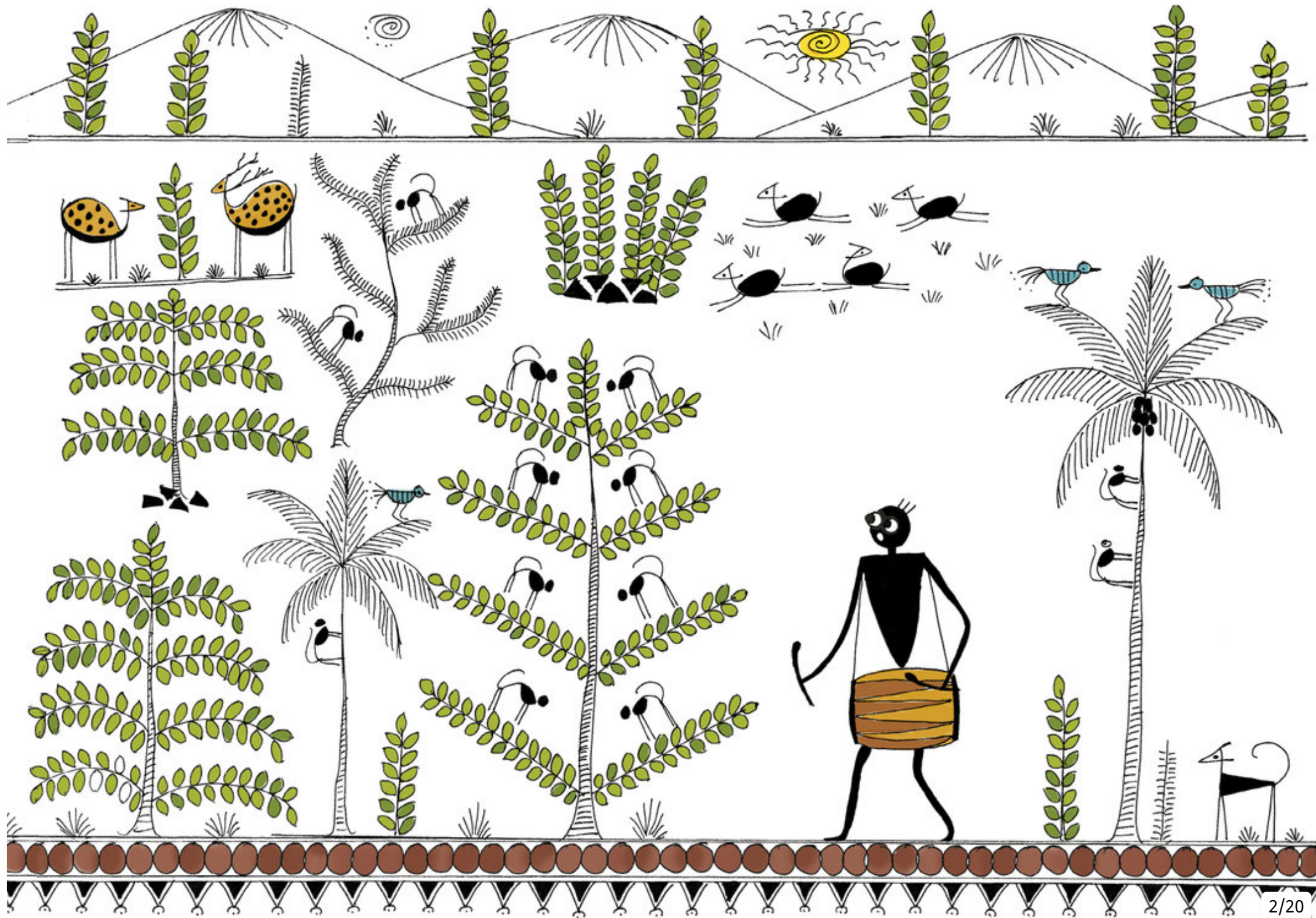
The Elephants Who Liked to Dance

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Translator: Amrit Mishra

Level 2



Bapi was a little boy who loved to play the dhol.



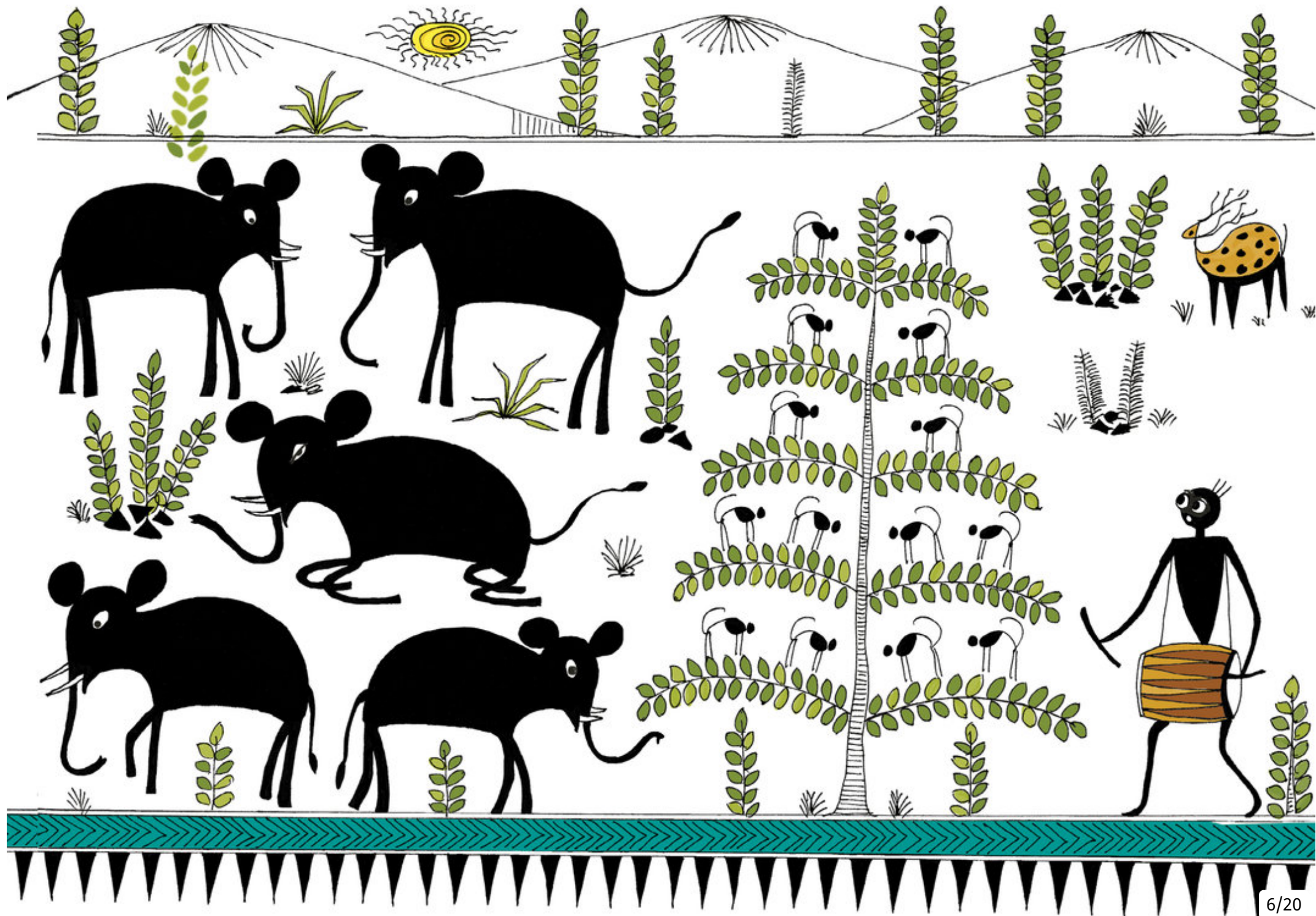
Dhum Dhum Dhuma Dhum...Bapi would beat the dhol with his eyes closed and his hands moving fast. This would make you want to dance!



One day Bapi had to go to the village on the other side of the hill. He was very happy because he had been asked to play the dhol there.



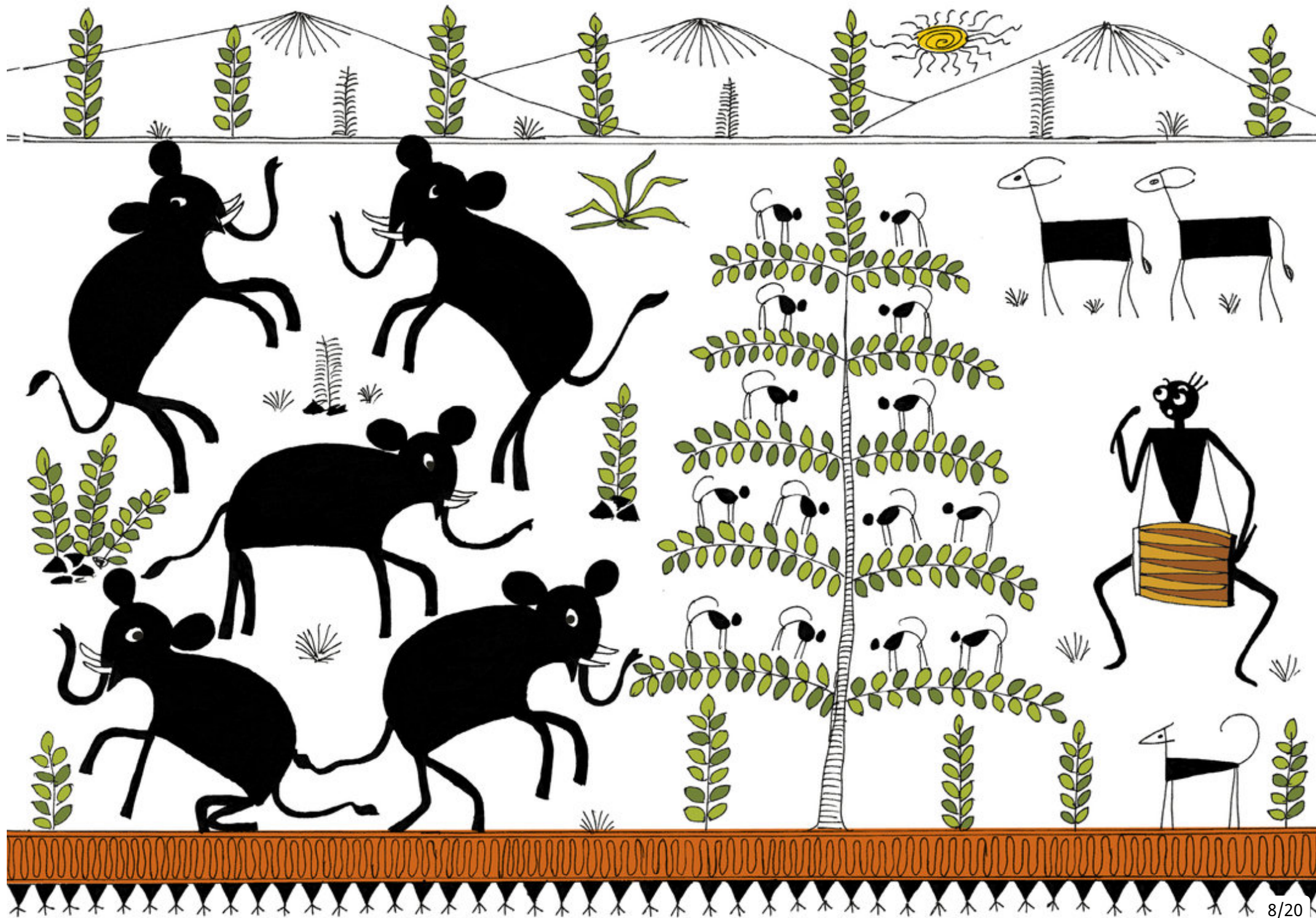
To reach that village he had to cross a dense forest.



As he walked along, he ran into... A HERD OF ELEPHANTS! Bapi was so scared!



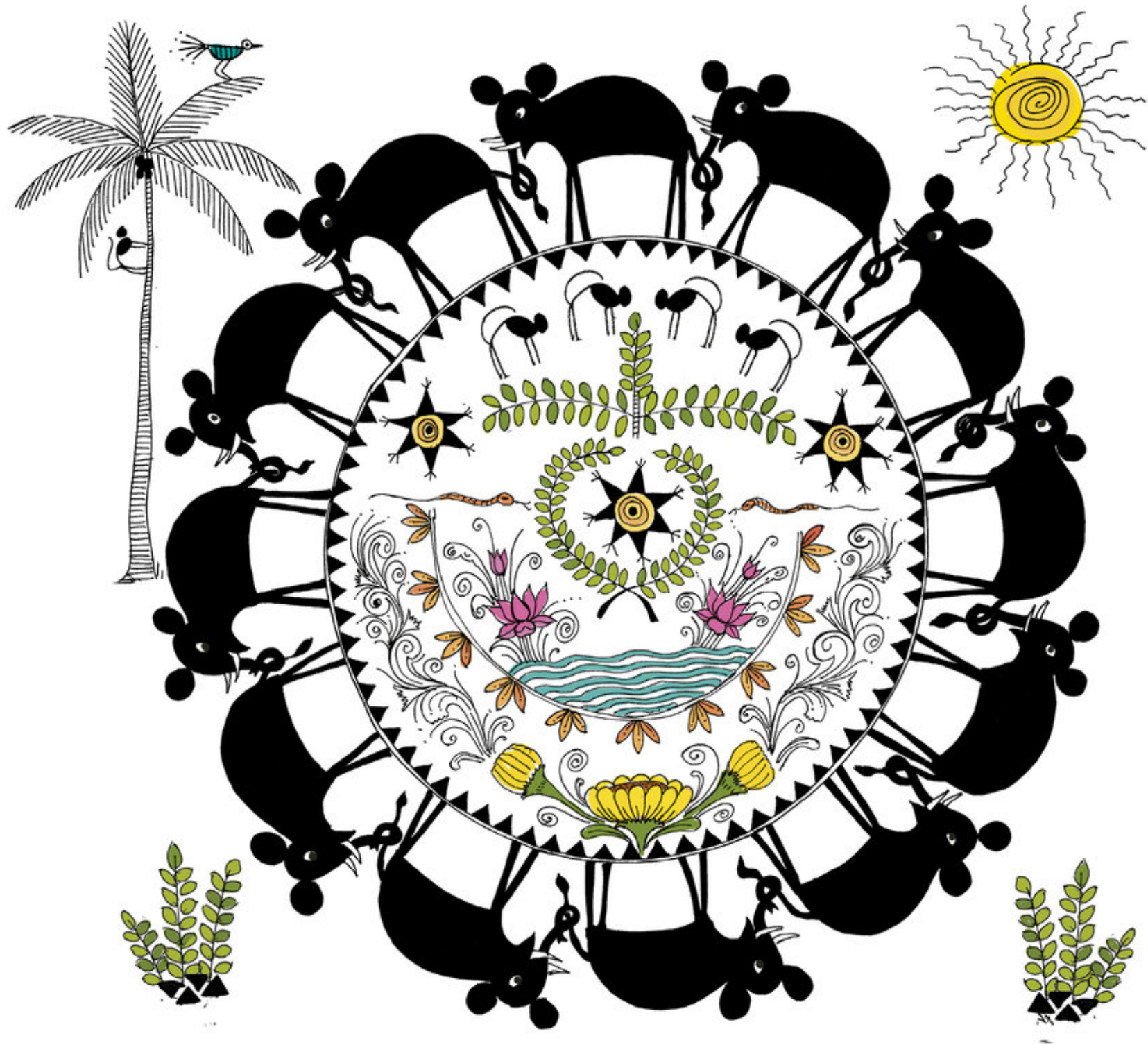
You would be scared too if you saw how big the elephants were.



He started beating his dhol loudly. He thought the elephants would get scared of the noise.



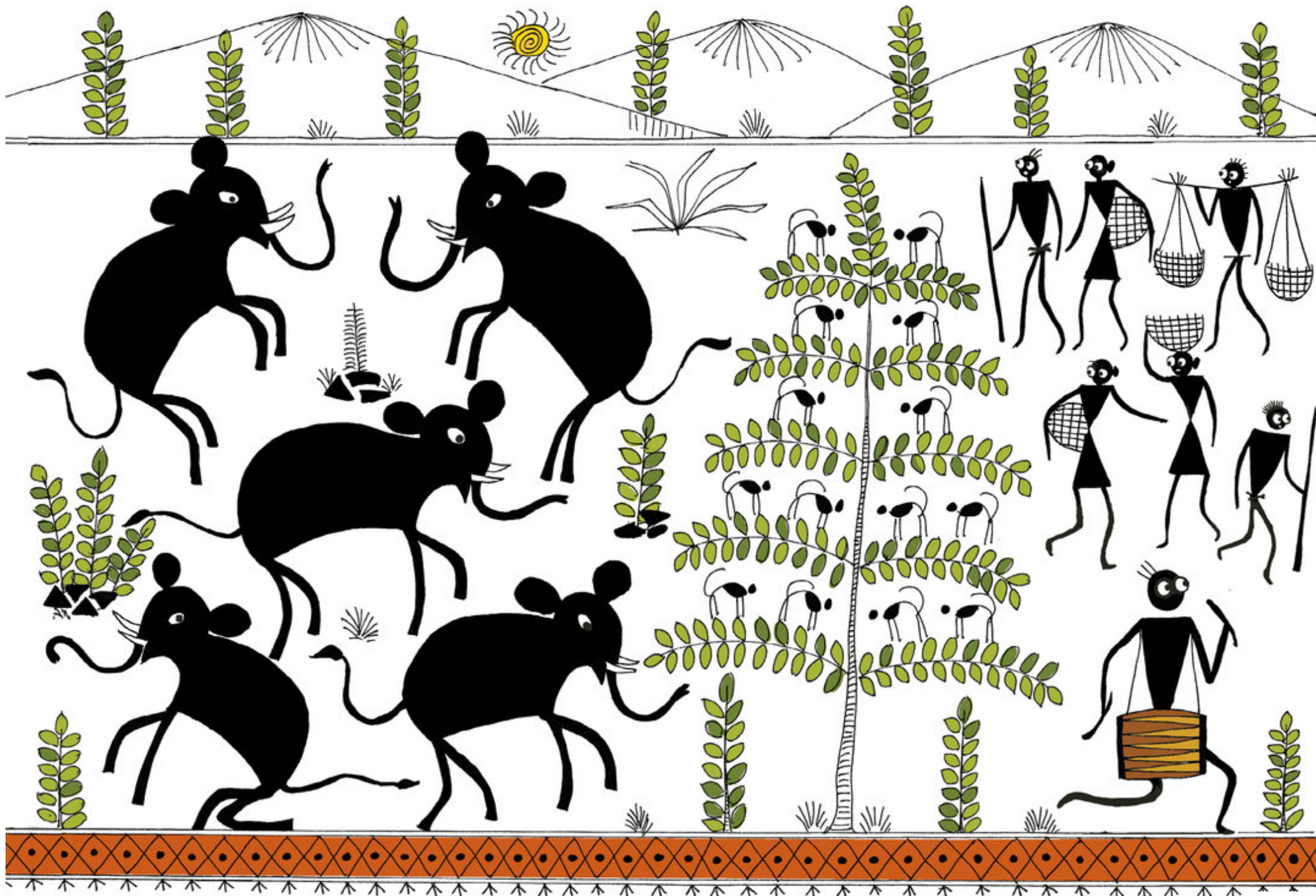
But what do you think happened?



The elephants were delighted to hear the dhol! They started dancing happily.



They forgot about Bapi as they simply loved to dance. Seeing his chance to escape, Bapi ran home. He told the villagers about everything that had happened.



The next day, the boys and girls from the village went to pick mohua flowers. They were shocked to see that the elephants were still dancing!



They ran back to the village and told everyone about the dancing elephants.

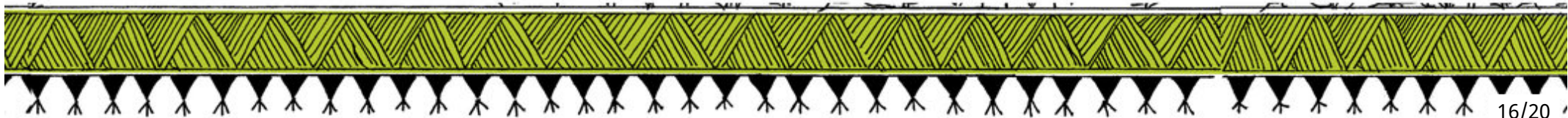
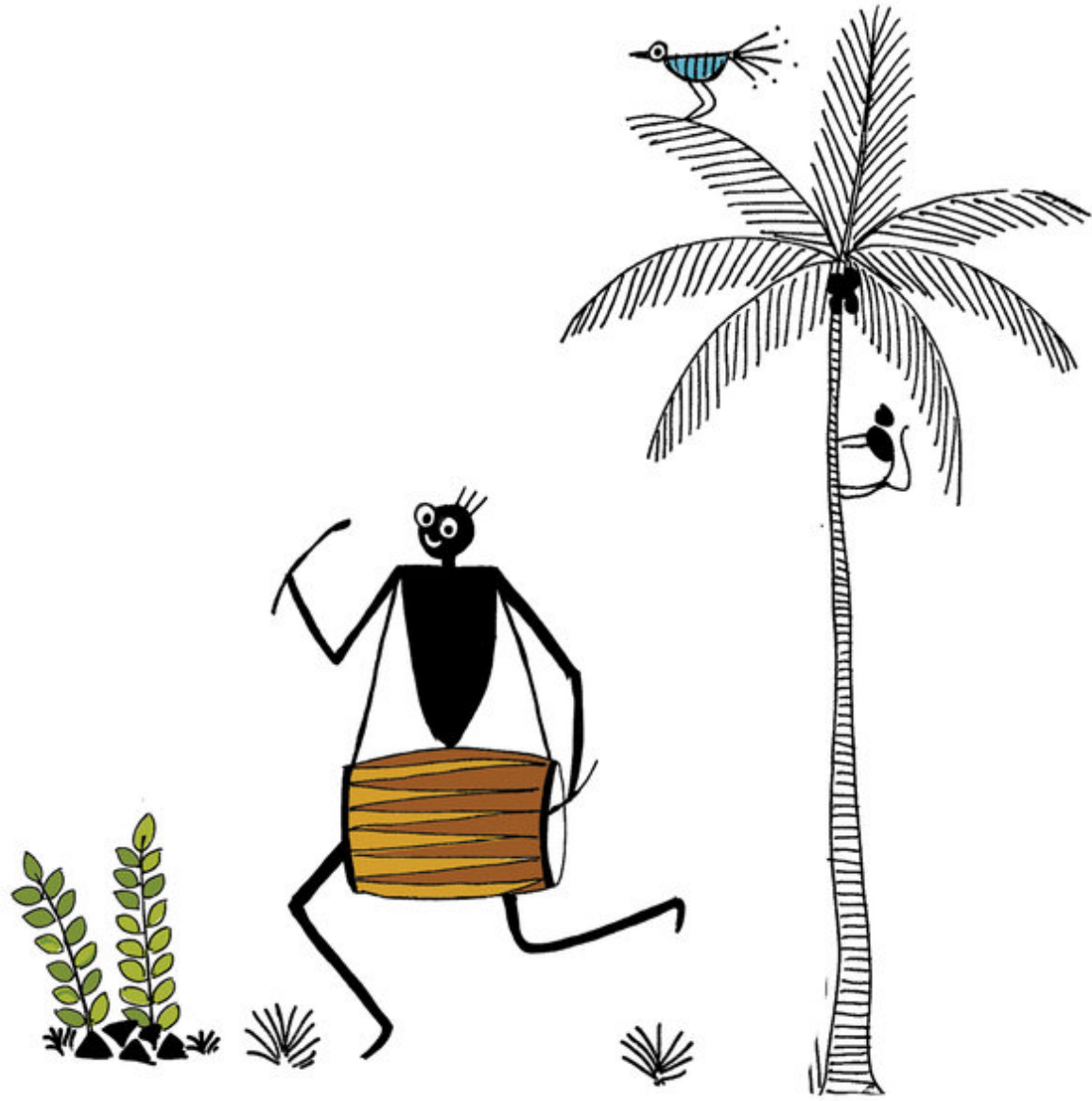




The villagers brought many different kinds of drums and went to the forest beating them loudly.



The dancing elephants were still dancing to the beat of Bapi's dhol. When they heard so many different kinds of drums their feet lost the wonderful rhythm of Bapi's beat. The confused elephants turned and ran away into the forest!



Would you like to play the dhol like Bapi?





The Concept

India's diverse linguistic landscape has a rich seam of stories for children. Unfortunately, many tribal languages do not have literature for children in book form or books for reading pleasure. As increasing numbers of tribal children go to school, it is now more necessary than ever to create a body of children's literature in their languages. Literature that reflects their own world and opens up the world beyond because books are magical, powerful things that inform, amuse, educate and entertain in the most interactive way. Books make every child an independent and life-long seeker of knowledge in her own unique way. For education to be truly meaningful to every child, she must get good books to read in her own language.

The Project

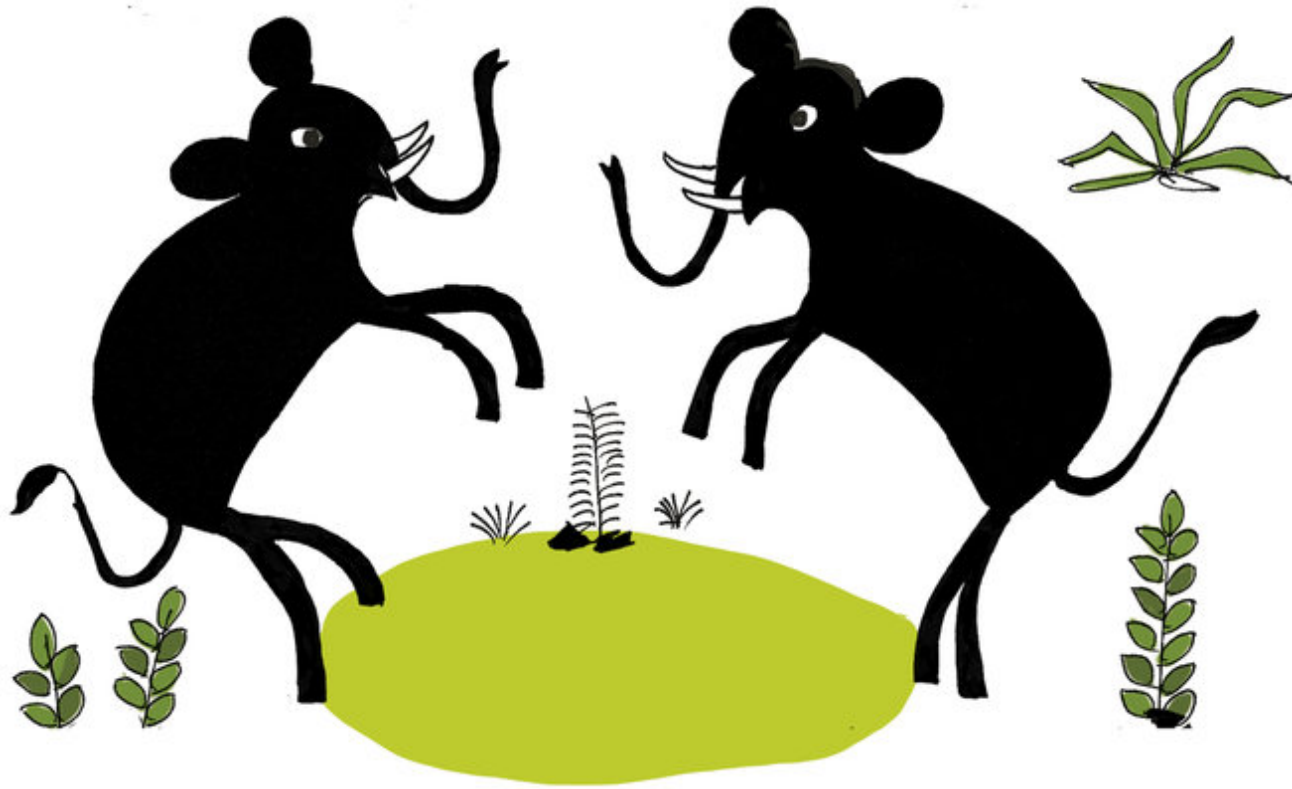
Pratham Books and IgnusERG, with the support of Bernard van Leer Foundation have created the first ten books for children's reading pleasure in Munda, Kui, Saura and Juanga languages from Odisha. The stories were written and illustrated by authors and illustrators belonging to these tribes in a series of workshops. This series of books is called **Adikahani**. It is a significant first step towards giving a voice to cultures that do not find adequate representation in mainstream discourses.

The Partners

IgnusERG is a guild of resource persons working to support teachers and enhancing the quality of education, particularly in government schools. They focus their efforts on bringing equity in education and addressing the needs of marginalized children.

Bernard van Leer Foundation is an international grant-making foundation based in The Hague. Its mission is to improve opportunities for young children growing up in socially and economically difficult circumstances. It has a particular interest in supporting mother-tongue based education.

This story was written by the Munda Writers' Group consisting of Budhanatha Munda, Prafull Surin, Prafulla Tapno, Rabindra Kumar Singh and Santosh Kumar Singh. With a background in ECCE, they all interact with children regularly. It has been illustrated by Sugrib Kumar Juanga using the Saura wall mural style as a base. The Munda language has more than 5 lakh speakers and is spoken in Sundargarh, Mayurbhanj and Keonjhar districts of Odisha. It is a group of languages spread over a geographical area beyond state boundaries and has been a repository of fascinating myths that have attracted linguists and litterateurs. The spellings of the language in Odia script are not definitive as many new sounds are being rendered in print for the first time.



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'The Elephants Who Liked to Dance' has been published on StoryWeaver by Pratham Books as a part of Adikahani series of ten books. The development of this book has been supported by Bernard van Leer Foundation along with our Content Partner IgnusERG. www.prathambooks.org

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The Elephants Who Liked to Dance

(English)

When Bapi played the dhol, everyone felt like dancing. When the elephants heard the dhol a strange and wonderful thing happened...

This is a Level 2 book for children who recognize familiar words and can read new words with help.



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