

Cover Design: George & Christine I. Kiraz

gorgias  
press



البيروت  
فينا

www.gorgiaspress.com

ISBN 1-59333-112-6

90000



9 781593 331122

ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ

ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ

Ex Libris

Beth Mardutho Library

The Malphono George Anton Kiraz Collection

ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ  
ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ  
ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ  
ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ  
ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ

Anyone who asks for this volume, to read, collate, or copy from it, and who appropriates it to himself or herself, or cuts anything out of it, should realize that (s)he will have to give answer before God's awesome tribunal as if (s)he had robbed a sanctuary. Let such a person be held anathema and receive no forgiveness until the book is returned. So be it, Amen! And anyone who removes these anathemas, digitally or otherwise, shall himself receive them in double.

ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ ܘܢܘܩܘܡ  
Languages: Syriac: Readers:  
ܘܢܘܩܘܡ  
Beth Mardutho Library



الف صد  
مهملا لانتا

# The Syriac Alphabet for Children

Serto Edition

By  
George A. Kiraz



First Edition by Gorgias Press LLC, USA, 2004

Copyright © 2004 by Gorgias Press LLC.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions.  
Published in the United States of America by Gorgias Press LLC, New Jersey.

**ISBN 1-59333-112-6 (Paperback)**

**ISBN 1-59333-113-4 (Hardcover)**

Available From:

GORGIAS PRESS

46 Orris Ave., Piscataway, NJ 08854 USA

[www.gorgiaspress.com](http://www.gorgiaspress.com)

Printed and bound in the United States of America.

DEDICATION

To

Tabetha Gabriella  
&  
Sebastian Kenoro



# Preface

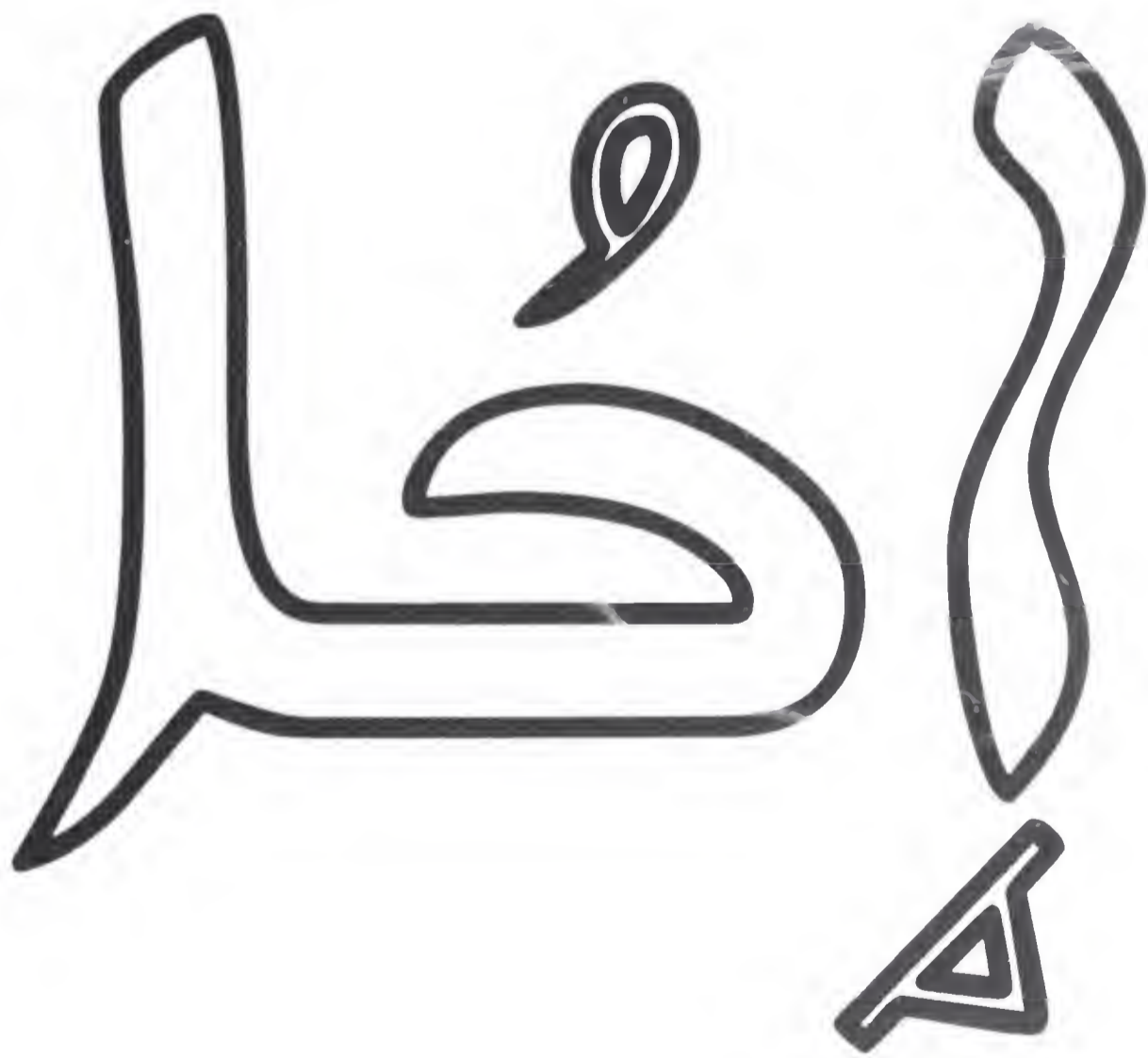
This booklet presents the Syriac alphabet according to the West Syriac script, known also as Serto. It can be used with children between the ages of two and six. Each pair of facing pages introduces a single letter of the alphabet with a word that begins with the letter in question on one side, and an illustration of that word on the other side. When a letter is shown in two forms, the first one (to the right) is used in the beginning and middle of a word, and the second one at the end of a word. The letters are hollow and can be filled and colored by children.

The boxed notes at the bottom of pages give the name of the letter on that page, how the letter sounds, a phonological transcription of the sample word, and the meaning of the word. Parents with no knowledge of Syriac can use this information to guide their children, and learn too!

Note that Syriac is written from right to left. While vowels are optional in the Syriac writing system, they are added here for the benefit of the parent, not the child. Children have an innate ability to learning and can be taught to read Syriac without vocalization from the start. Vowels are placed above (or below) letters. For example, if the vowel *a* appears above the letter *b* (e.g., ܐܒ), then one reads *ba*. The last three pages give a guide to vowel placement and pronunciation.

Piscataway, NJ

George A. Kiraz



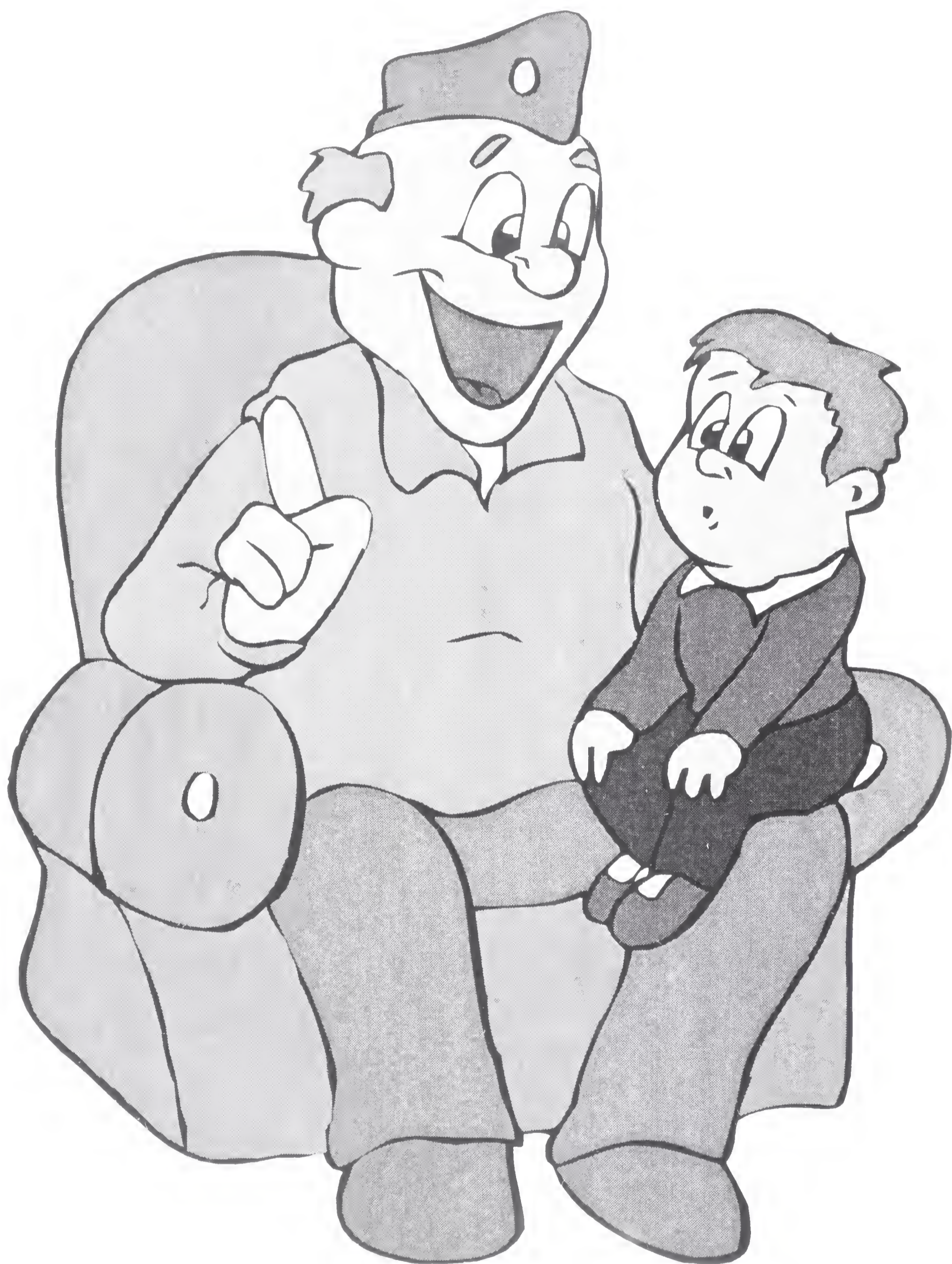
**LETTER NAME**  
Olaph

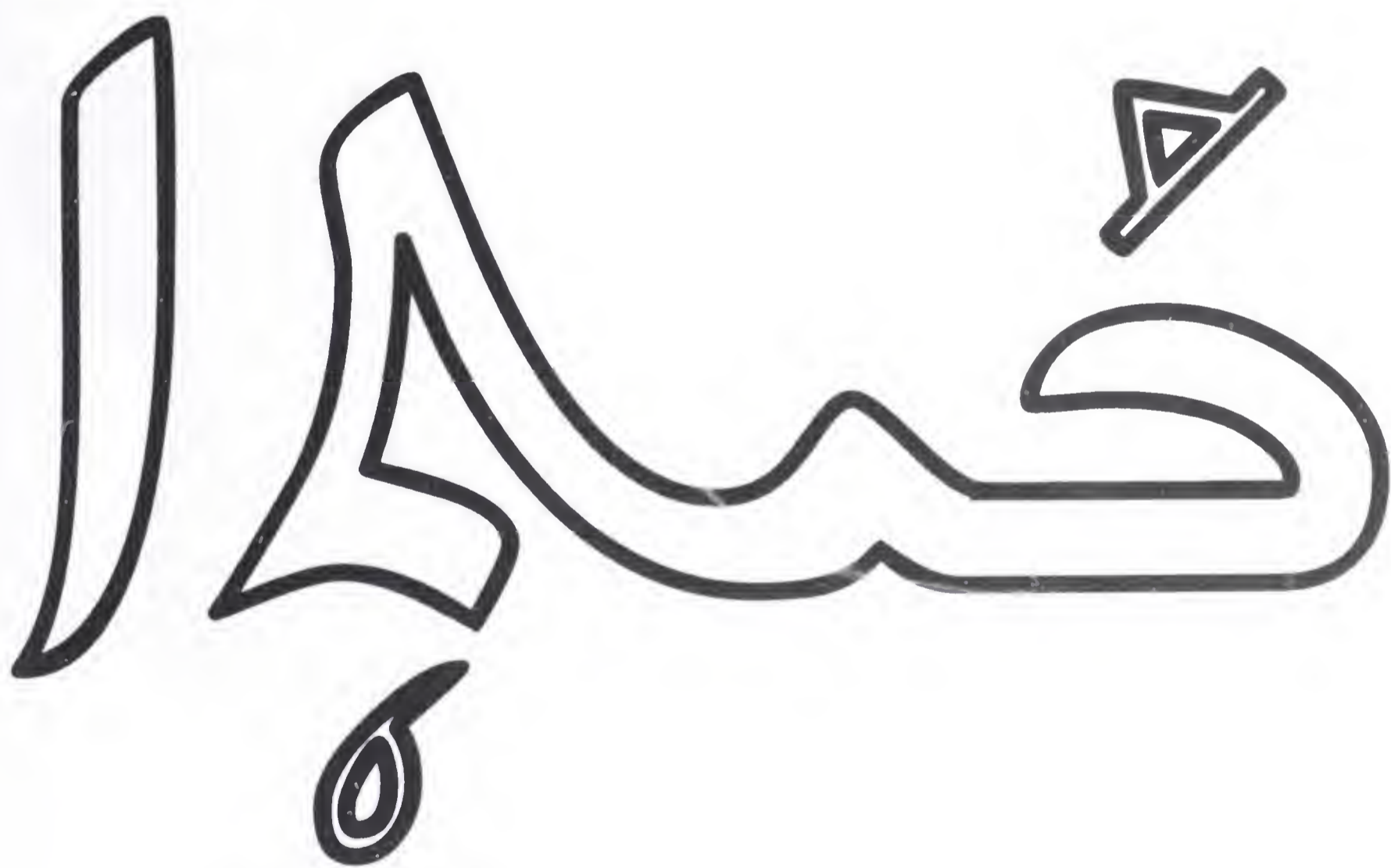
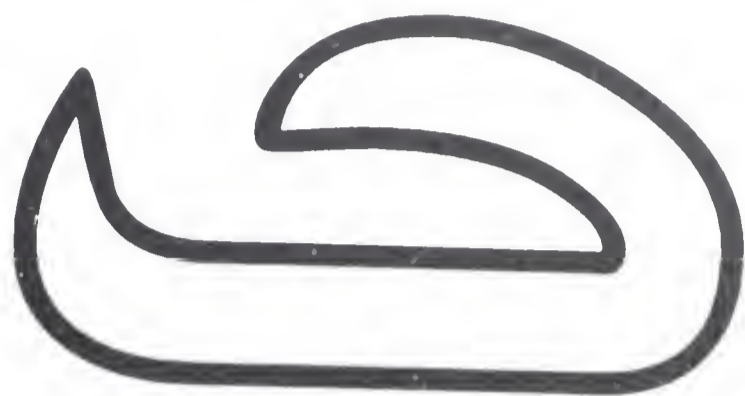
**SOUND**  
(glottal stop)

**WORD**  
a-bo

**MEANING**  
father





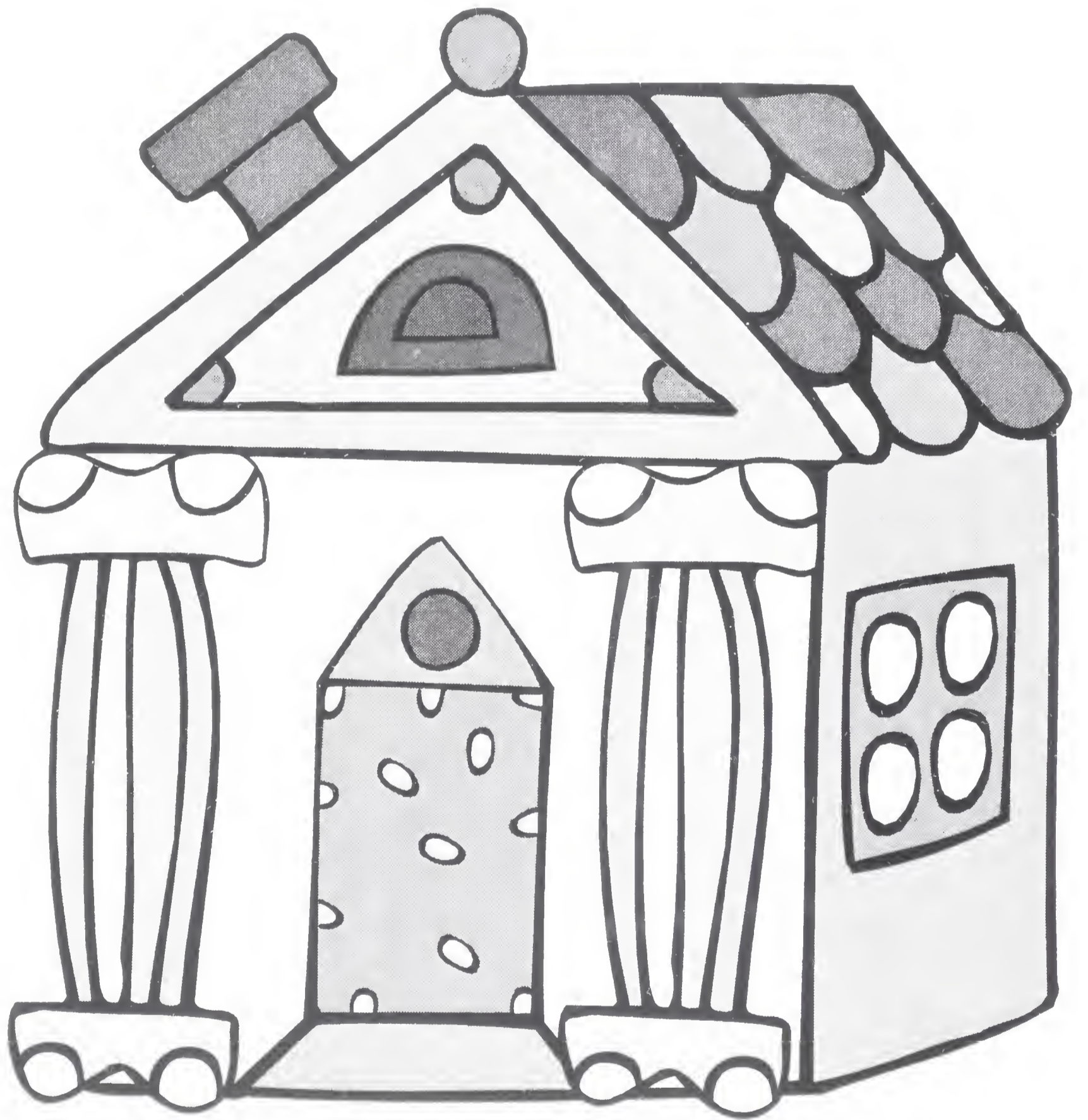


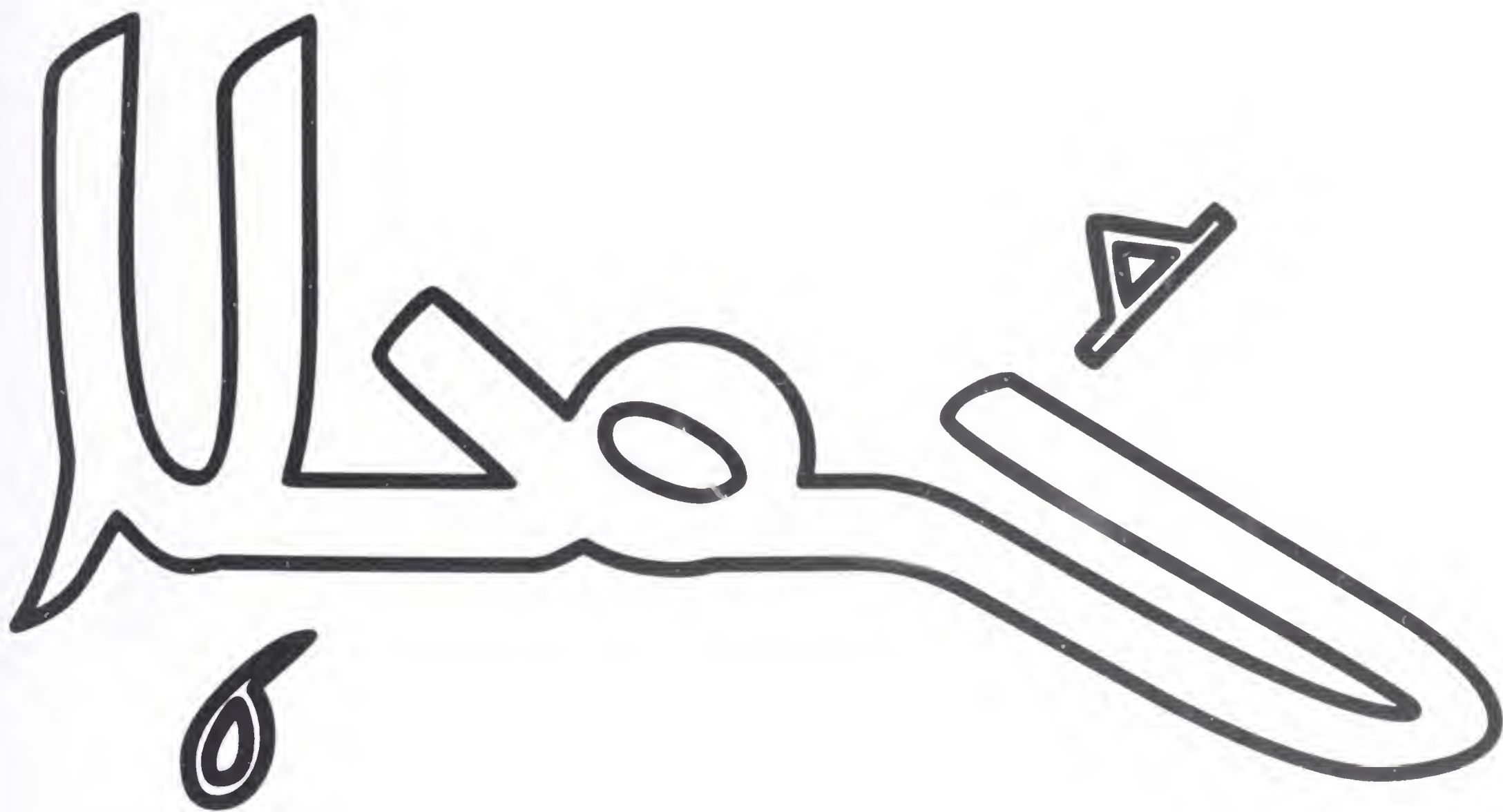
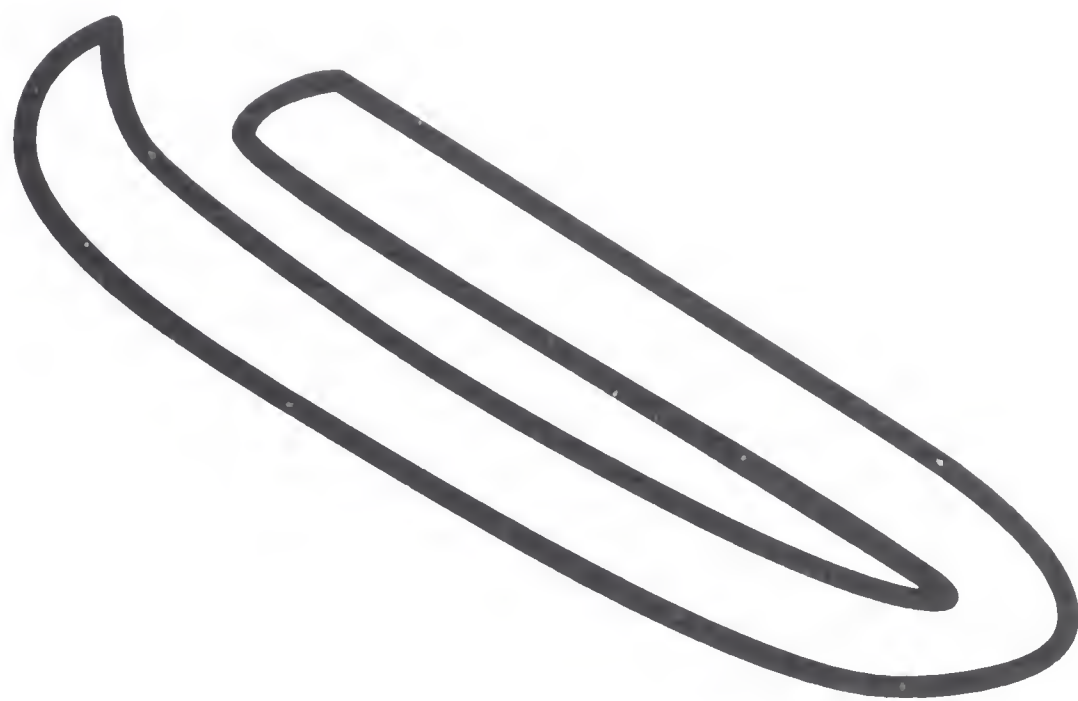
LETTER NAME  
Beth

SOUND  
b

WORD  
bay-to

MEANING  
house



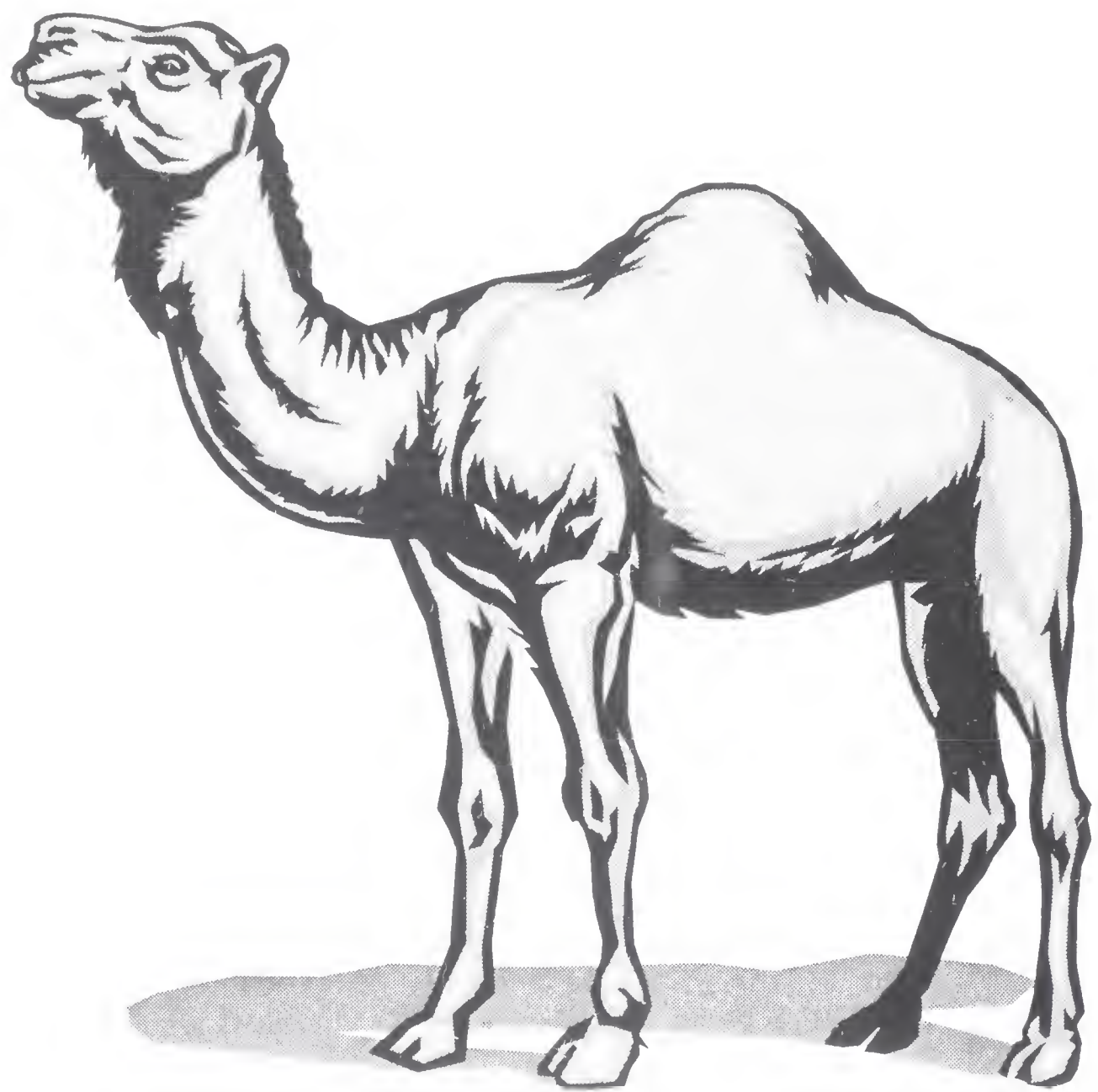


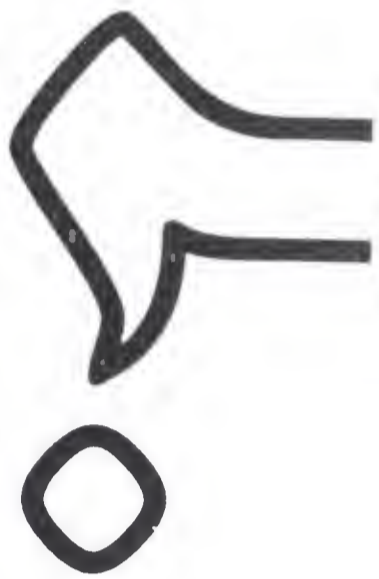
LETTER NAME  
Gomal

SOUND  
g (as in goal)

WORD  
gam-lo

MEANING  
camel





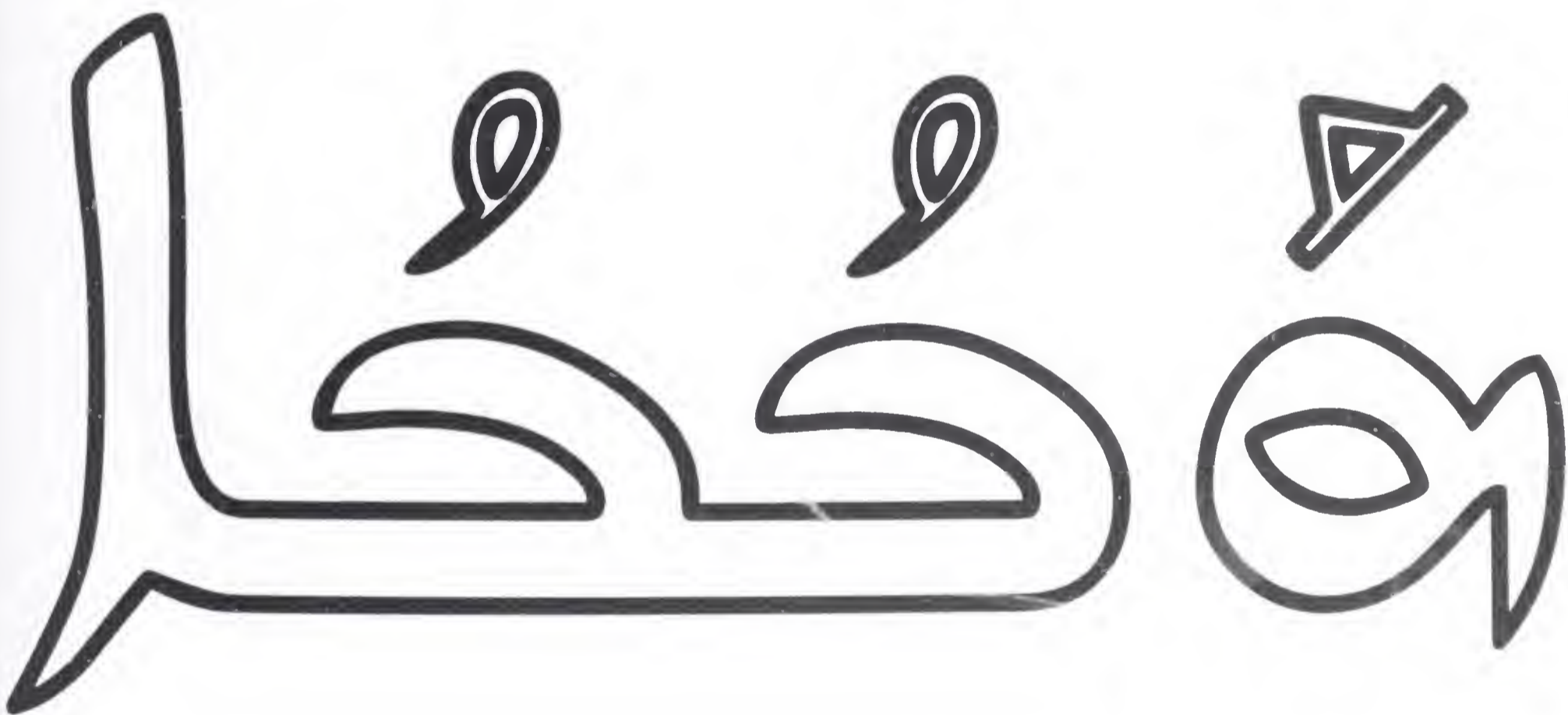
LETTER NAME  
Dolath

SOUND  
d

WORD  
dé-bo

MEANING  
bear





LETTER NAME  
Hé

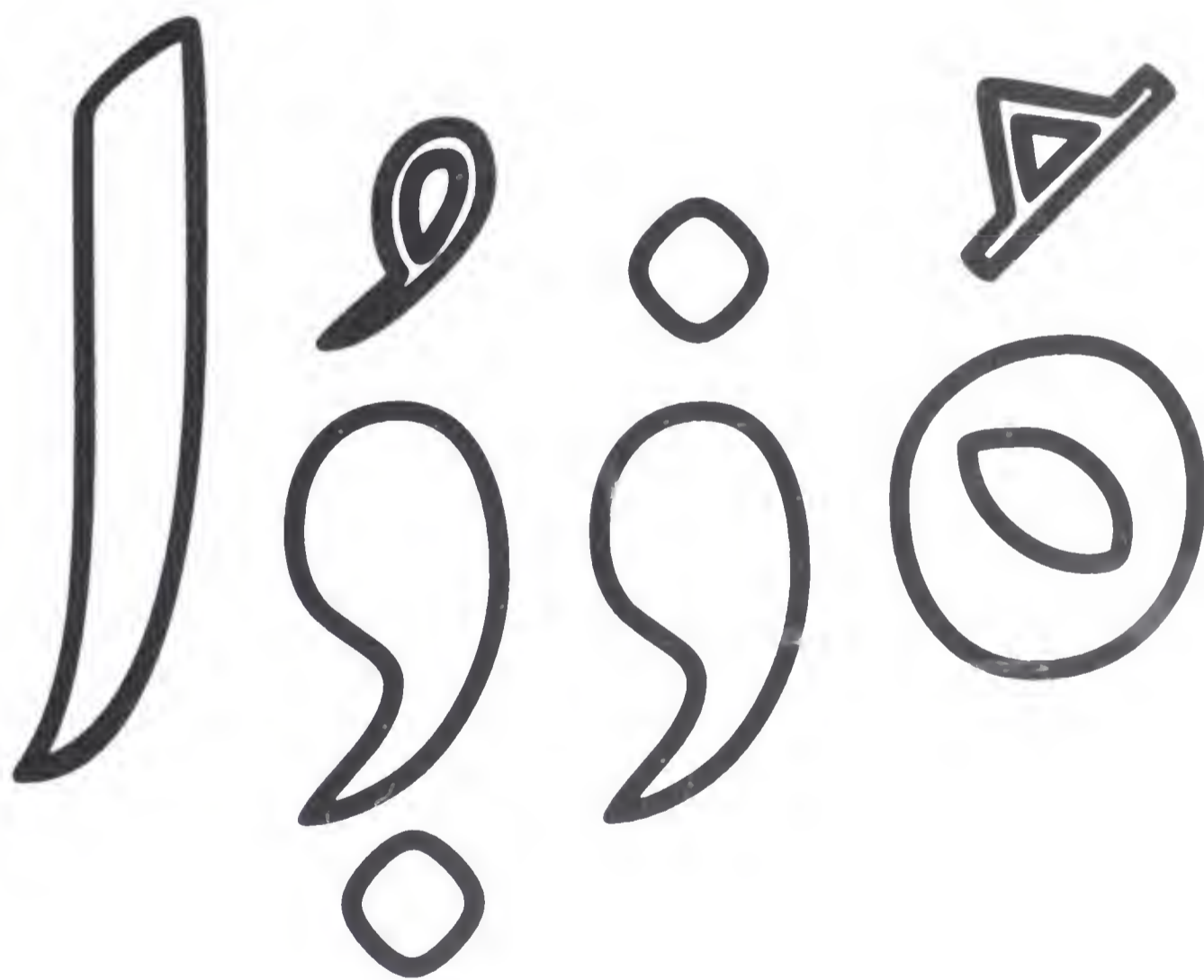
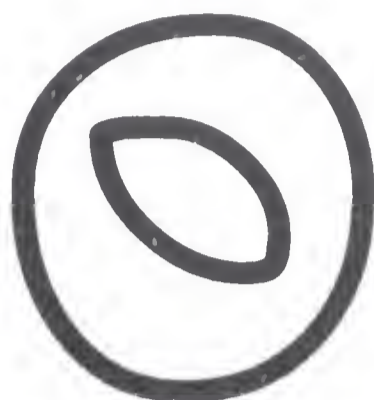
SOUND  
h

WORD  
ha-bo-bo

MEANING  
flower





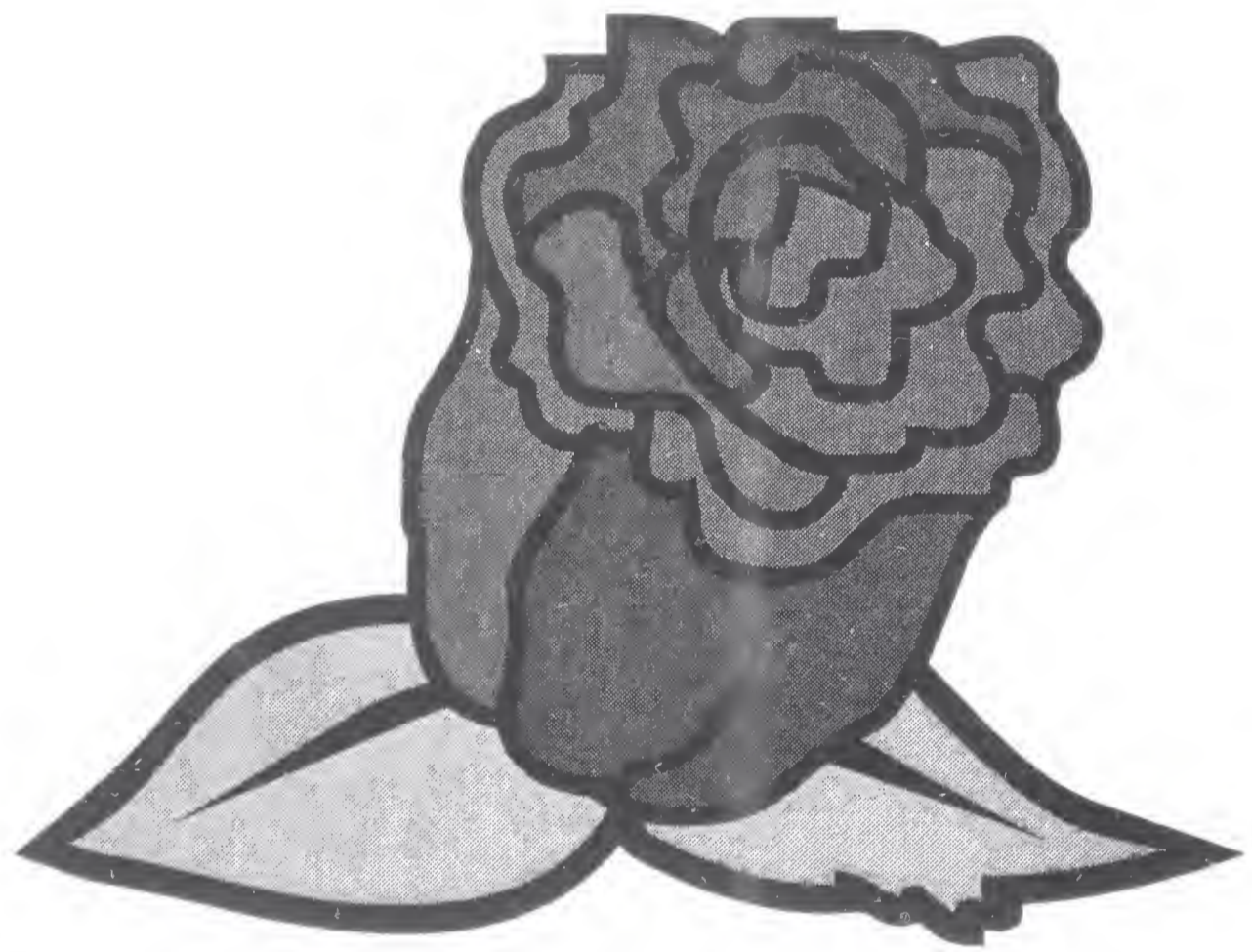


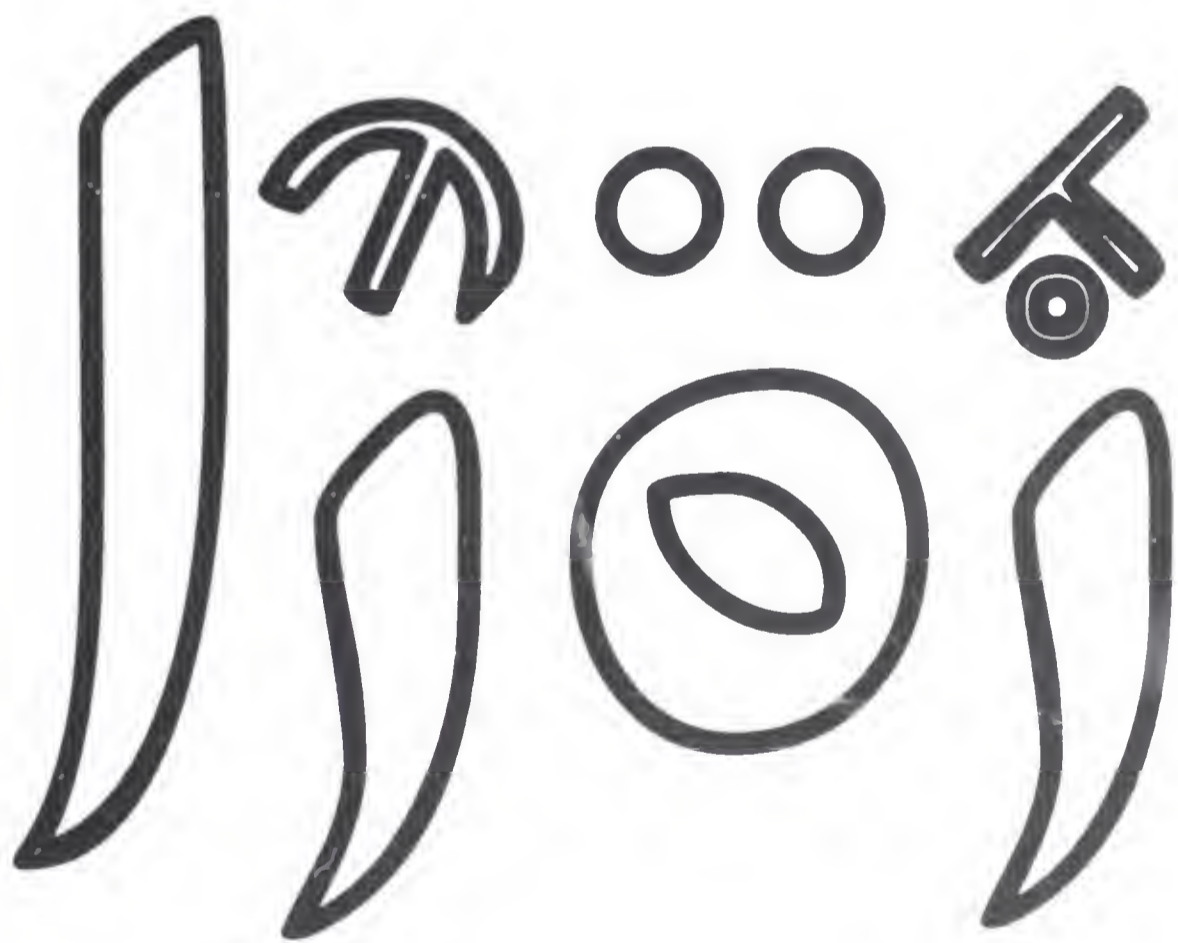
LETTER NAME  
Waw

SOUND  
w

WORD  
war-do

MEANING  
rose





LETTER NAME

SOUND

WORD

MEANING

Zayn

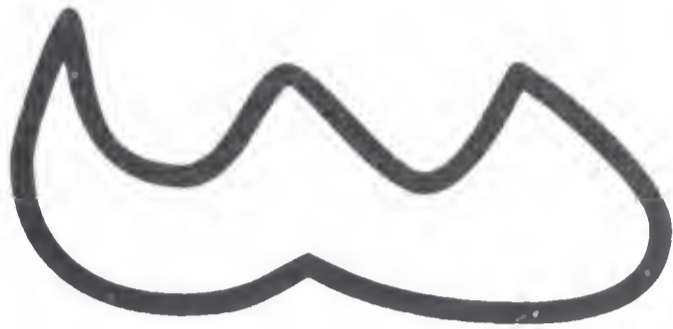
z

zoo-zé

money

Note. Two dots above the word indicate plural.





**LETTER NAME**  
Heth

**SOUND**  
ḥ (emphatic h)

**WORD**  
ḥal-bo

**MEANING**  
milk





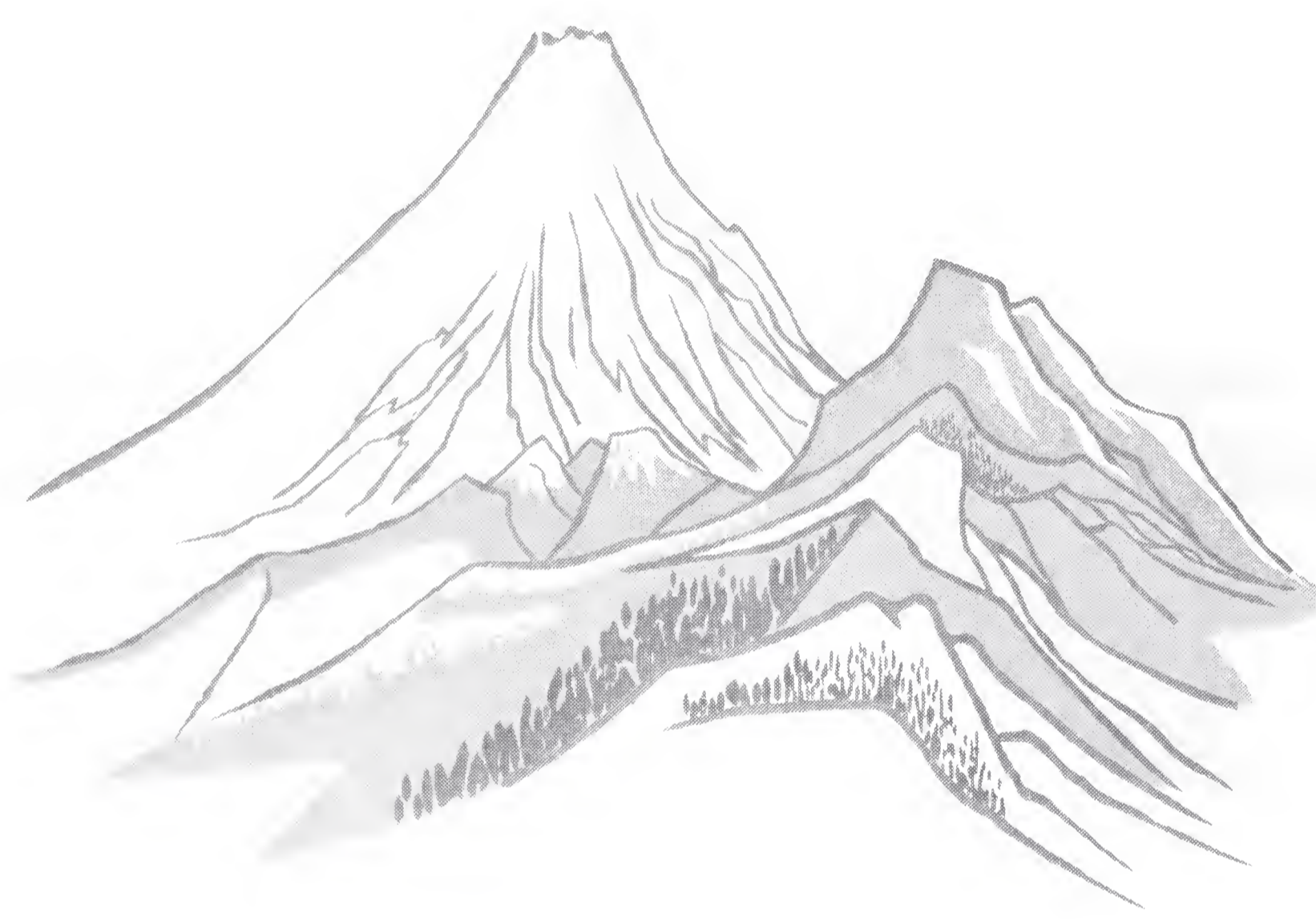
LETTER NAME  
T

SOUND  
t (emphatic t)

WORD  
too-ro

MEANING  
mountain





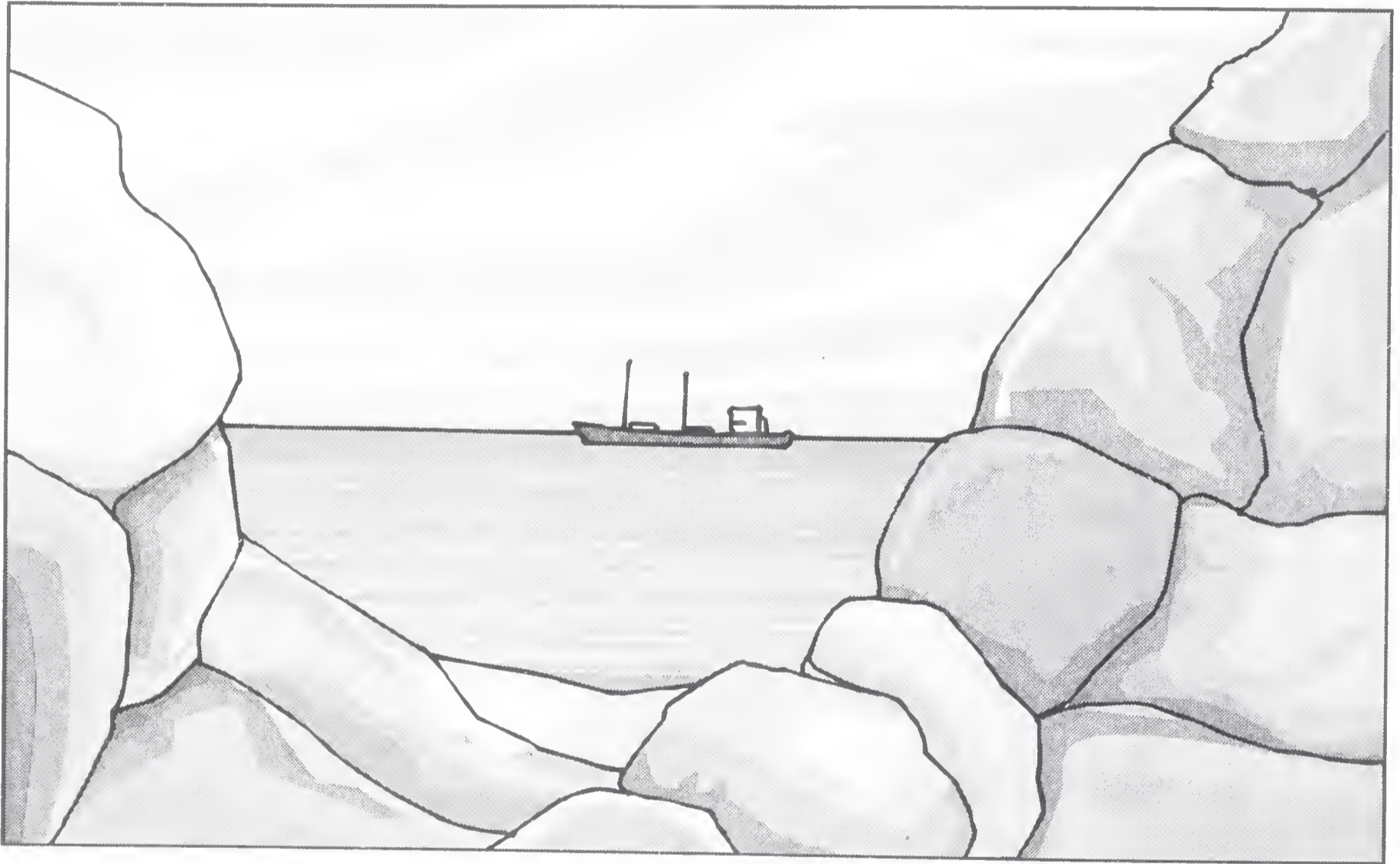


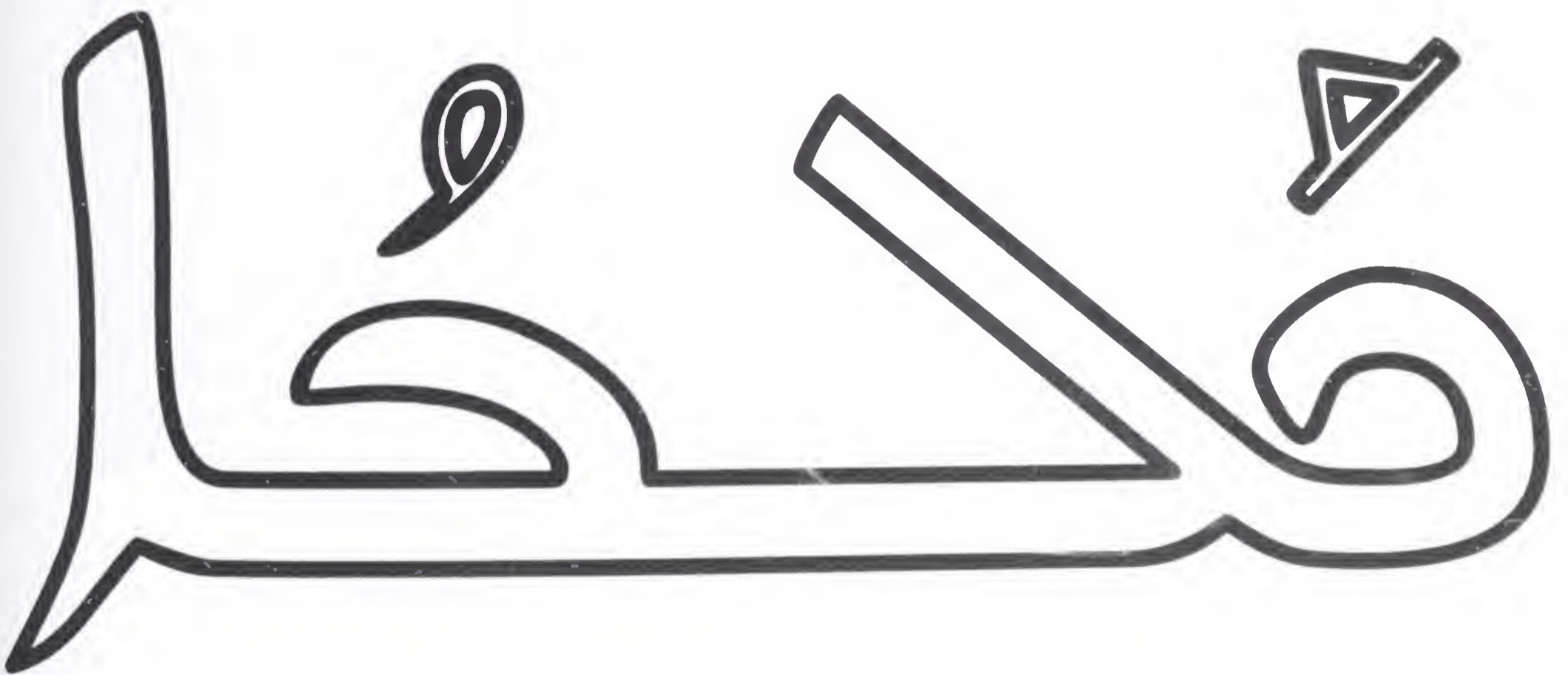
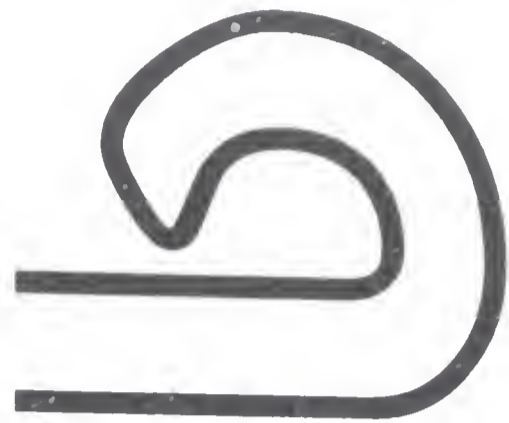
LETTER NAME  
Yudh

SOUND  
y

WORD  
ya-mo

MEANING  
sea





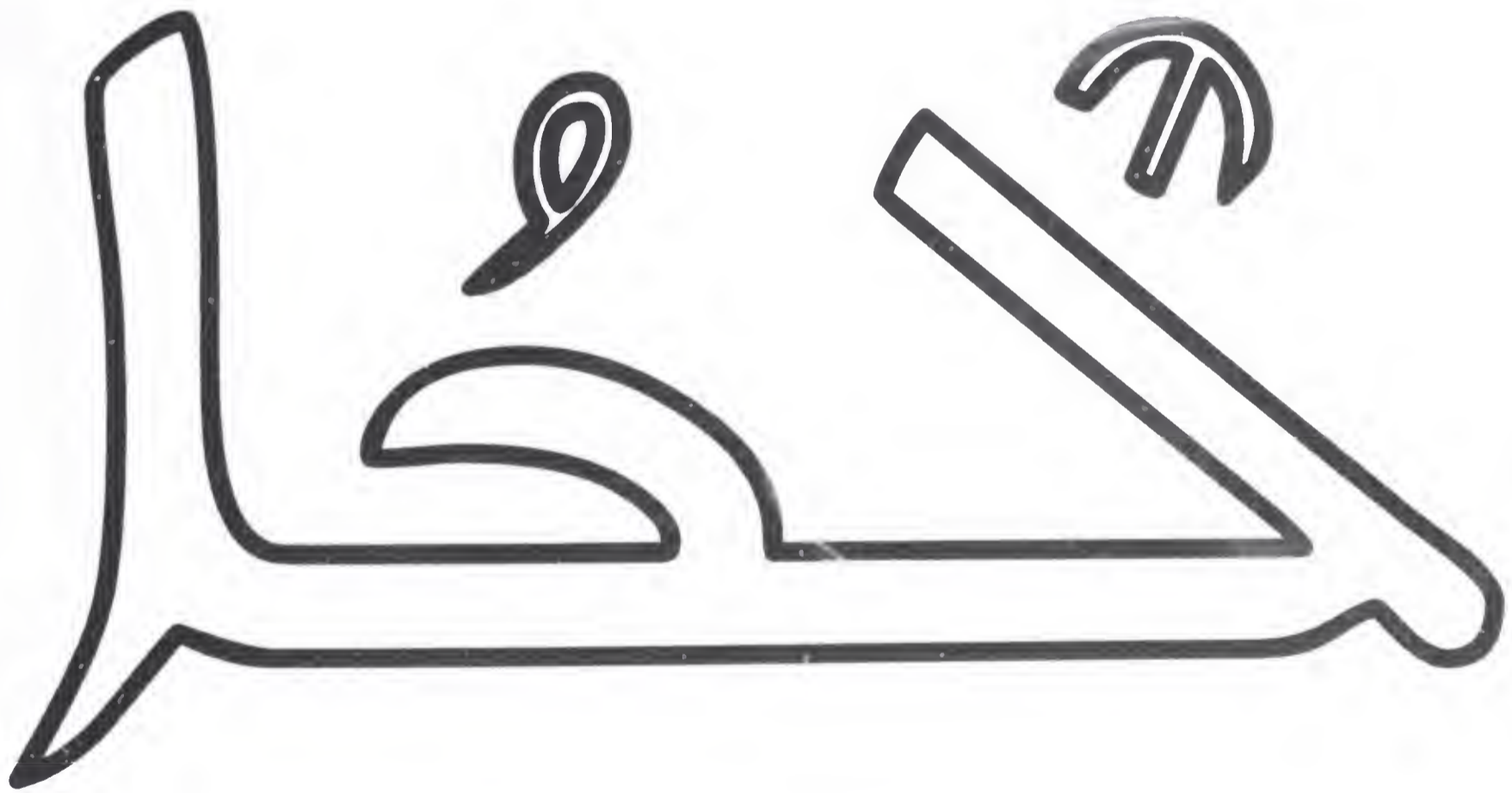
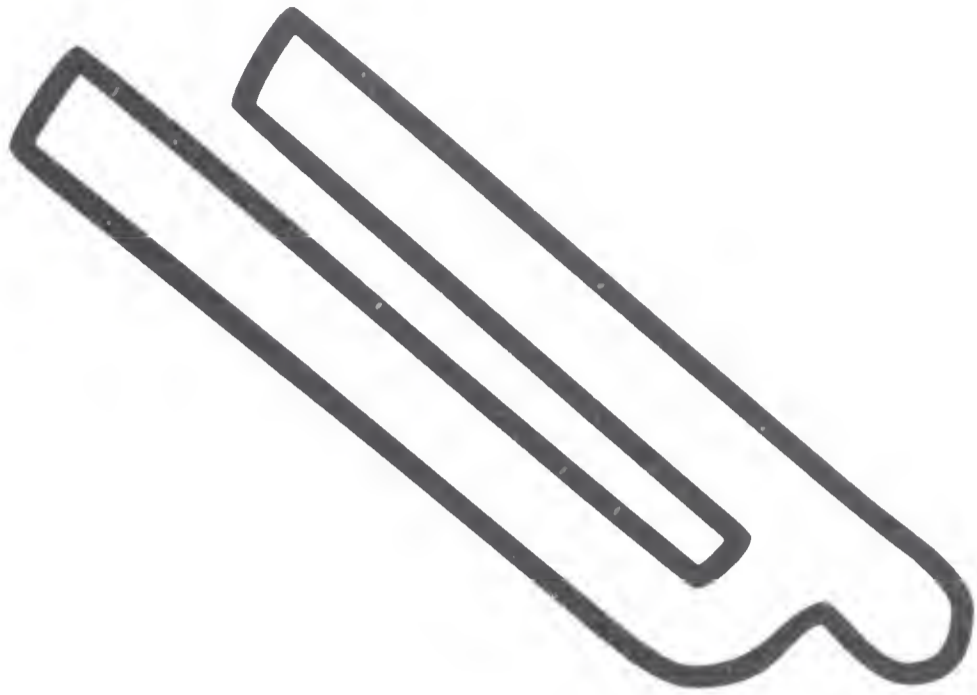
LETTER NAME  
Koph

SOUND  
k

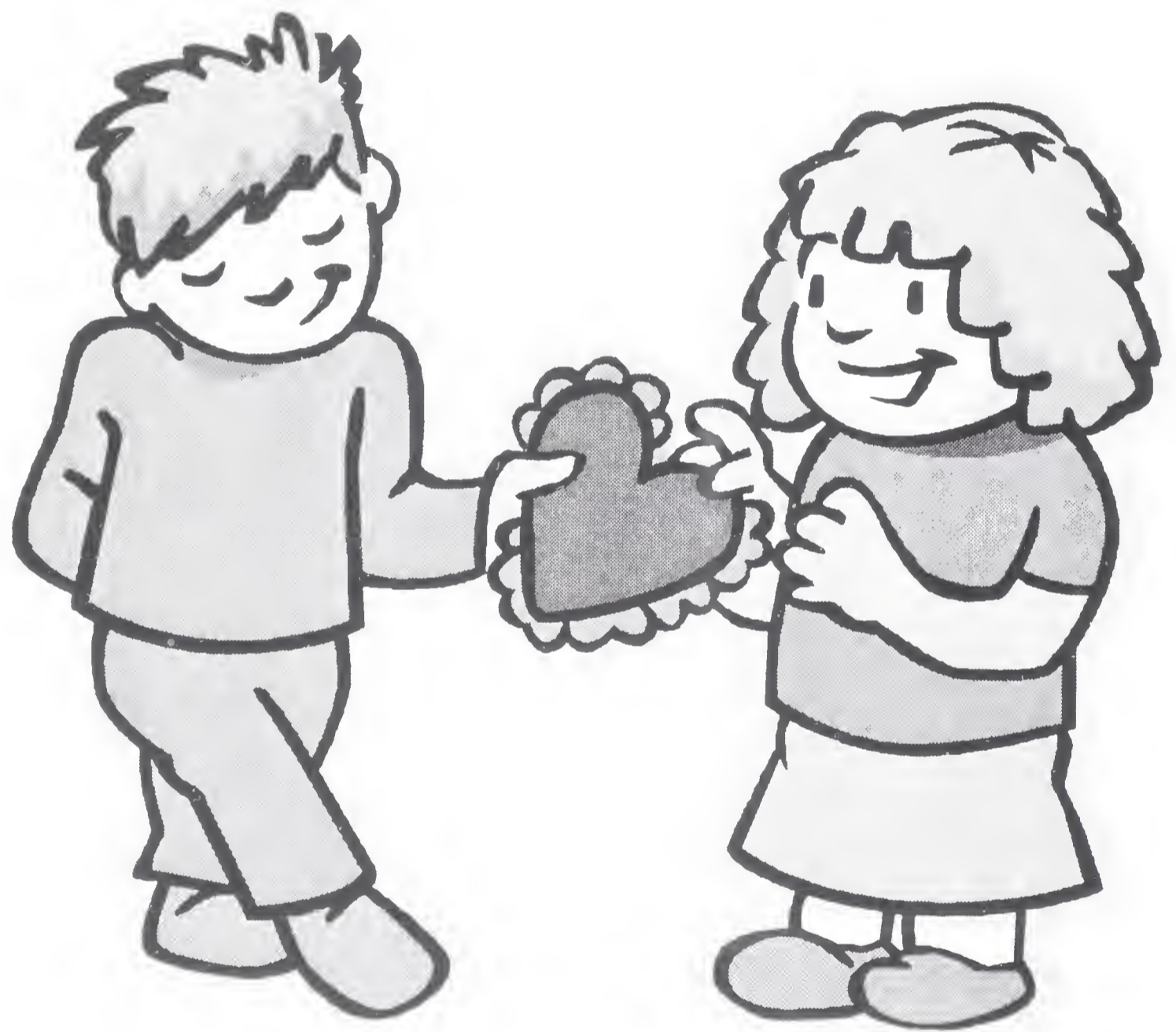
WORD  
kal-bo

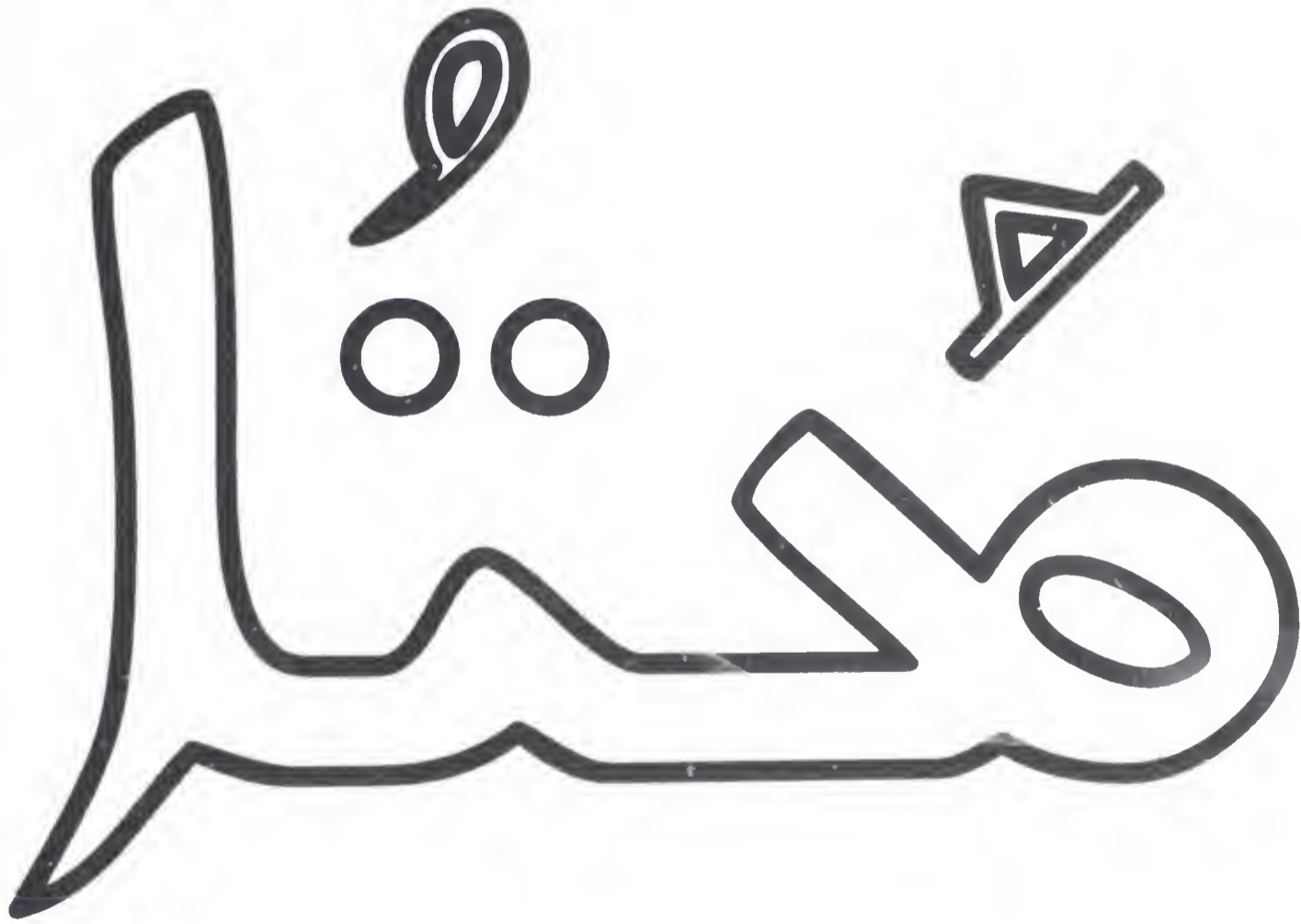
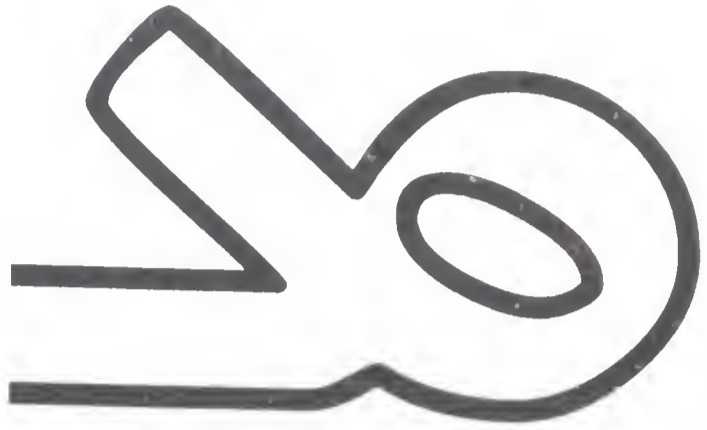
MEANING  
dog





LETTER NAME	SOUND	WORD	MEANING
Lomadh	l	lé-bo	heart





LETTER NAME	SOUND	WORD	MEANING
Mim	m	ma-yo	water





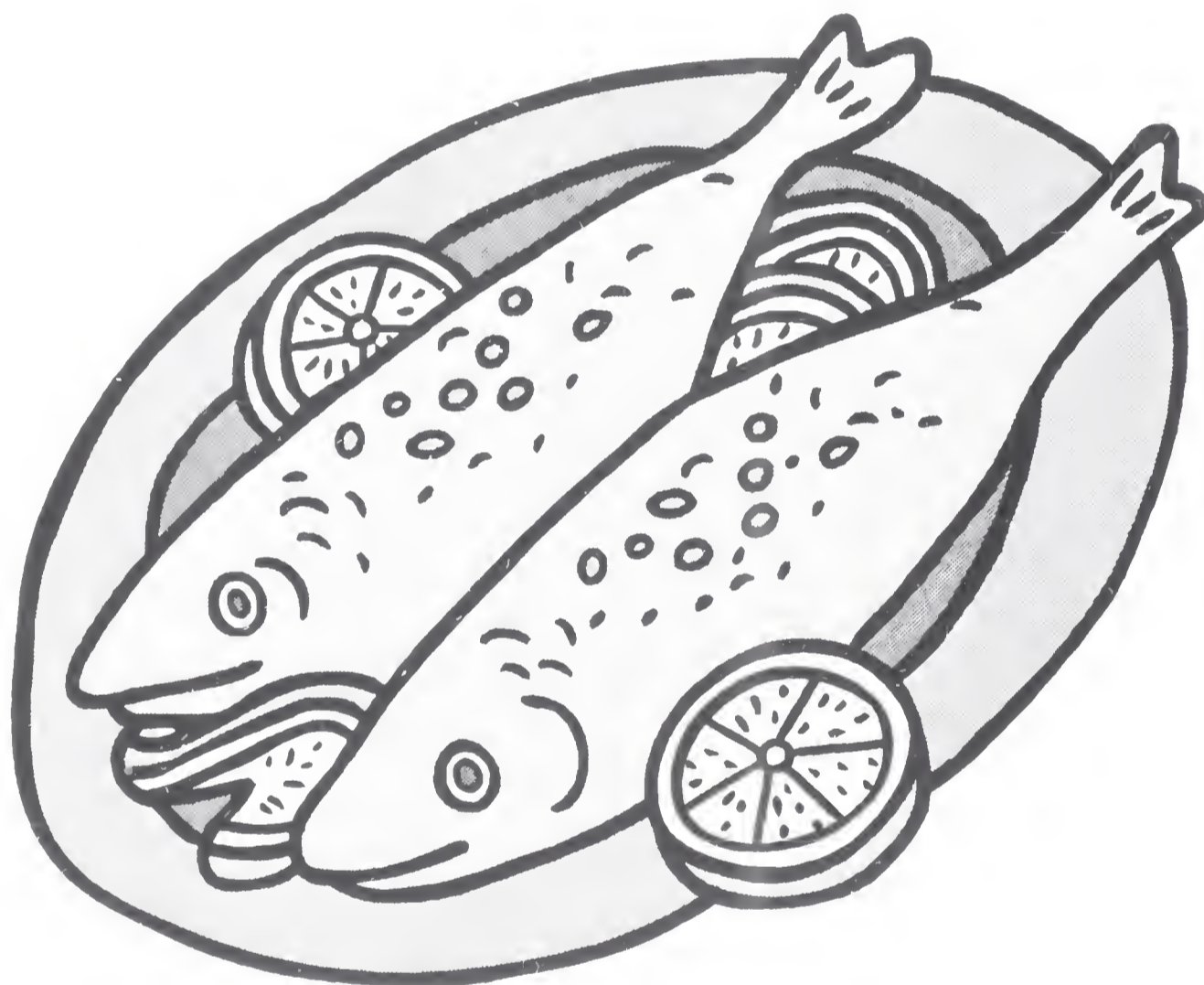


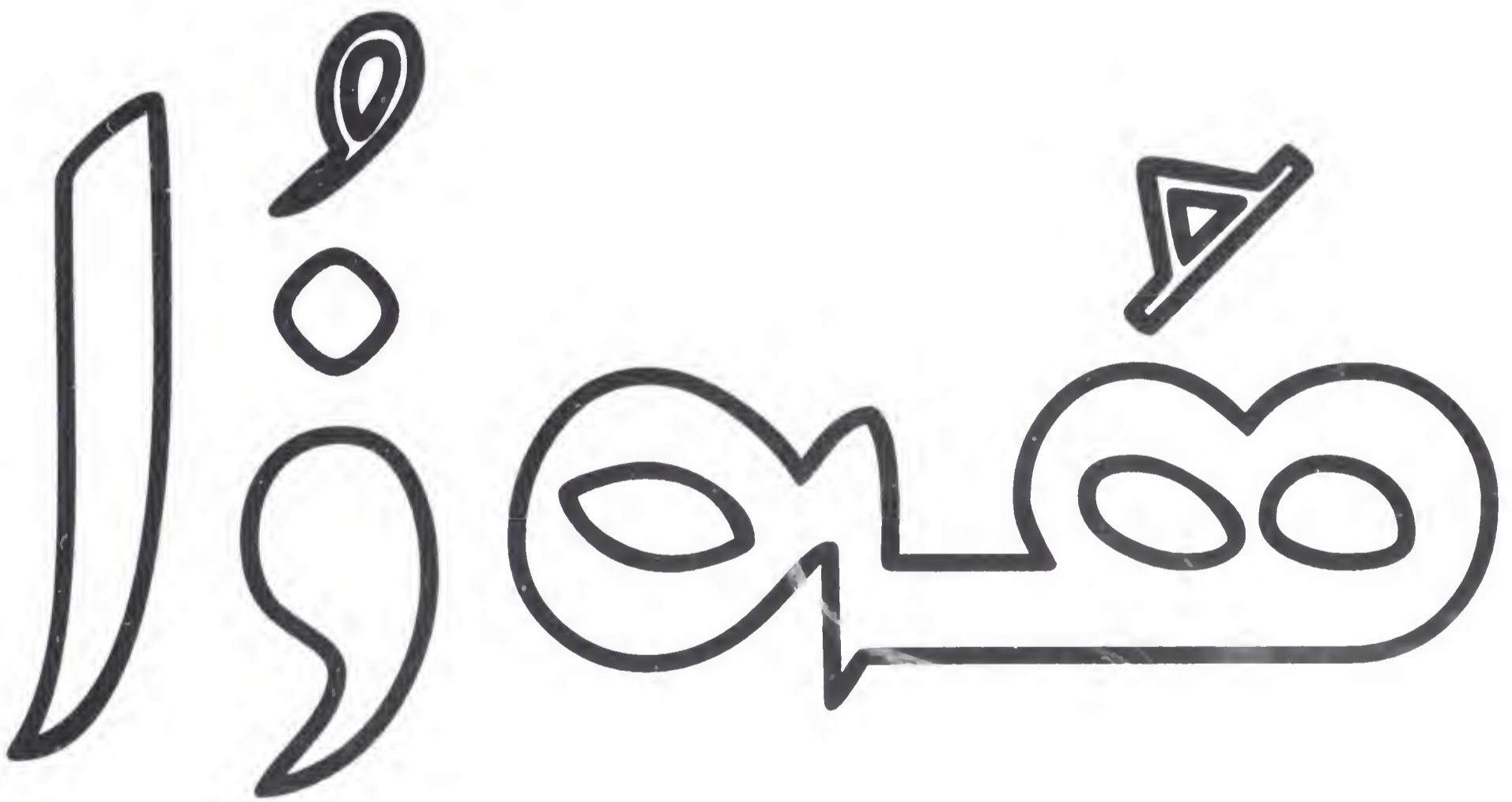
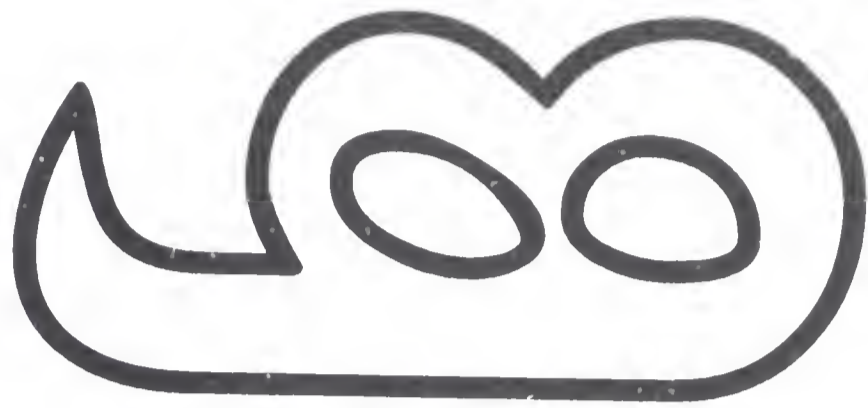
LETTER NAME  
Nun

SOUND  
n

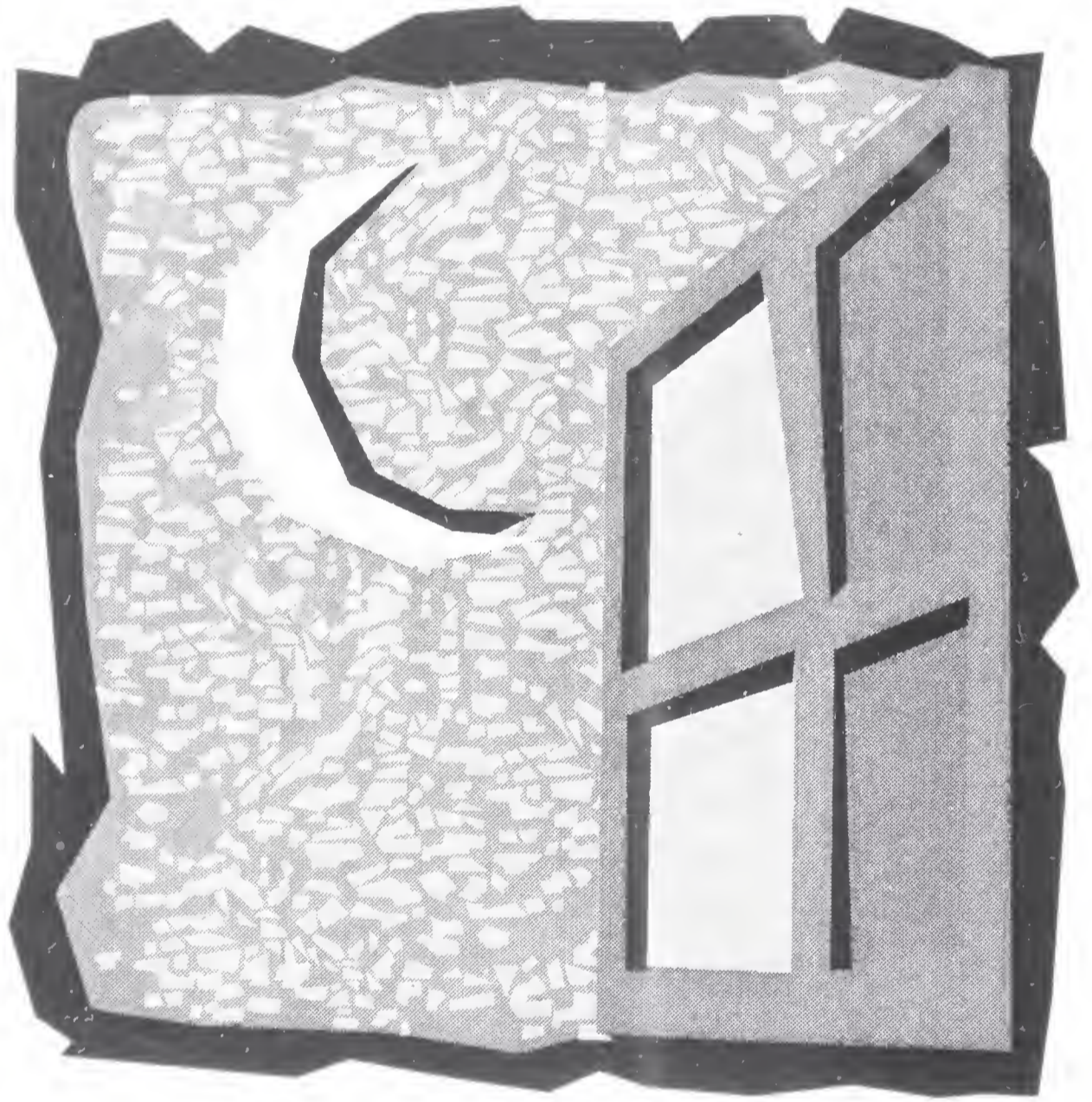
WORD  
noo-no

MEANING  
fish





LETTER NAME	SOUND	WORD	MEANING
Simkath	s	sah-ro	moon



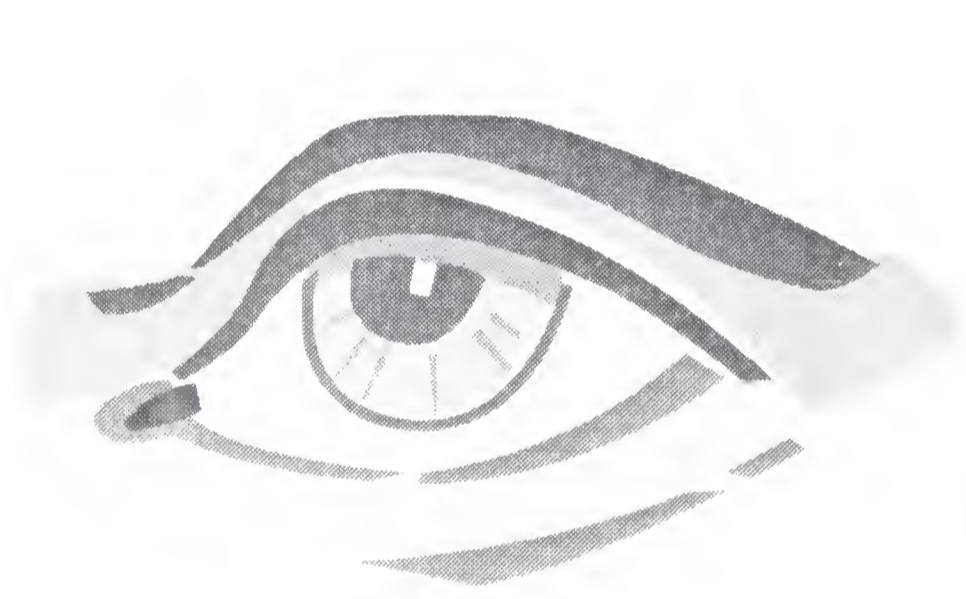
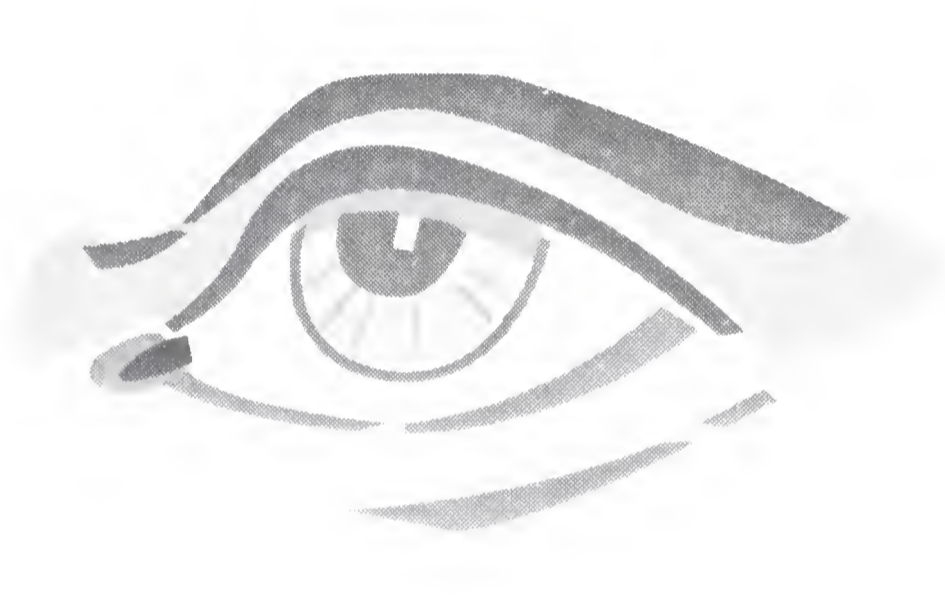


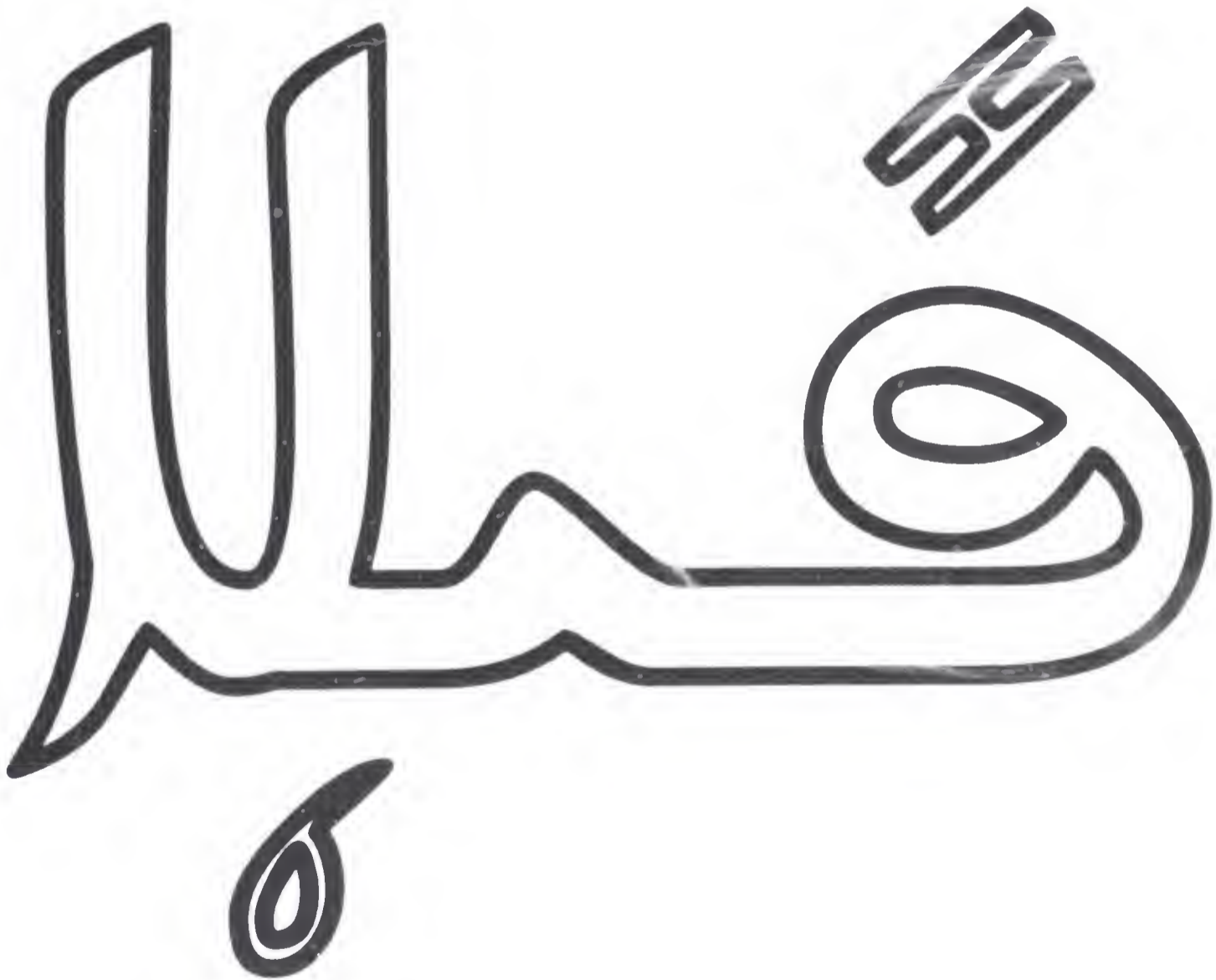
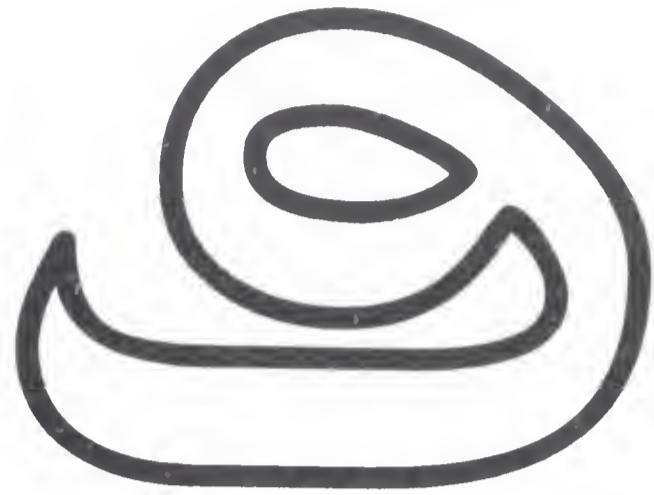
LETTER NAME  
ع

SOUND  
' (guttural)

WORD  
'ay-no

MEANING  
eye





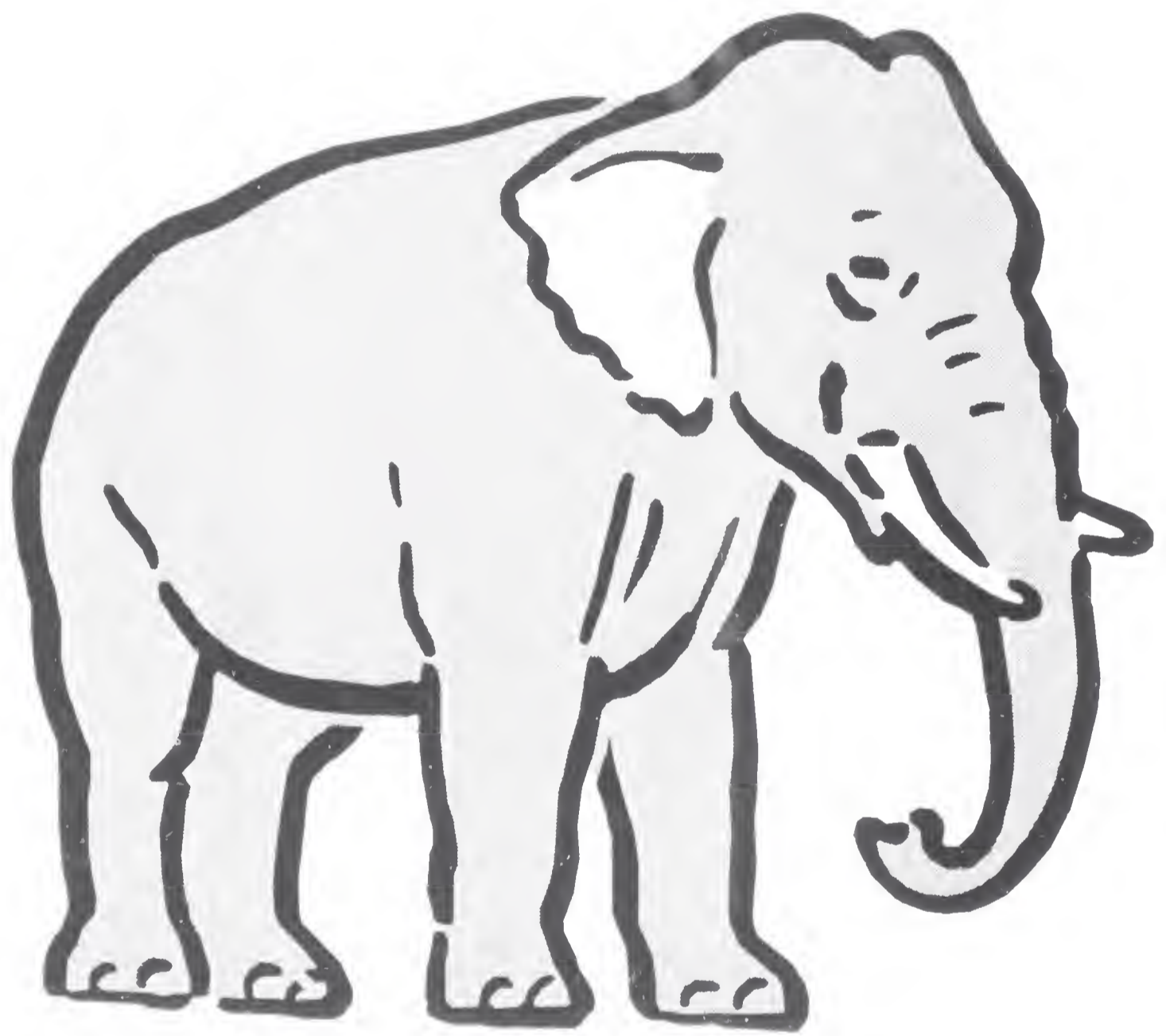
LETTER NAME  
Phe

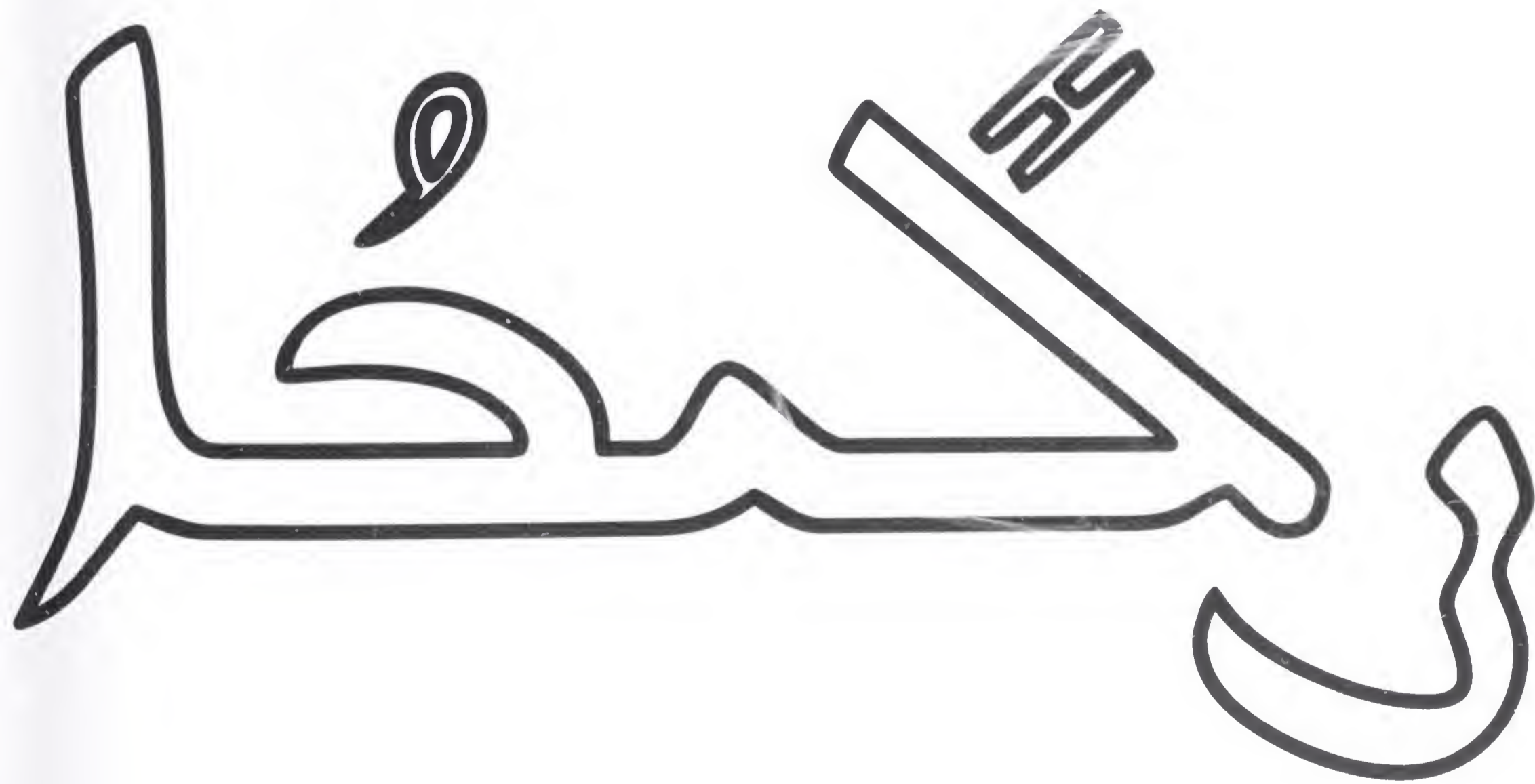
SOUND  
ph (f)

WORD  
phee-lo

MEANING  
elephant







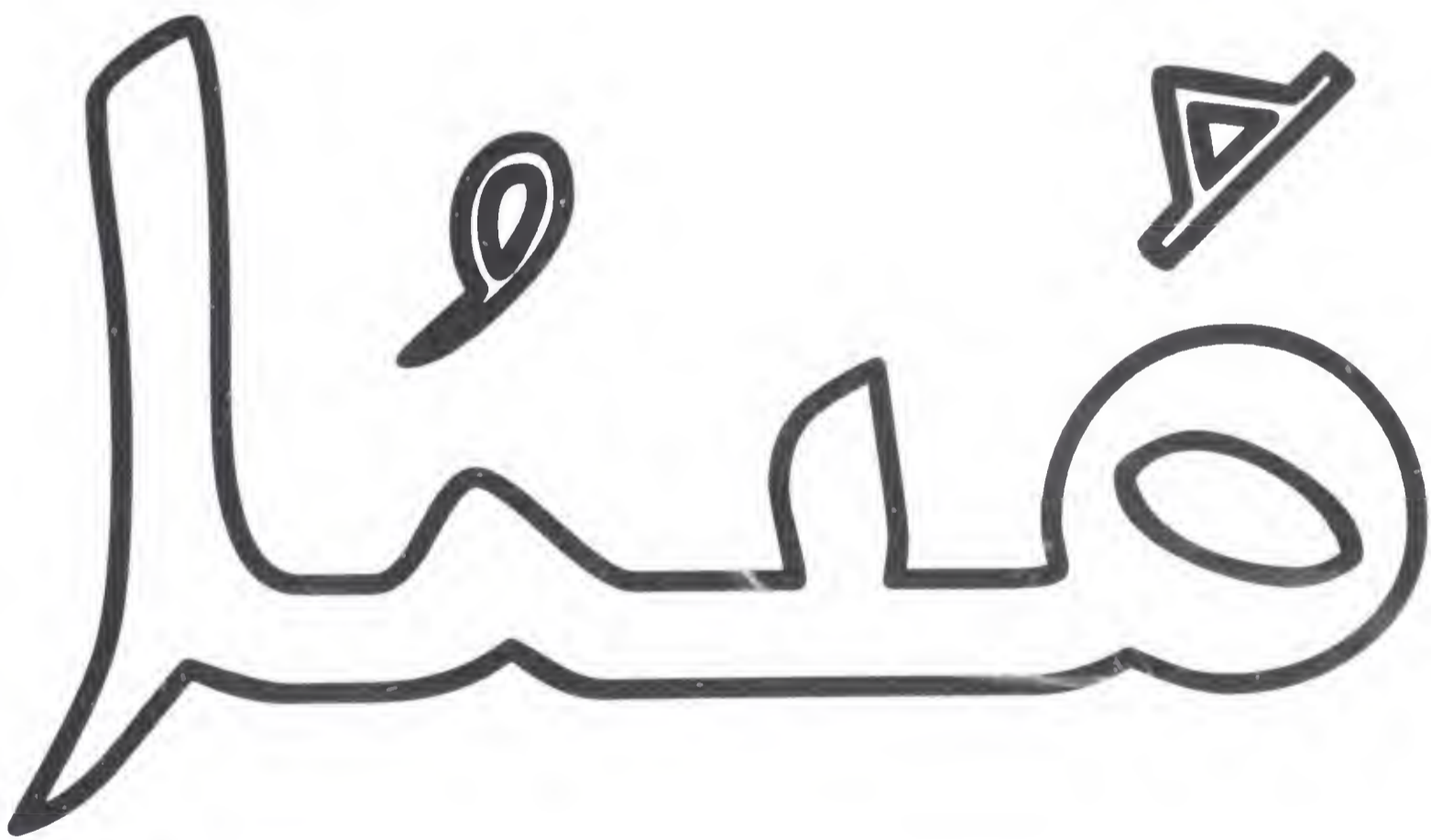
**LETTER NAME**  
Shodhe

**SOUND**  
ş (emphatic s)

**WORD**  
ş-lee-bo

**MEANING**  
Cross



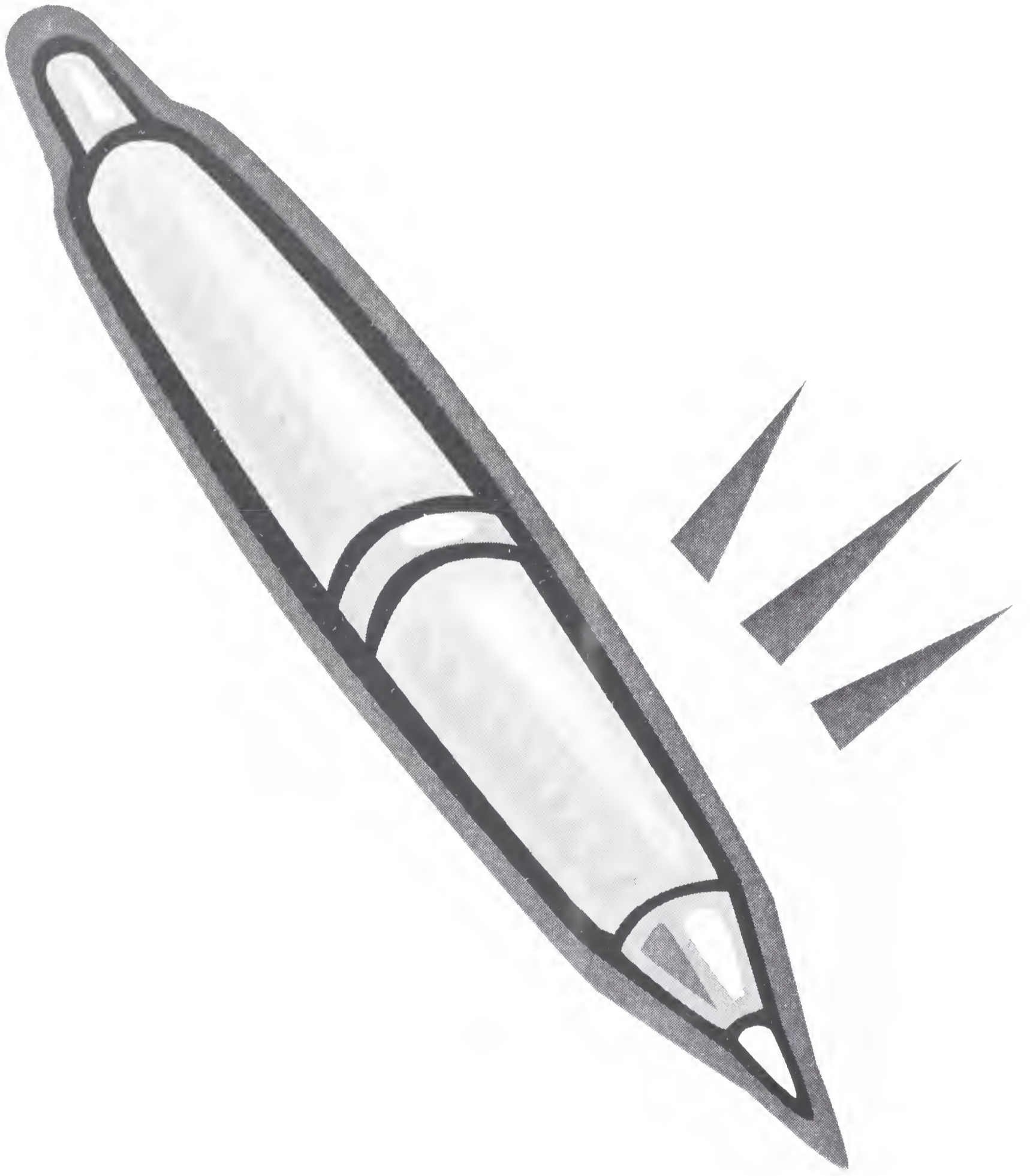


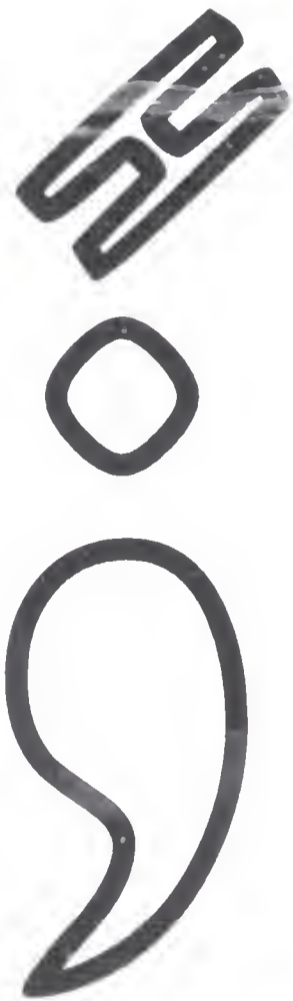
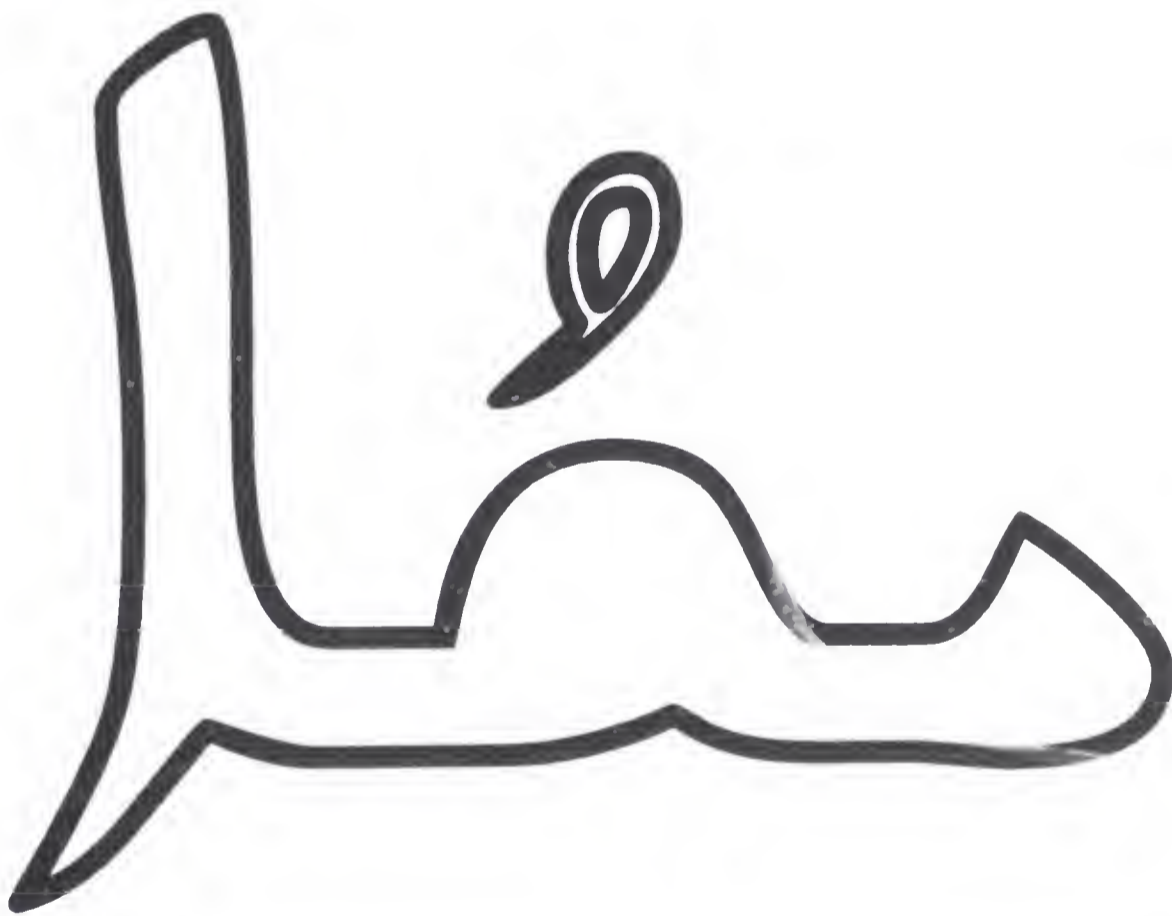
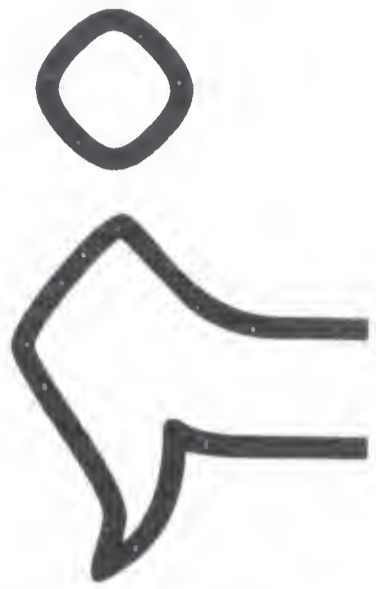
**LETTER NAME**  
Qoph

**SOUND**  
q (guttural)

**WORD**  
qan-yo

**MEANING**  
pen





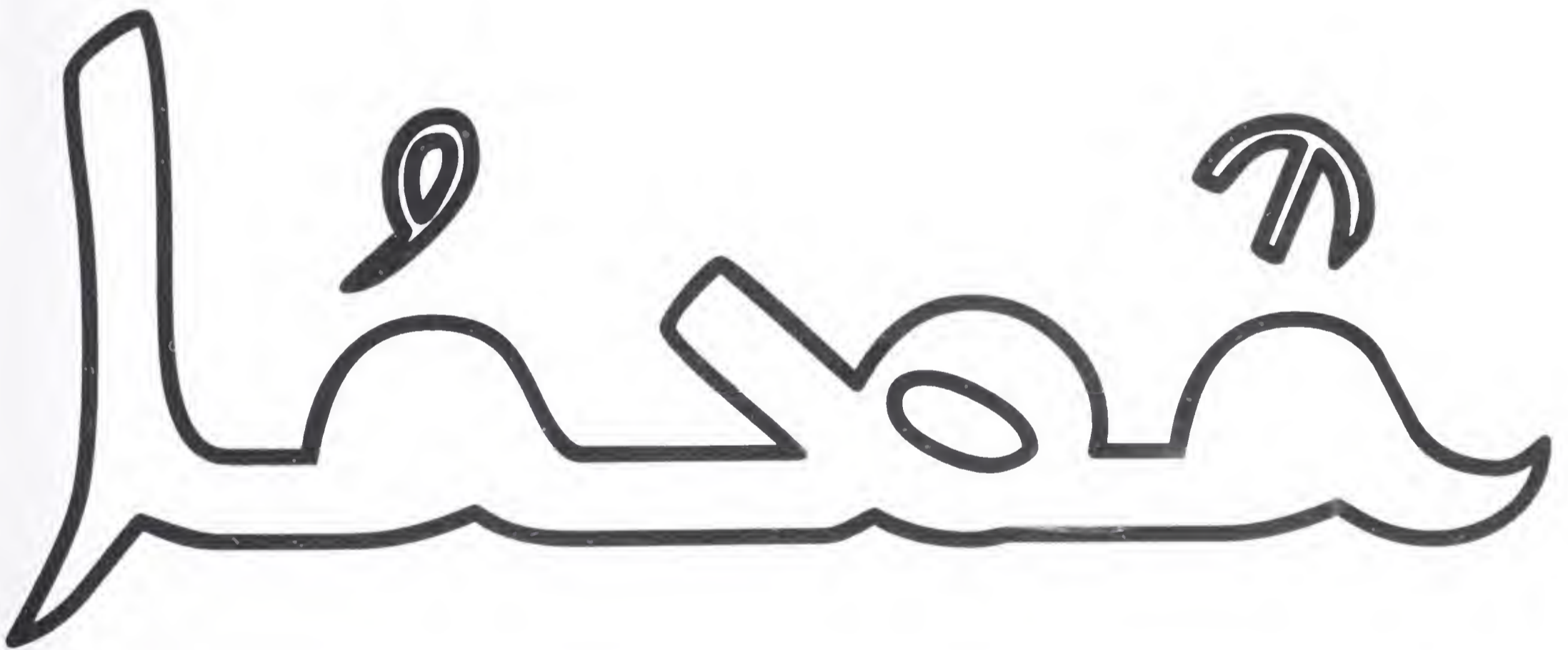
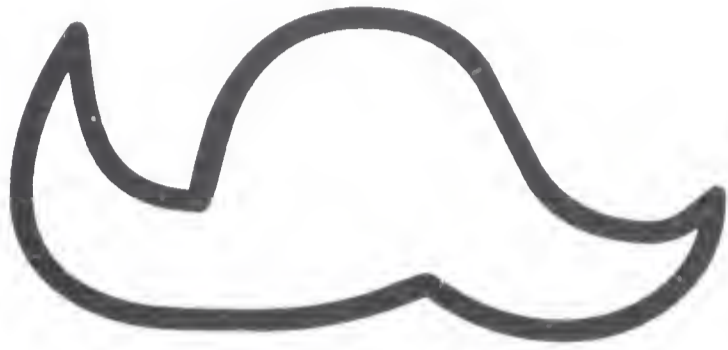
**LETTER NAME**  
Rish

**SOUND**  
r (rolling r)

**WORD**  
ree-sho

**MEANING**  
head





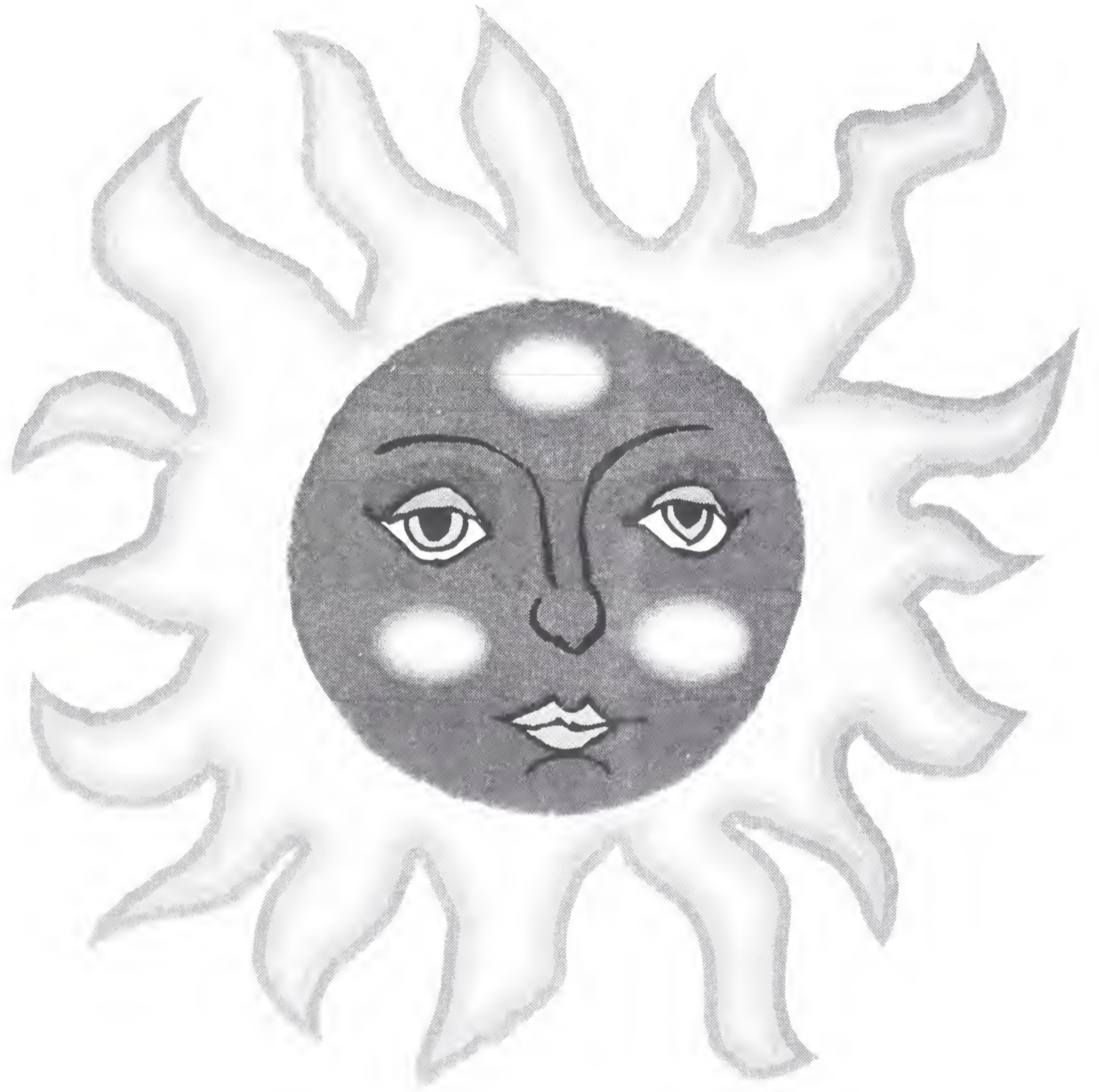
**LETTER NAME**  
Shin

**SOUND**  
sh (as in shoe)

**WORD**  
shem-sho

**MEANING**  
sun





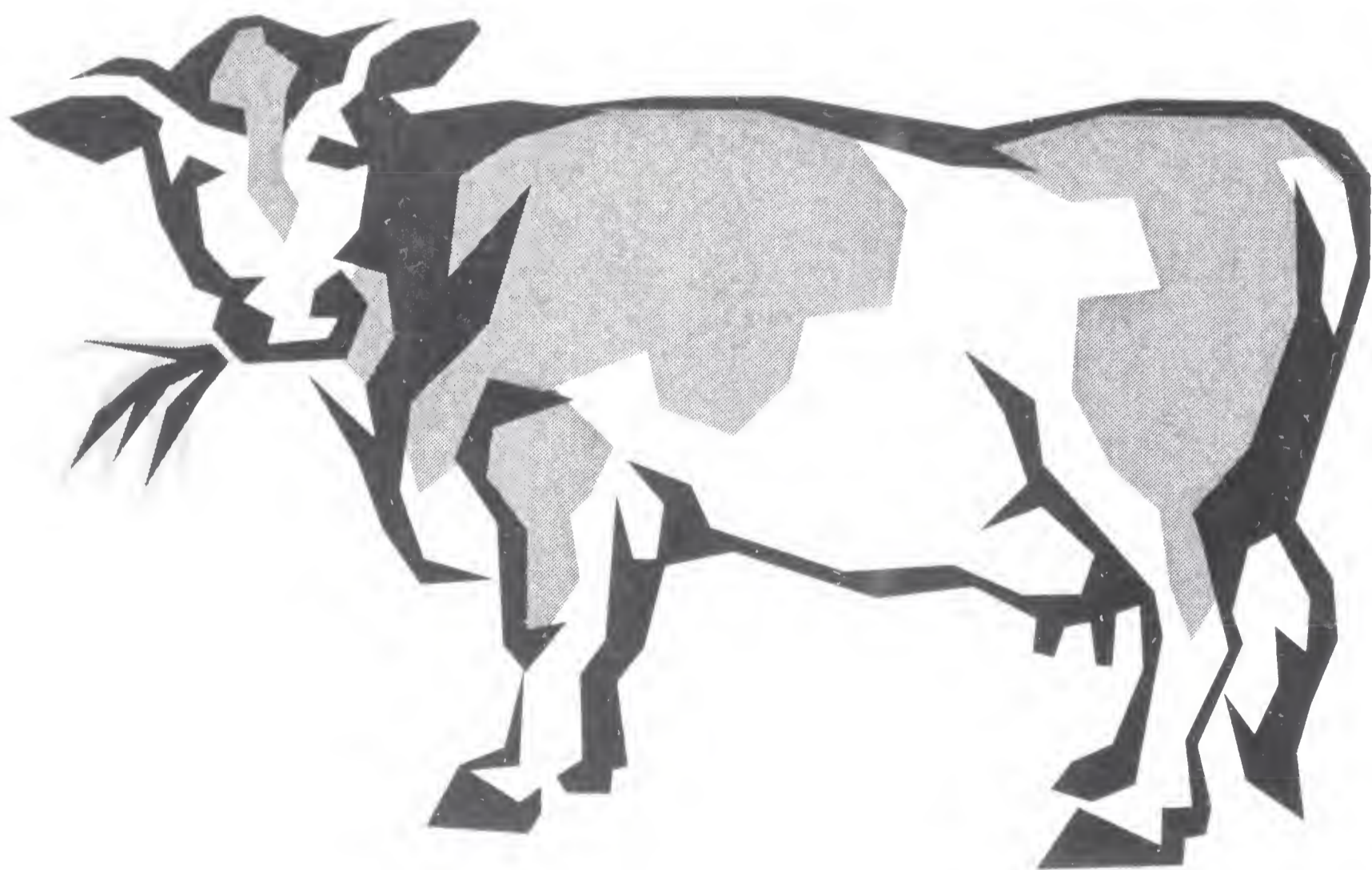


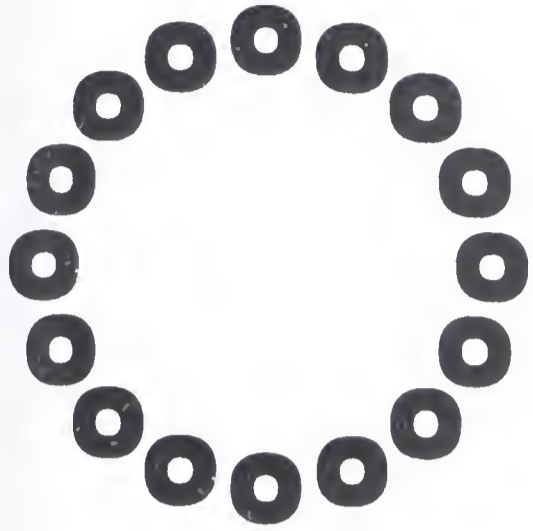
LETTER NAME  
Taw

SOUND  
t

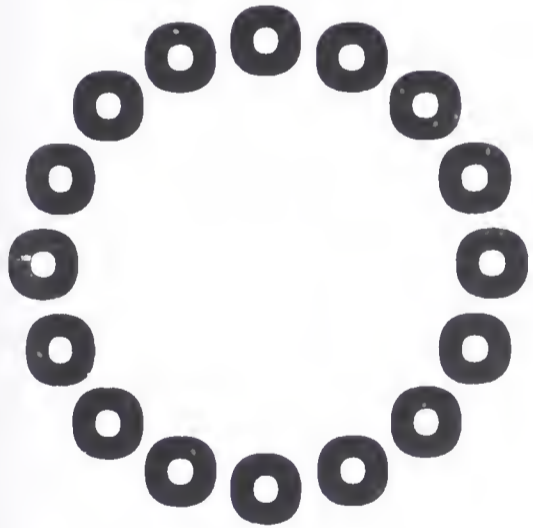
WORD  
tur-to

MEANING  
cow



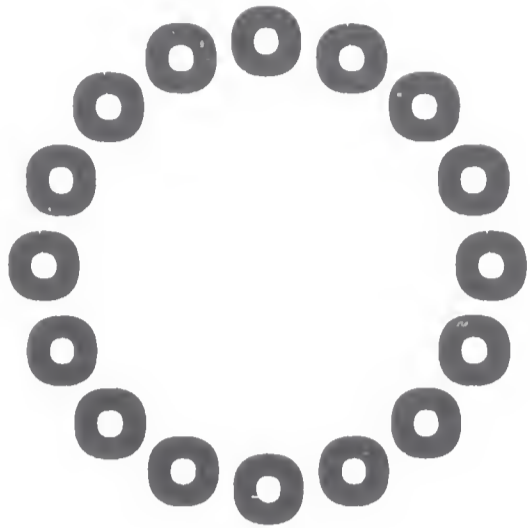


a as in pat

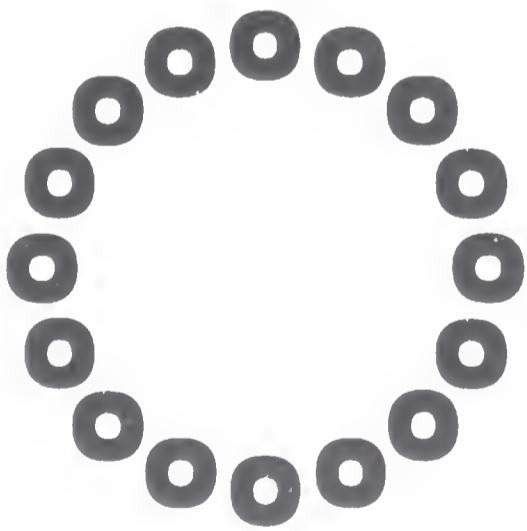


o as in bone

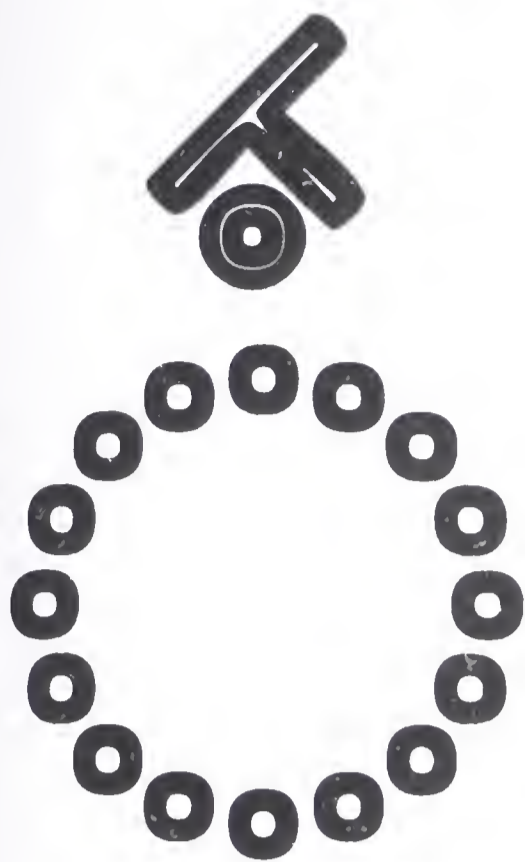
Note. Vowels are optional in writing. When written, they appear above (or below) letters. For example, a vowel *a* above (or below) the letter *b* gives the sound *ba*.



e (short) as in debt  
ay (long) as in day



ee as in see



oo as in moon



two dots above a word  
indicate plural



ܐܘܪܝܢܐ ܡܝܠܠܐ ܕܢܘܨܐ

The Syriac Alphabet  
for Children



Serto Edition

George Anton Kiraz

gorgias press