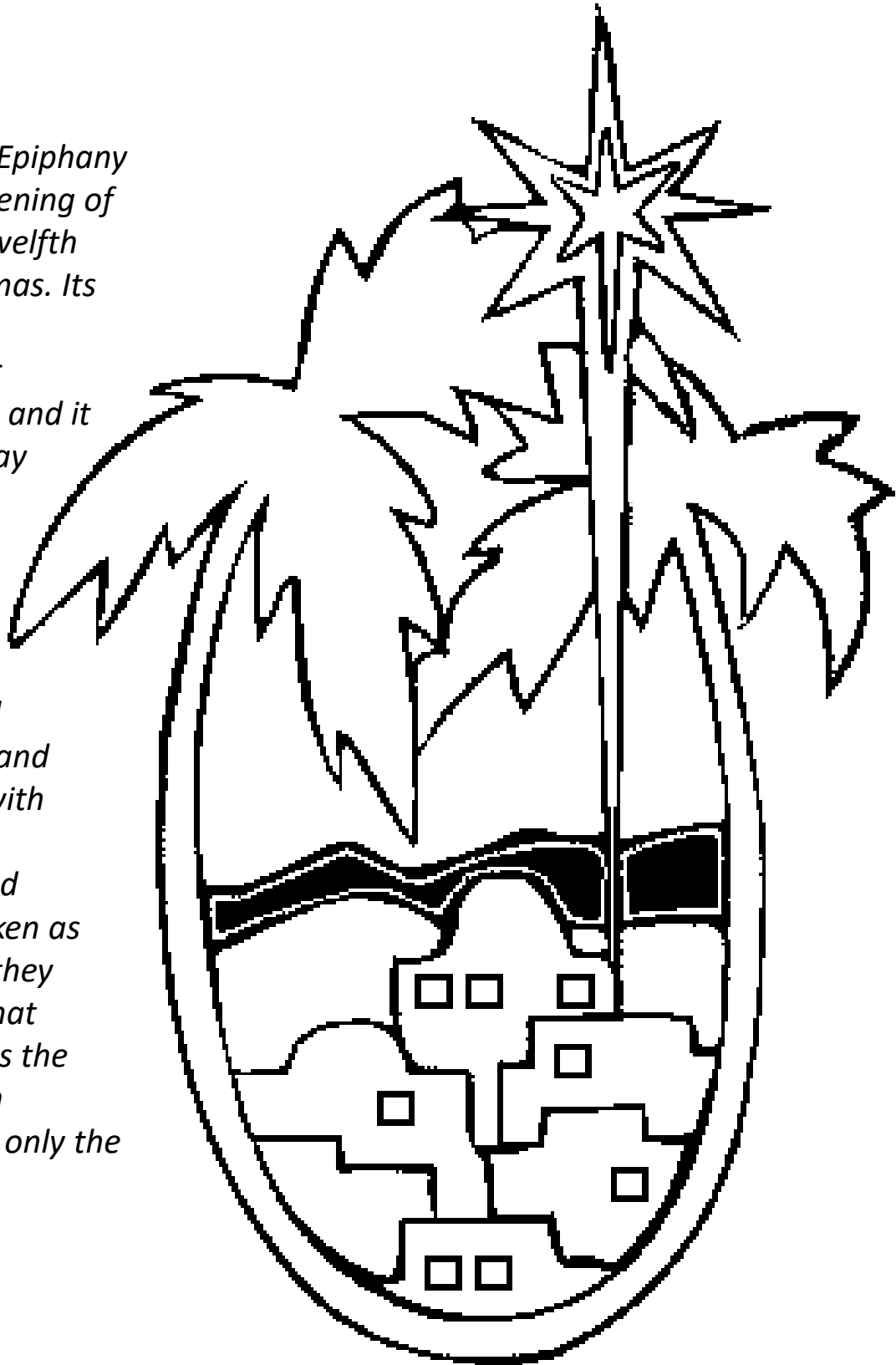
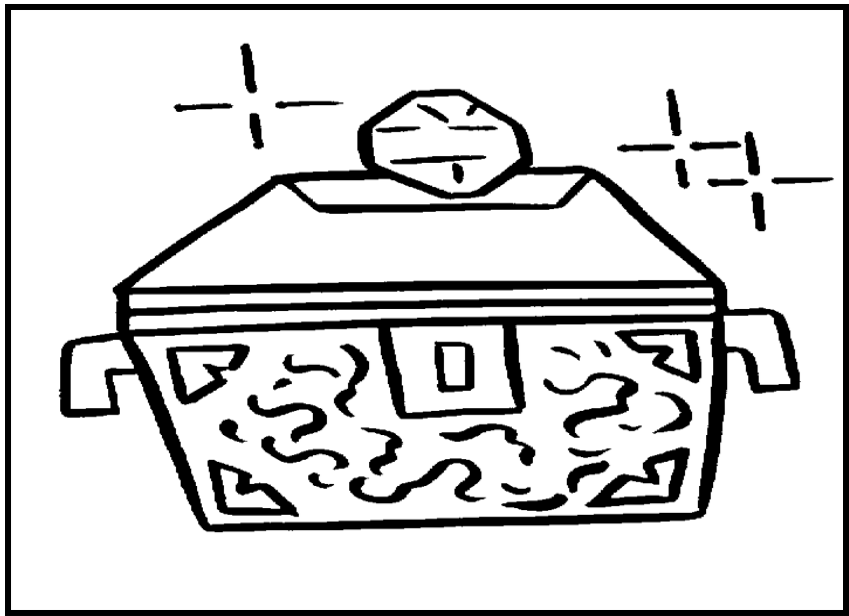


Wise Men from the East

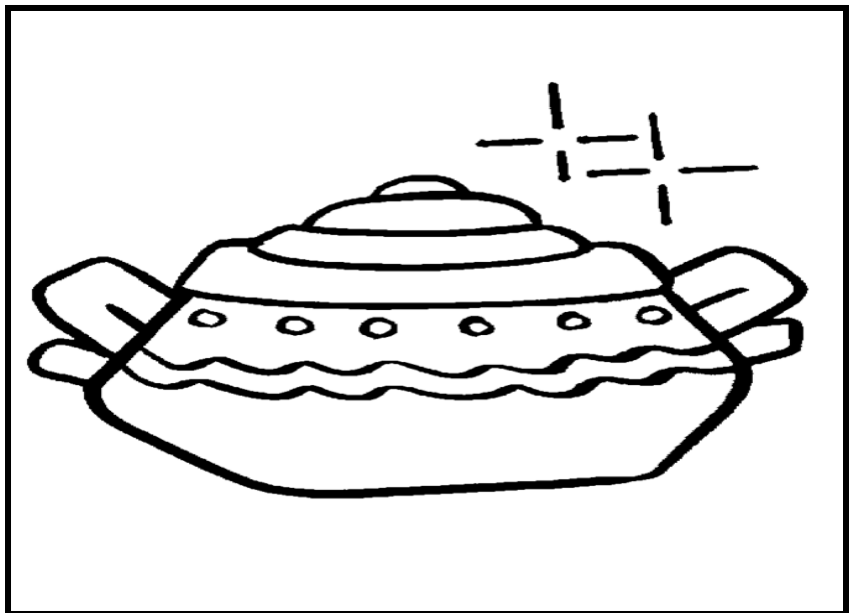
The feast of the Epiphany occurs on the evening of January 6, the twelfth day after Christmas. Its name means "appearance" or "manifestation," and it celebrates the day when Jesus was revealed as the Son of God to the wise men, or magi. When the magi adored the infant Jesus and presented Him with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, it was taken as a sign, because they were Gentiles, that Jesus was sent as the Savior of all men everywhere, not only the Jews.



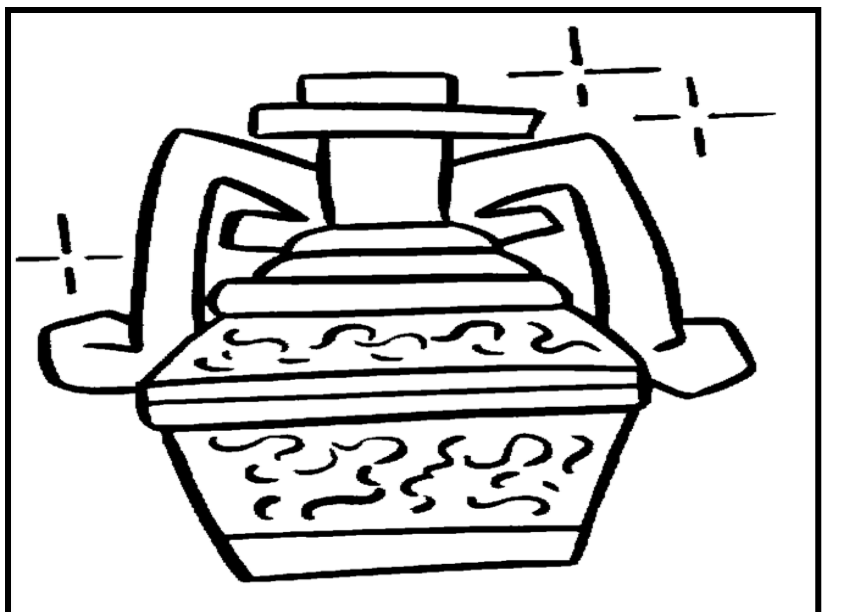
Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is He that is born King of the Jews? For we have seen His star in the east, and are come to worship Him."



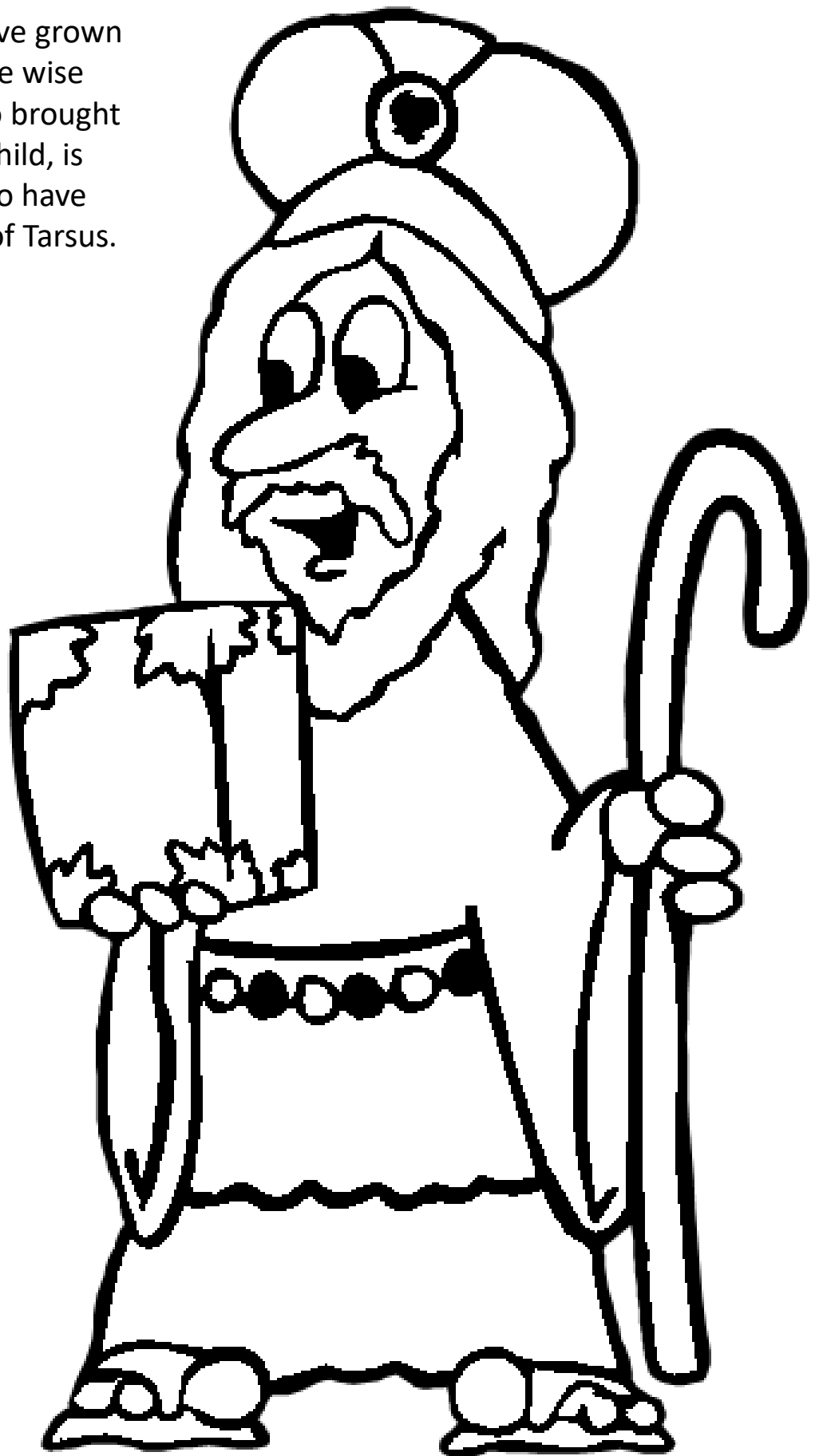
And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.



And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary His mother, and fell down, and worshipped Him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto Him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh. (The Bible, Matthew 2:1-2, 9-11 KJV.)

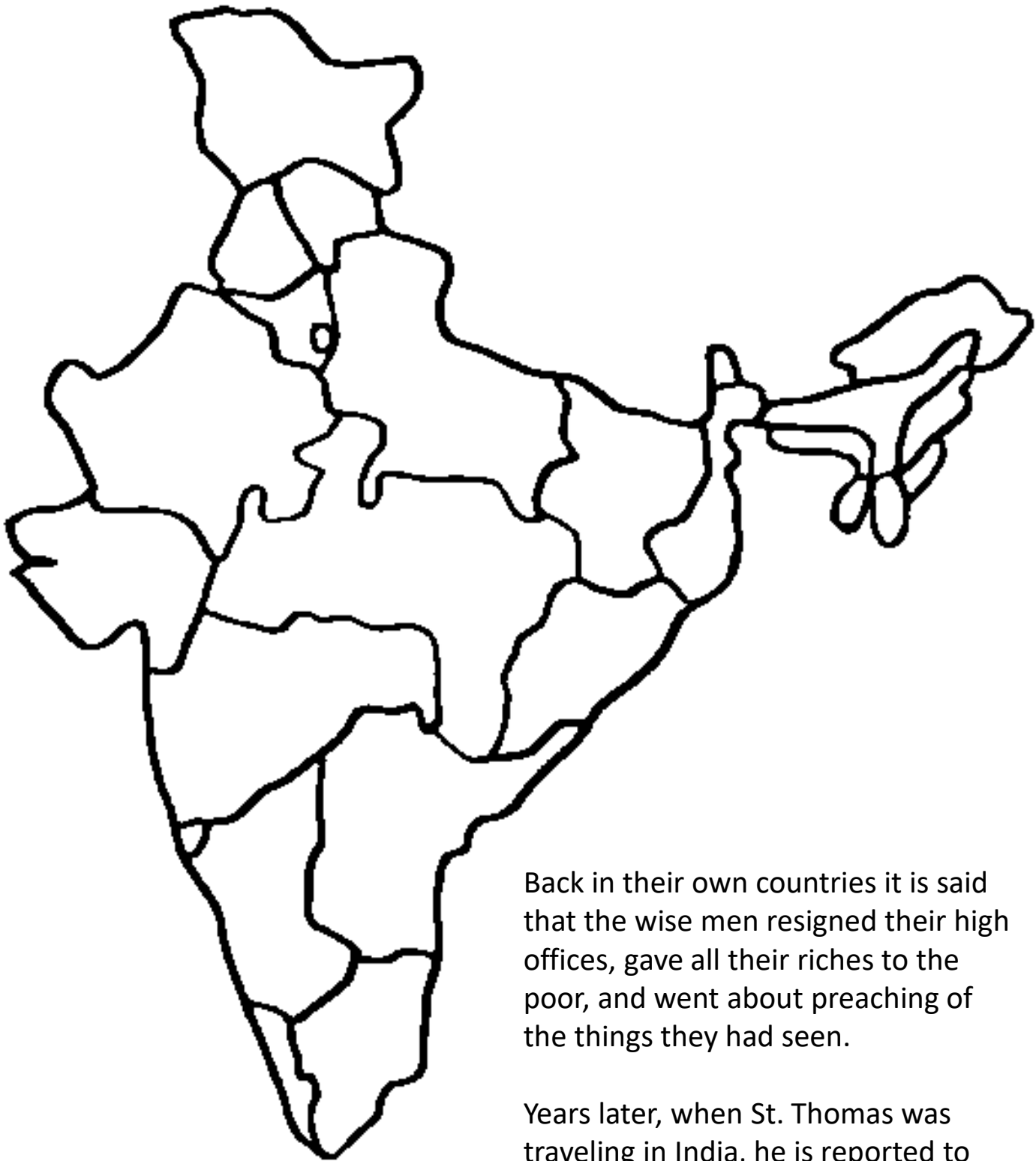


Many traditions have grown up around the three wise men. The first, who brought gold to the Christ child, is believed by many to have been Caspar, King of Tarsus.



The second, who brought frankincense, is thought to have been Melchior, King of Arabia. The third, who brought myrrh, is supposed to have been Balthazar, King of Sheba.

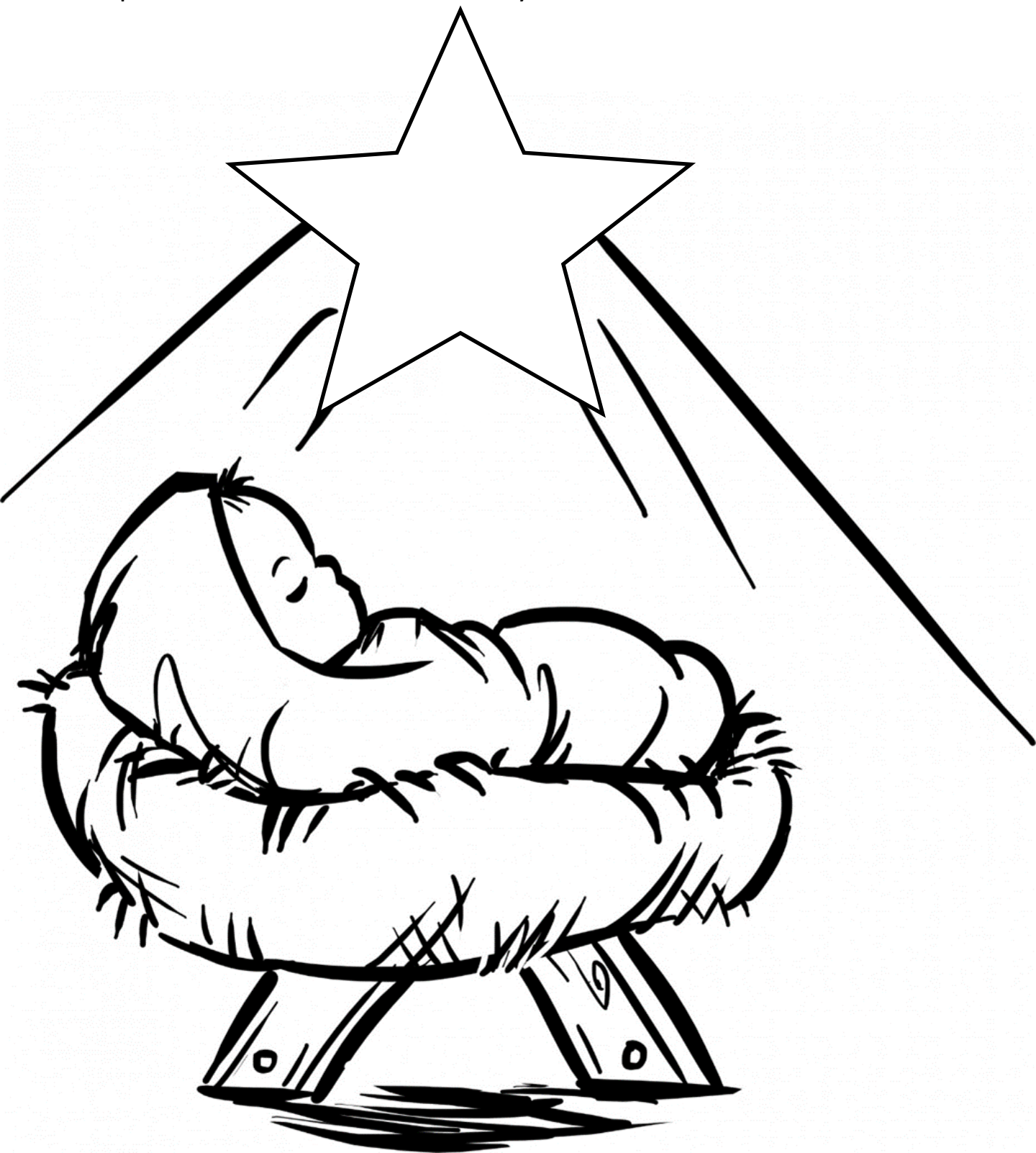




Back in their own countries it is said that the wise men resigned their high offices, gave all their riches to the poor, and went about preaching of the things they had seen.

Years later, when St. Thomas was traveling in India, he is reported to have found the three wise men, still together and still telling their wonderful story. St. Thomas baptized and ordained them as Christian priests.

Is all this true? It's impossible to know. The first record of these men after the Gospel account was on a mosaic in a sixth-century church in Ravenna, Italy. But their adoration of the Christ child as the Savior of mankind, His birth having been revealed to them by their study of the stars, remains one of the proofs of His mission and divinity.



We too can find Christ today if we follow God's Word, for He has promised that if we seek, we will find Him. In fact, it may surprise you to know that He is looking for you. Jesus says, "Behold, I stand at the door [of your heart] and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in" (Revelation 3:20).

