

Little Manitou

Coloring Book

By Jeff Liataud

illustrated by Jim Conahan

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Little Manitou Falls may be a sacred place. Long ago a child was born near the forehead of the shape of the State of Wisconsin. This mysterious-imagination-story begins with **a** first-ever family river trip!



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Contents

Chapter 1 – A Round Boat

Chapter 2 – Noon to Dusk

Chapter 3 – The Great Spirit

Chapter 4 – Shaking the Ground

Chapter 5 – Inspiration

Chapter 6 – Folklore Becomes Tradition

Chapter 7 – Sharing Becomes Healing

Chapter 8 – Medicine Man

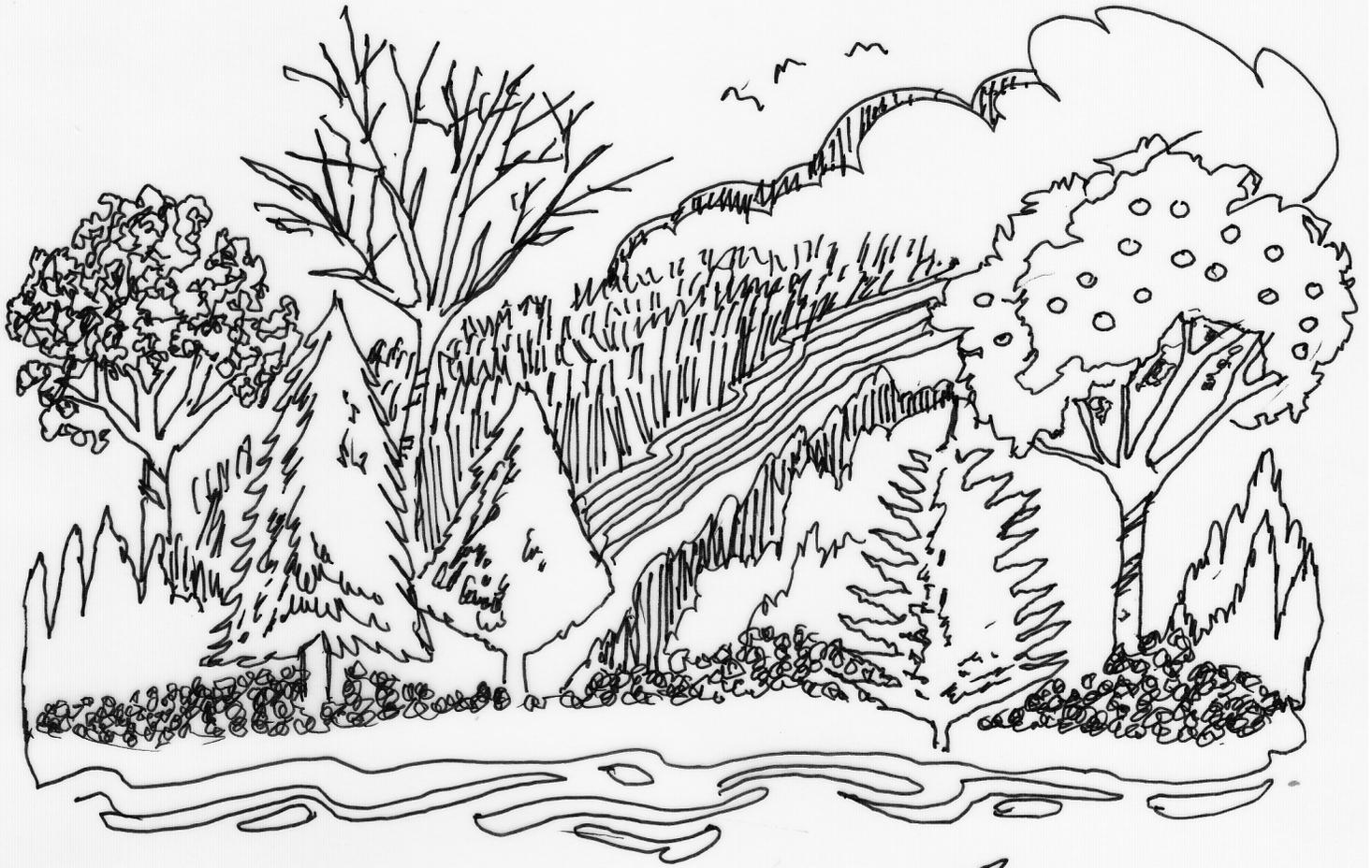
Epilogue

Chapter 1 – A Round Boat

The child was raised in a fierce hunting tribe. By the time the child reached age 6, he was known for being more patient and kind than any his age.

The tribe lived on the Mucadewa Sebee, or Black River. A long time ago, way before birch bark canoes were common place, the father creatively made a round boat to float on the river. The boat was made of hides sewn together on the outside and held in place on the inside by supple, young white pine saplings that were bent into ribs. All the tribe marveled at his family when they first floated on water as they began to explore on their first river trip.

While the parents were silently floating the river, strange animals appeared...in the morning a snake appeared so green it hid itself except for a wave it made in the grass where it slid silently from the river to the shore.



Chapter 2 - Noon to Dusk

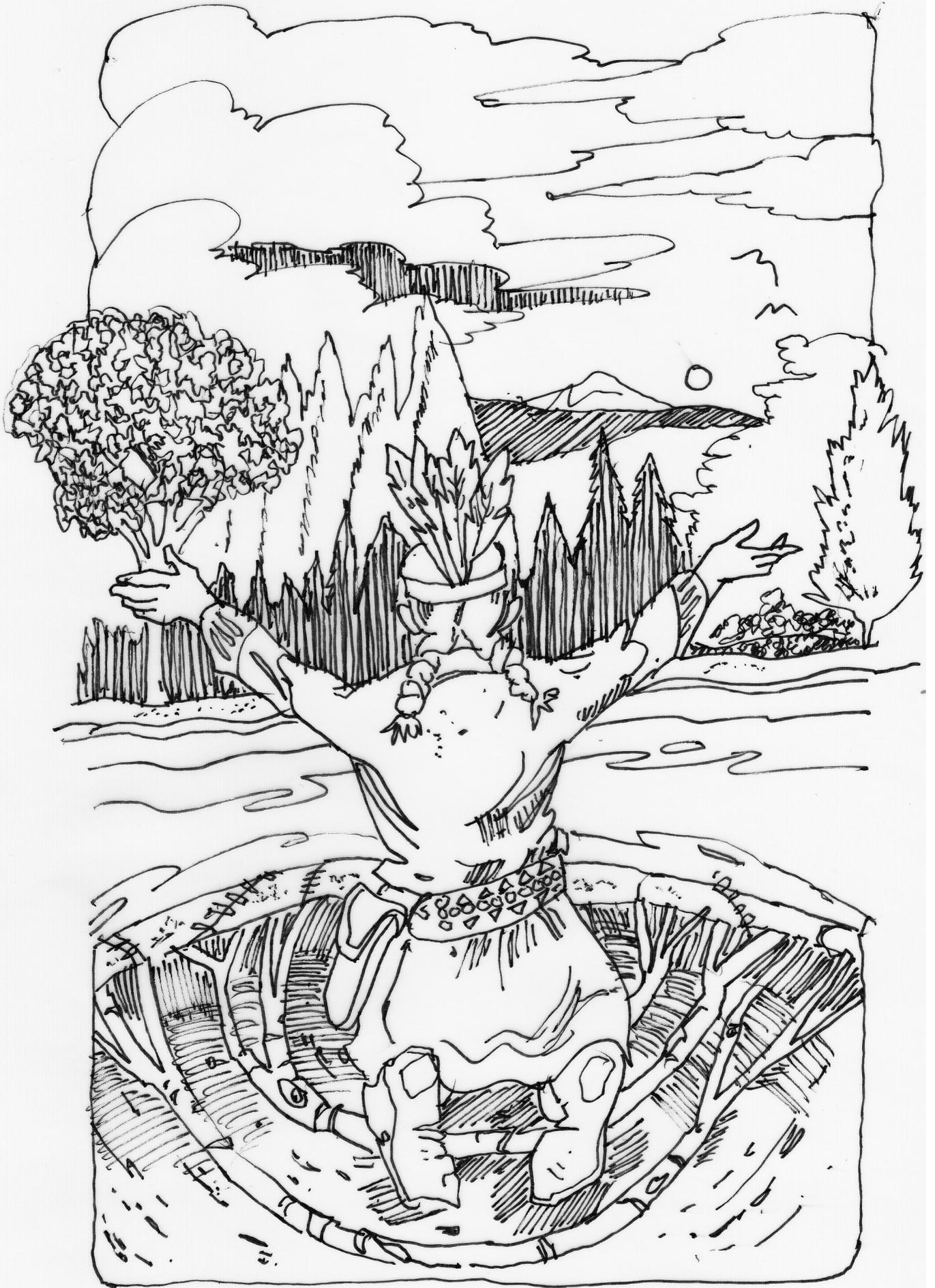
In the noon day sun a wolf stood with fur so fluffy and shiny that it glistened.

And in the evening dusk they saw a large black bear, so black it was almost hidden in the dark shadows of Mucadewa Sebee, the Black River.



Chapter 3 – The Great Spirit

The parents marveled that their son was unafraid. The boy felt protected in a nurturing and kind way by the deep love of his parents that slipped into a knowing of a presence deep within that filled his heart with joy...what his tribe called the Great Spirit.



Chapter 4 - Shaking the Ground

The next day his parents were scouting on the river far from the tribe when they saw a very large animal that rushed from the river to the woods. The boy's parents left their son in the boat in a cove near the shore as they dashed after the animal. The running animal had giant hooves, weight so heavy that the earth shook like thunder and lightning cracking the ground as it ran, and antlers so big they looked like part of a bowl on its head. It was a moose.



Chapter 5 - Inspiration

After a short while a mysterious bird flew right up to the boy and landed on the rim of his boat. The bird had an orange mark on the back of its head, black speckled spots on its breast and yellow, highlighted wings that fascinated the boy.

When the bird flew across the river, it had a bobbing flight and a white rump. It disappeared into the bottom of three rocks. The rocks were tilted slabs of rock so large as to be a mini fortress, and small enough to become a child's lodge.

The boy crossed the river totally absorbed by the sign of the bird. He felt the rock slabs already warm in the sun. He intuitively gathered sticks and boughs to build the first sweat lodge his tribe had ever known. He knew how to build fires safely and he lit his tinder. After the rock slabs were very hot, he splashed water on them from a birch bark dish. Inside he sat to enjoy the steam as the rocks were cooled enough to sit and he comfortably leaned against them.



Chapter 6 – Folklore Becomes Tradition

The boy felt secure and protected in his sweat lodge made of three slabs of rock. When the mysterious bird came back and ate insects fleeing the heat on the top of the boy's sweat lodge the boy felt the goodness of his hunch to build the sweat lodge.

After his parents worked to prepare the meat and hide of the moose they returned and just beyond the area of the three rocks was a small waterfall 31 feet tall of caramel colored water. They saw the boy come out of the sweat lodge in time to greet them from above the falls.

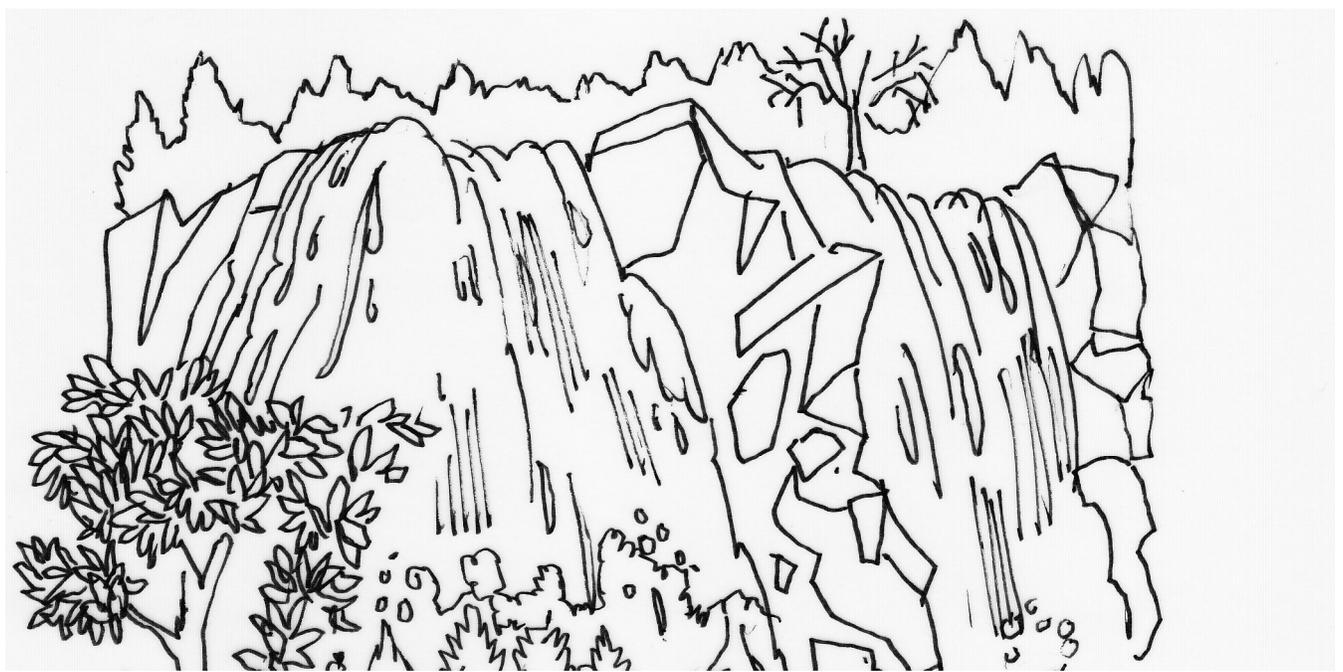
The parents went home and told the tribe what had occurred. The story of the chase of the moose and the story of the boy at the falls calmly in his sweat lodge lead by the mystery of the bird charmed the whole tribe. Others, who felt the urge, came to the sweat lodge as the child had done before and along with the penetrating warmth came deep satisfying peace for many.



Chapter 7 – Sharing Becomes Healing

The tribe loved moose hides. They shared their abundance of them with other tribes, and in turn they received soft copper to make shaped metal articles like tanning knives. All of the surrounding tribes who lived in peace benefited. Each had more abundance than they alone could ever have.

When the boy was seventeen, his father became very ill. The boy saw the mysterious bird again and made the sweat lodge ready. On this sign the boy took his father to the sweat lodge. With the father safely inside the boy prayed to the Great Spirit to heal his father in a knowing way of deep wisdom. With heat from the sweat lodge, gradually the boy saw his father heal. The father was the fiercest hunter in the tribe and was the last to try using the sweat lodge.



Chapter 8 – Medicine Man

When the father recovered, the example of this patient and kind boy healing his own father became an example of healing by the Great Spirit for the whole tribe. Many came to believe that the tribe had found big medicine in the boy's sweat lodge and the boy became a medicine man to the whole tribe. His sister took women to the sweat lodge. Others became more patient and kind like the boy, and the tribe became a sacred nation walking in holy ways.

The falls are called Little Manitou falls. Manitou means Great Spirit. You can go there. You can find the three rocks that inspired this story above the falls today at Little Manitou Park. It is in [Pattison State Park](#) in Northwestern Wisconsin.

*The
End*

Back Page Editor's Note: The Great Spirit may be envisioned on the next page of this coloring book. Holding a pony soldier in one hand and a peace pipe in the other, justice and love are weighed from all eternity. Because of free will the Great Spirit permits the actions of man. The pony soldier goes too far burning the village on the right, where a heart is formed out of flames. The village smoke mingles upward into the smoke of the peace pipe creating a new vision. A buffalo hunt is symbolic of man growing in harmony with nature. The village is restored on the right. A snow covered volcanic Mount Rainier is in the background, and the light and beauty of the Great Spirit's creation is being upheld in the dominion of man.

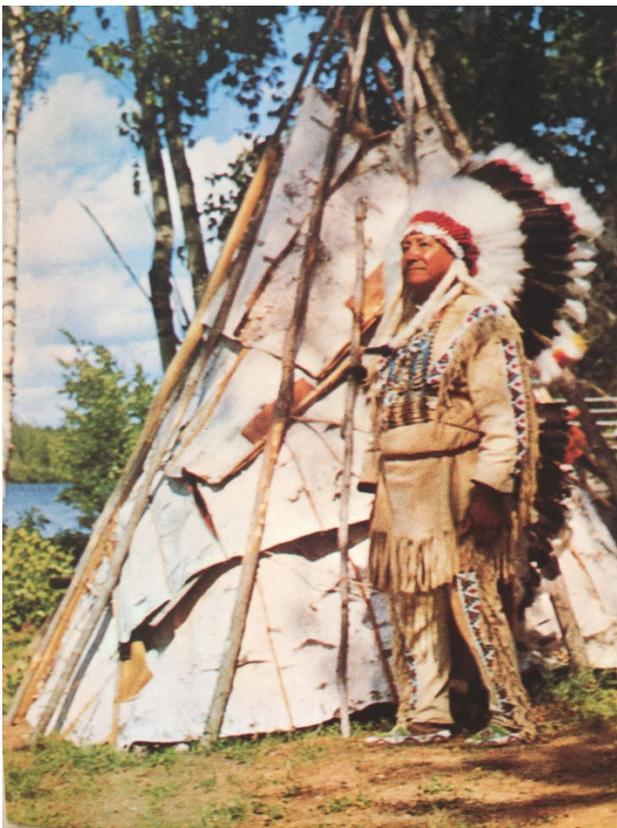
A note from Jeff and Jim: At www.Loquate.tv you may obtain additional copies. Go to Resource Series R036 – ebook download.



Epilogue

How this project began:

A Native American, Sam Frog, befriended Jeff a young non tribal boy. The vision of the boy expanded from man in harmony with nature to man in harmony with his Creator.



Jeff Liautaud expanded his vision to embrace not only his own faith but also people of all faiths.



Today his charity [Loquate.tv](https://www.loquate.tv), and lifelong avocation, the work of Loquate's "Where Work Meets Faith" is open to all.

Jim Conahan deceased in 2022 was an Award Winning Illustrator and former Co-Chairman of the Midwest Air Force Artists.



Jim and Jeff offered the print on the previous page to Jeff's snowshoe dealers across America in support of Native American higher education.

Color these pages too!





