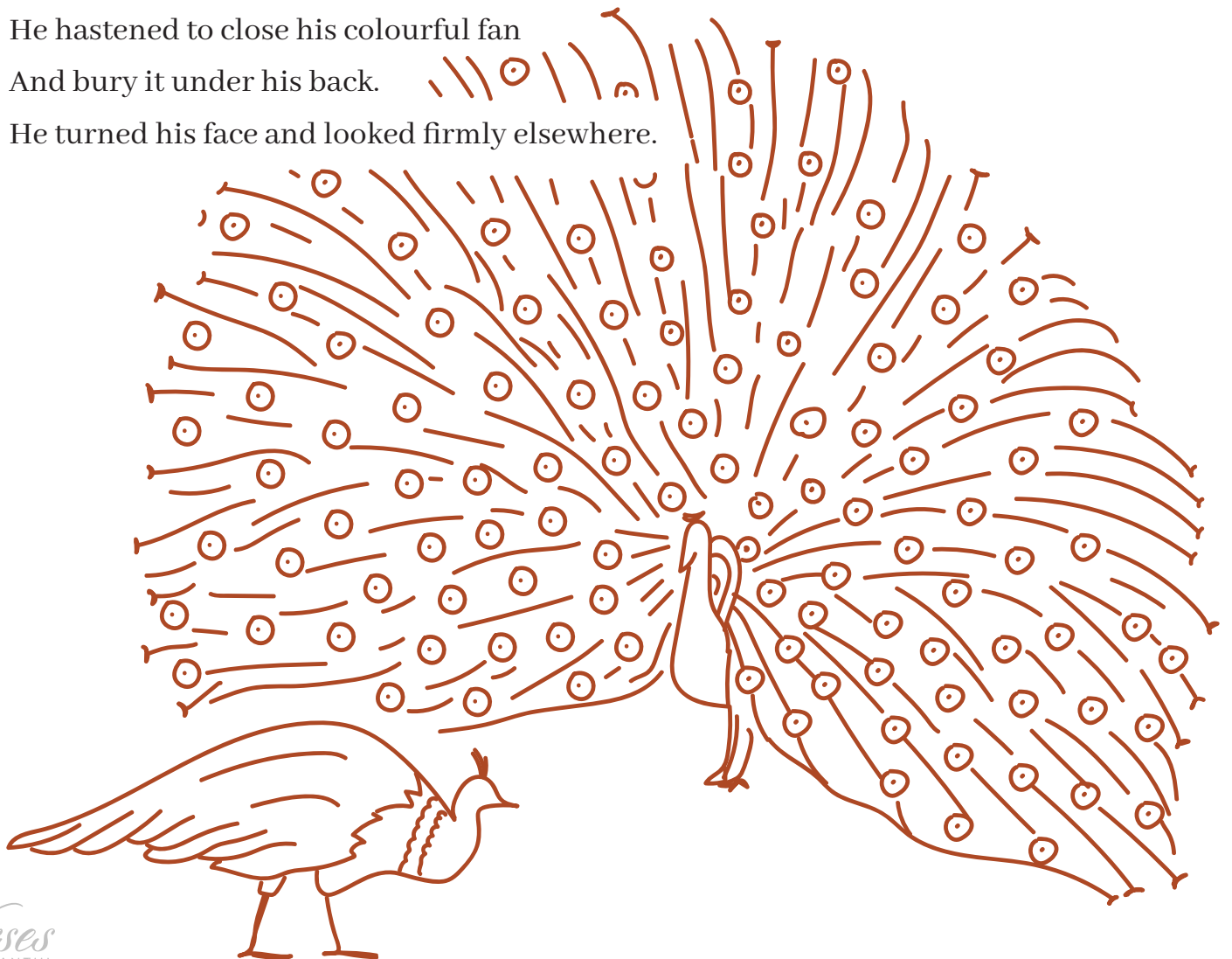




Peacock Dance

Vasanthi Vasudev

One little peacock grew fairy feathers
Under dark monsoon clouds.
He flaunted his plumage, the most dazzling ever
That brought rainbows to sad sombre forests.
He courted a pea-hen here, a pea-hen there
In many a half-hearted dance.
But lo! when the pea-hens drew near
He hastened to close his colourful fan
And bury it under his back.
He turned his face and looked firmly elsewhere.



The pea-hens caught in his magnetic web
Called him a cheat.

They cursed & even cried.

But the peacock scorned broken hearts
And shrugged away without any care.

Suddenly..... The heavens grew dark; they thundered and lit.

The waiting earth trembled and shook.

The pea-hens all scurried and hid behind secure covers;

They screamed in surprise; they exclaimed in awe,

When they saw the lone peacock waltz forth in the deluge,

His beautiful fan spread out in full.....

He danced under pouring skies,

He danced to bellowing winds;

He danced in love, he danced with joy,

Not caring for falling feathers;

Not minding his growing fatigue;

He danced for his search, he danced for his wait;

He danced not for any pea-hen,

But only for heavenly rain.

He looked neither up, nor down, not east, not west,

Just danced and danced till all rains ceased

And even he was no more!



verses
BY VASANTHI