

The Whale and the



Sandpiper

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The Whale and the Sandpiper–Raj Eo im Kidid Eo.

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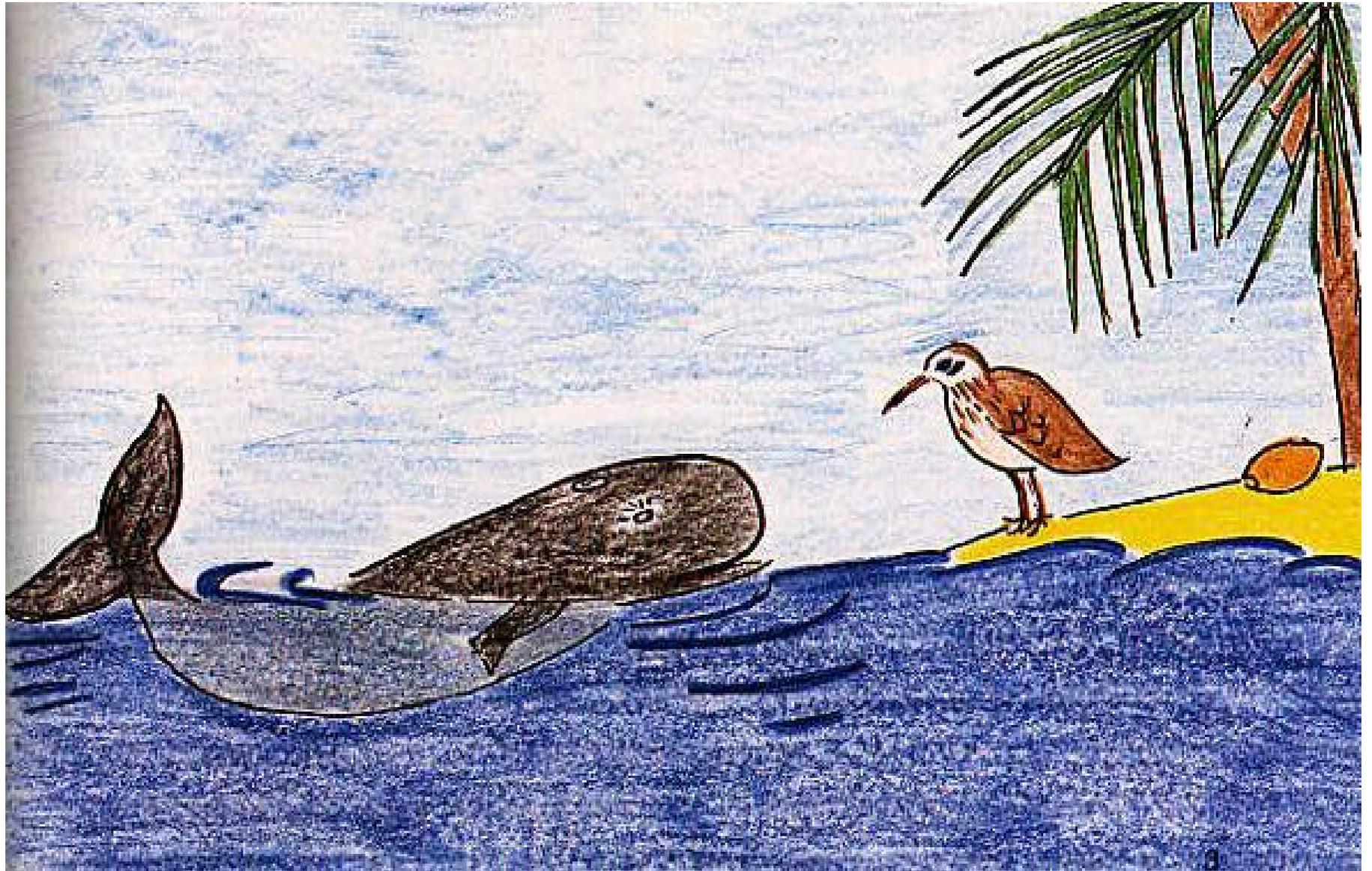
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The Whale and the Sandpiper Raj Eo im Kidid Eo

An Oral Tradition of the Marshall Islands
Juõn Bwebwenatõ in Aelõñ Kein

Adapted by Jane Downing

LETAO



One bright day the sea was calm and
the sun was shining
But the whale and the sandpiper were
arguing.

“There are more whales than sandpipers
in the world”
said the great whale.

“Oh not at all, there are many more
sandpipers”
cried the little sandpiper.

“More whales”
“More sandpipers”

The bickering could be heard all over the
island and across the ocean.

“More sandpipers”
“More whales”

Eaar juon raan eo emman, lomalo
elae im al ej romaak.
Ak raj eo im kidid eo rej akwāāl.

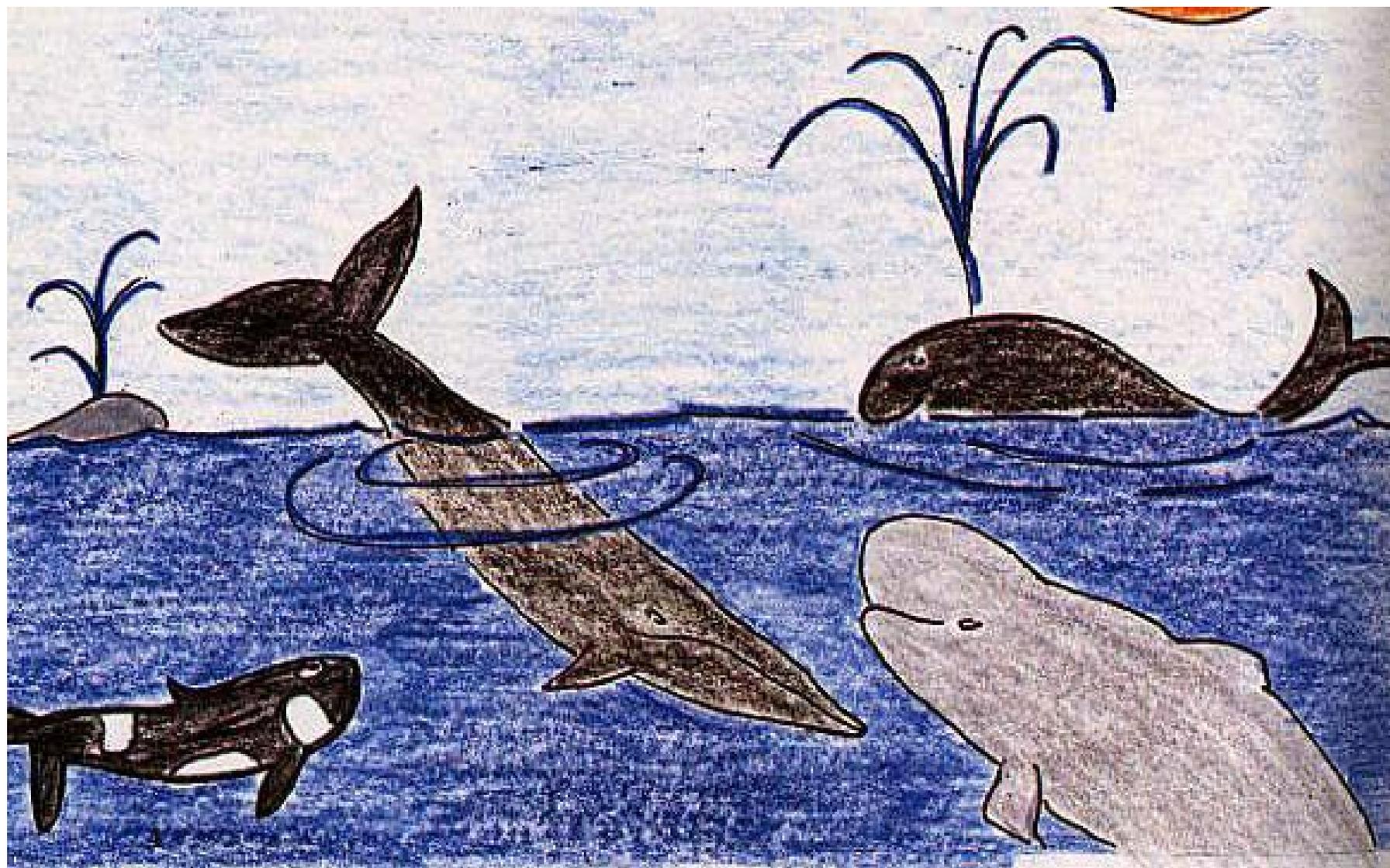
“Elōñ lok raj jān kidid ilalin.”
Raj kilelep eo ekar ba.

“Ooo, elōñ lōk kidid jān raj.”
Kiddid jidikdik eo eaar lamōj

“Elōñ raj.”
“Elōñ kiddid”

Akwāāl eo eaar ellaaj ioon ān eo im
malo eo.

“Elōñ kidid.”
“Elōñ raj.”

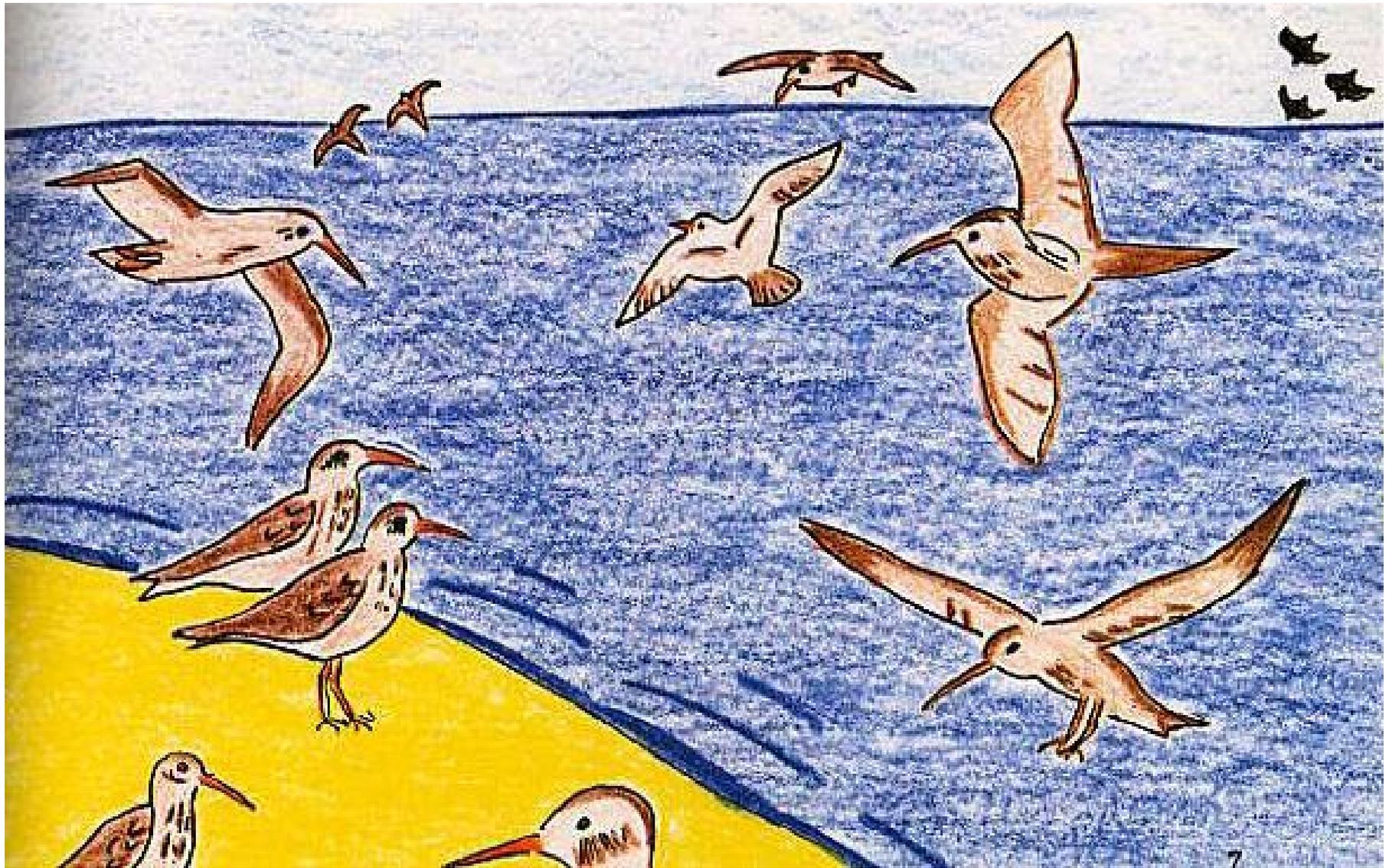


Suddenly the whale stopped shouting
and started to sing
“Bottor, Bottora
Water to the sky
Calling all whales
Come fast to me
From the East, the West, the North,
the South
Come faster to me.”

And they came
From the East they came pushing the
waves high
From the West
From the North
From the South
Pushing the waves up to the sky.
“See” said the great whale
“There are more whales than sandpipers!”

Raj eo eaar bojrak im jino al.
“Böttōra, Böttōra.”
Dān ñan mejatto
Kūr aolep raj
Mōkaj tok
Jōn Ratak, Rālik, Eāñ, Rak.
Mōkaj tok.

Im raar itok.
Jān Reaar raar itok, iuuni tok no ko
reutiej.
Jān Ralik
Jān Eāñ
Jān Rak
Iuni tok no ko reutiej
“Kwolo ke!” raj kilelep eo eaar ba.
“Elōñ lok raj jān kidid!”



The sandpiper said nothing
But began to sing
“Kirir, Kirira
Crying to the world
Calling all sandpipers
Come quickly
From the East, the West, the North,
the South
Come quickly and save me.”

As the bird chanted, a high wind blew in
from the East,
It blew from the West
from the North
from the South
The flapping of a hundred thousand
wings.

All the sandpipers came
And the whole sky was dark.

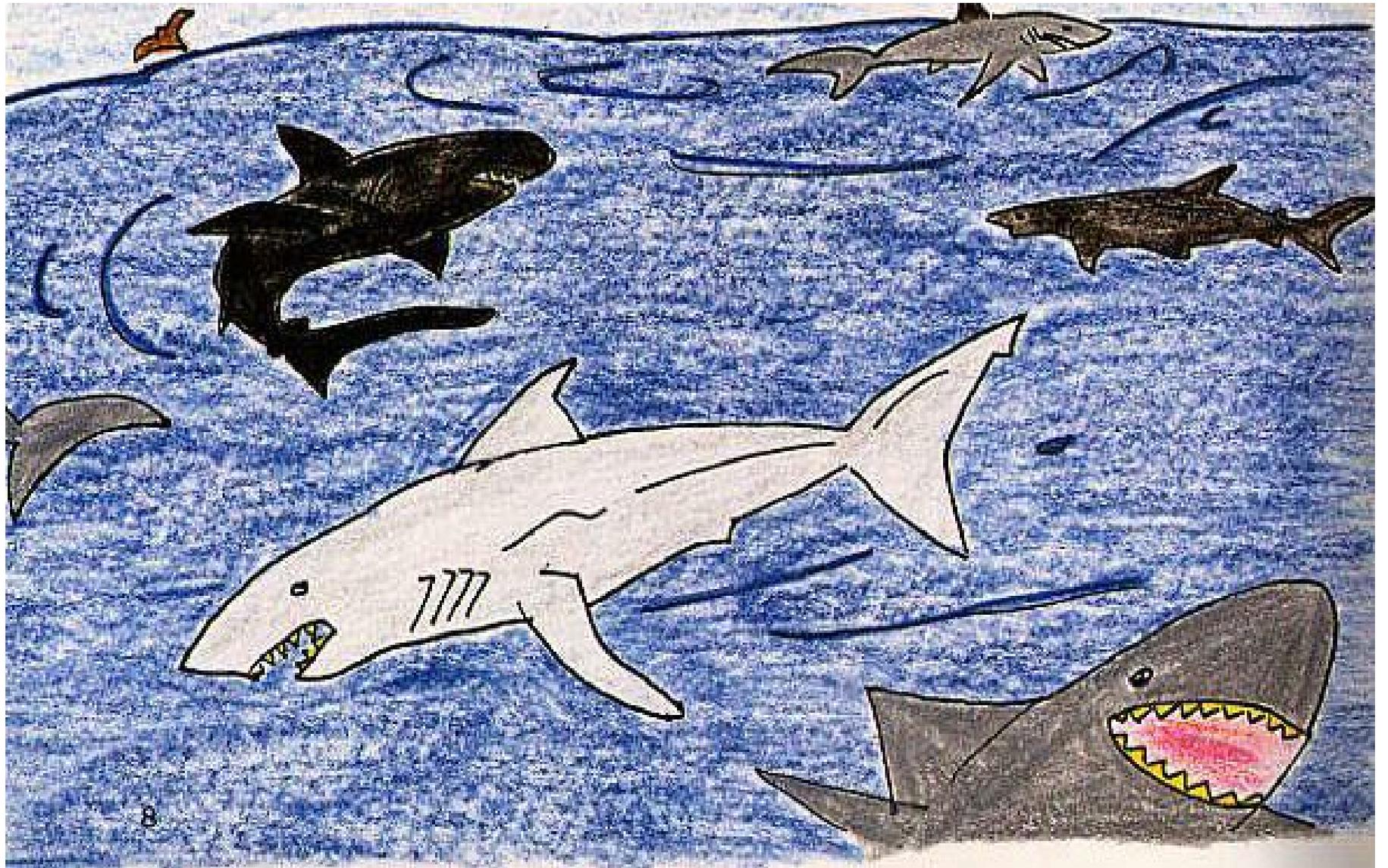
“See” said the little sandpiper
“I told you there are more sandpipers
than whales.”

Kidid eo eaar jab kōnono
Ak eaar jino al
“Kidid, Kidida
Kūr ñan lalin.
Kūr aolep kidid
Mōkaj tok
Jān Ratak, Rālik, Eāñ, Rak
Mōkaj tok im lomoren eō.

Ke kidid eo ej jino al eo, juon kōto
kajoor eaar itok jān Reaar.
Eaar tartok jān Rālik
Jān Eāñ
Jān Rak
Añin bukwi taujin pā.

Aolep kiddid raar itok

“Kwolo ke” Kiddid jidikdik eo ekar ba
“Iaar jiroñ eok ke elōññlok kiddid jān
raj

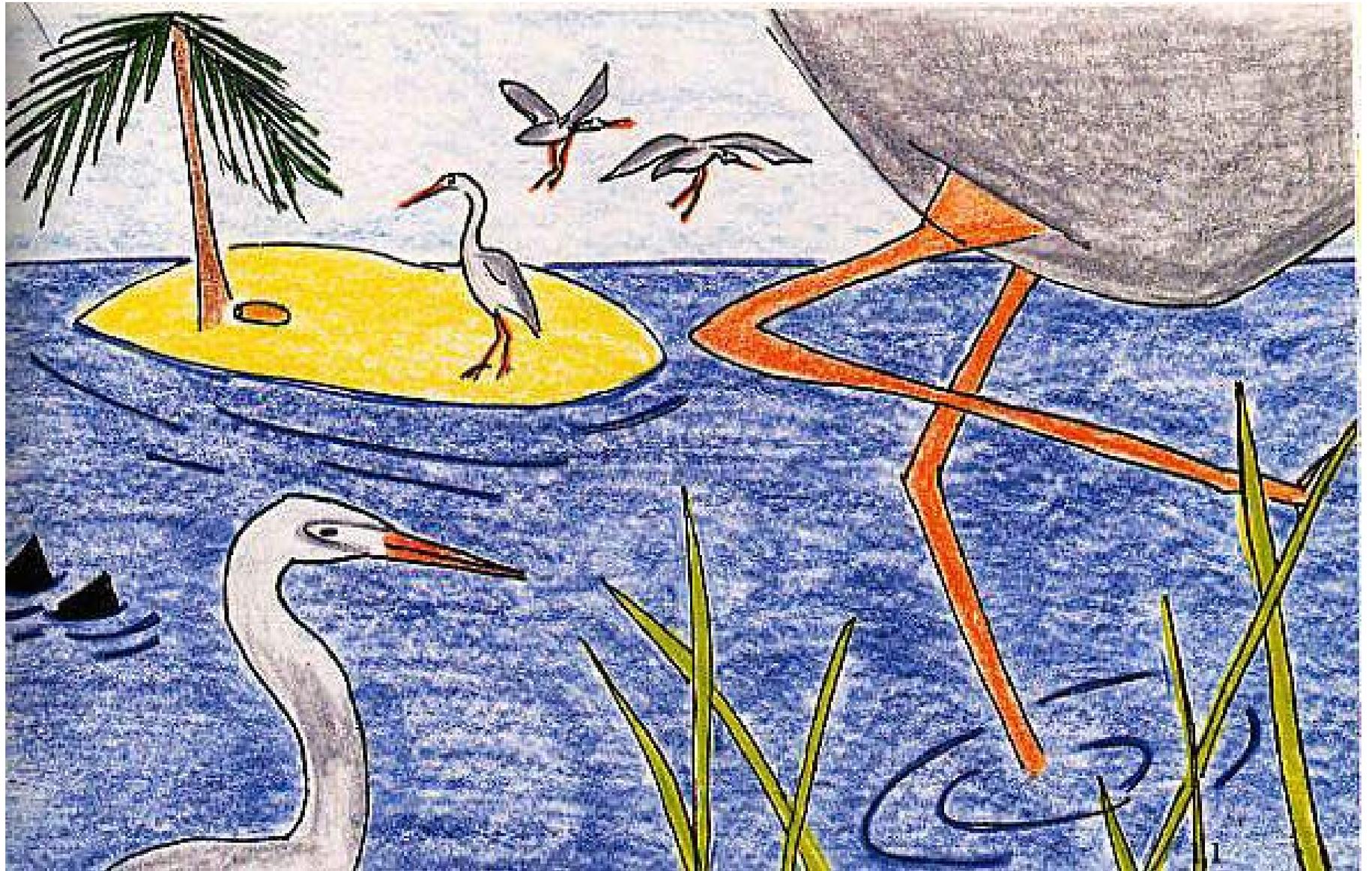


“W ait. You'll see more” laughed the
whale and loudly came his chant
“Bottor, Bottora
Black fins above the sea
Calling all sharks
Come fast to me
From the East, the West, the North,
the South
Come faster to me.”

From the four points of the world
The ocean filled with fins.
“More whales, more fish, more than
sandpipers
More, more, more!”
Shouted the clever whale.

“K öttar. Konaaj lo bwijin.” Raj eo
ear ettoñ im jarök al peran eo an
“Böttör, Böttöra
Ül kilmeej ioon lojet
Kür aolep pako
Mökaj tok ñan ippa
Jān Ratak, Rālik, Eāñ, Rak
Mökaj tok ñan ippā.

Jān türtür ko emān ilo lalin
Eobrak malo kin ül
Elōñlok raj, elōñlok ek,
elōñlok jān kidid
lōñ!, lōñ!, lōñ!”
Elamōj Raj māletlet eo.



Above his shout came the sandpiper's
song
“Kirir, Kirira
Crying from defeat
Calling all cranes
Come quickly
From the East, the West, the North,
the South
Come quickly and save me.”

The whale and the sandpiper heard
thunder and looked to the sky.

The cranes had heard the chant and flew
in with loudly beating wings to save
their friend.

“More sandpipers, more birds, more than
whales
More, more, more!”
Chirped the clever sandpiper.

Al eo an kidid eo epran lok jōn lamōj
eo.
“Kidid, Kidida
lamōj jān jorrāān
Kūr aolep kabōj
Mōkaj tok
Jōn Ratak, Rālik, Eāñ, Rak
Mōkaj tok im lomoren eō.”

Raj eo im Kiddid eo raar roñ ainikien
jourur im reilok ñan mejatoto.

Kabōj ko raar roñ iküd eo kātōk kōn
juon ainikien epañijñij in jipañ ro
jeraer.

“Elōñlok Kiddid, lōñlok bao, jān Raj.
lōñlok, lōñlok, lōñlok!”
Kiddid māletlet eo ekar ba.



The great whale and the little sandpiper
kept
Singing and chanting
Chanting and singing
Calling all the fish
Calling all the birds
of the earth to come.

The tuna heard and came
The gulls heard and came
The bonito heard and came
The noddy terns heard and came

By the hundred, by the thousand, by the
million.

The noise could be heard over all the land
and sea.

The noise of all the fish and all the birds
in the whole wide world called
together.

Raj kilelep eo im Kidid jidikdik eo
raar akwāāl
Al im roro
Roro im al
Kür aolep ek
Kür aolep bao
In lal in bwe ren itok

Bwebwe ko raar roñ im itok
Keār ko raar roñ im itok
Lōjabwil ko raar roñ im itok
Keār kilmeej ko raar roñ im
itok

Bukwi, taujin, milien.

Ainikien eo eaar elaaj ioon āne eo im
malo eo.

Ainikien aolep ek im aolep bao
ipelaakin lalin



But still no-one knew if there were more
whales than sandpipers
Or more sandpipers than whales.

“What will we do now?” a shark asked
the whale.

The whale looked over the multitude,
He looked back and forth
at the birds flying above
And back and forth
at the birds resting on the island.

“We will eat all the land then the birds
will not be able to survive”
said the whale.

All the fish in the sea ate the land,
Piece
by piece
by piece.

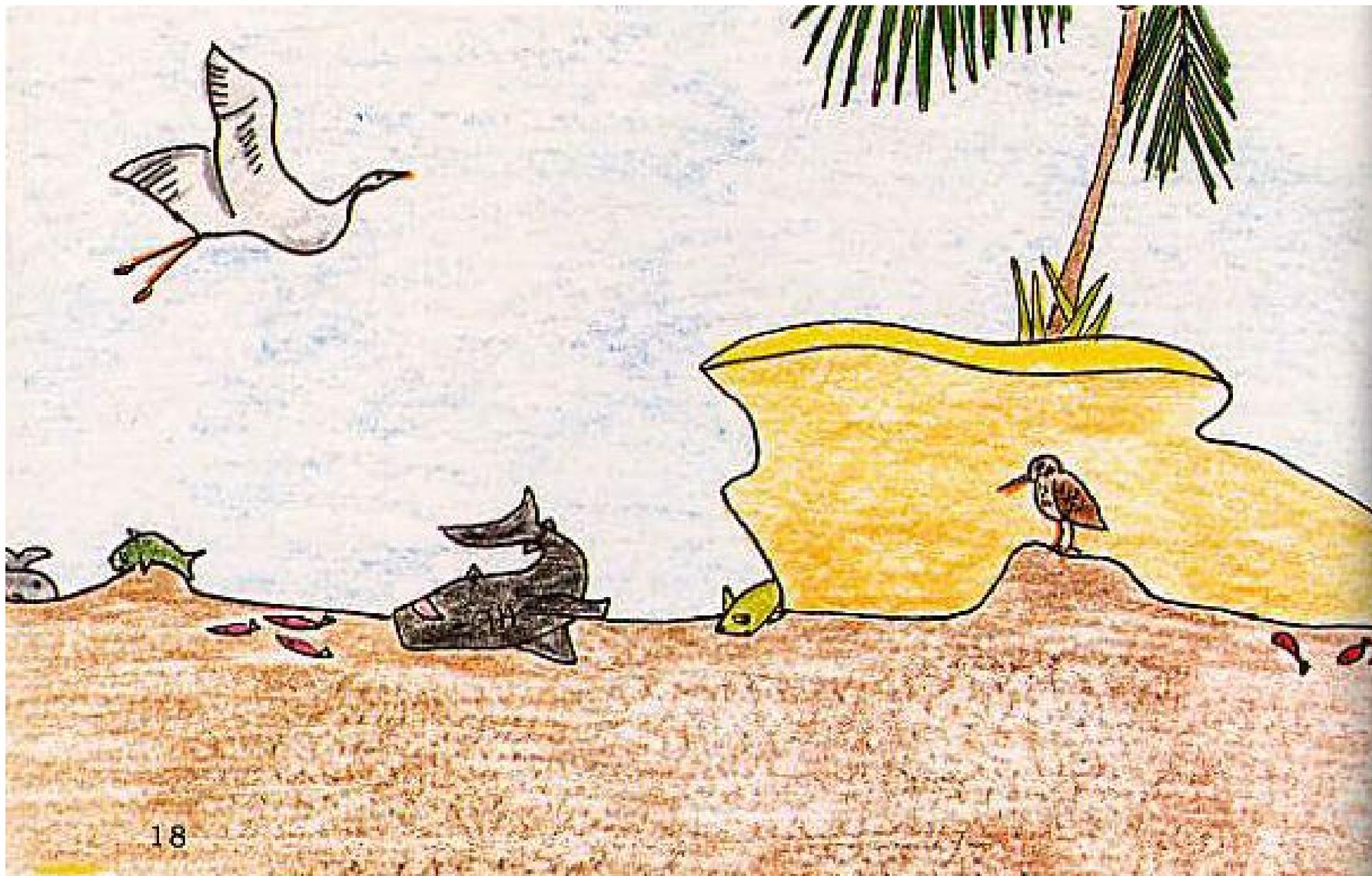
Ak ejjelok en ejelā ellañe elōñ lok raj
jān kiddid
Ak lōñ lok kiddid jān raj.

“Jenaaj et kiō?” juon pako ekar
kajitiküni raj eo.

Raj eo eaar lale jarlepju eo,
Eaar reilik reimaan
Im lale bao ko rej ekkāke imejatoto
Im reilik reimaan
Im lale bao ko rej kakkije ioon āne.

“Jenaaj kañ aolepān ān in
Innām bao kein reban maroñ mour.”
Raj eo eaar ba.

Aolep ek ko ilojet raar kañ ān eo,
Jidik
Illok jidik
Illok jidik.



“What will we do now?” a crane asked
the sandpiper as the land disappeared
from under their feet.

The sandpiper looked back and forth
across the ocean
and over and under the sea.

“We will drink up all the water in the
ocean”
said the sandpiper

“Then the fish will not be able to survive.”

It took a lot more time to eat the land
than to drink the ocean
So the birds finished first.
They drank all the water in the ocean
And with no water to live in the whales
and the sharks and the tuna and the
bonito and all the fish
wriggled
and gasped.

“Jenaaj et kiō?” juon kabōj eaar
kajitikni kidid eo ke āne eo ej jako
lok jān eomün ne er.

Kidid eo eaar reilik reimaan
ioon im ibulōn malo eo

“Jenaaj ilim aolepōn lojet bwe en jab
maroñ mour ek kein.”

Eaar bōk elap iien ñan kañ ān eo jān
ilim malo eo.

Kōn menin bao ko raar mōj mokta

Raar ilim aolepān dān eo ilojet

Im kōn an ejjelok dān ilojet

Aolep pako, bwebwe, lōjabweil im ek ko
jet

raar dipōkpōk im ikkijelok.



The birds saw the fish dying
And they all started to worry.
They ate fish for their food
Without food they would starve
Without fish they too would die.

“We need to have fish in the world” they
cried.
They watched the fish gasp for water and
were sad.

The sandpiper was the saddest of them
all,
He told the birds what to do.
All the sandpipers and the cranes and the
gulls
and the noddy terns and all the birds
Spat out the water they had swallowed
And the ocean was filled again
Just as before.

The sandpiper and the whale smiled at
each other as friends.

Bao ko raar lo an ek ko mej
Em jino inepata.
Ek ej men eo kijeer
Im ñe ejjelok ek renaaj mej
barāinwōt.

“Aikuj or ek ilal in” raar lamōj.
Raar lale an ek ko ikkijelok im buromōj.

Eaar lap tata an kidid eo buromōj,
Eaar jiroñ bao ko ta eo ren kōmmane
Aolep kidid, kabōj, keār im keār
kilmeej im aolep bao ko
Raar ibbūraake lok dān eo raar ilimi
Im eaar bar ejaak malo eo
Āinwōt kar mokta

Kidid eo im Raj eo raar bar ettōñ im
jera.



So all the fish swam home
And all the birds flew home
 To the East,
 the West,
 the North,
 the South
They swam and flew.

Everything was just the same as it was in
 the beginning
Only they had learnt a lesson,
A lesson about how much they needed
 each other.
The birds and the fish of the world
 remembered
 and lived together in harmony.
And they never did find out if
 there were more whales than
 sandpipers in the world.

Kon menin aolep ek raar aō ñan joko
 jikieer
Aolep bao raar kelok ñan joko jikieer.
 Ñan Reaar,
 Rālik,
 Eāñ,
 Rak
Raar aō im kelok.
Men otemjej ar bar āinwōt mōkta
Men eo wōt, raar katak juon katak,
Juon katak eo kōn joñan aer aikuji
 doon.
Bao im ek ko ilal in raar ememej im
 mour ippān doon.
Im rejab jelā ellaññe elōññlok
 raj jān kidid ilal in.

LETAO
