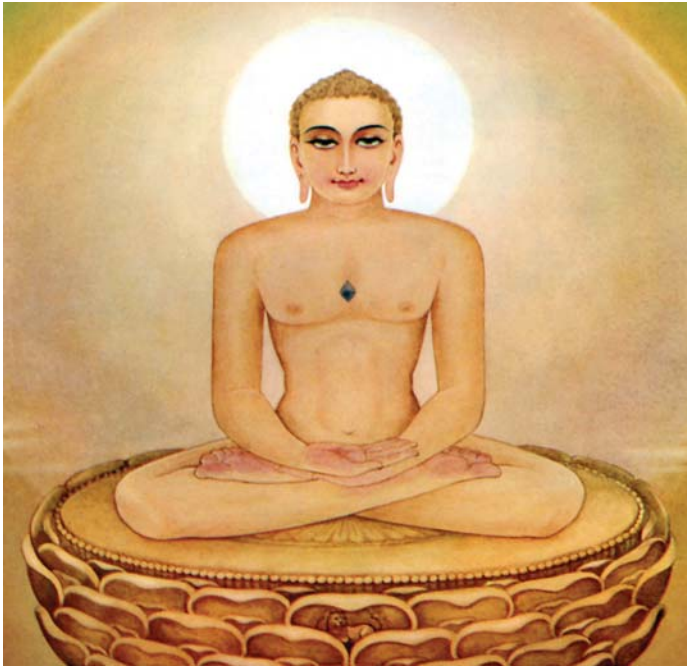


3.1 LÄNCHHANS (EMBLEMS OR SYMBOLS)

A Tirthankar's idol (murti) represents the qualities and virtues of the Tirthankar and therefore all idols are similar in structure.



Each Tirthankar's idol has his or her own emblem (lānchhan) that distinguishes them from the other Tirthankars. When a Tirthankar is born, he or she has a particular mark on their right thigh. This birthmark is in the form of a speck. This symbol can be found on the base of the idol to identify that Tirthankar. Some differences exist between the symbols of Digambar and Shvetāmbar sects and are defined on the attached table.

Temples of the Digambar sect have the idols of Tirthankars in their natural unadorned form with their eyes semi-closed in meditation. It represents the Tirthankar (Jina) as free from attachment and aversion.

Temples of the Shvetāmbar sect have the idols adorned in a very elegant manner. The eyes vividly communicate peace and loving compassion. Positive vibrations emanate from the adorned energy centers. It represents the Tirthankar as a spiritual king and sovereign victor of all the inner enemies and five senses.

Sometimes the color of the idol is different. This color is associated with the physical body of a Tirthankar (see Tirthankar symbol and color table in this section).

In the picture, the lānchhan of a lion is clearly visible at the base, showing that it is the idol of Mahāvīrswāmi, the twenty-fourth Tirthankar.

TIRTHANKARS, SYMBOLS, AND COLOR

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Shvetāmbar Symbol</u>	<u>Digambar Symbol</u>	<u>Color</u>
1	Rushabhadev or Ādināth	Bull	Bull	Gold
2	Ajitnāth	Elephant	Elephant	Gold
3	Sambhavnāth	Horse	Horse	Gold
4	Abhinandan-swāmi	Monkey	Monkey	Gold
5	Sumatināth	Curlew Bird	*Red goose (Chakvā)	Gold
6	Padmaprabha	Red Lotus	Red Lotus	Red
7	Supārshvanāth	Swastika	Swastika	Gold/Green*
8	Chandraprabha	Crescent Moon	Crescent Moon	White
9	Suvidhināth or Pushpadanta	Crocodile	Crocodile	White
10	Shitalnāth	Shrivatsa	*Kalpa-vruksha	Gold
11	Shreyānsnāth	Rhinoceros	Rhinoceros	Gold
12	Vāsupujya-swāmi	Buffalo	Buffalo	Red
13	Vimalnāth	Pig-Boar	Pig-Boar	Gold
14	Anantnāth	Eagle	*Hawk	Gold
15	Dharmnāth	Vajra	Vajra	Gold
16	Shāntināth	Deer	Deer	Gold
17	Kunthunāth	Goat	Goat	Gold
18	Aranāth	Nandāvarta	*Fish	Gold
19	Mallināth	Pot	Kumbha	Blue/Gold*
20	Munisuvrat-swāmi	Tortoise	Tortoise	Black
21	Namināth	Blue Lotus	Blue Lotus	Gold
22	Nemināth	Conch Shell	Conch Shell	Black
23	Pārshvanāth	Snake	Snake	Blue/Green*
24	Mahāvīrswāmi	Lion	Lion	Gold

**Different from Shvetāmbar tradition*

TIRTHANKARS, PARENTS, AND IMPORTANT PLACES

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Father</u>	<u>Mother</u>	<u>Birth Place</u>	<u>Dikshä Place</u>	<u>Nirvana Place</u>
1	Rushabhadev or Ädinäth	Näbhi	Maru Devi	Ayodhyä	Ayodhyä	Ashtäpad
2	Ajitnäth	Jitshatru	Vijayä	Ayodhyä	Ayodhyä	Sametshikhar
3	Sambhavnäth	Jitäri	Senä	Shrävasti	Shrävasti	Sametshikhar
4	Abhinandan-swämi	Samvar	Siddhärthä	Ayodhyä	Ayodhyä	Sametshikhar
5	Sumatinäth	Megharath	Mangalä Devi	Ayodhyä	Ayodhyä	Sametshikhar
6	Padmaprabha-swämi	Shridhar	Susimä Devi	Kaushämbi	Kaushämbi	Sametshikhar
7	Supärshvanäth	Pratishtha	Prithvi Devi	Väränasi	Väränasi	Sametshikhar
8	Chandraprabha	Mahäsen	Lakshmanä	Chandrapuri	Chandrapuri	Sametshikhar
9	Suvidhinäth / Pushpadanta	Sugriva	Rämä Räni	Käkandi	Käkandi	Sametshikhar
10	Shitalnäth	Dradharath	Nandä Räni	Bhadriapur	Bhadriapur	Sametshikhar
11	Shreyäsnäth	Vishnu	Vishnu Devi	Simhapuri	Simhapur	Sametshikhar
12	Väsupujya-swämi	Vasupujya	Jayä Devi	Champäpuri	Champäpuri	Champäpuri
13	Vimalnäth	Krutavarma	Shyämä Devi	Kämpilyapur	Kämpilyapur	Sametshikhar
14	Anantnäth	Simhasen	Suyashä	Ayodhyä	Ayodhyä	Sametshikhar
15	Dharmnäth	Bhänu	Suvratä	Ratnapur	Ratnapur	Sametshikhar
16	Shäntinäth	Vishvasen	Achirä	Hastinäpur	Hastinäpur	Sametshikhar
17	Kunthunäth	Surasen	Shree Räni	Hastinäpur	Hastinäpur	Sametshikhar
18	Aranäth	Sudarshan	Devi Räni	Hastinäpur	Hastinäpur	Sametshikhar
19	Mallinäth	Kumbha	Prabhävati	Mithilä	Mithilä	Sametshikhar
20	Munisuvrat-swämi	Sumitra	Padmävati	Räjgruhi	Räjgruhi	Sametshikhar
21	Naminäth	Vijay	Viprä	Mithilä	Mithilä	Sametshikhar
22	Neminäth	Samudravijay	Shivä Devi	Suryapur	Dwärkä	Girnar
23	Pärshvanäth	Ashvasen	Vämä Devi	Väränasi	Väränasi	Sametshikhar
24	Mahävirs-wämi	Siddhärtha	Trishalä	Kshatriya-kund	Kshatriya-kund	Päväpuri

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT TIRTHANKARS

Tirthankar Rushabhadev's mother was Mārudevi Mätä and according to Shvetāmbar tradition, she was the first person to attain liberation in this era.

Tirthankar Rushabhadev had 100 sons. The name of his eldest son was Bharat (first Chakravarti king) after whom our native nation Bhārat (India) is named. One of Bharat's sons, Marichi, ultimately reincarnated as Tirthankar Mahāvīr, the last Tirthankar of this era. Tirthankar Rushabhadev's second son was Bāhubali, and according to Digambar tradition, he was the first person to attain liberation in this era.

Shvetāmbar tradition believes that Tirthankar Mallināth was a female while Digambar tradition believes that Mallināth was a male.

According to Shvetāmbar tradition, Tirthankars Mallināth and Nemināth were the only two Tirthankars who did not get married. According to Digambar tradition, Vāsupujya-swāmi, Pārshvanāth, and Mahāvīr-swāmi also did not get married.

Lord Ram (an incarnation of Lord Vishnu in Hindu Mythology) is believed to be a contemporary of Tirthankar Munisuvrat-swāmi. Tirthankar Nemināth is believed to be a cousin of Lord Krishna, (another incarnation of Lord Vishnu).

Prince Nemi (Tirthankar Nemināth) was engaged to Princess Rājul. On the day of the wedding, upon hearing the cries of the birds and animals that were going to be slaughtered for the wedding feast, Prince Nemi renounced his worldly life and became a monk. Princess Rājul followed him and became a nun.

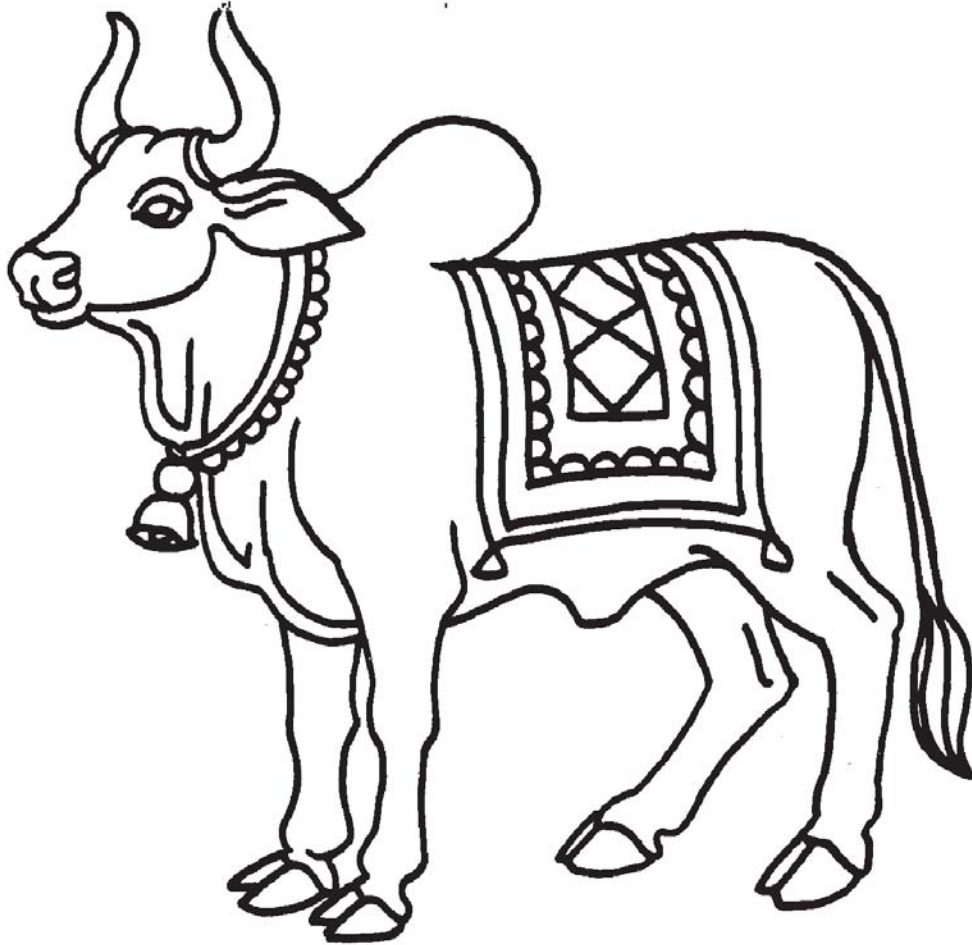
Tirthankar Pārshvanāth was born in 877 BC. He lived for 100 years and attained Nirvāna in 777 BC, 250 years before the Nirvāna of Tirthankar Mahāvīr.

Tirthankar Mahāvīrswāmi was born in 599 BC and attained Nirvāna (Moksha) in 527 BC. He was named Prince Vardhamān at birth. He attained Nirvāna on the day of Diwāli. He is the last of the 24 Tirthankars of this time cycle.

23 Tirthankars (except Nemināth) were born and took Dikshā in the same place.

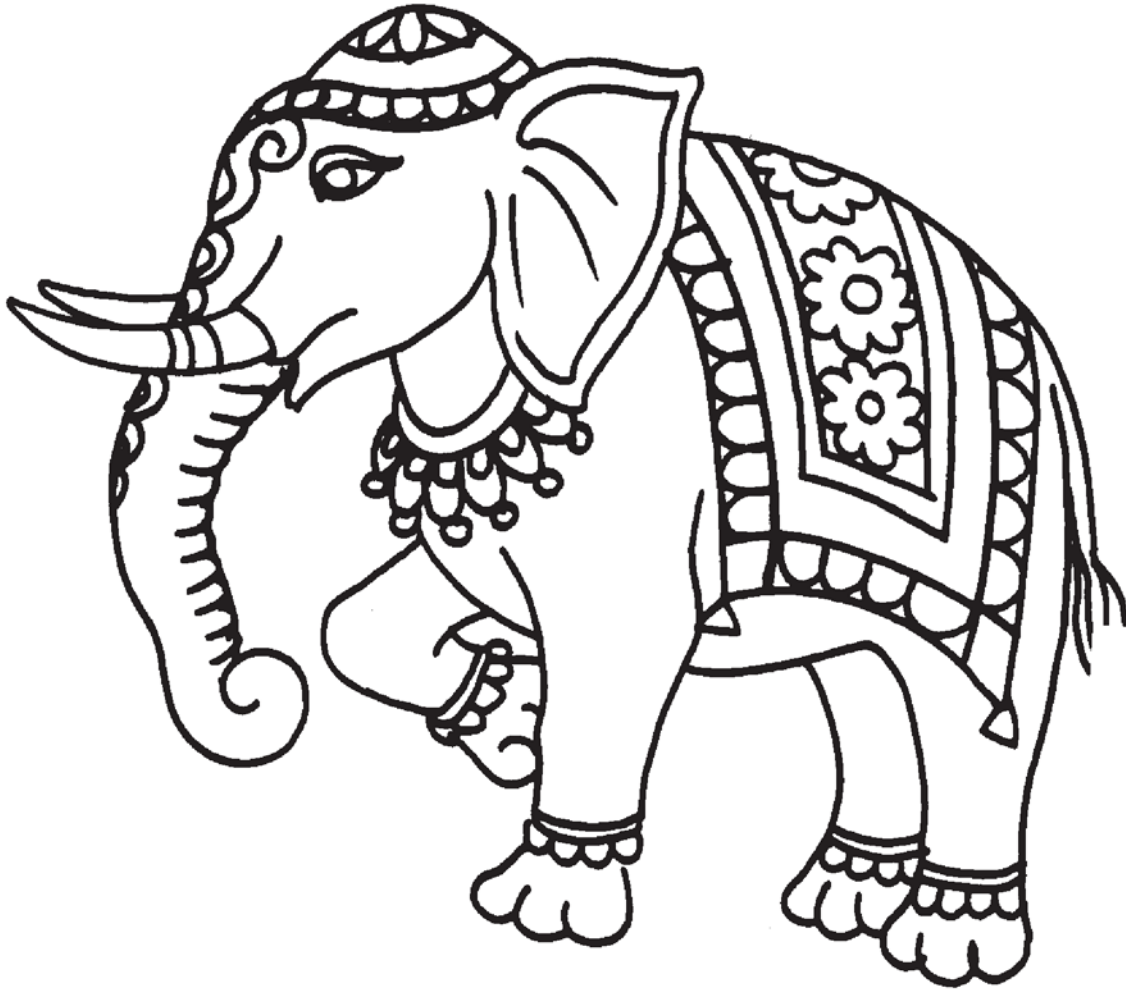
01. BULL (VRUSHABH)

Länchhan for Rushabhadev (Ädinäth)



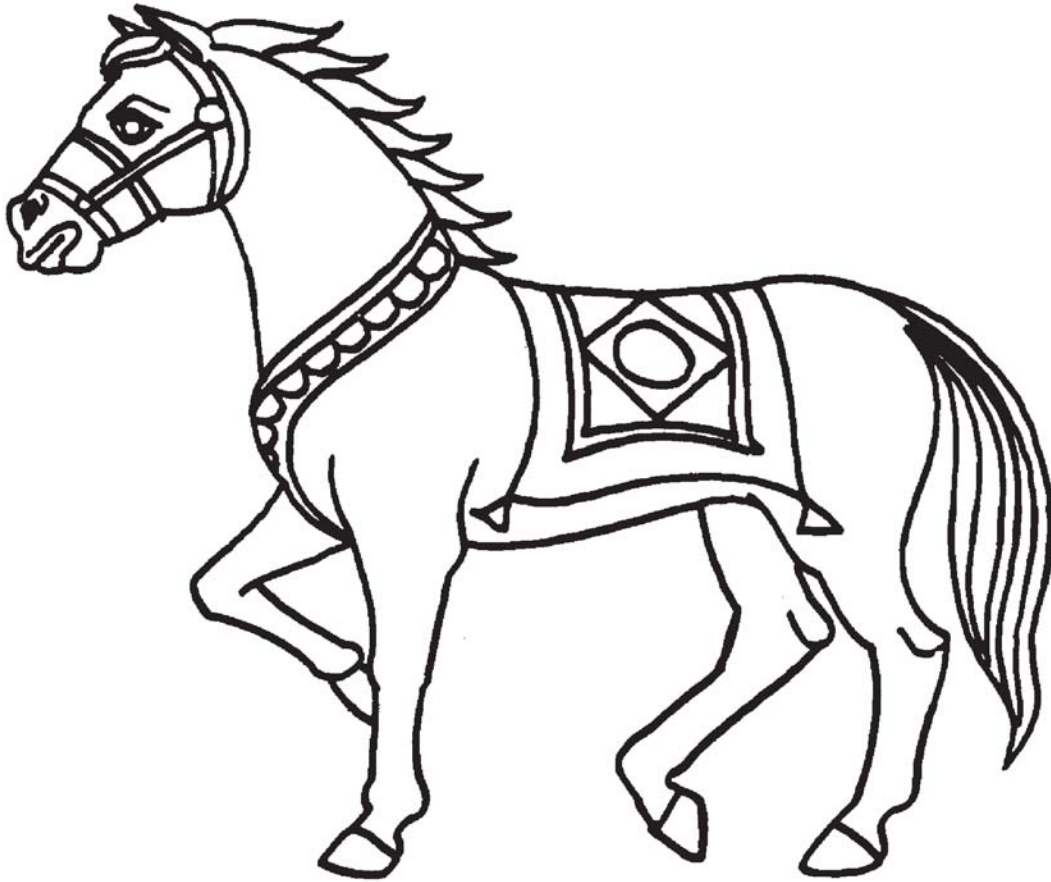
02. ELEPHANT (GAJWAR)

Länchhan for Ajitnäth



03. HORSE (ASHVA)

Länchhan for Sambhavnäth



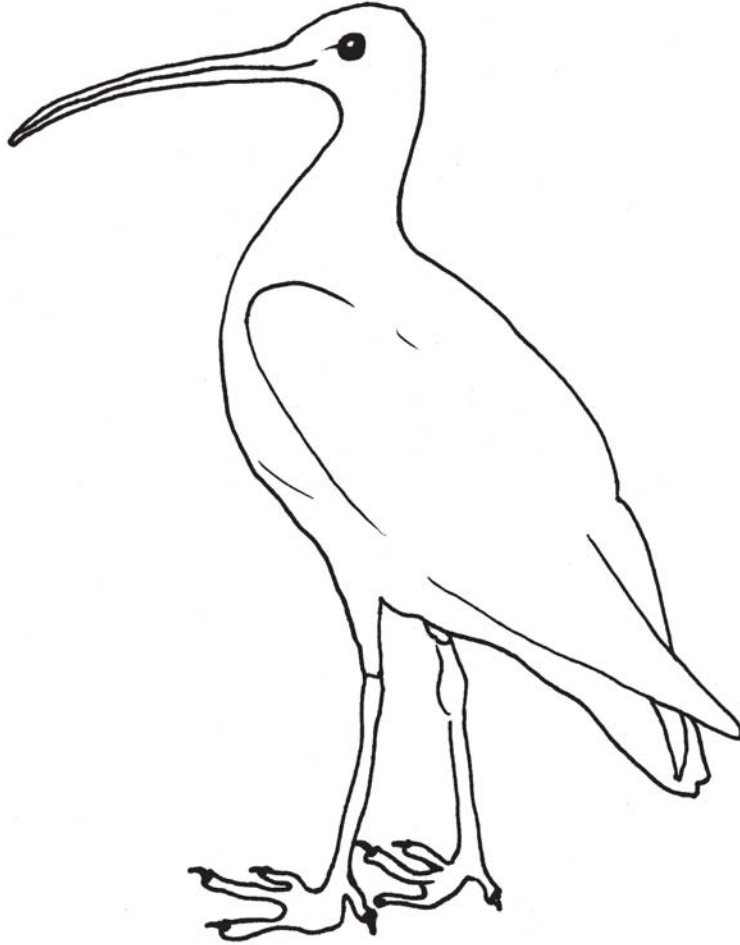
04. MONKEY (VÄNAR)

Länchhan for Abhinandan-swämi



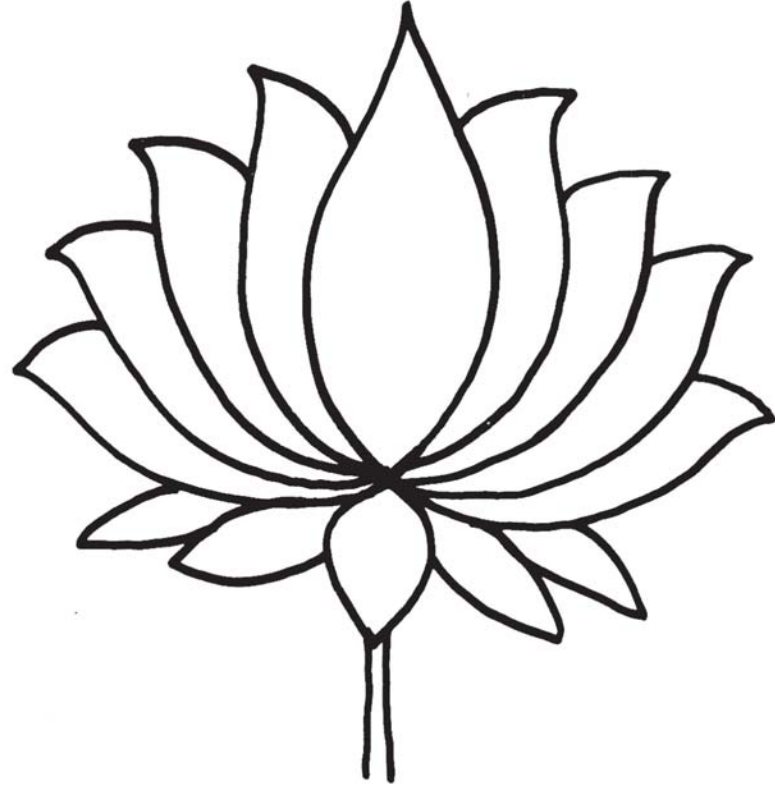
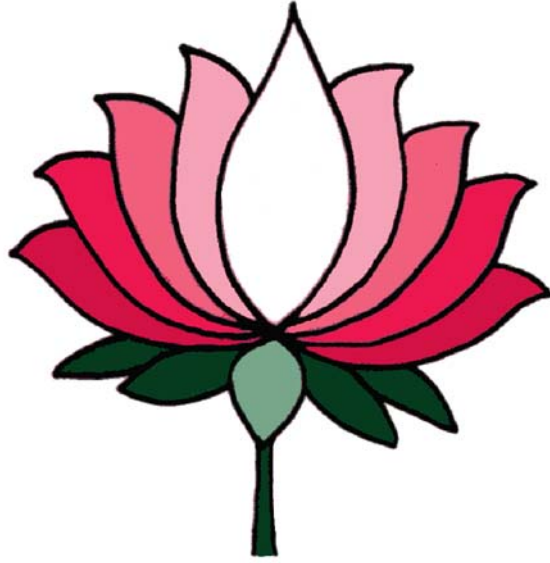
05. CURLEW BIRD (SHORE BIRD)

Länchhan for Sumatinäth



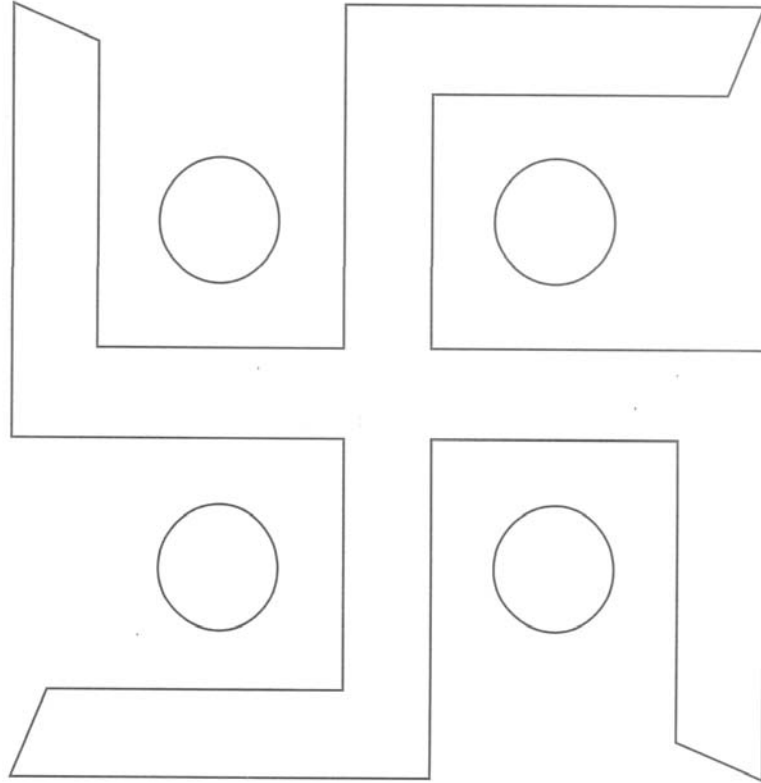
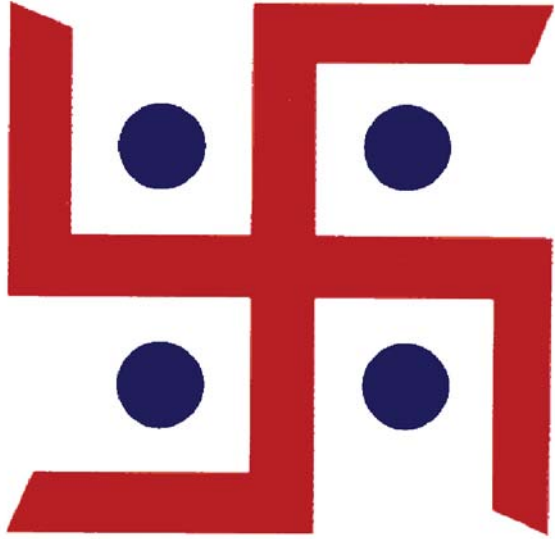
06. RED LOTUS (KAMAL)

Lanchhan for Padmaprabha



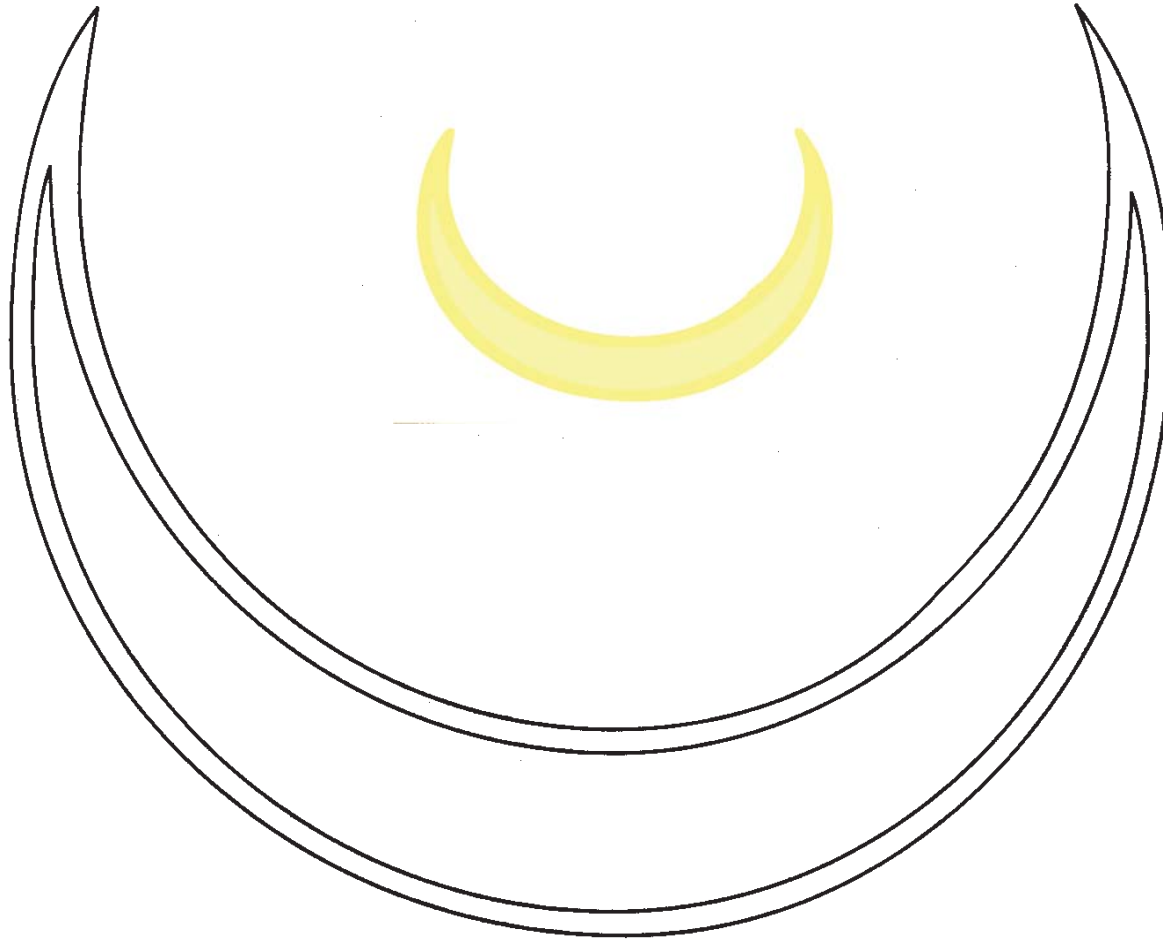
07. SWASTIKA

Länchhan for Supärshvanäth



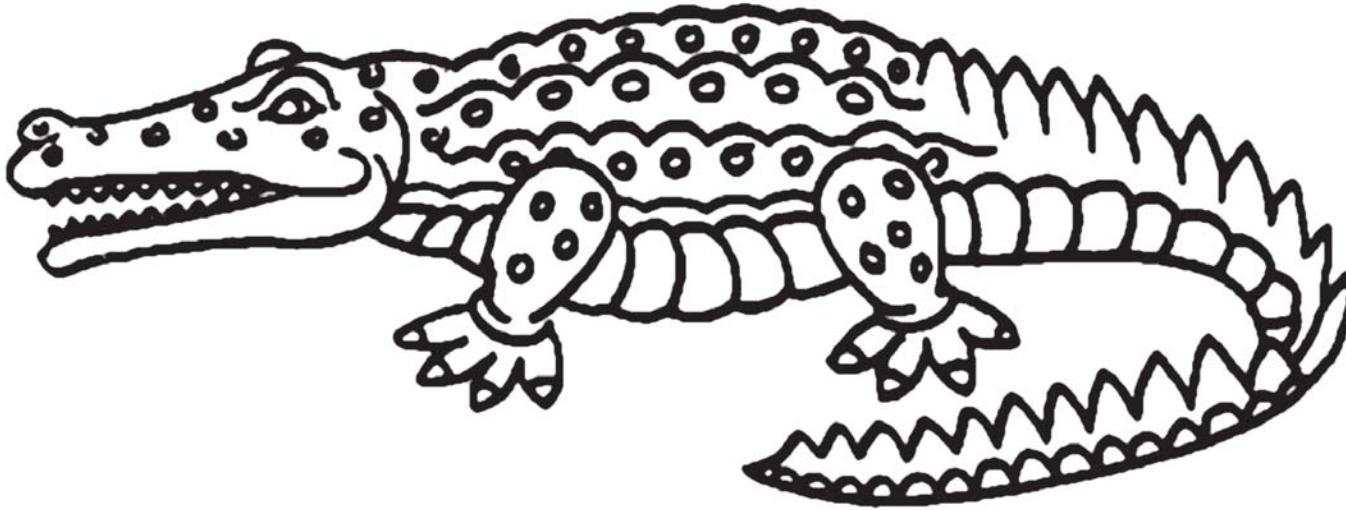
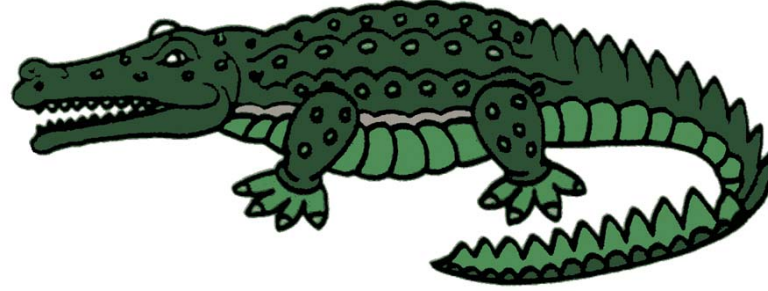
08. CRESCENT MOON (CHANDRA)

Lānchhan for Chandraprabha



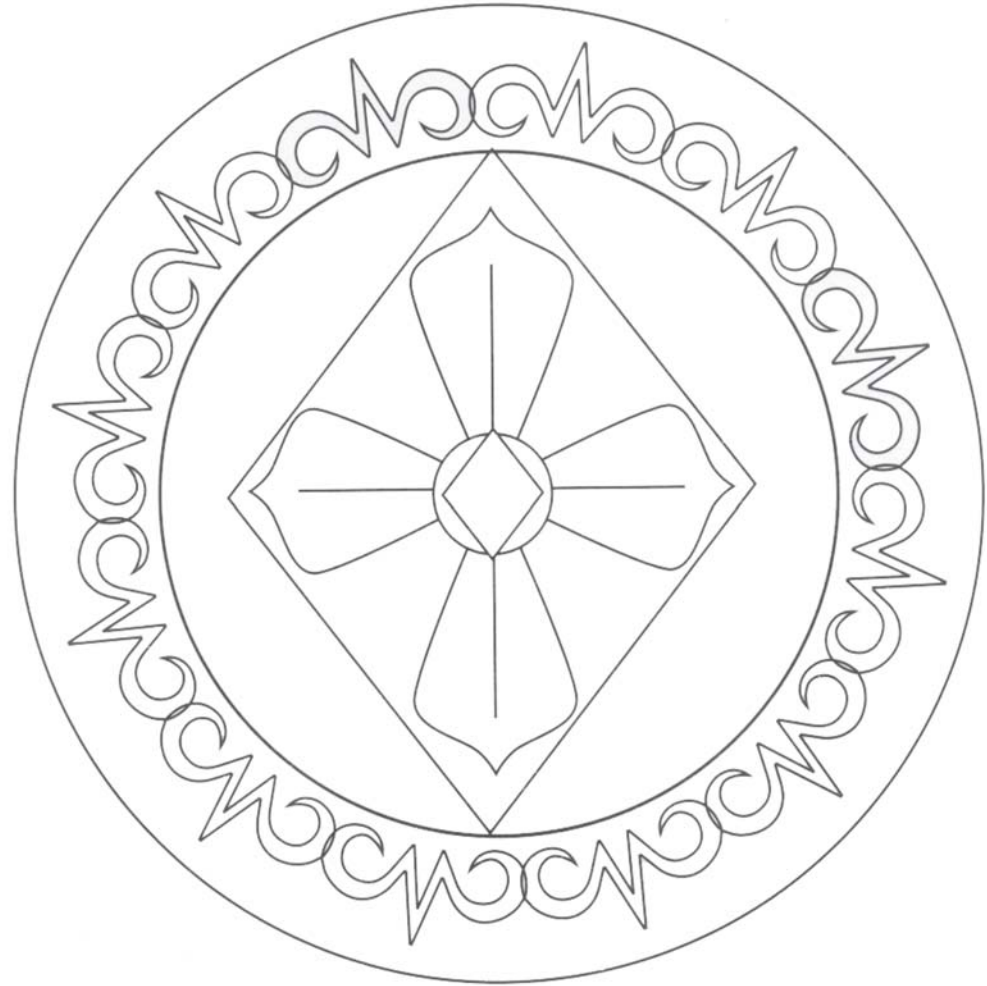
09. CROCODILE (MAKAR)

Länchhan for Suvidhinäth (Pushpadanta)



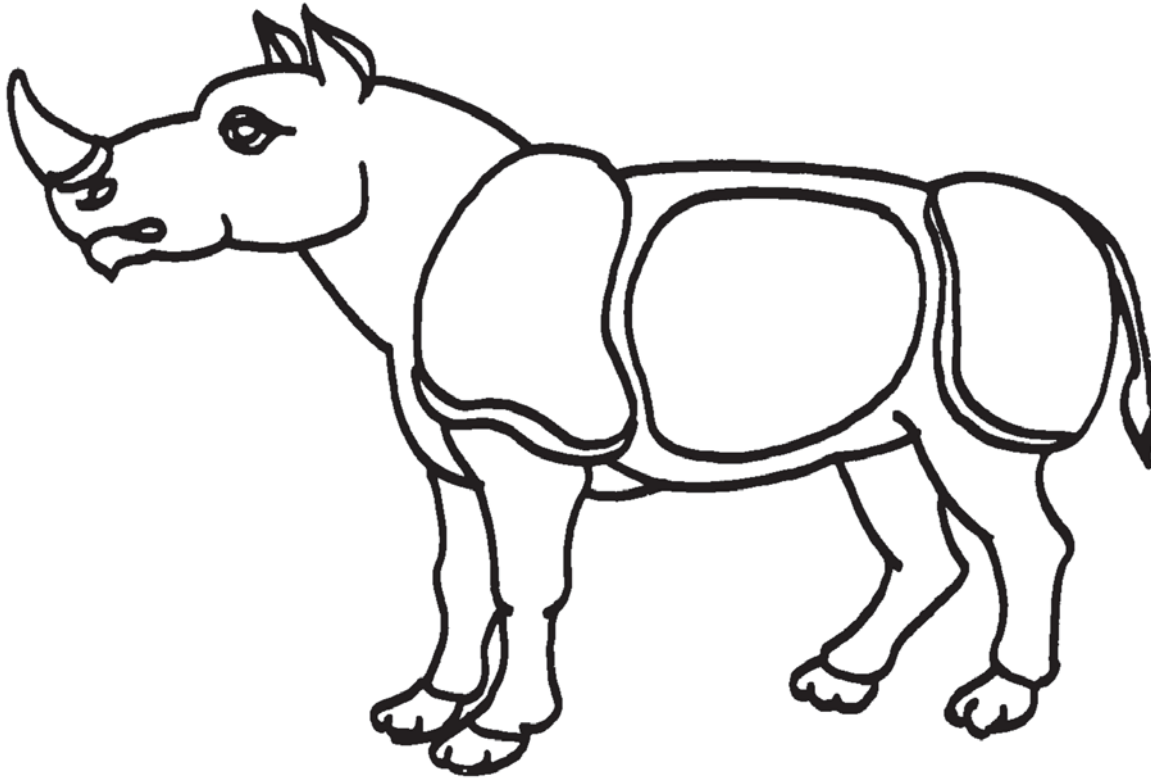
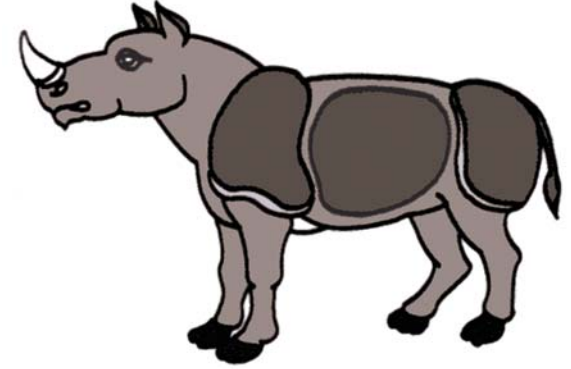
10. SHRIVATSA

Länchhan for Shitalnäth



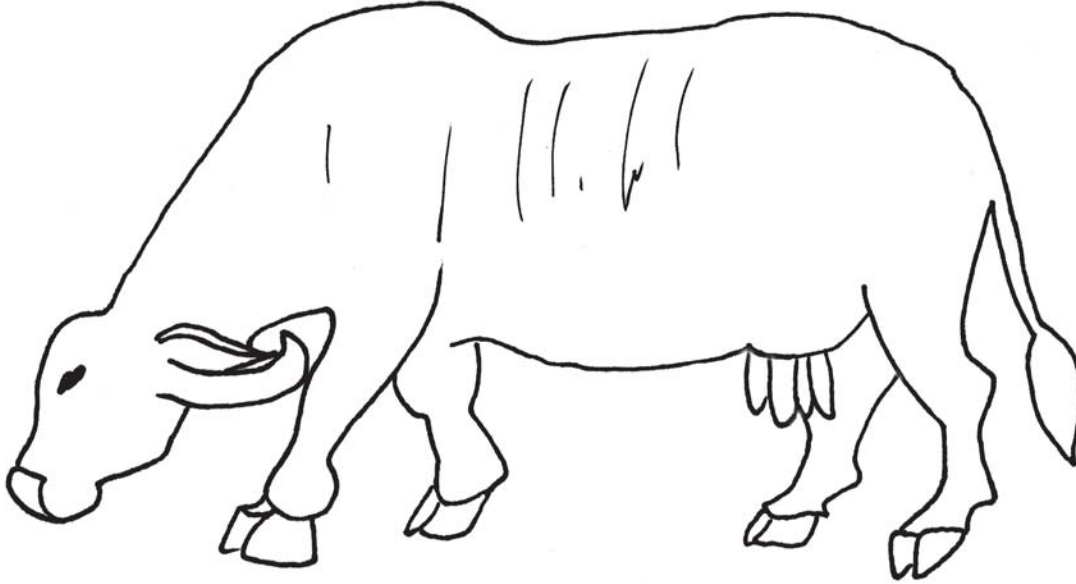
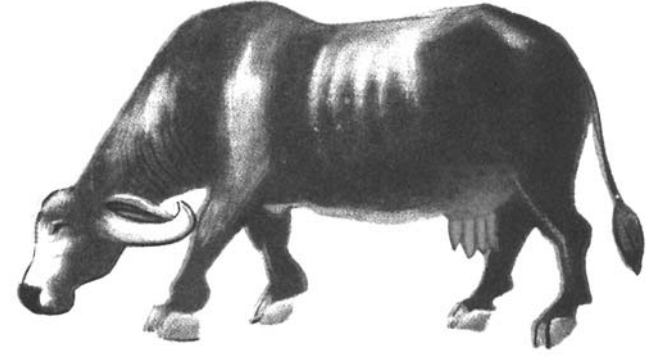
11. RHINOCEROS (KHAGIN)

Länchhan for Shreyänsnäth



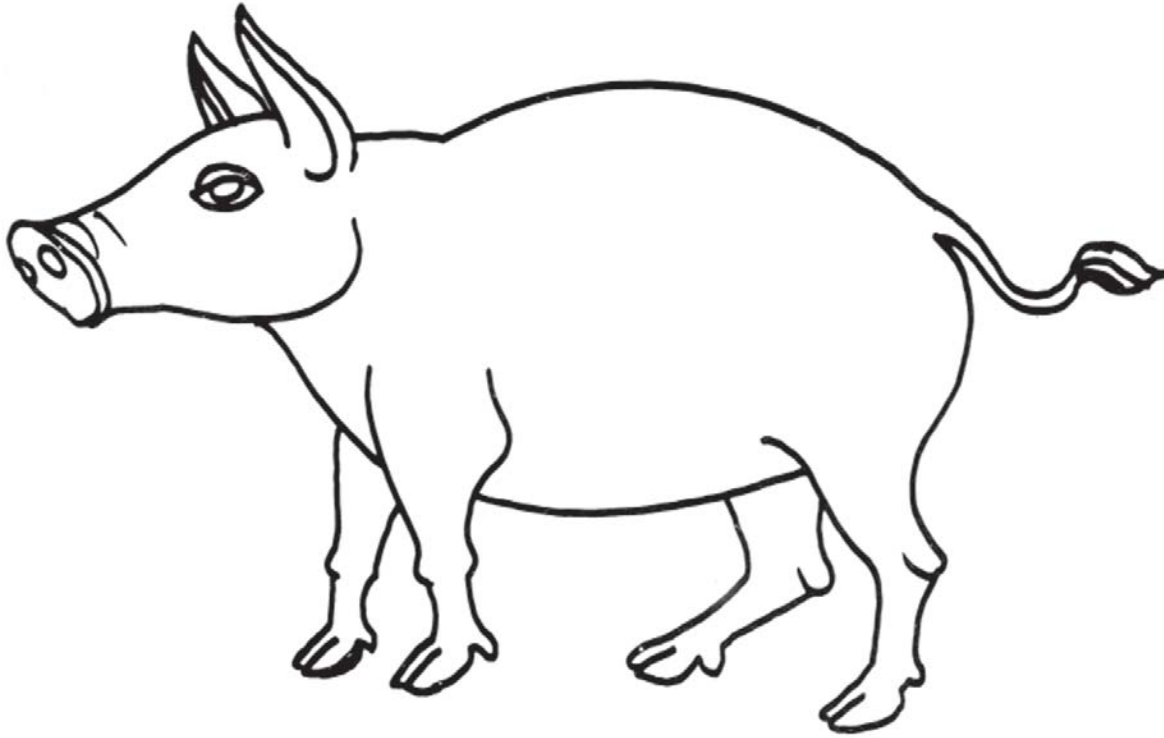
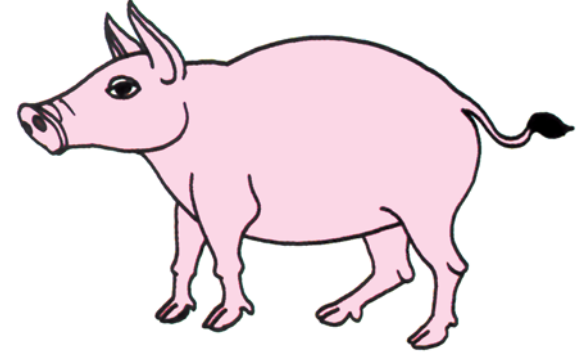
12. BUFFALO (MAHISH)

Länchhan for Väsupuja-swämi



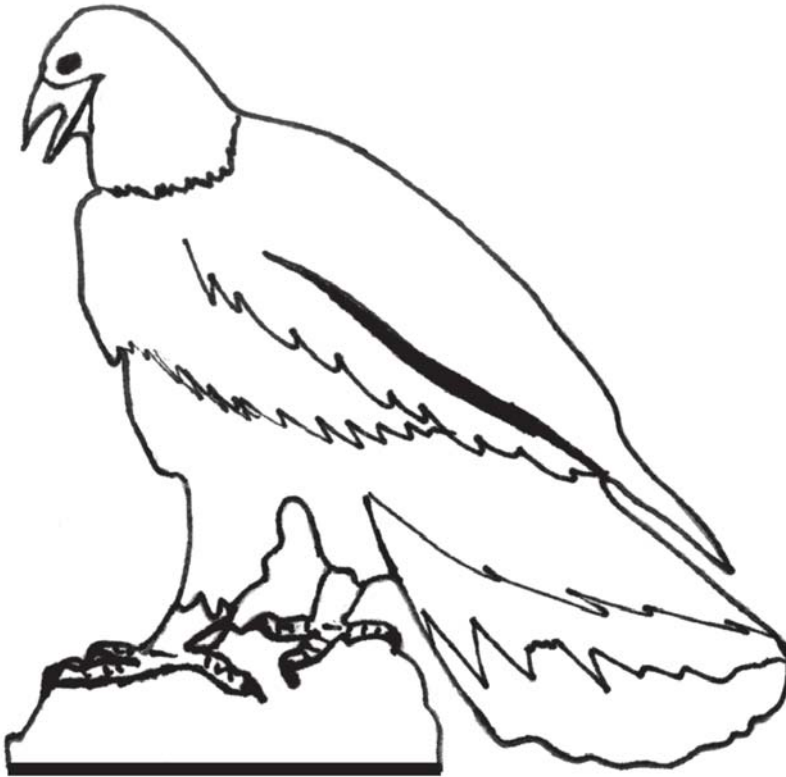
13. PIG-BOAR (VARÄH)

Länchhan for Vimalnäth



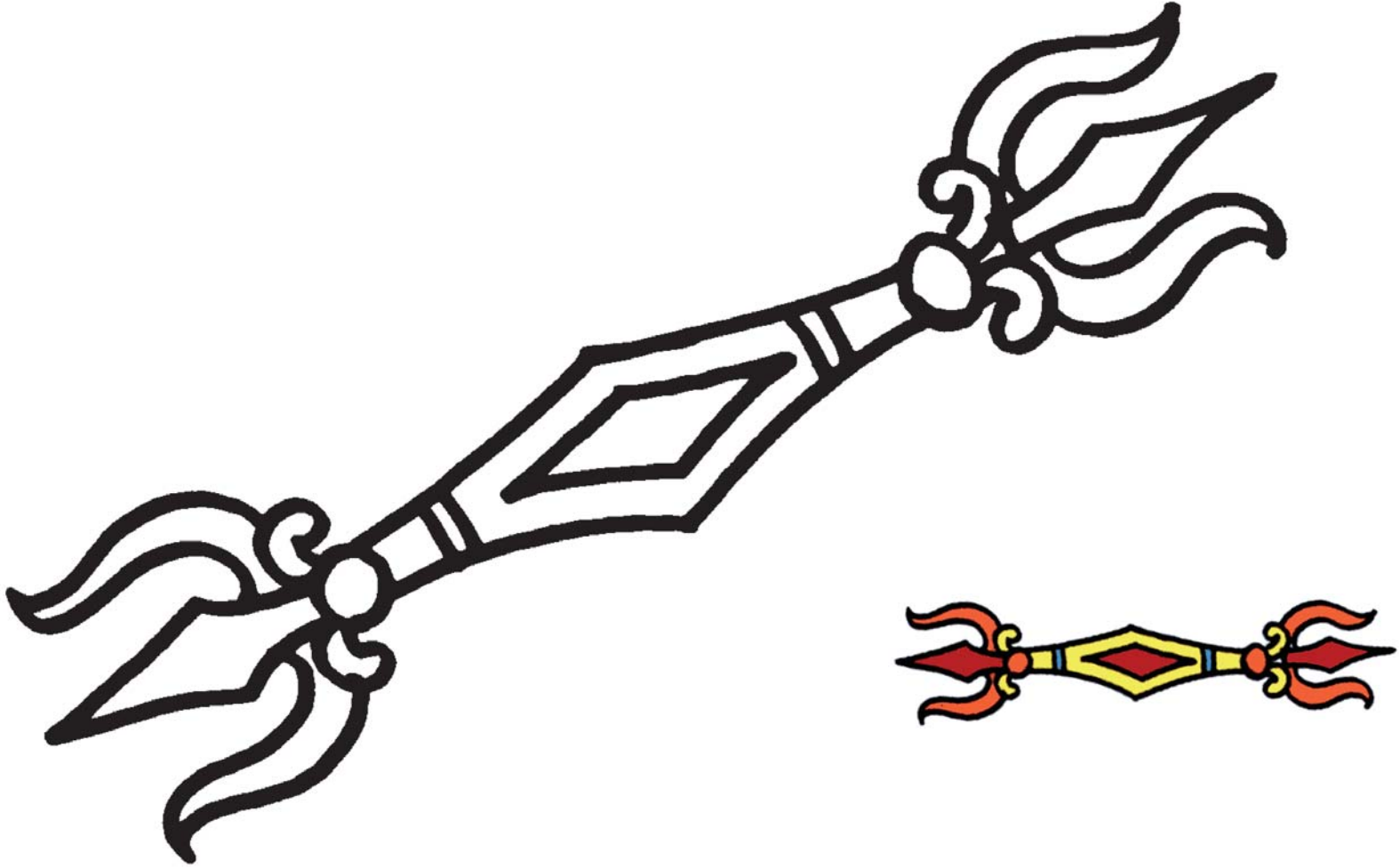
14. EAGLE/HAWK (SHYEN)

Länchhan for Anantnäth



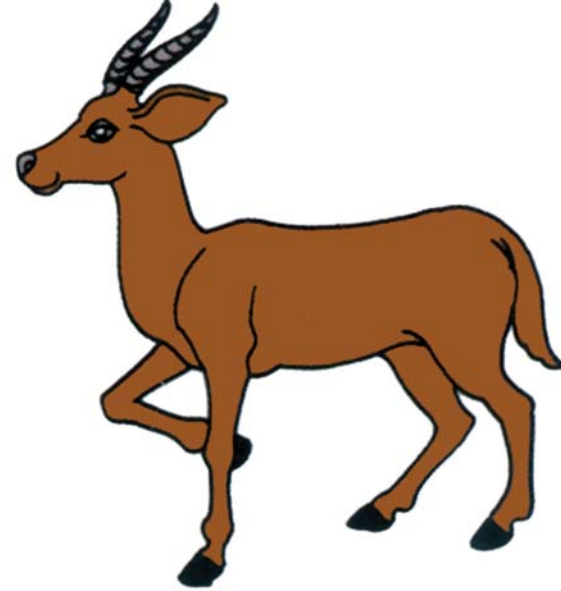
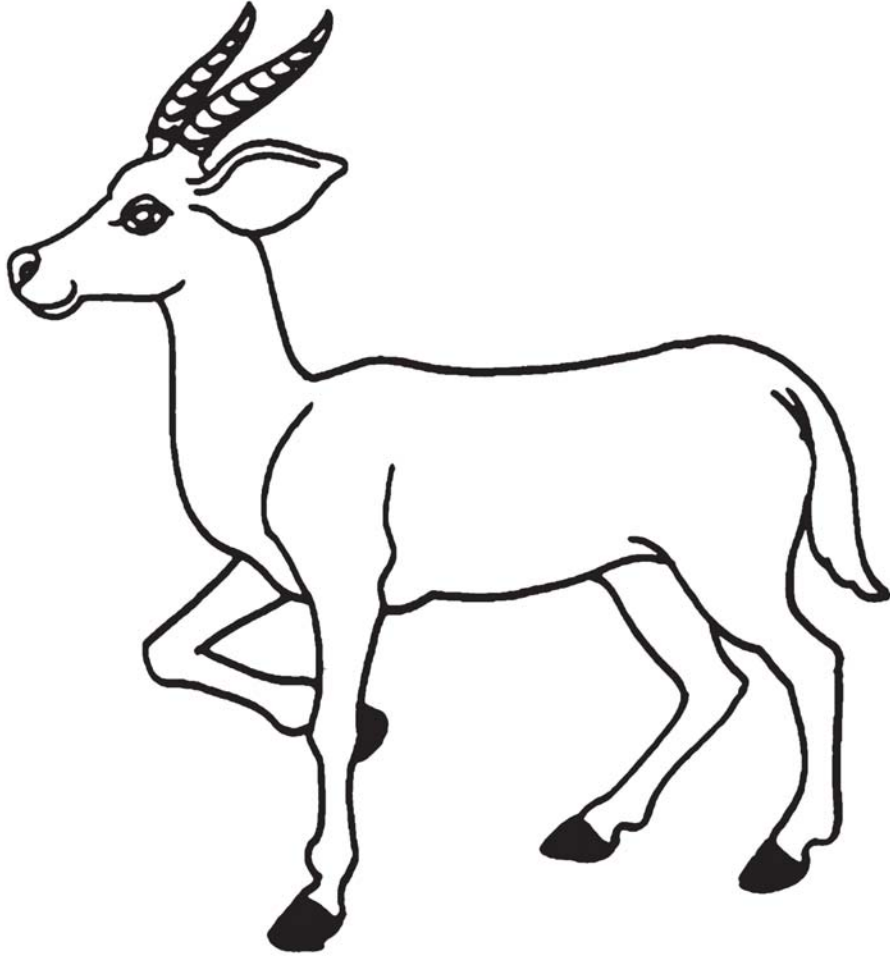
15. THUNDERBOLT (VAJRA)

Länchhan for Dharmanäth



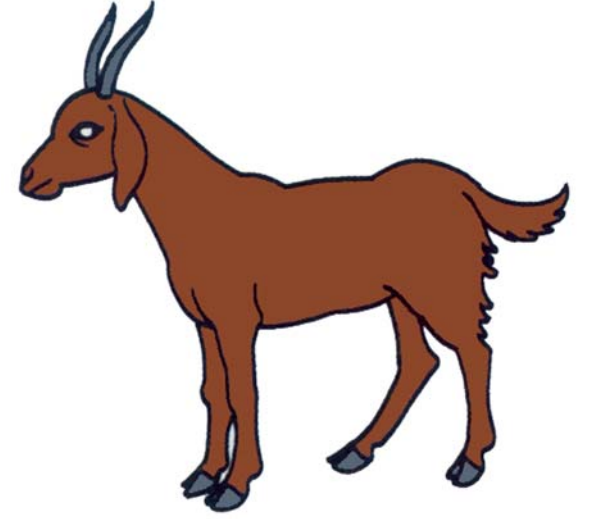
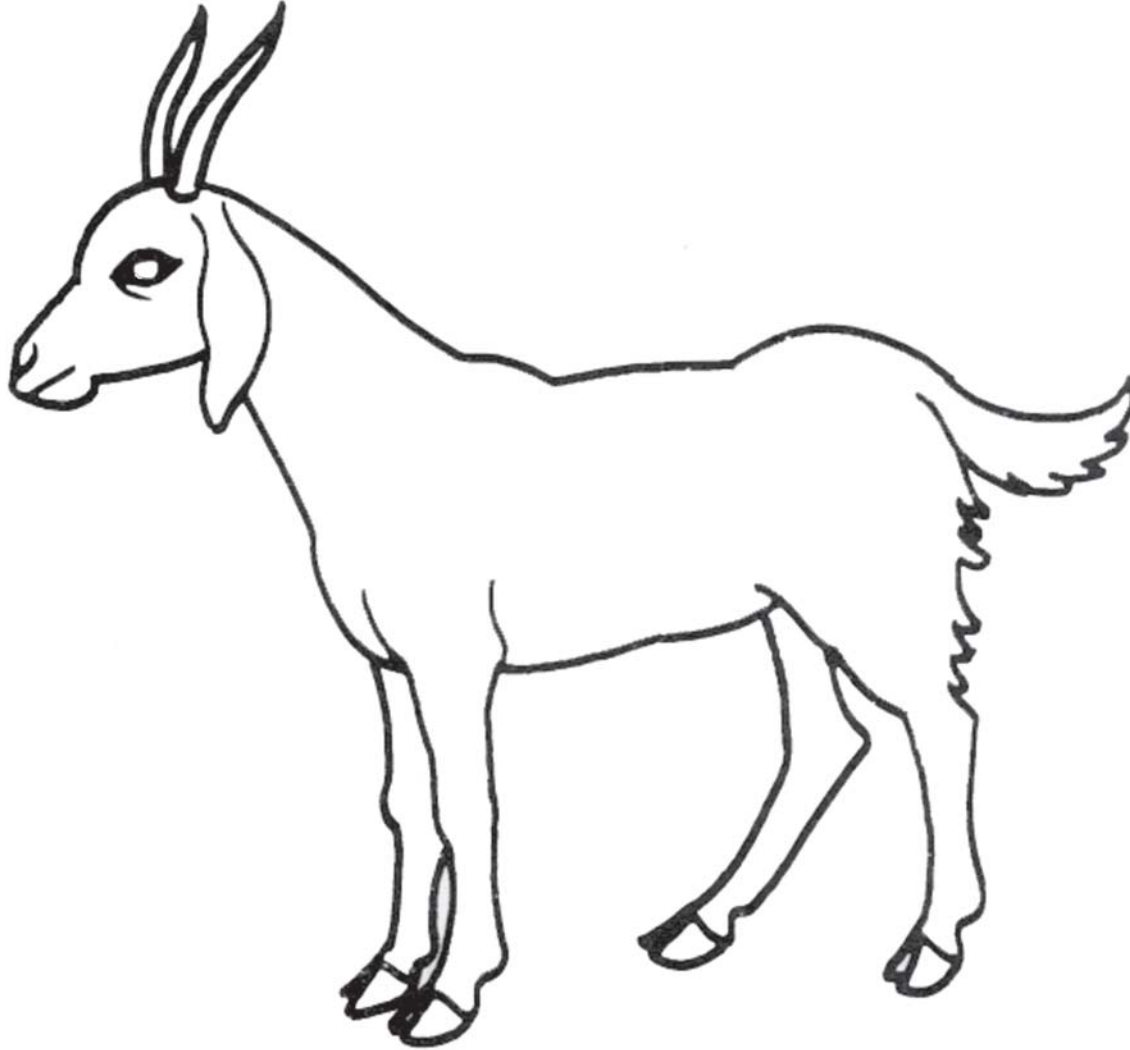
16. DEER (MRUG)

Lānchhan for Shāntināth



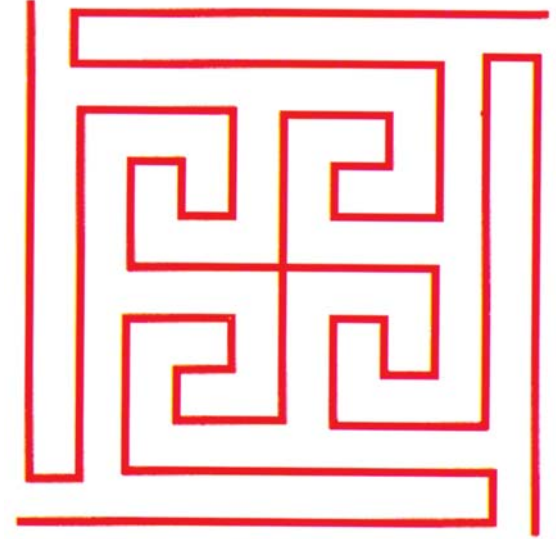
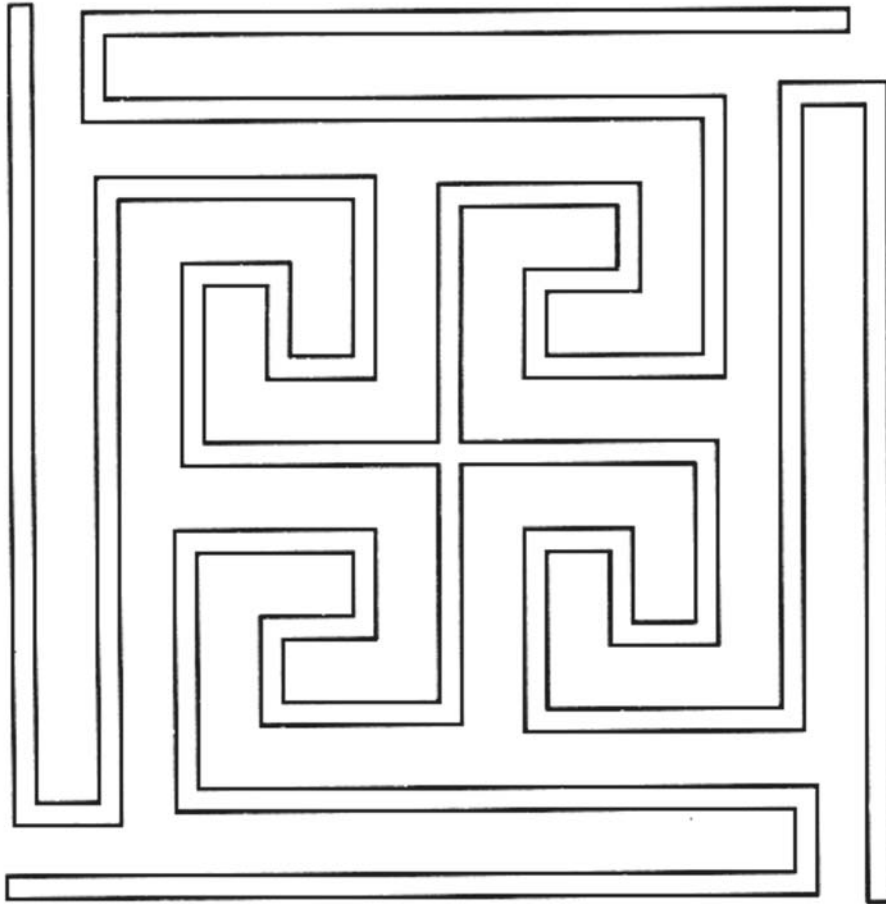
17. GOAT (CHHÄG)

Länchhan for Kunthunäth



18. NANDÄVARTA

Länchhan for Aranäth



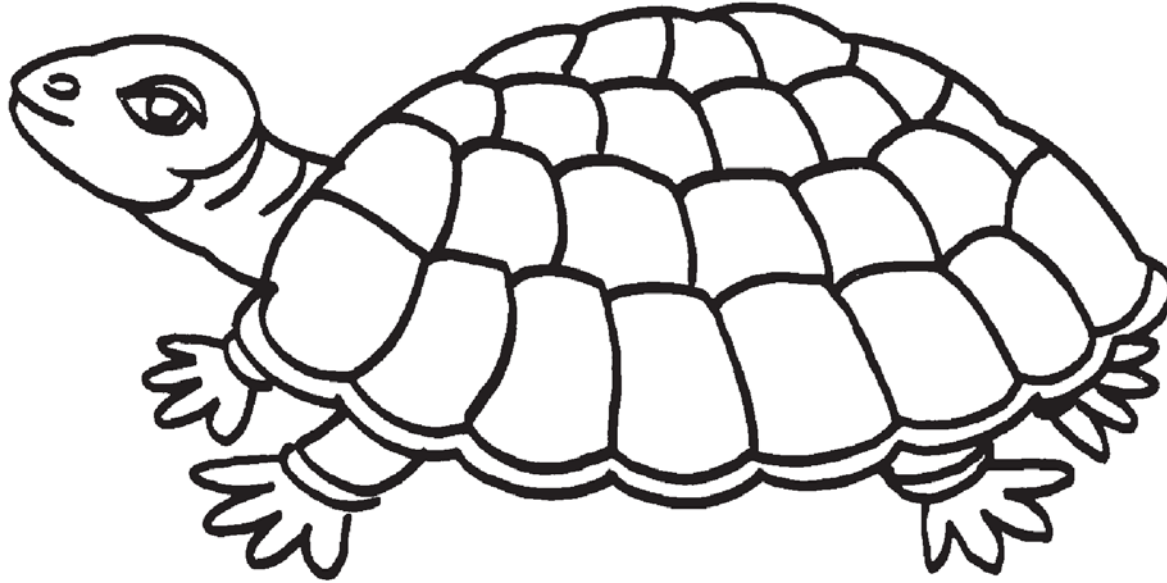
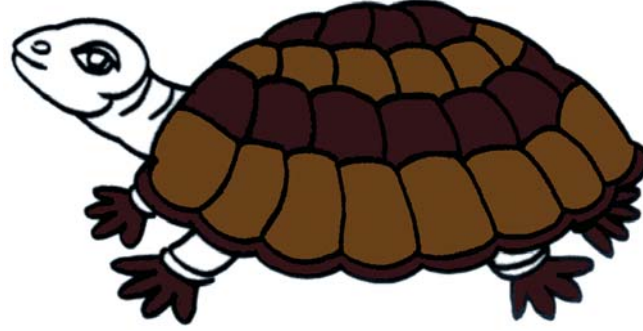
19. POT (KUMBHA)

Lānchhan for Mallināth



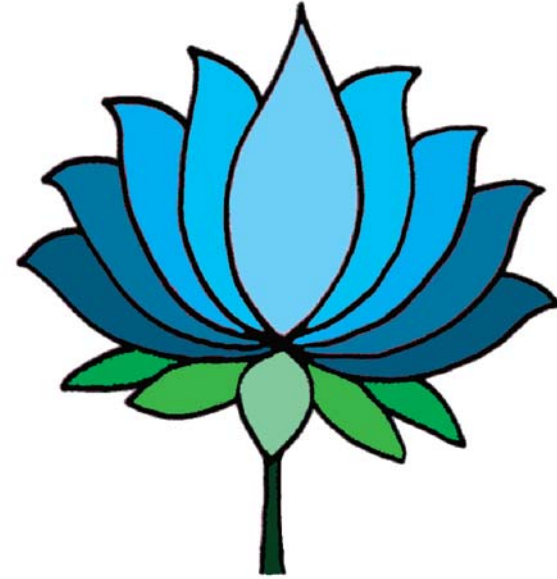
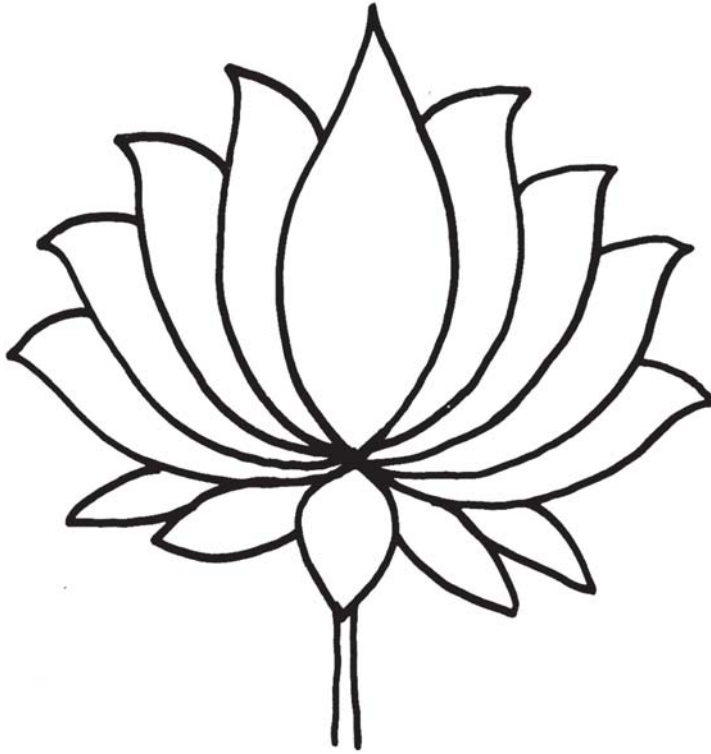
20. TORTOISE (KURMA)

Länchhan for Munisuvrat-swämi



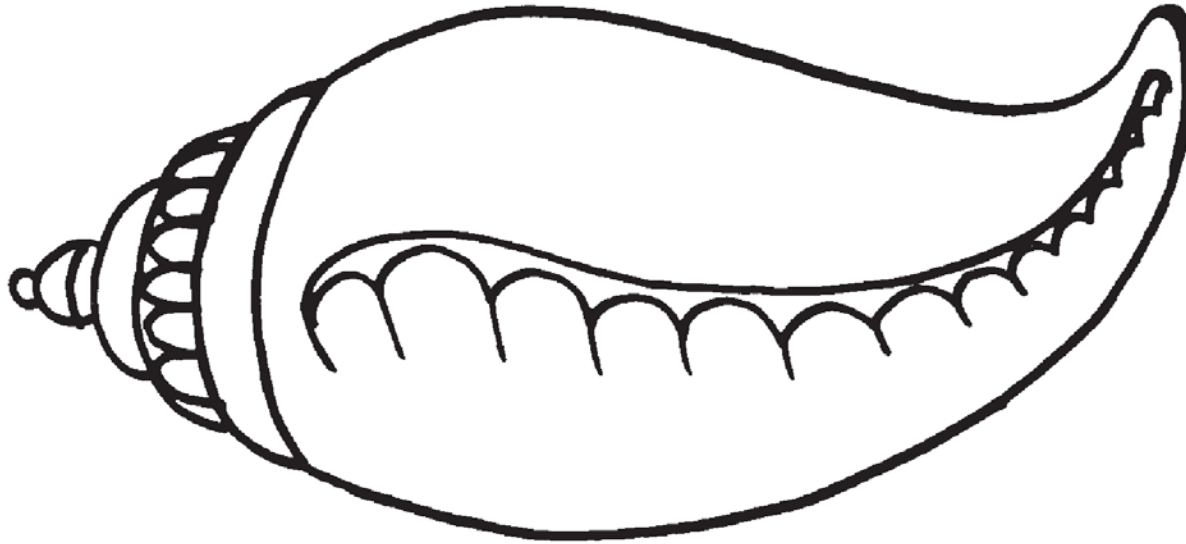
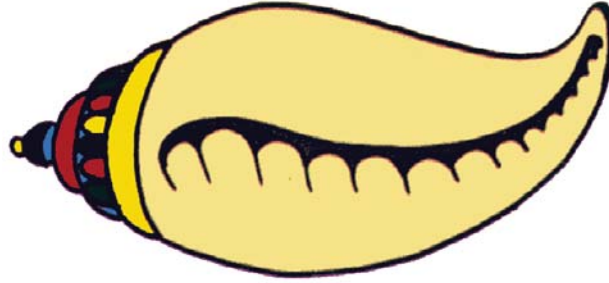
21. BLUE LOTUS (NEEL KAMAL)

Länchhan for Naminäth



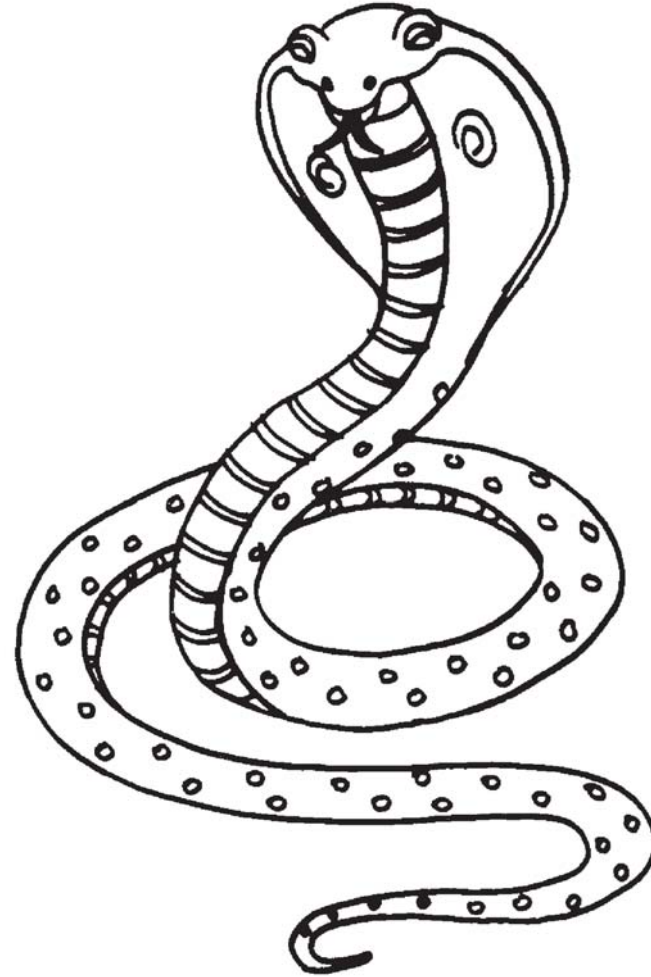
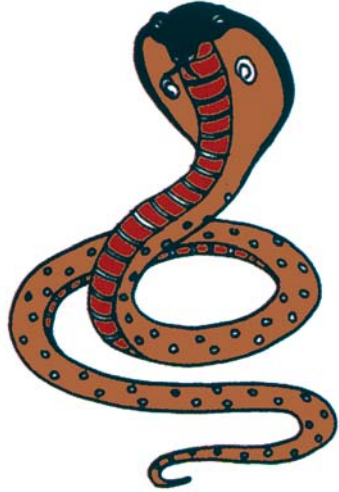
22. CONCH SHELL (SHANKH)

Länchhan for Neminäth



23. SNAKE (SARP)

Länchhan for Pärshvanäth



24. LION (SINH)

Länchhan for Mahävirsvämi

