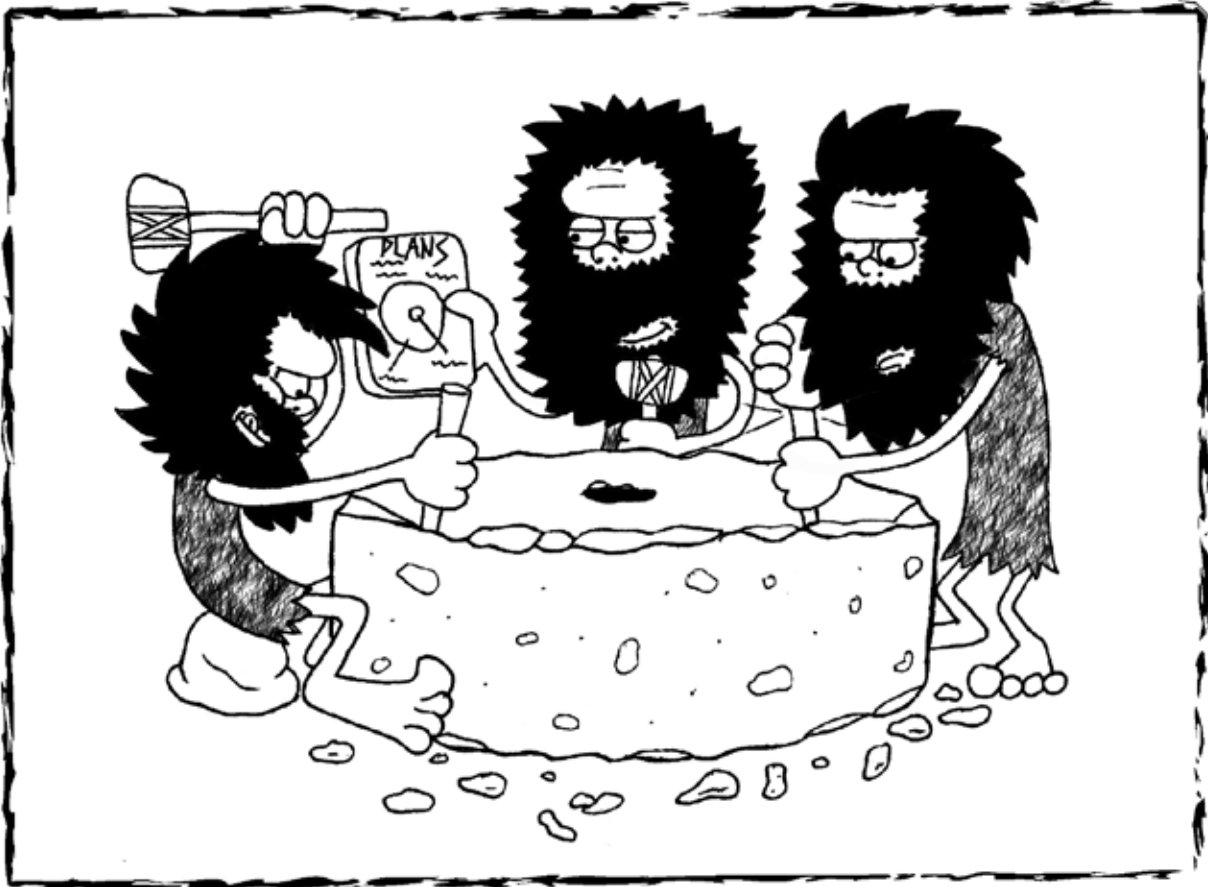


# Ogs, Zogs and Useful Cogs

## - A Tale of Teamwork



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Illustrated by Tina Bilbrey

# Ogs, Zogs and Useful Cogs

A Tale of Teamwork  
From Famine to Feast



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Dedicated to  
our children.  
Together as a team all  
problems are solvable.

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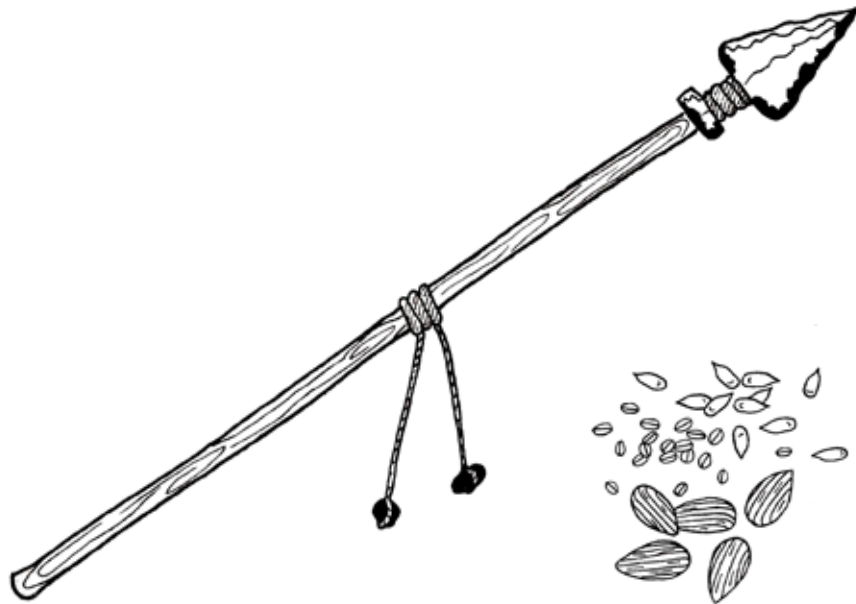
# Introduction

**Ogs, Zogs and Useful Cogs** is a story about two competing tribes. The Ogs are good hunters and eat well.

The Zogs can't hunt so they gather their food from plants. They are always hungry.

Zee, leader of the Zogs, encourages his team to work together towards the goal of being full.

# The Magic of Zee is Key!



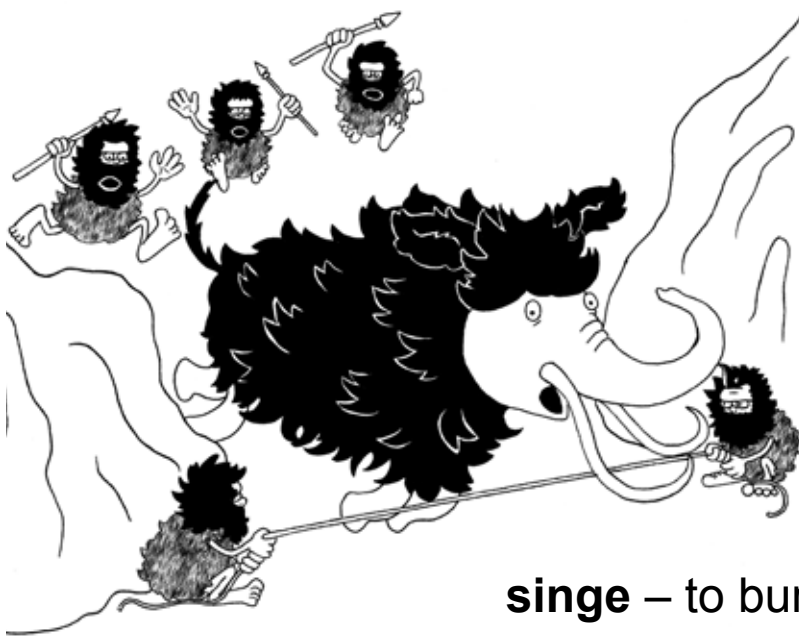
Years ago, two tribes competed for survival. The Ogs successfully hunted mammoths.

The Zogs, unable to hunt, meagerly picked plant produce.

**meager** – sparse, a very little amount  
**produce** – fruits, nuts and vegetables

The Ogs cleverly developed a method to get mammoths. Long wooden spears are made. The sharpened end is singed in a fire to make it stronger. The skilled hunters work as a team.

One group chases the animals to where another group trips the beasts. Next, all help with the hunt and then participate in the feast that follows. All are full.



**singe** – to burn a little bit

The Zogs have given up hunting after many unsuccessful attempts.

They scrape out subsistence, gathering from nature. They are always hungry.

**subsistence** – just barely enough to eat to stay alive

One night, the famished view the  
fires of those who are feasting. The  
Zogs long for something better.





**feast** – to eat a lot of great food

Zee, leader of the Zogs, views their dinner of scant vittles. He determines to create a cuisine change.

**scant** – not very much

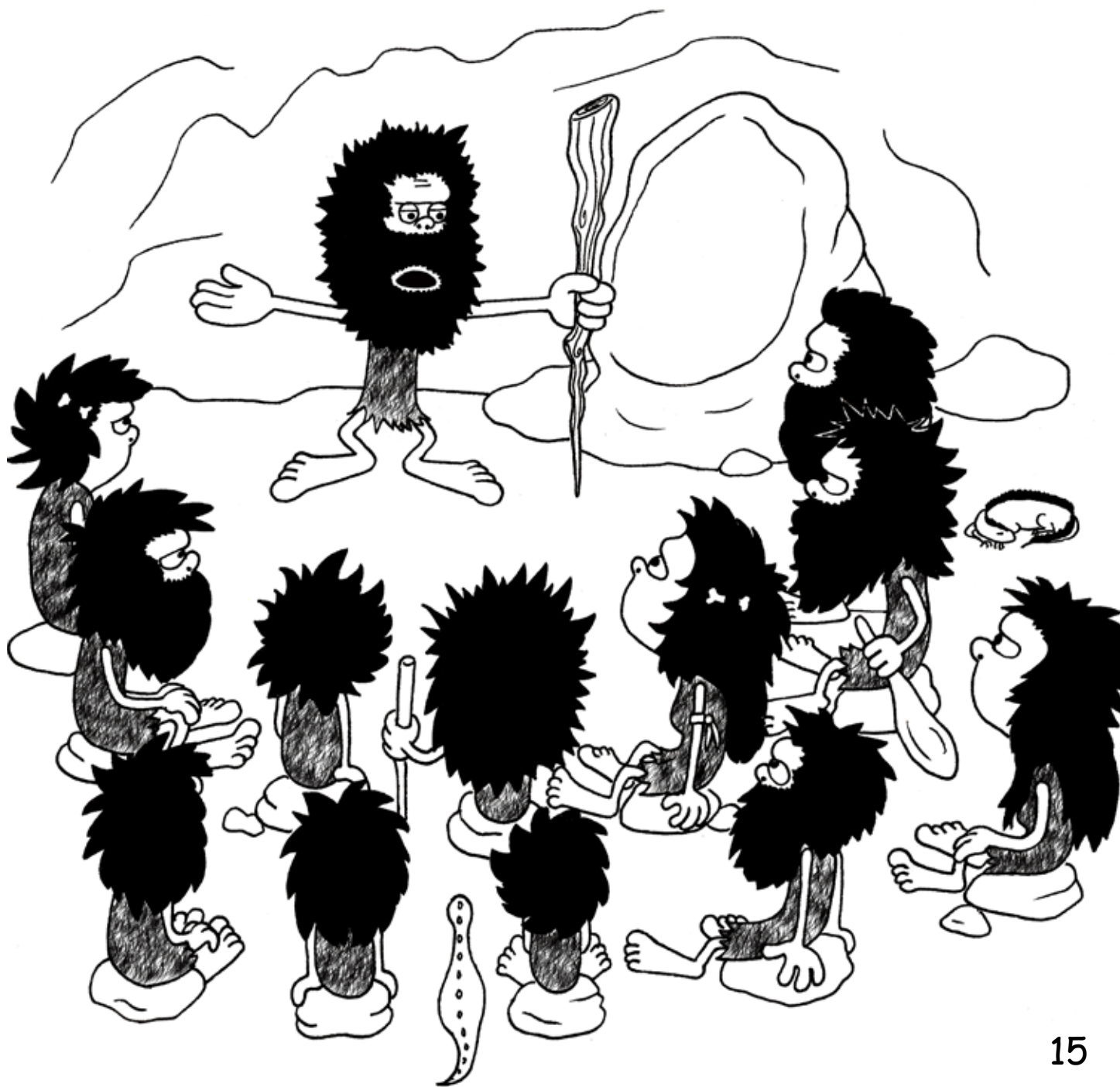
**vittles** – plain food

**cuisine** – fancy food



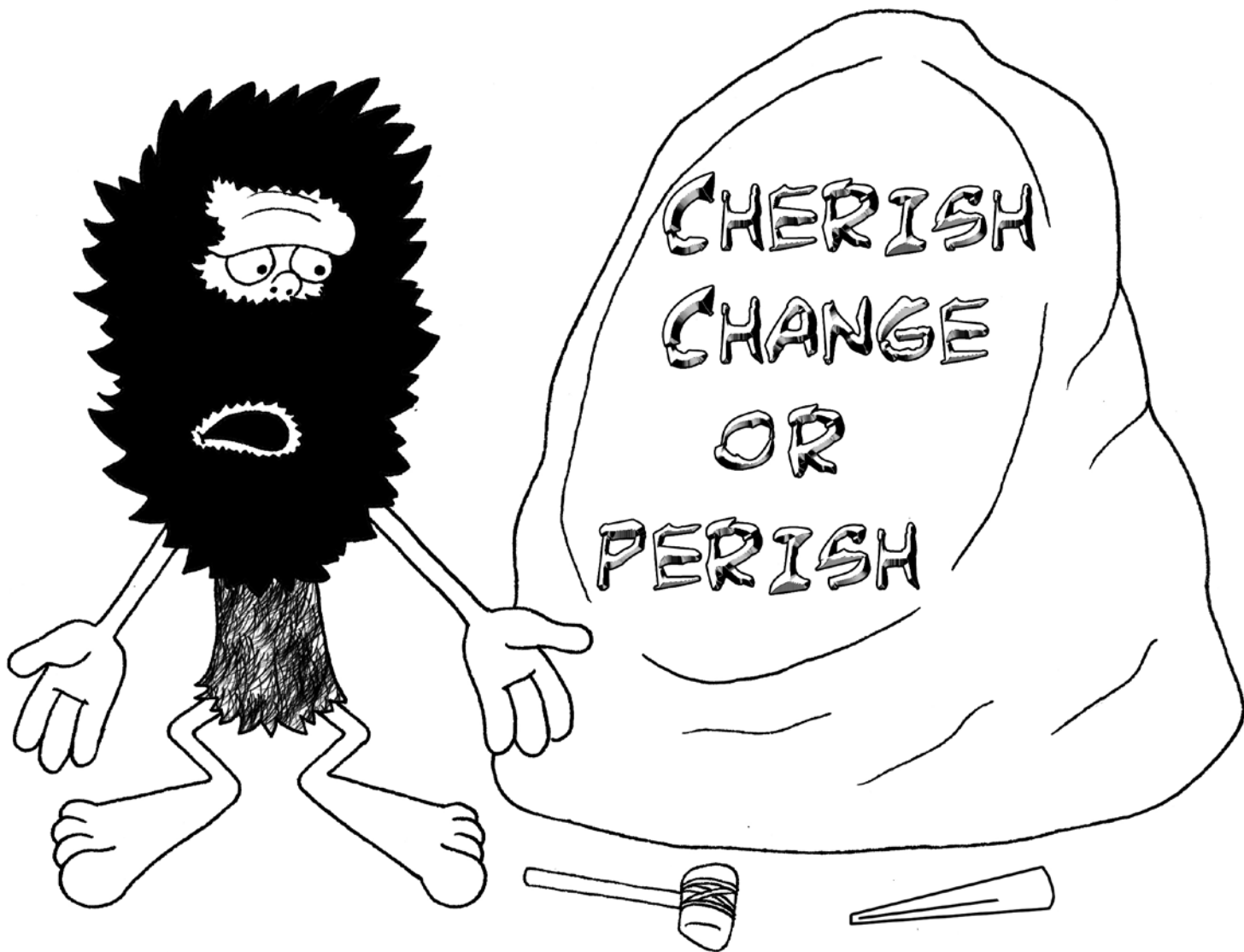
Zee convenes a crisis council. He speaks with the crowd. "Welcome to this Great Gathering of Gatherers."

**convene** – to call people together for a purpose  
**crisis council** – a meeting to discuss a problem  
**gather** – to pick food from plants



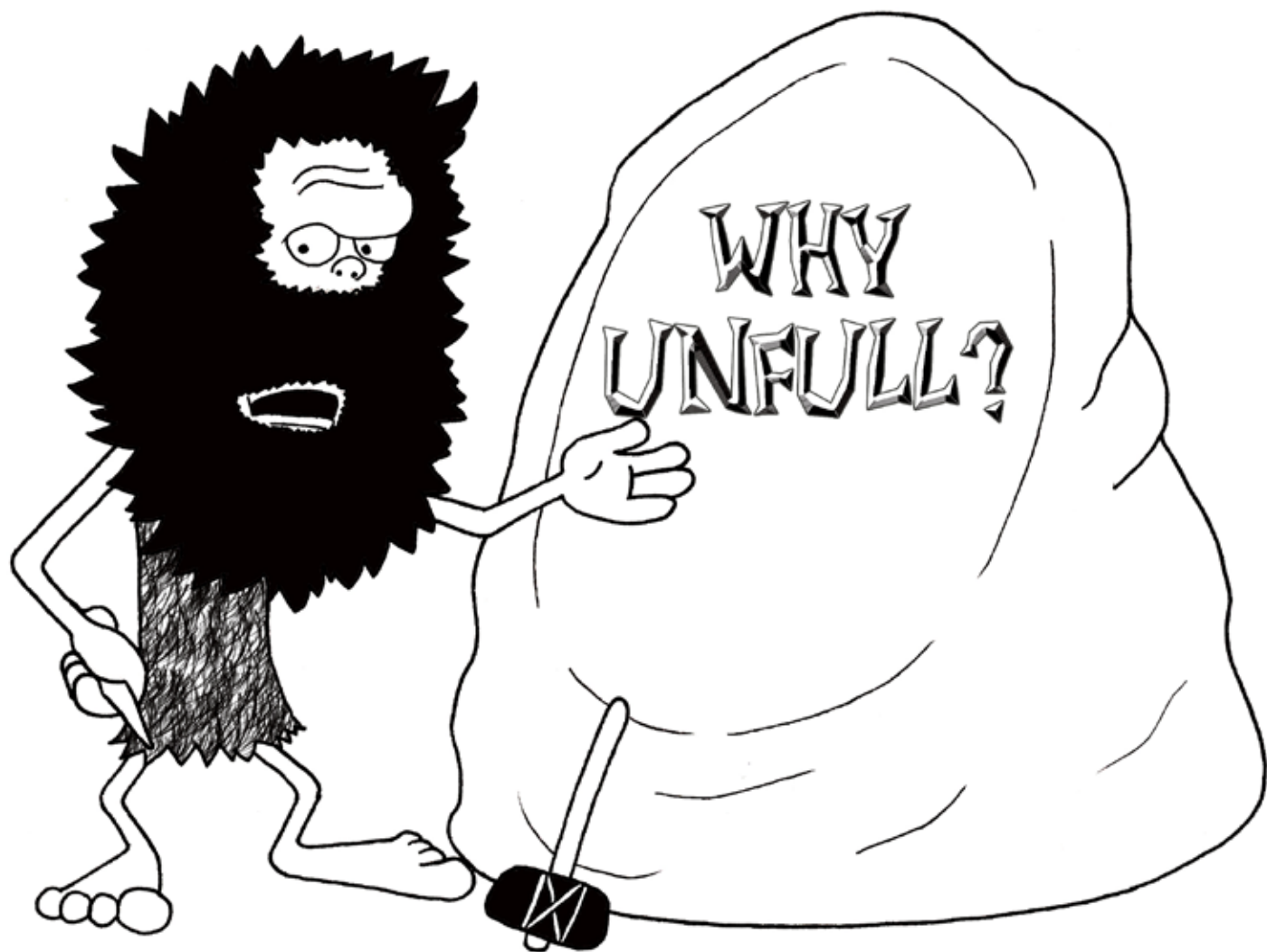
Zee continues, "see the Ogs  
for they do feast on beasts. We Zogs  
must cherish change or perish," he  
pledges!

**cherish** – to appreciate  
**perish** – to die



Zee patiently pauses and then pleades. "Why are the Zogs unfull and what do we do about it?"

**plead** – to ask with emotion



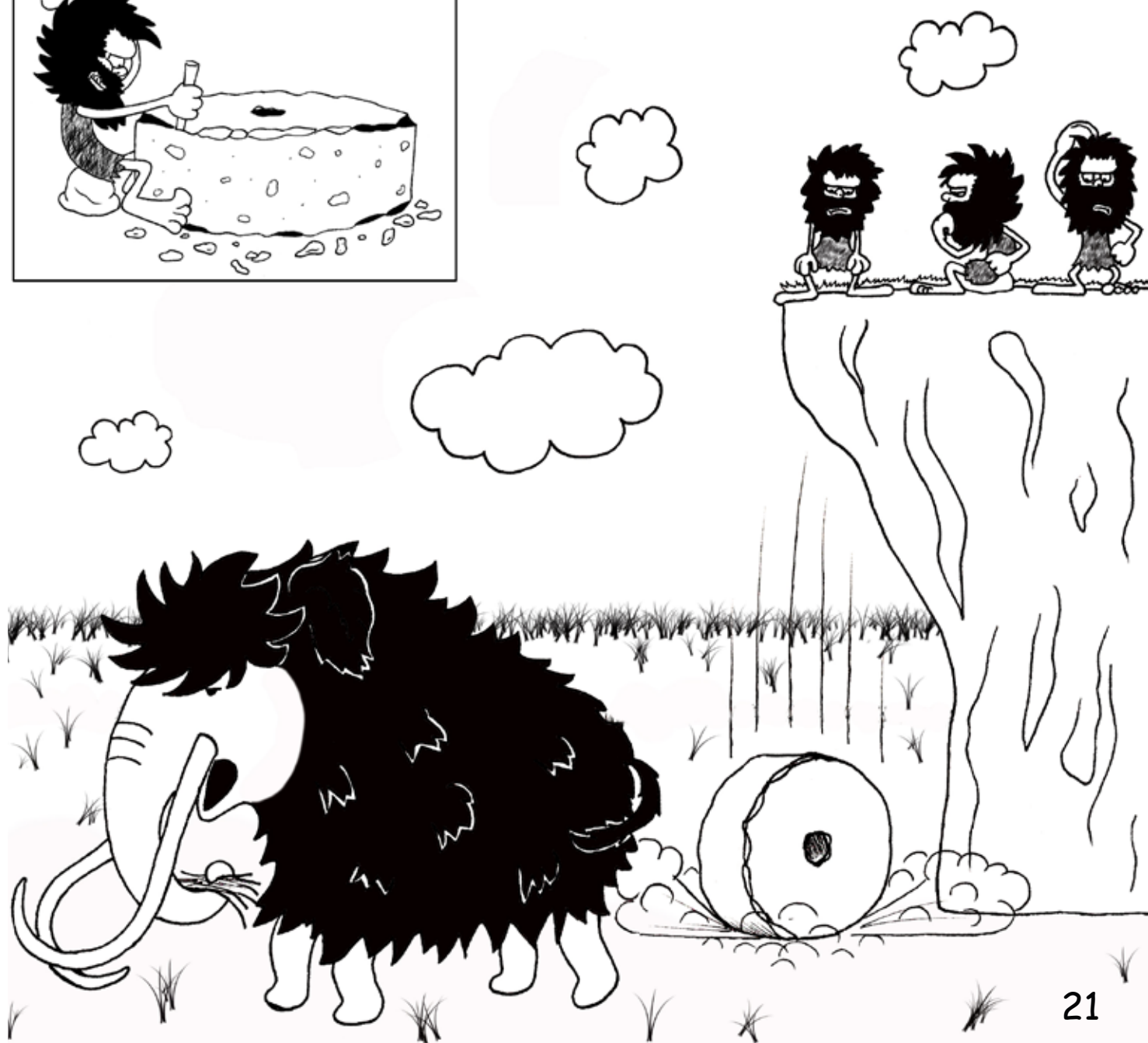
One who carves round rocks called  
cogs suggests rolling them onto the  
mammoth.

The Zogs try this. They fail.  
Undeterred they persevere!

**cog** – something round and useful

**undeter** – to stay focused

**persevere** – to keep trying to reach a goal



Zee takes the cog from the recently failed hunt and carves upon it. "SEE FULLY AND SET GOALS."

All ponder their problems. "Why are we hungry and what do we do about it?"

**ponder** – to think really hard about something

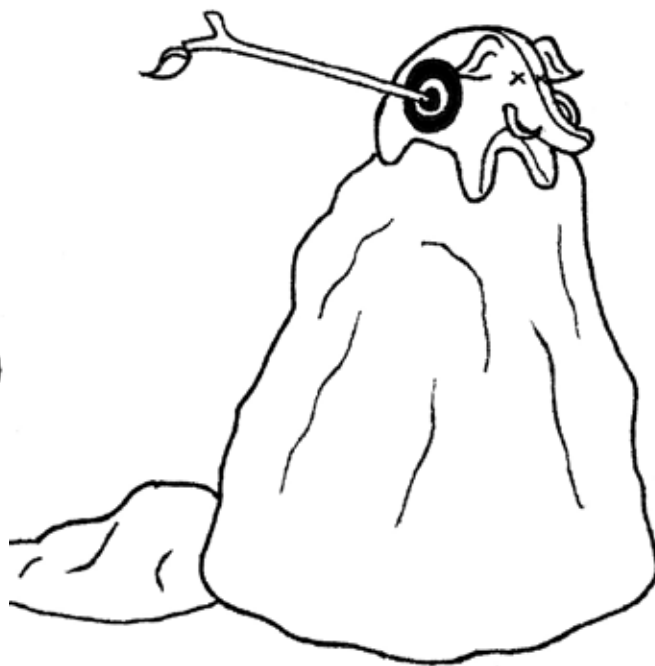
**"see fully"** – look completely at the big picture

**"set goals"** – write down what you want to get done



Meanwhile, in the camp of the full Ogs, a young person notices that a string tied to a bent branch shoots twigs. Many laugh at the playful youth.

The Ogs miss an opportunity to make something that could have helped their hunting.

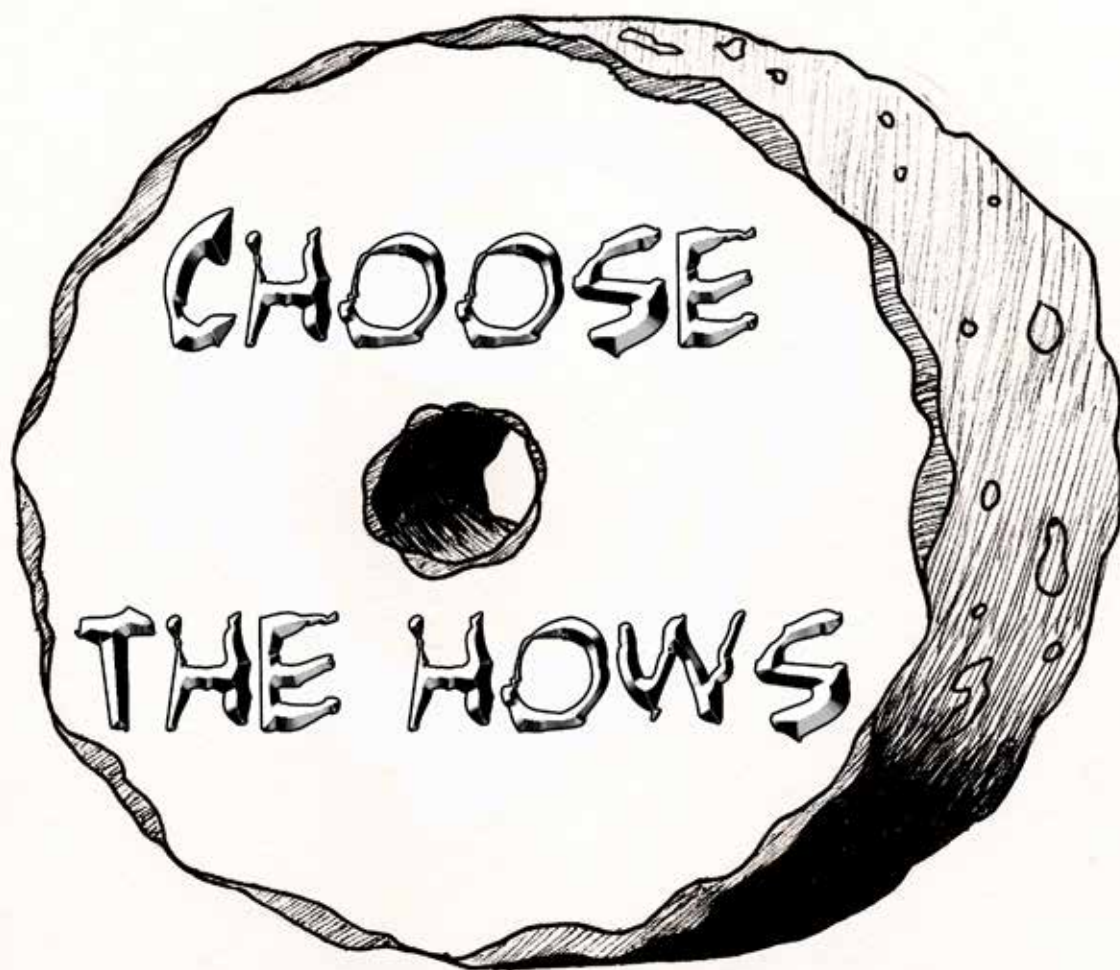


Back at the Zogs, Zee asks "last time we tried to hunt what went wrong? Our spears bounced off the wooly hides" is the reply. "We need better tools," said Zee as he writes on the second cog. "CHOOSE THE HOWS!"

A sage remarks, "what about the flowing rocks?" He had noticed that some rocks near fire leak something strong and shiny called metal.

**"choose the hows"** – to decide actions  
needed to accomplish a goal

**sage** – a smart person



By now the Zogs are excited! "What can we do?" they exclaim!

Zee writes on the third cog. "EACH KNOW THEIR PART."

They agree to meet early the next morning.

**exclaim** – to shout with energy  
**"each know their part"** – everyone  
knows what they should do

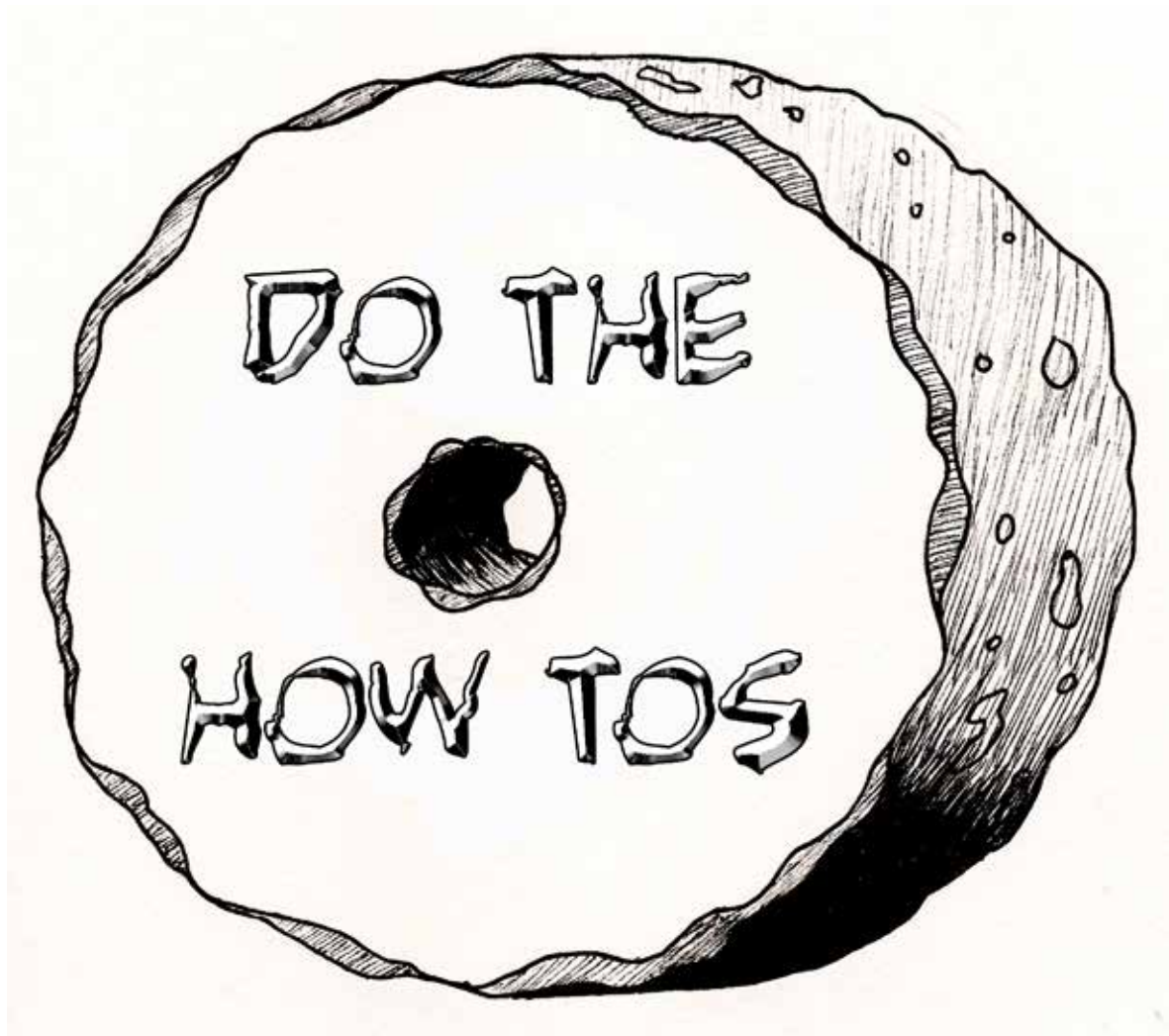


At dawn, the Zogs come together as Zee finishes the words on the fourth cog.  
"DO THE HOW TOs."

Actions are assigned to all team members. An eager, small group set off to the source of the rocks.



30 "do the how tos" – do the actions that lead to the goal

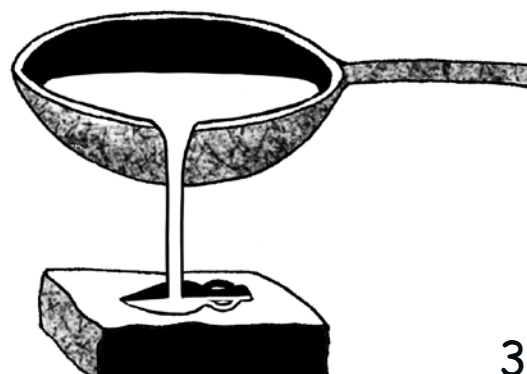
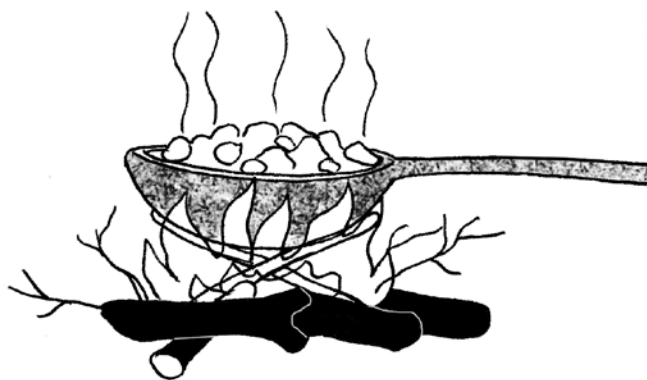
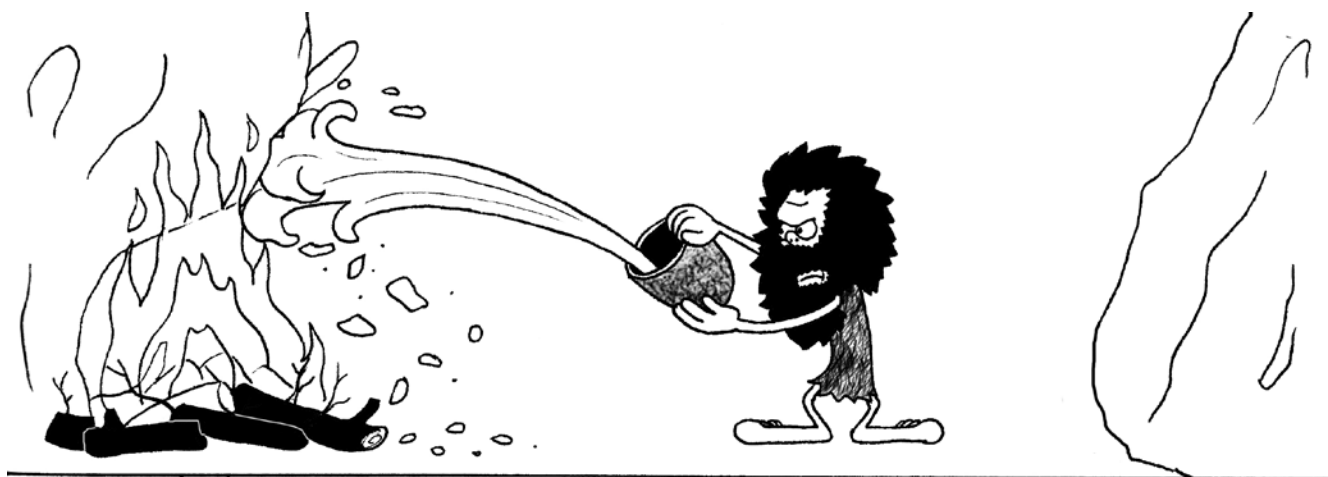


They build a big fire at the rock face and wait. Nothing happens.

Someone in frustration throws water at the hot rocks. They shatter. The Zogs heat the pieces to get metal. They then cast the copper into spear heads.



**frustration** – very discouraged, upset  
**cast** – to pour hot liquid metal into a mold



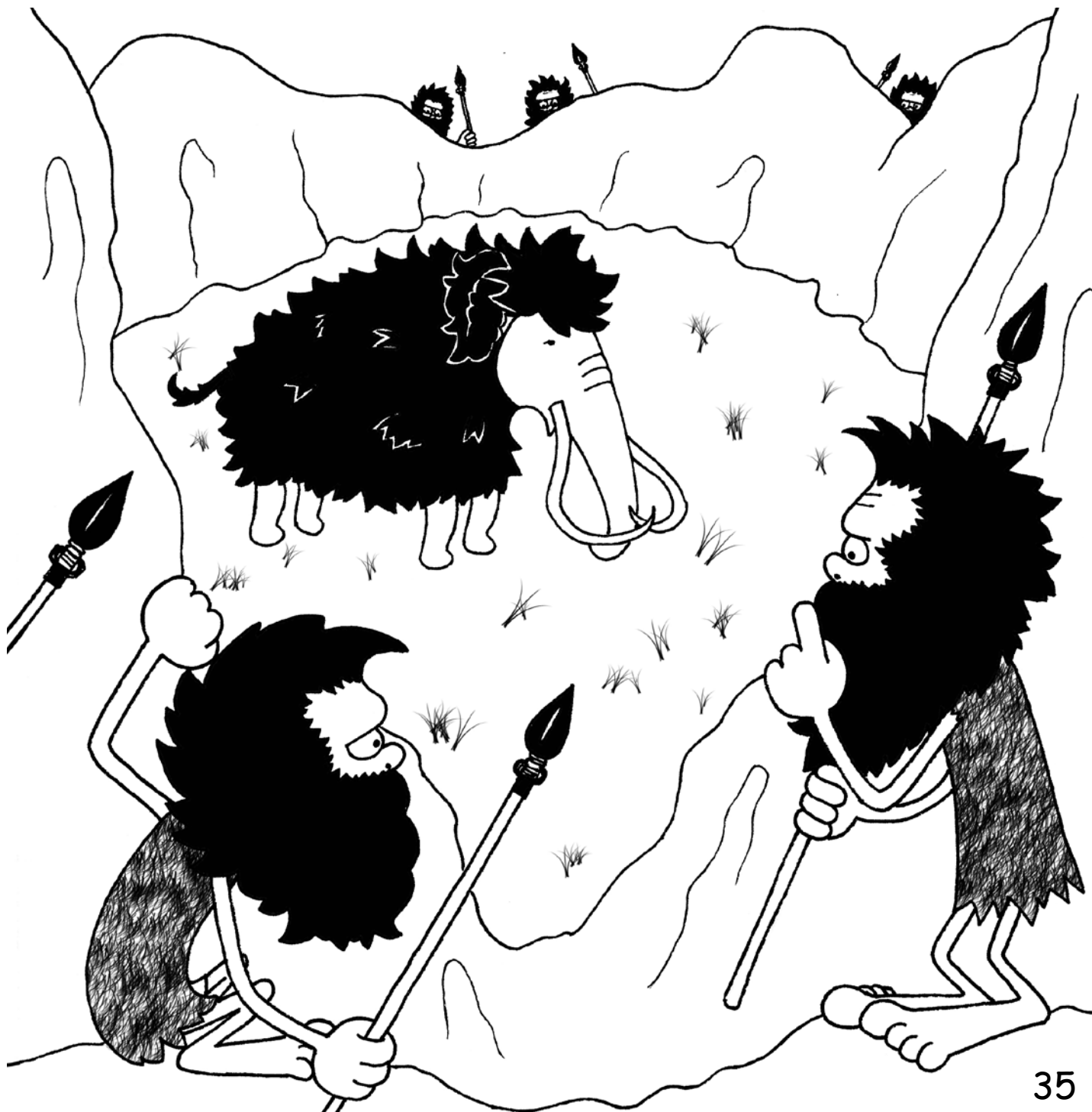
The next day the Zogs try  
out their new cutting edges.

The hunt is successful.

The feast that follows is  
filling. The Zogs are full.

**cutting edge** – sharp part of a spear or knife

*Something new and better is called “cutting edge.”*



The following sunrise the chief calls together the contented crowd.

As the Zogs gather, Zee chisels the final cog, "IMPROVATE."

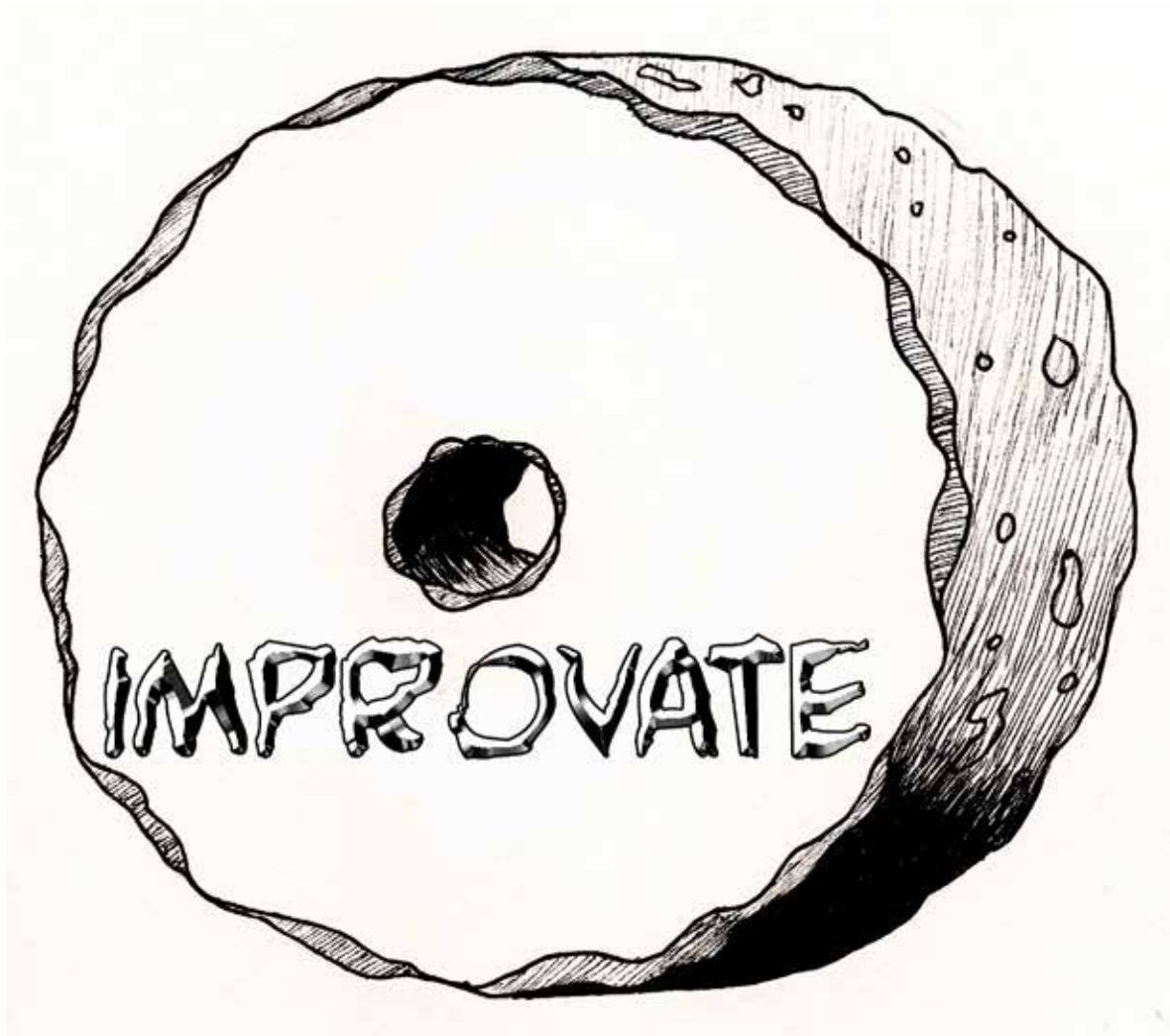
To the puzzled people Zee explains that the seasons change. "We must always improve and innovate. Let's call it 'improvate.' Let not full tummies lead to empty minds!"

**content** – happy, satisfied

**improve** – to make better

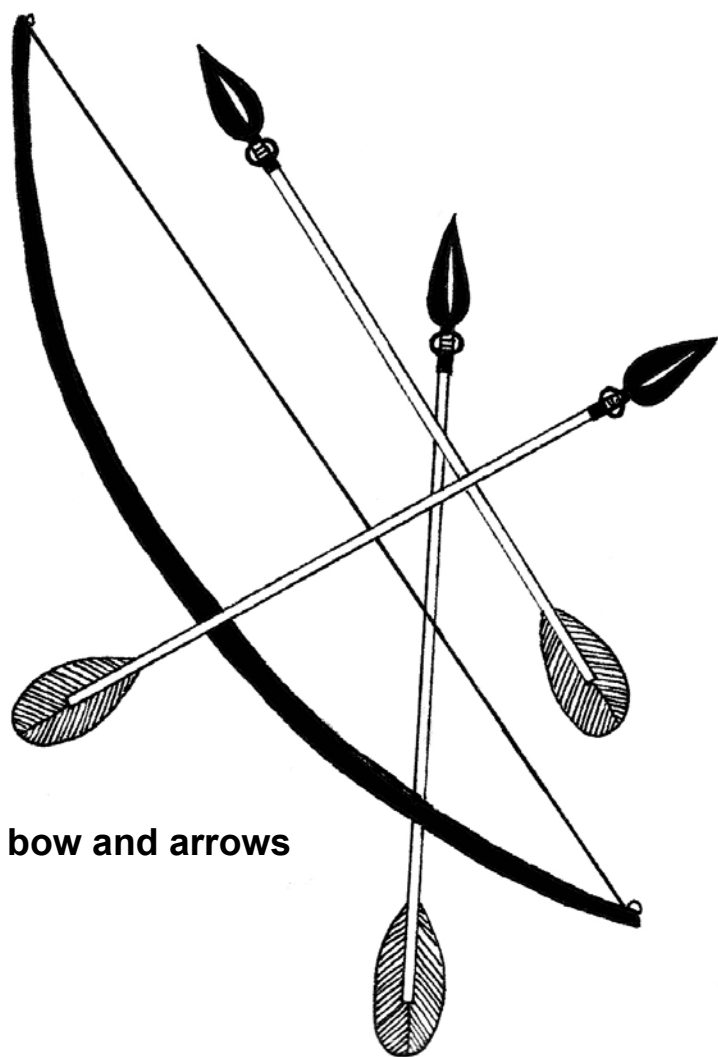
**innovate** – to think of new ideas

**"improvate"** – to think of new & better ways

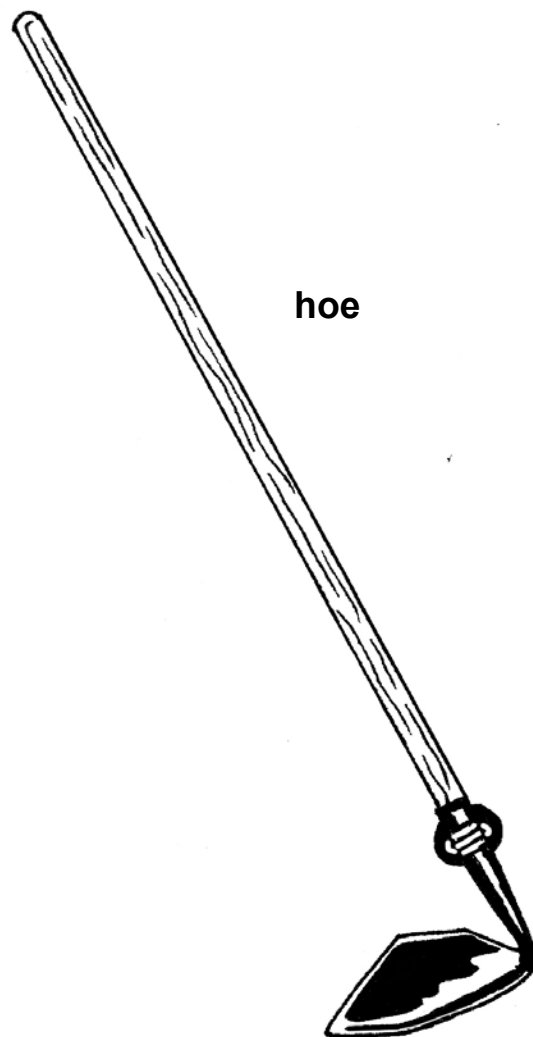


Creative energies and conversations center on new ideas. Prepare for leaner days is their motto and motivation.

**motto** – an idea that leads to action  
**motivation** – reason for doing something



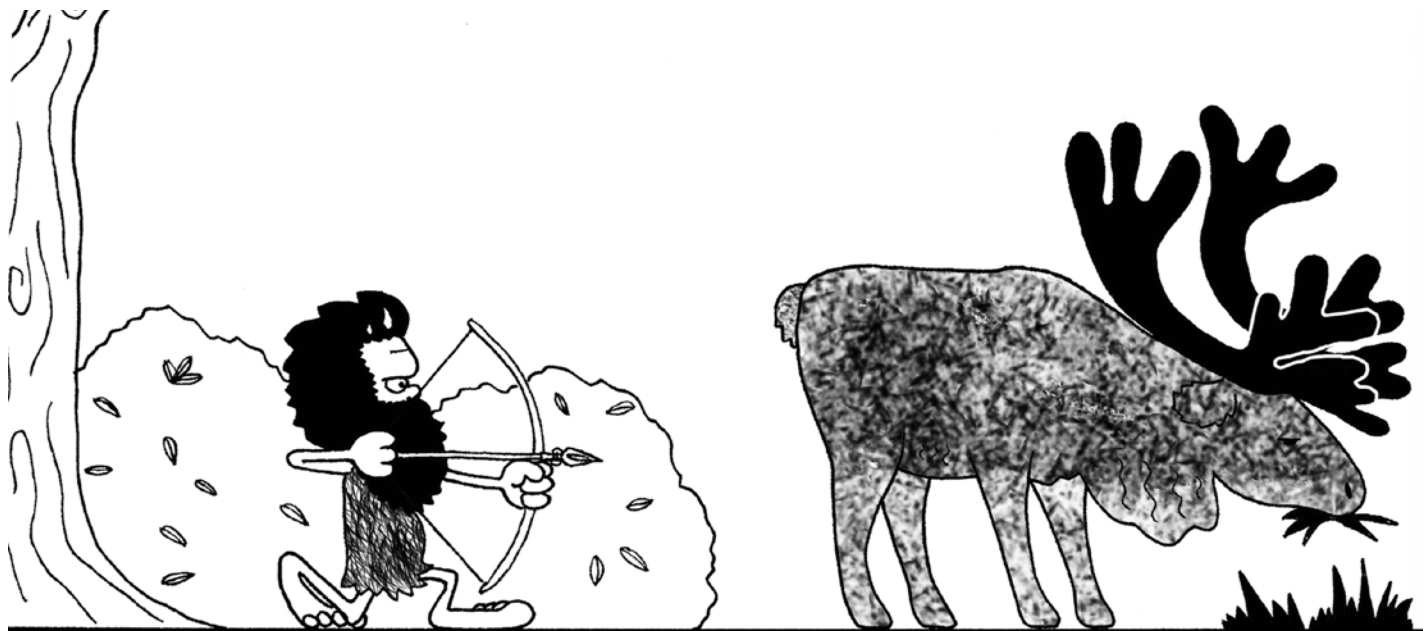
**bow and arrows**



**hoe**

The Zogs figure out new ways to get food like hunting animals and gathering plants. They also learned how to plant seeds and harvest crops.

The other tribe, the Ogs did not change.



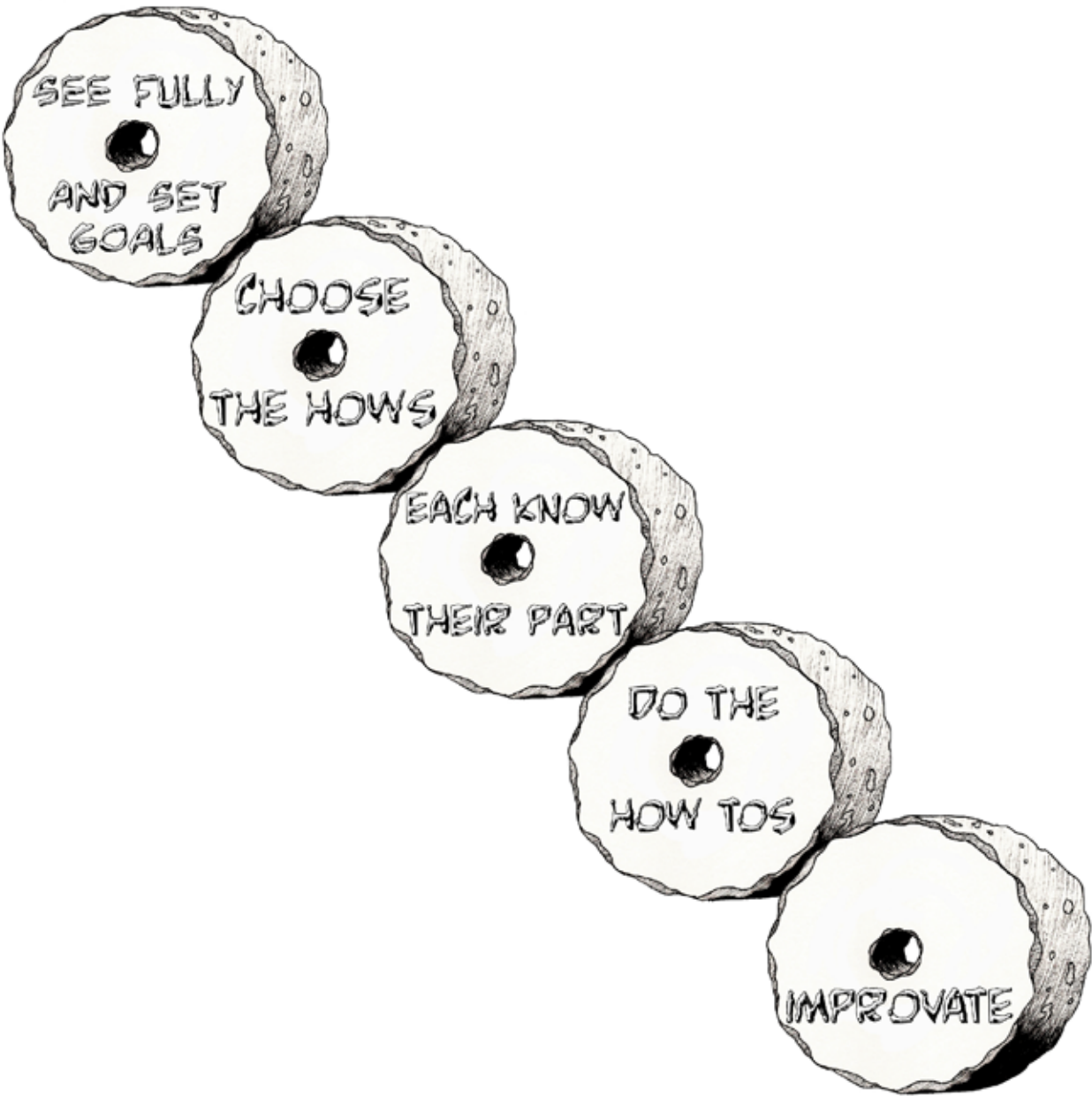
Soon, the ice-age returns. There are no more mammoths. The Ogs become extinct. The Zogs become our ancestors. They successfully hunted and feasted together.

Today, we still work in teams to achieve our goals!

**extinct** – to die out, to no longer be alive  
**ancestor** – relative who lived before us



Famine



# **Zee's cognitive magic is:**

## **SEE FULLY AND SET GOALS**

Look at the big picture  
Write down end result working for

## **CHOOSE THE HOWS**

Decide the actions to get the goal

## **EACH KNOW THEIR PART**

All know what to do for the goal

## **DO THE HOW TOS**

Do actions that lead to the goal

## **IMPROVATE**

Think of new and better ways

**cognitive** – thoughtfully learned

# Glossary

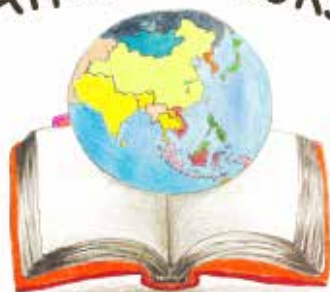
<b><u>Word</u></b>	<b><u>Definition</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>ancestor</b>	a relative who lived before you; for example, my dad's great-grandfather is my ancestor	<b>43</b>
<b>cast</b>	to pour hot liquid metal into a mold	<b>33</b>
<b>cherish</b>	to really appreciate	<b>17</b>
<b>choose the hows</b>	to decide actions needed to accomplish a goal	<b>27</b>
<b>cog</b>	something round and useful	<b>21</b>
<b>cognitive</b>	thoughtfully learned	<b>45</b>
<b>content</b>	happy, satisfied	<b>37</b>
<b>convene</b>	to call people together for a purpose	<b>15</b>
<b>crisis council</b>	a group of people meeting to discuss a problem	<b>15</b>
<b>cuisine</b>	fancy food	<b>13</b>
<b>cutting edge</b>	sharp part of a spear or knife; today we say that something new and better is "cutting edge"	<b>35</b>
<b>do the how tos</b>	do the actions that lead to the goal	<b>31</b>
<b>each know their part</b>	everyone understands what they each must do to help the team achieve their goal	<b>29</b>
<b>exclaim</b>	yell or shout with energy	<b>29</b>
<b>extinct</b>	to die out, to no longer be alive; for example, dinosaurs are extinct	<b>43</b>
<b>famish</b>	to be very hungry	<b>10</b>
<b>feast</b>	to eat a lot of great food	<b>11</b>
<b>frustration</b>	very discouraged, disappointed, upset	<b>33</b>
<b>gather</b>	to pick food from plants	<b>14</b>

<b><u>Word</u></b>	<b><u>Definition</u></b>	<b><u>Page</u></b>
<b>improvate</b>	to think of new ways to do something better	37
<b>improve</b>	to make better	37
<b>innovate</b>	to think of new ideas	37
<b>meager</b>	sparse, a very little amount	7
<b>motivation</b>	reason for doing something	39
<b>motto</b>	an idea that leads to action	39
<b>opportunity</b>	a good chance to do something new	25
<b>perish</b>	to die	17
<b>persevere</b>	to keep trying to reach a goal	21
<b>plead</b>	to ask with emotion	19
<b>ponder</b>	to think really hard about something important	23
<b>produce</b>	fruits and vegetables	7
<b>product</b>	the result of something that is made to sell	48
<b>sage</b>	a smart person	27
<b>scant</b>	not very much	13
<b>see fully</b>	look completely at the big picture; for example, use a camera to take a wide view picture	23
<b>set goals</b>	write down the end results you want to get done	23
<b>singe</b>	to scorch, to burn a little	8
<b>subsistence</b>	just barely enough to eat to stay alive	9
<b>undeter</b>	to stay focused	21
<b>vittles</b>	plain food	13

Today, teams use the cogs to be successful. Look around our complex world. It is full of things made by teams. For example, teams make cars, camcorders and computers. Alone we have ideas, together we turn them into products!

**product** – the result, something that is made to sell

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# Common Come-Froms



Two groups of people compete for survival.  
The Ogs hunt mammoths. The Zogs individually  
gather their food from plants.

This is a story of confronting conflicts and  
overcoming obstacles. With vision and motivation,  
people work together to go from famine to feast.

**Ogs, Zogs and Useful Cogs** is a tale about  
teamwork. Cuisine and climate changes lead to  
a surprising climax.

