

# ANTONIO AND THE WARU WARU

(ANTUKUQ WARU WARUN)

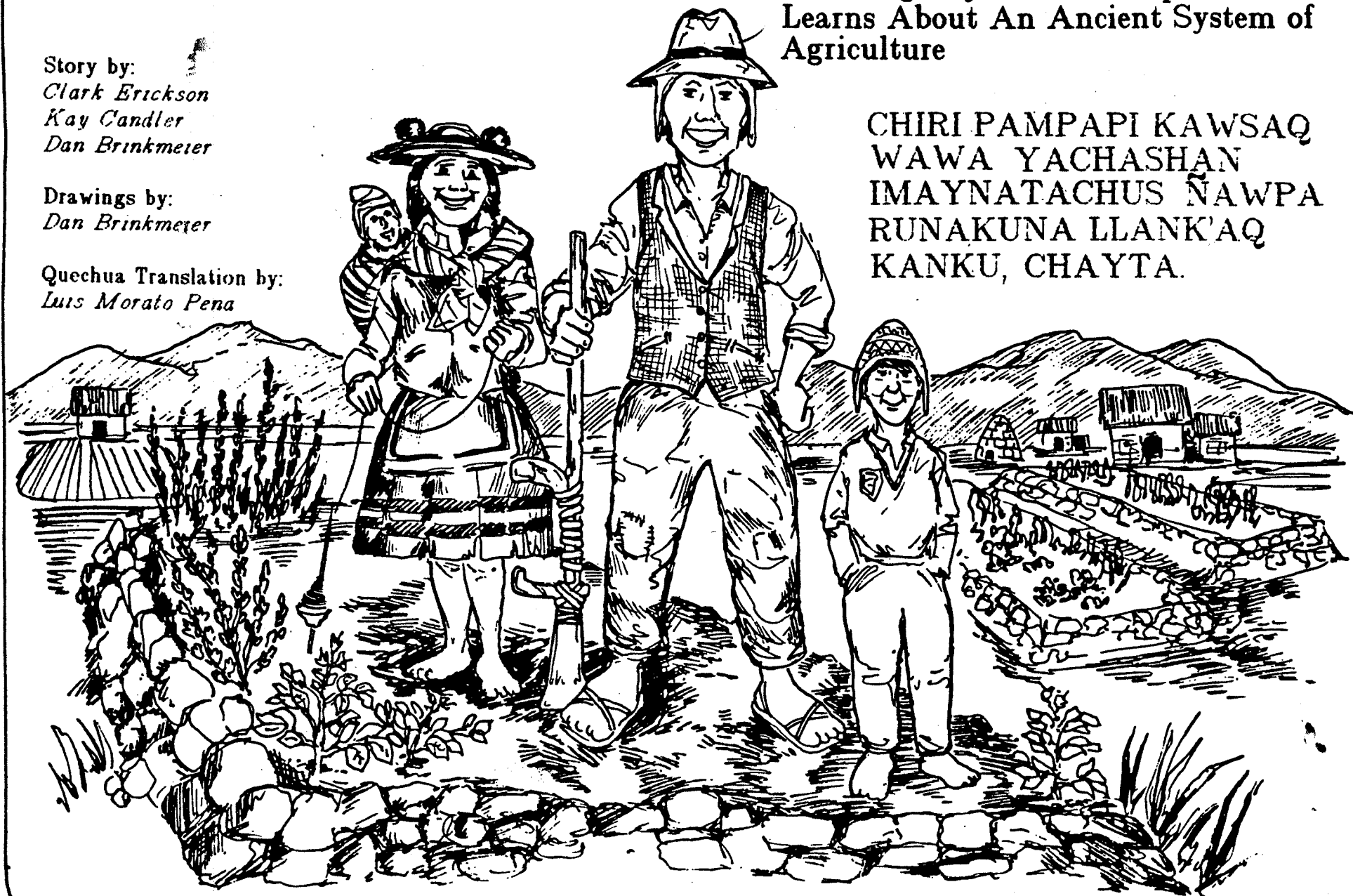
A Young Boy on the Pampa of Peru  
Learns About An Ancient System of  
Agriculture

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CHIRI PAMPAPI KAWSAQ  
WAWA YACHASHAN  
IMAYNATACHUS NAWPA  
RUNAKUNA LLANK'AQ  
KANKU, CHAYTA.



Antonio had always wondered about the waru waru that were near his family's house on the pampa. Who had built them? What had they been used for?

Antukuq wasinqa hatun chiri pampapi. Chay wasin qayllapiqa askha waru waru kasqa. Chay waru waruta rikuspa Antukuqa sapallan sonqon ukhupi kay hinata riman: ¿Pikunachus kay waru waruta ruwankuman karqa? ¿Imaynatachus chaypi tarpuq kankupis?



Antonio thought to himself, "Papa always says that this pampa land is only good for pasture. The night frosts kill our potatoes and the soil is poor, too. Our fields on the far hillsides don't produce enough food for our family."

Antukuq tatánqa kay hinata rimaq kasqa:  
"Manaña kúnanqa kay hallp'api ni iman  
rurunachu, chayrayku  
may karupi, orqo patapi  
llank'amuyku. Haqaypipis  
manañan sumaqtachu  
rurun, manañan mikhunaqa  
watantinpaq aypanchu."



(2)

As he watched his father and uncle making wachos, Antonio thought, "aren't the waru waru just like the wachos, only bigger?"

Huk kuti Antukuqa, tatantawan tiyuntawan wachuta  
ruwashaqa rikuspa, kay hinata nisqa: "Kay waru  
waruqa aswan hatunmi wachumanta, ichaqa  
wachu hinallataq."



(3)

Then Antonio's younger sister, Olinda, showed him a kero cup that she had found on a waru waru.

Olindaqa waru warupi llank'aysishaspa huk qeruta tarisqa. Chay qeru tarisqantataq turan Antukuman rikuchisqa.



Both Antonio and Olinda wondered if the pottery had been made by ancient people living on the pampa long ago. "Even older than the Incas?" asked Olinda.

Rikuchiqtinqa Antukuqa panan Olindata nisqa:  
"Kaytaqa may unay ñawpa ñawpa runakuna ruwasqaku  
manaraq inkakuna rikhurimushaqtinku."



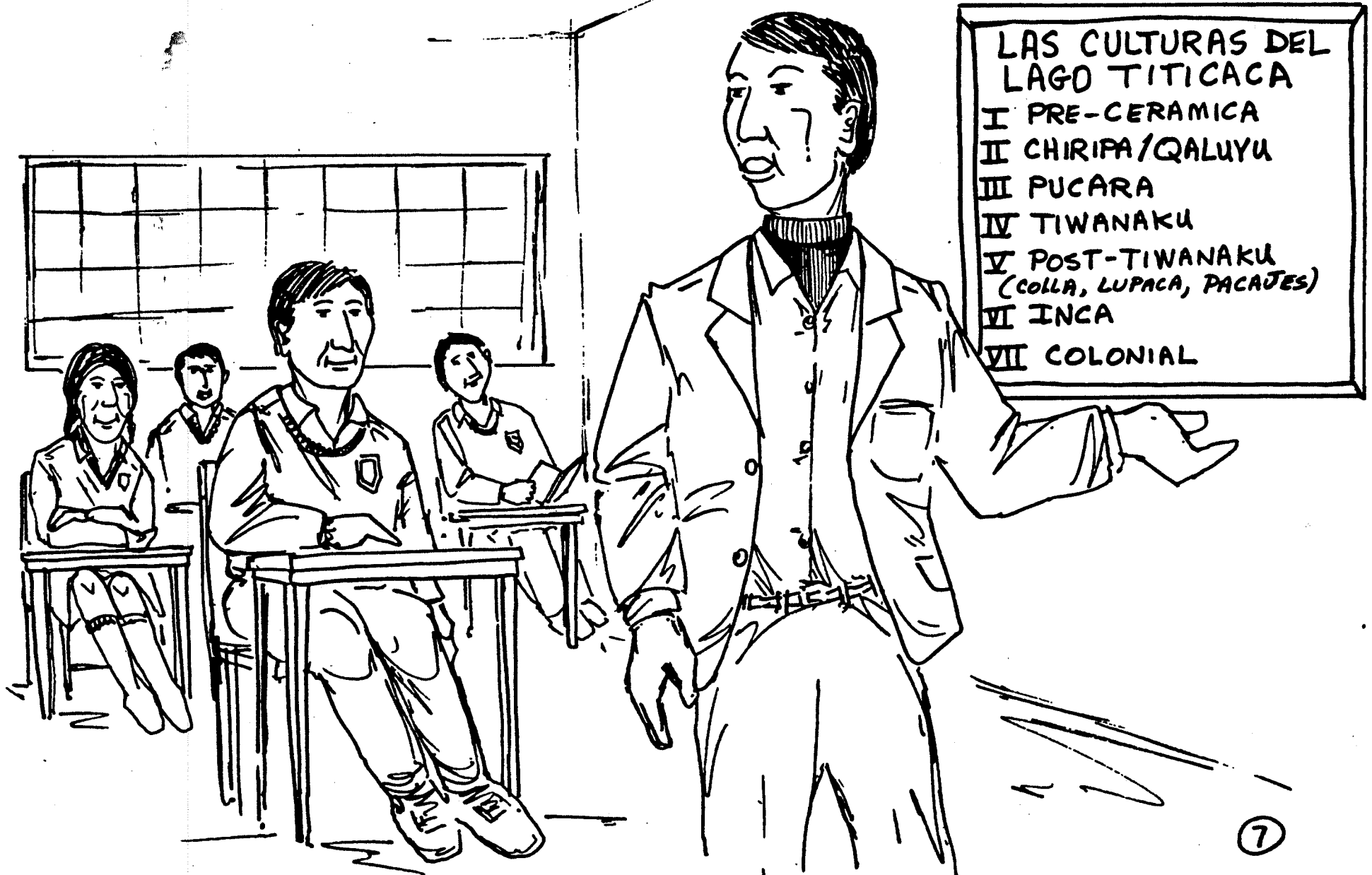
One day an archaeologist came to Antonio's school. He talked about the ancient people who used to live in the pampa.

Huk p'unchayqa Antukuq escuelanman huk wiraqocha arqueólogo chayasqa. Pay chay ñawpa runakunamanta escuelapi rimasqa, pay nisqa, chay pampapi kawsasqankuta llank'aspa uywakunata michispa.



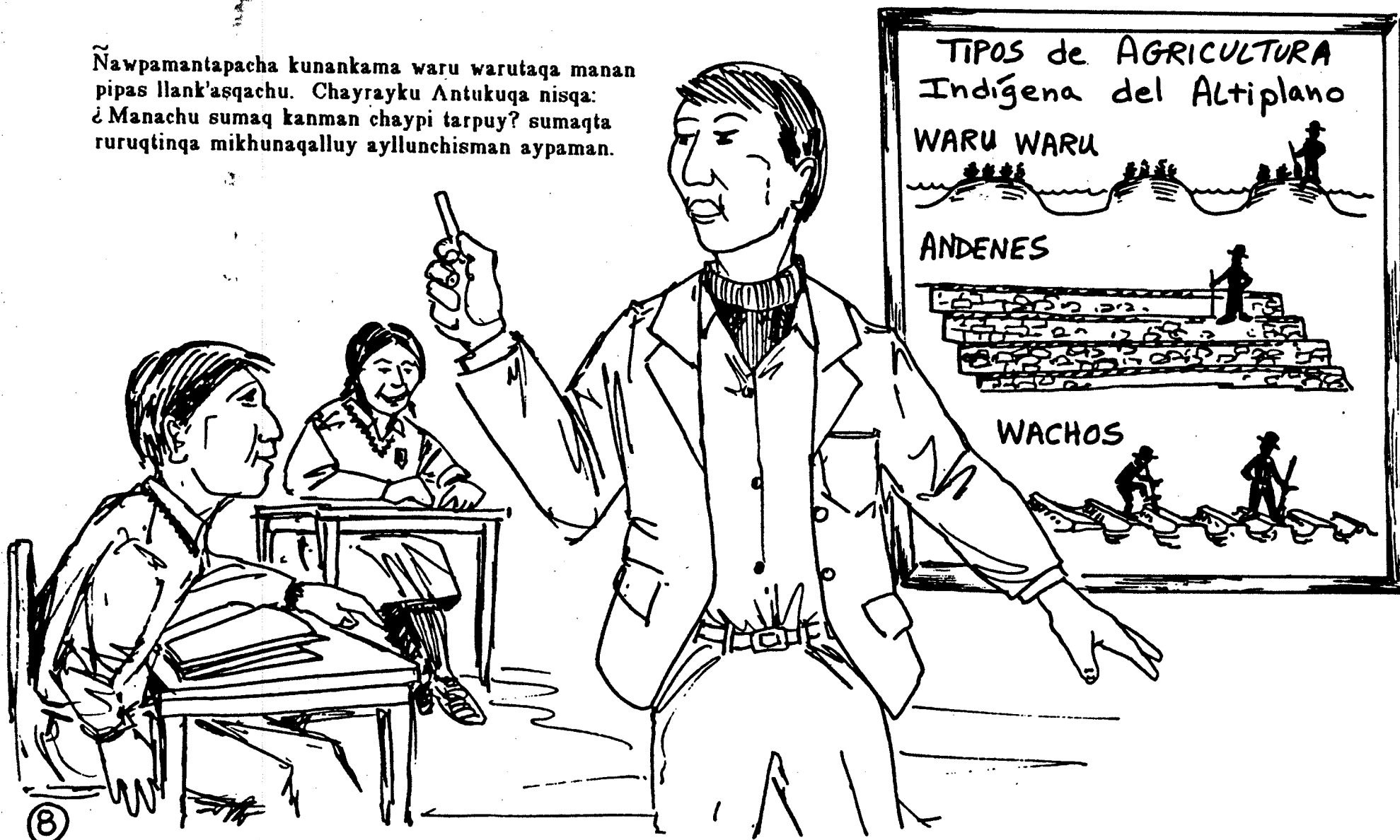
He described the long tradition of agriculture on the pampa, and said that the waru waru were built by an ancient culture so that they could feed a large population.

Chay arqueólogo nisqa, chay ñawpa runakunaqa waru waruta ruwasqaku, chaypi tarpuspa sumaqta ruruchisqaku. Chay pampapiqa askha runa kawsasqaku, llipinkupaqtaq mikhunaqa aypasqa.



He said, "Of all the types of agriculture used by ancient people, only the waru waru are no longer used today." Antonio thought about this, and about how his own family didn't have enough land to grow food.

Ñawpamantapacha kunankama waru warutaqa manan pipas llank'asqachu. Chayrayku Antukuqa nisqa: ¿Manachu sumaq kanman chaypi tarpuy? sumaqta ruruqtinga mikhunaqalluy ayllunchisman aypaman.





The next day, Antonio told Olinda that the pottery they found had been made by people living on the pampa long ago. "Those ancient people," said Antonio, "built the waru waru to feed themselves."

Hojmanta Antukuqa panan Olindaman willasqa chay arqueólogoq rimasqanta. Payqa nisqa, chay ñawpa ñawpa runakunaqa mana qerukunallatachu ruwasqaku, paykunan ruwasqaku chay waru waruta, chaypi tarpuspa sumaqta ruruchisqaku, lluy ayllutaq sumaqta kawsasqaku.



Antonio's father prepared to plant potatoes. Antonio told him how the ancient people had used waru waru to grow food. "We need more farmland," said Antonio, "can't we try to raise potatoes on a waru waru like the ancient people did?"

Antukuq taytan orqopi tarpumunayaqtin, payta Antukuqa nisqa: Nawpa ñawpa runakunaqa kay waru waru tarpuspa kawsasqaku. ¿Manachu noqanchispis paykuna hina kay waru warupi tarpullasunmantaq?



Antonio's father said, "We've got fields in the pampa that we don't need for pasture, and that have old waru waru. Why don't we give it a try?"

Ichapas allin kanman waway. Kay pampaqa hatun hallp'a, uywakunatapis wakin hallp'allapi michinchis, waru warupis tukuyneqpi kashan, chaypi tarpusunchisman chayqa sumaqcha kanman.



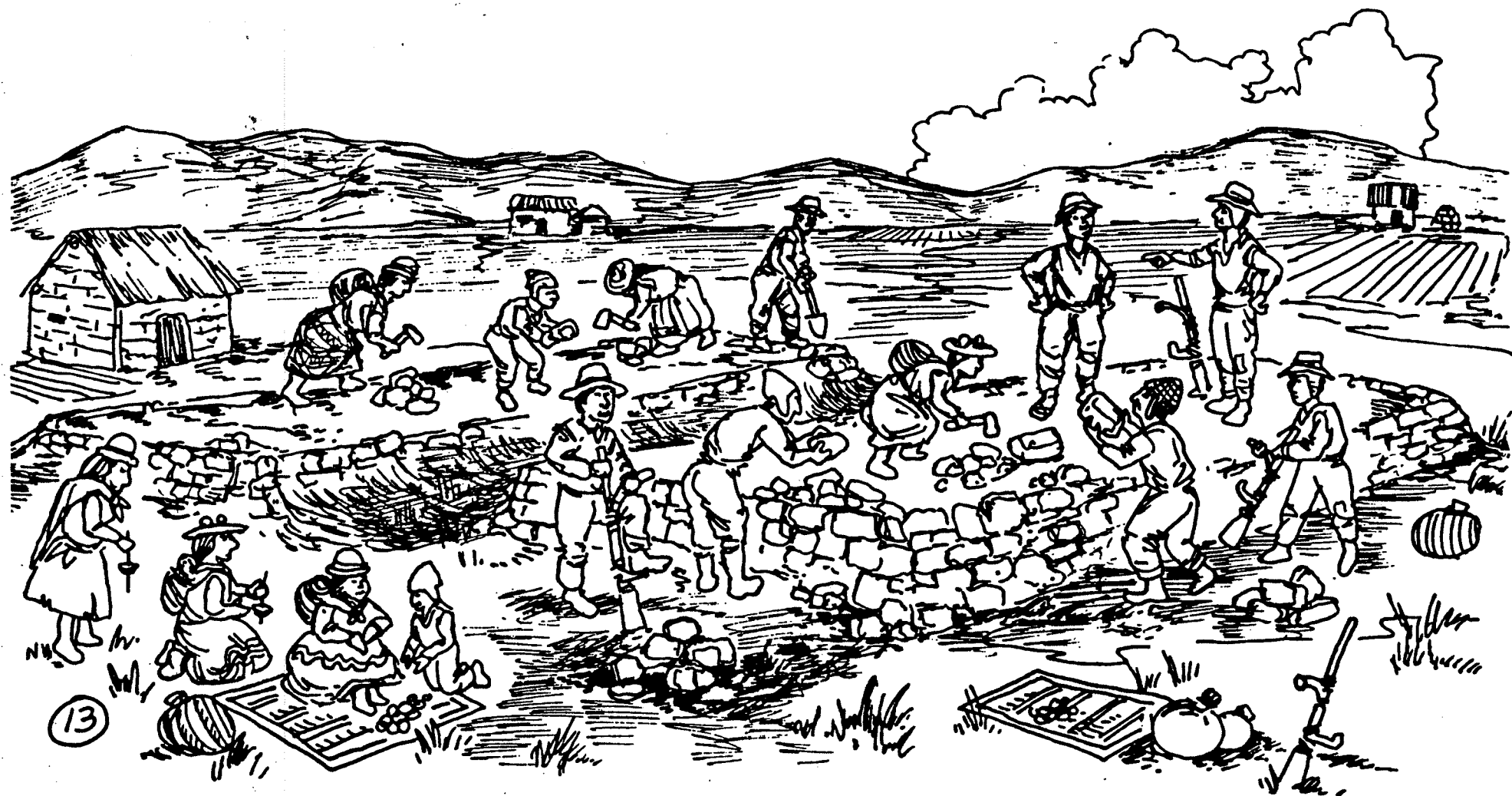
With the help of a few neighbors, Antonio and his father rebuilt their waru waru field.

Ankuqk tatanwan wasi masinkunawan ima waru waruta ruwasqaku.



First, they cut blocks of sod from the old  
canals between the waru waru, and piled the  
sod on top of the field ridges. Then they  
broke up the sod with waqtana and rawkana.

Chay waru warupaq askha ch'ampata yarqhamanta  
orqosqaku. Chay ch'ampatataq waru waru patapi  
waqtanawan rawkanawan pampachasqaku.



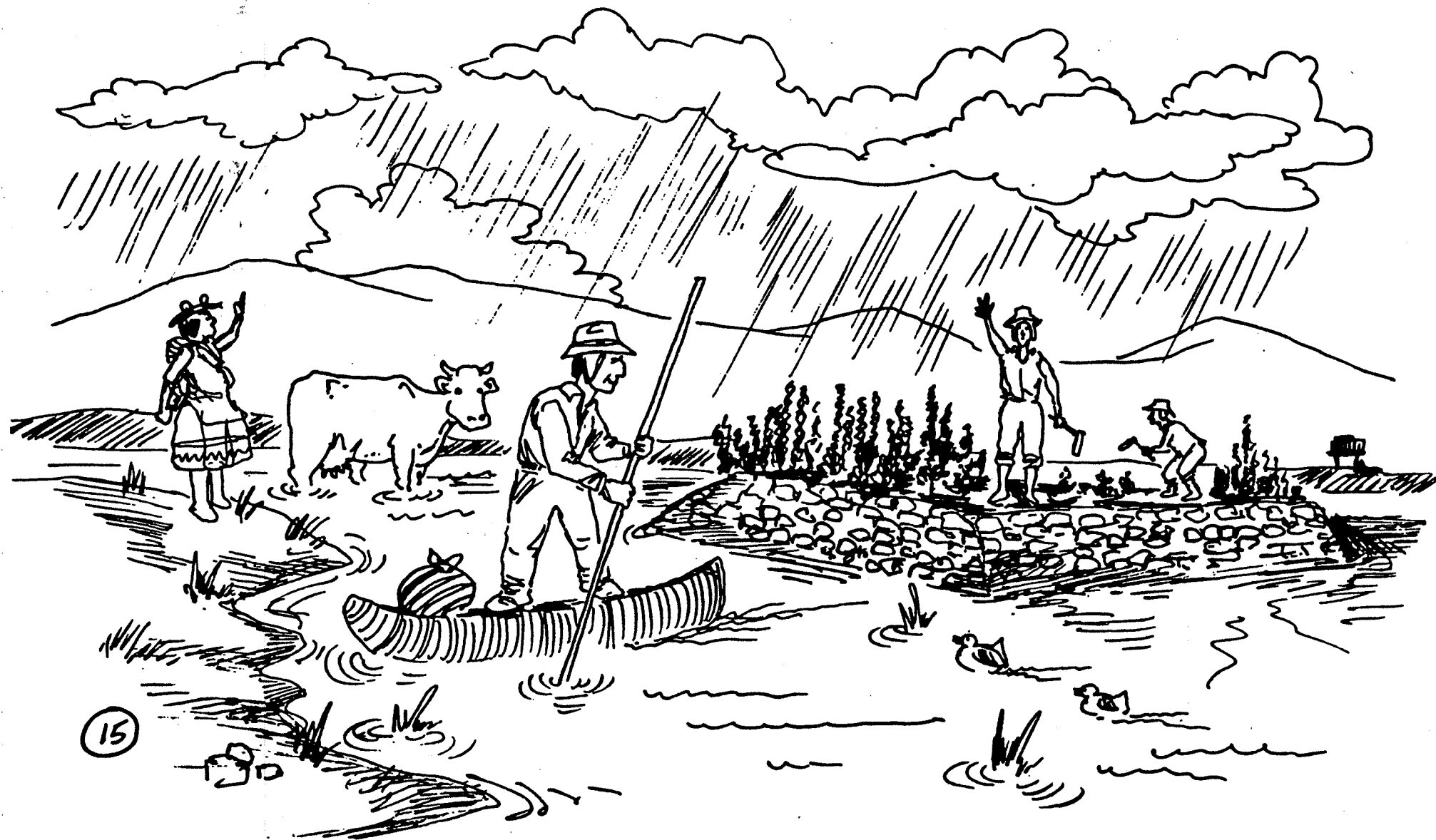
After the fields were prepared, Antonio's father wondered,  
 "What should we plant on the waru waru?" Antonio suggested,  
 "If the Incas grew potatoes, ocas, isanus, ollucos, quinoa,  
 canihua, tarwi and maize, shouldn't we plant these traditional  
 crops on the waru waru too?"

Waru waru wakisqaña kaqtinqa Antukuta tatan  
 tapusqa, ñkunanri imata tarpusunchismanri waway?  
 nispa. Antukuqa tatanqa nisqa: "Ñawpa ñawpa  
 runakunapis, inkakunapis tarpuq kasqaku papata,  
 oqata, ullukuta, isañuta, kiwnata, sarata ima."  
 Manachu noqanchispis chaykunallatataq  
 tarpusunchisman?



Heavy rains began to fall in October, and the pampa was soon flooded. It looked like a lake. Only the tops of the waru waru were dry, leaving the crops undamaged by the high water.

Ahinata rimaspa tarpusqaku, tarpuqtinkuqa chakraqa wiñasqa. Munaycha wiñashaqtin sinchita paramusqa, astawan astawan parallasqapuni. Parallaqtinpuniqa lluy pampaman unu hunt'ayusqa, waru warulla patapi rikhurisqa, mana chaykunaman unuqa aypasqachu.



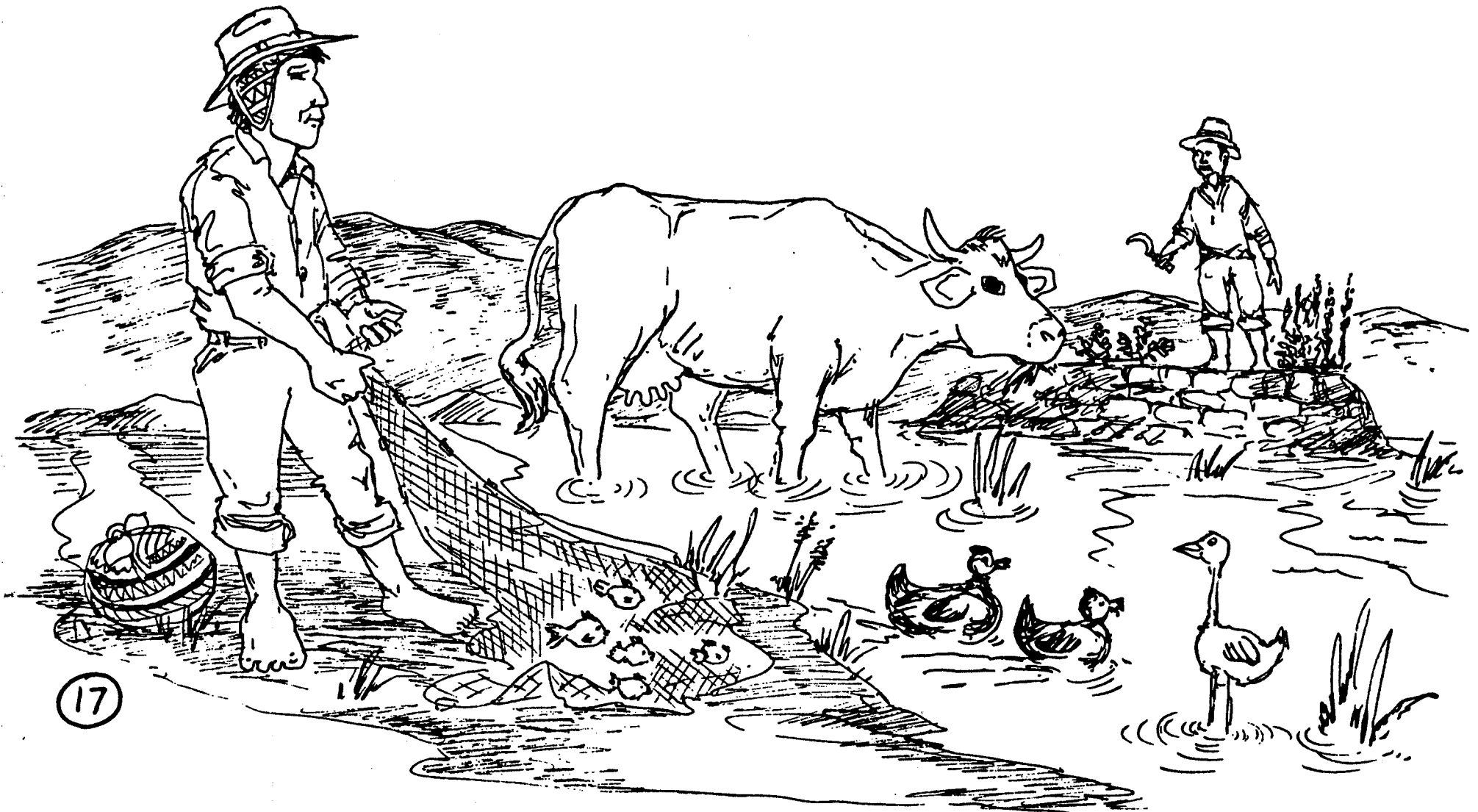
The plants grew fast and healthy on the soils of the waru waru. Antonio thought that the soil dug from the canal to build the waru waru must be very fertile.

Chay waru warupi tarpusqankuqa sumaqta wiñasqa.  
Ahinata rikuspa, Antukuqa tatanta nisqa:  
"Sumaqmi chakranchis kashan, sumaqcha chay  
ch'ampa yarqhamanta orqospa churasqaykichis  
kanman."



As the growing season continued, the water in the canals around the waru waru attracted a variety of wildlife, such as ducks, fish, frogs, and many types of lake birds. Antonio and his father fed the grass growing in the wet canals to their cows and sheep.

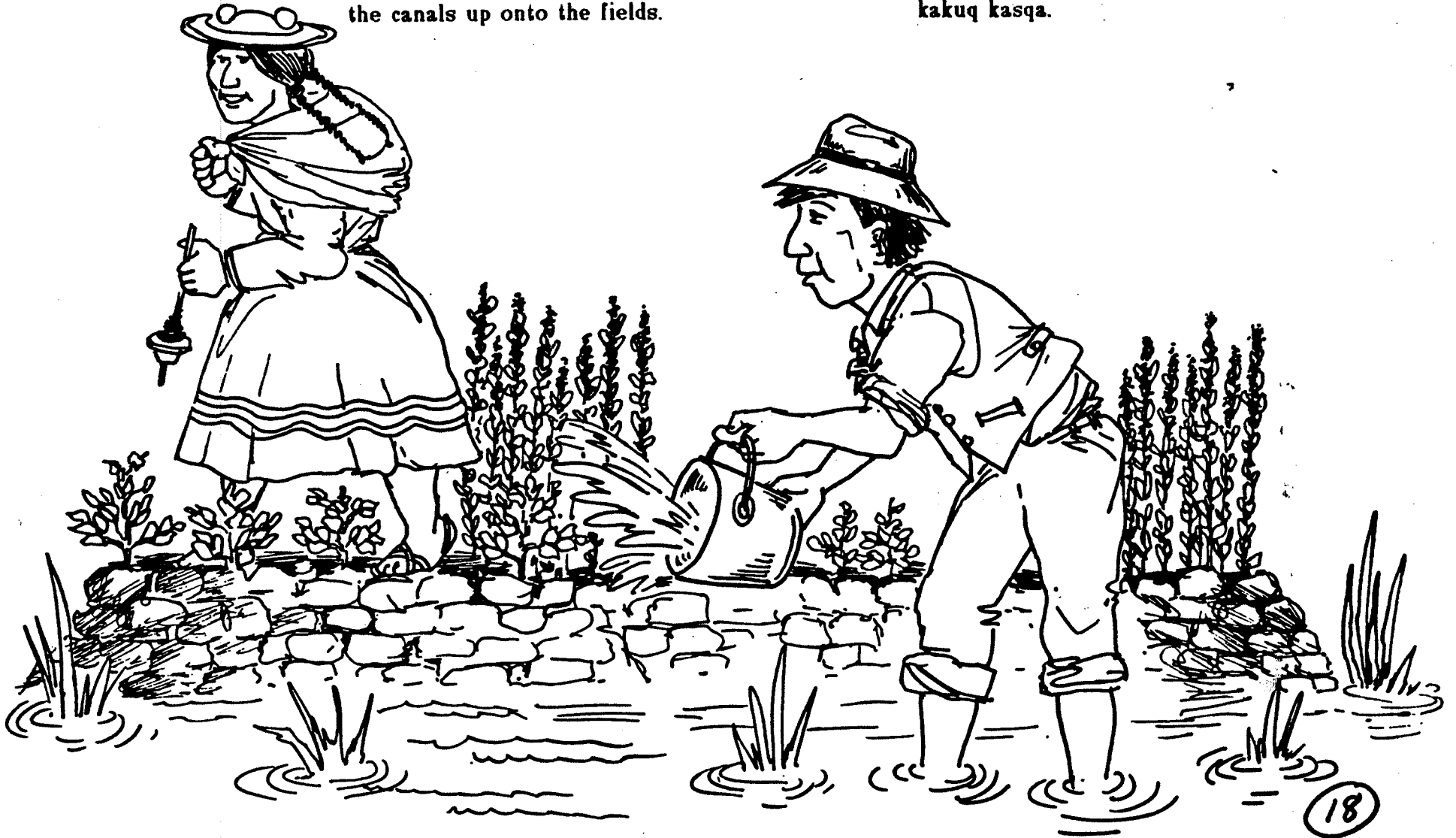
Waru waruqa unu chawpillapi rihurisqa. Chay unupiqá tukuy riqch'aq uywa, qora ima rik'hurisqa: Hamp'atu, hoq'oyllu, patu, waswa, chinka, t'utura, llachu, lluy hunt'asqa. Chay q'omer qorataqa Antuku apasqa waka, uwiha ima mikhunankupaq.





Near the end of the growing season, the rains stopped and a month-long sequia began to dry the pampa and fields. The sequia did not affect the waru waru too much, since Antonio and his father were able to splash water from the canals up onto the fields.

Chay wataqa sinchita paraytawanqa, mañana astawan parasqachu, ch'aki wata kasqa. Chay hatun chiri pampapi chakraqa sonqo nanayta ch'akisqa; ichaqa waru warupi chakraqa sumaqta llanllarisqa. Qarpaqtinkupis lluy unu yarqhapi kakuq kasqa.



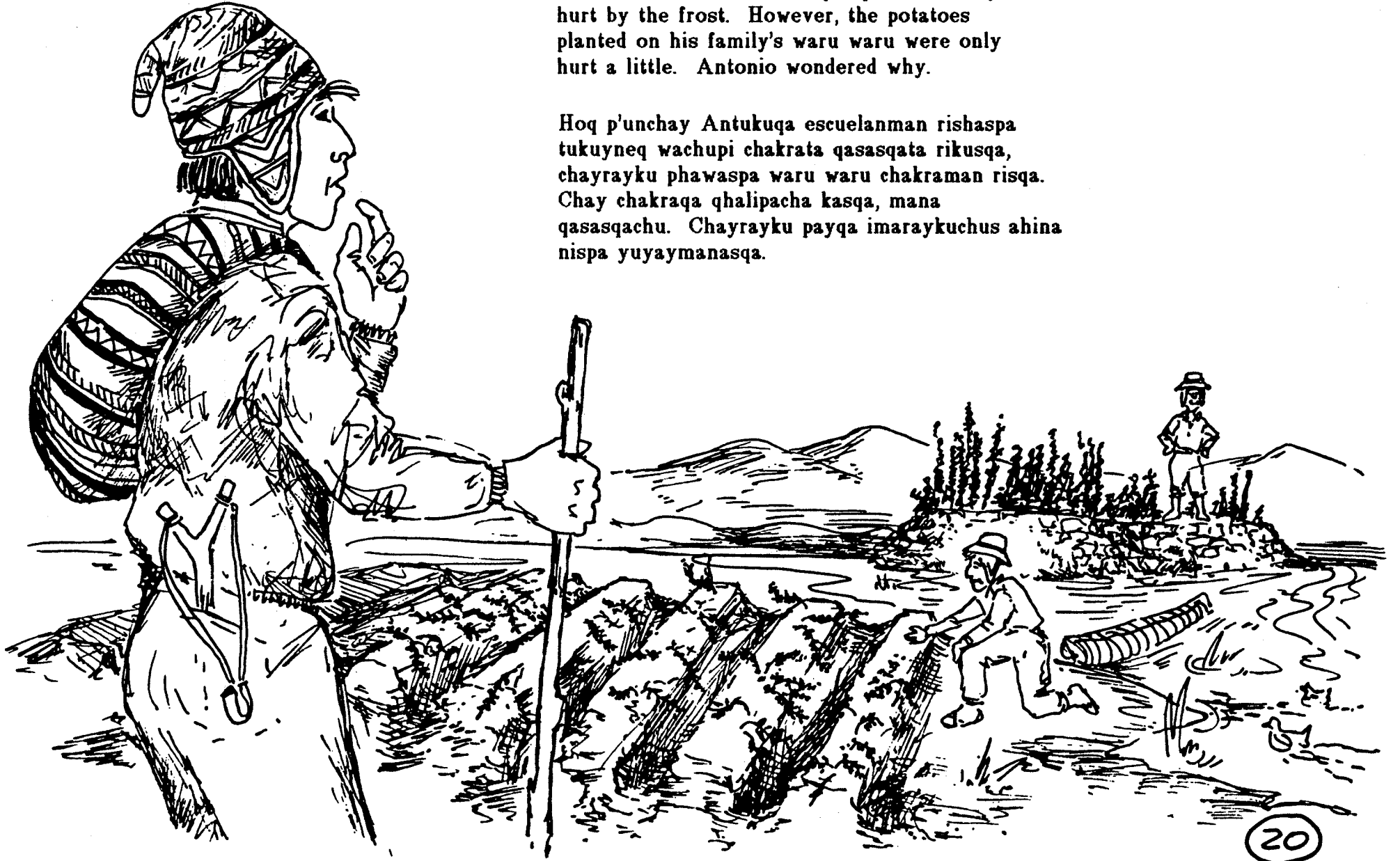
Antonio noticed that the soil on the waru waru  
always had plenty of moisture, which helped the  
plants to grow.

Antukuqa chakrata munakuspa chay waru waru  
allpata malliyusqa, chay allpaqa sumaqtaq  
hoq'otaq kasqa. Unu chawpipi kaqtin ahina  
hallp'a kasqa.



One morning, Antonio found that the waru waru and other pampa fields had been struck by a killing frost the night before. The potatoes of the wacho fields in the pampa were badly hurt by the frost. However, the potatoes planted on his family's waru waru were only hurt a little. Antonio wondered why.

Hoq p'unchay Antukuqa escuelanman rishaspa tukuyneq wachupi chakrata qasasqata rikusqa, chayrayku phawaspa waru waru chakraman risqa. Chay chakraqa qhalipacha kasqa, mana qasasqachu. Chayrayku payqa imaraykuchus ahina nispa yuyaymanasqa.



As Antonio crossed the canal between the waru waru he found that the water was very warm. He thought he had found the answer! The sun warmed the canal water during the day, and at night this warm water helped to protect the waru waru against the frost!

antukuqa escuelanman riq kasqa chay waru waruq yarqhantapuni. Chay yarqha unuqa q'oni kasqa mana wakin unu hinachu chiri. Ahina kaqtin pay yuyasmanasqa kay hinata: "P'unchayqa Inti q'oñichin kay unuta, kay unu q'oñiri tuta hark'an waru waru chakrata chirimanta, chayrayku kay waru warupi chakrataqa mana qasanchu."



On harvest day, Antonio's family and their neighbors dug potatoes from the waru waru. The harvest of potatoes on the waru waru was much better than that of the wachos. Everyone was happily surprised that the waru waru potatoes were larger, and in greater number than those on the pampa wachos.

Waru warupi chakra ruruqtinqa tukuy runa risqanku allaymanqa. Chaypiqa askhata rurusqa. Chayrayku lluy runa kusionqa kasqaku; sapa uyrapi askha papa, oqa kasqa.



After the harvest of the waru waru, a large  
watia was prepared. Everyone was happy with  
this year's harvest, and decided that  
additional new fields would be built.

Allaypiqa Antuku hatuchaq papata akllasqa  
wathiyapaq, Olindataq wakichisqa ch'aqotan.  
Chay p'unchaymantapacha tukuy runa hatuchaq  
waru waruta ruwaspa, tarpusqaku.



The next year, the waru waru were ready to plant. There was no need to dig more soil from the canals because the ridges on the waru waru were still high, and very fertile.

Kunanqa waru warupi ch'ampaq kanraq,  
chaypi hoqmanta tarpunqaku, manaraq  
hoqmanta ch'ampataqa churanqakuchu.



Antonio noticed that a rich soil was forming in the canals from the remains of aquatic plants and animals that had decayed there. He suggested to his father that the waru waru would always be fertile because of the good canal soils, and that they would not have to use commercial fertilizers during this growing season.

Antukuqu chay waru waru yarqhapi  
ismusqa qorakunata, unu uywakunata  
askhata rikusqa. Chayta rikuspa taytanman  
rikuchisqa, kayqa sumaq wanu chakrapaq, nispa.



They decided to throw some of this rich canal soil up onto the field ridge to prepare for the next growing season. His father told him, "this canal soil will be useful in restoring the fertility of the waru waru in the coming year. Then, we won't need to let the fields lie fallow."

Antukuq tatanqa yachan chay ismusqa wanuqa sumaq chakrapaq kasqanta. Chayrayku wawanta nin: "Waway kunanqa hallp'aqa kallpayoqllaraq, manaraq churasunchu wanuta; hallp'a tulluyaqtin sapa wata wanuwan tarpusunchis, mana samanqachu hallp'aqa."





This year the crops were rotated and planted in different parts of the waru waru. They planted potatoes in places where they had previously grown quinoa and canihua. This helped to better use the soil and to avoid problems with worms, plant pests and diseases.

Ama ni ima riqch'aq onqoy chakraman haykunanpaq, waru warupiqsapa wata hoqtataq tarpunqaku. Hoq wata papata, hoq wata oqata, hoq wata ullukuta, hoq wata qañiwata, hoq wata kiwnata, ahinata hoqtataq hoqtataq churanqaku.



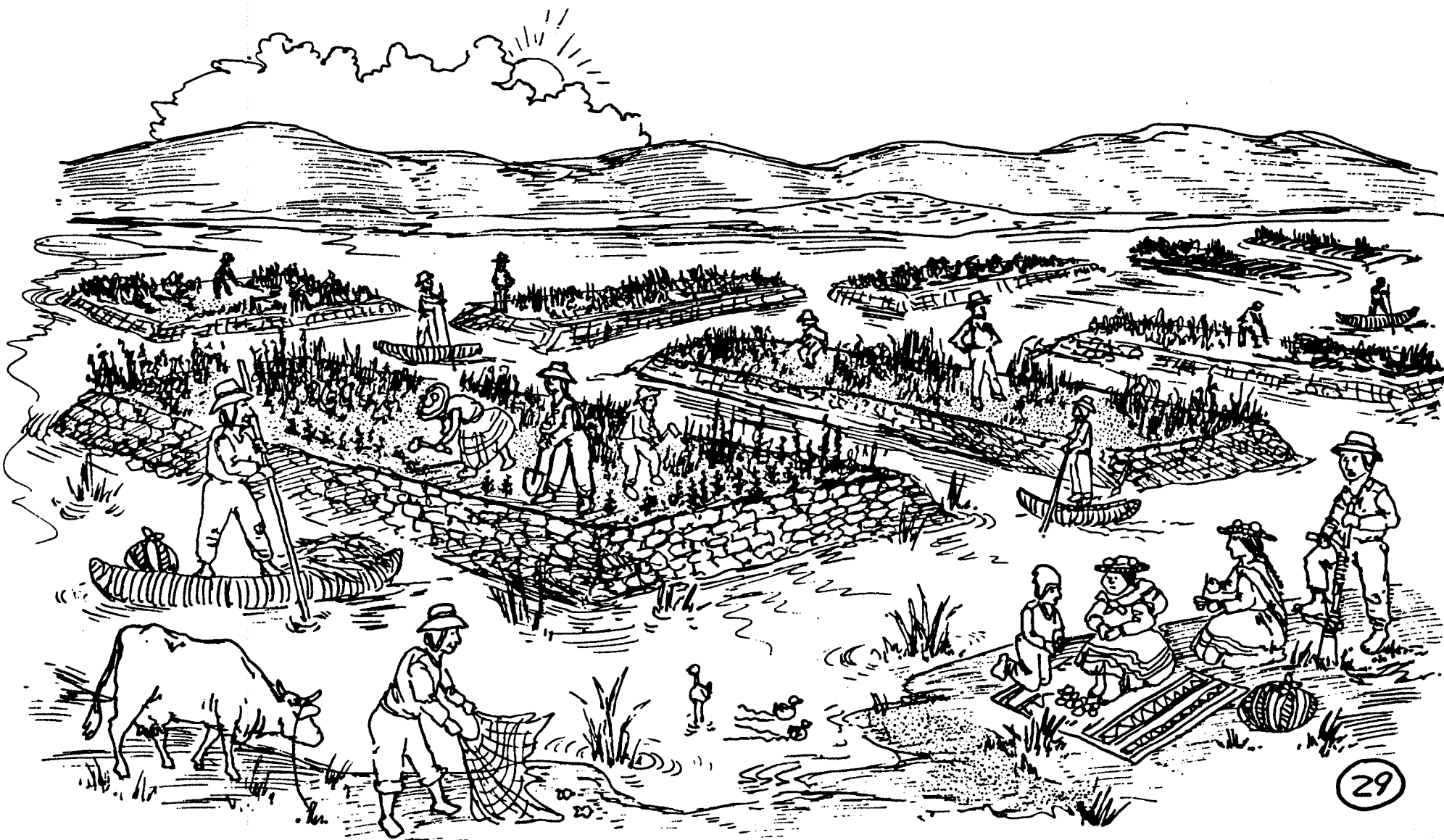
When the crops were large and green, other campesinos from Antonio's community and other communities came to look at the waru waru. Antonio was very proud of the waru waru he had helped build.

Askha runa hoq ayllukunamanta hamusqaku chay waru warupi tarpusqa chakrata qhawaq. Hamuqtinkuqa Antukuqa manchay kusionqataq sonqon hunt'ataq kasqa.



The pampa fields can produce good crops! In the same way that the ancient people of the pampa used waru waru to feed a huge population, we can also use the waru waru technology, without expensive tractors, chemicals and fertilizers, to leave the land in better condition and produce beautiful potatoes and other crops.

Chay lluy chiri pampapi atinraq chakra ruruyta, chaypaqqa ñawpa ñawpa runa hina kayneqpi haqayneqpi waru warukunata ruwananku. Tukuyninchis waru waruta ruwayta atinchis, manan sasachu nitaq qolqepaqchu. Chay waru warupi hallp'aqa watan watan rurullanpuni sumaqta.



In the future, the pampa can become green again  
and provide good harvests for the campesinos.

Qhepamanqa lluy chiri pampa yapamanta q'omer kanqa.  
Nishu sumaqta tukuy ima runakunapaq rurunqa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON HOW TO BUILD WARU WARU, CONTACT:

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