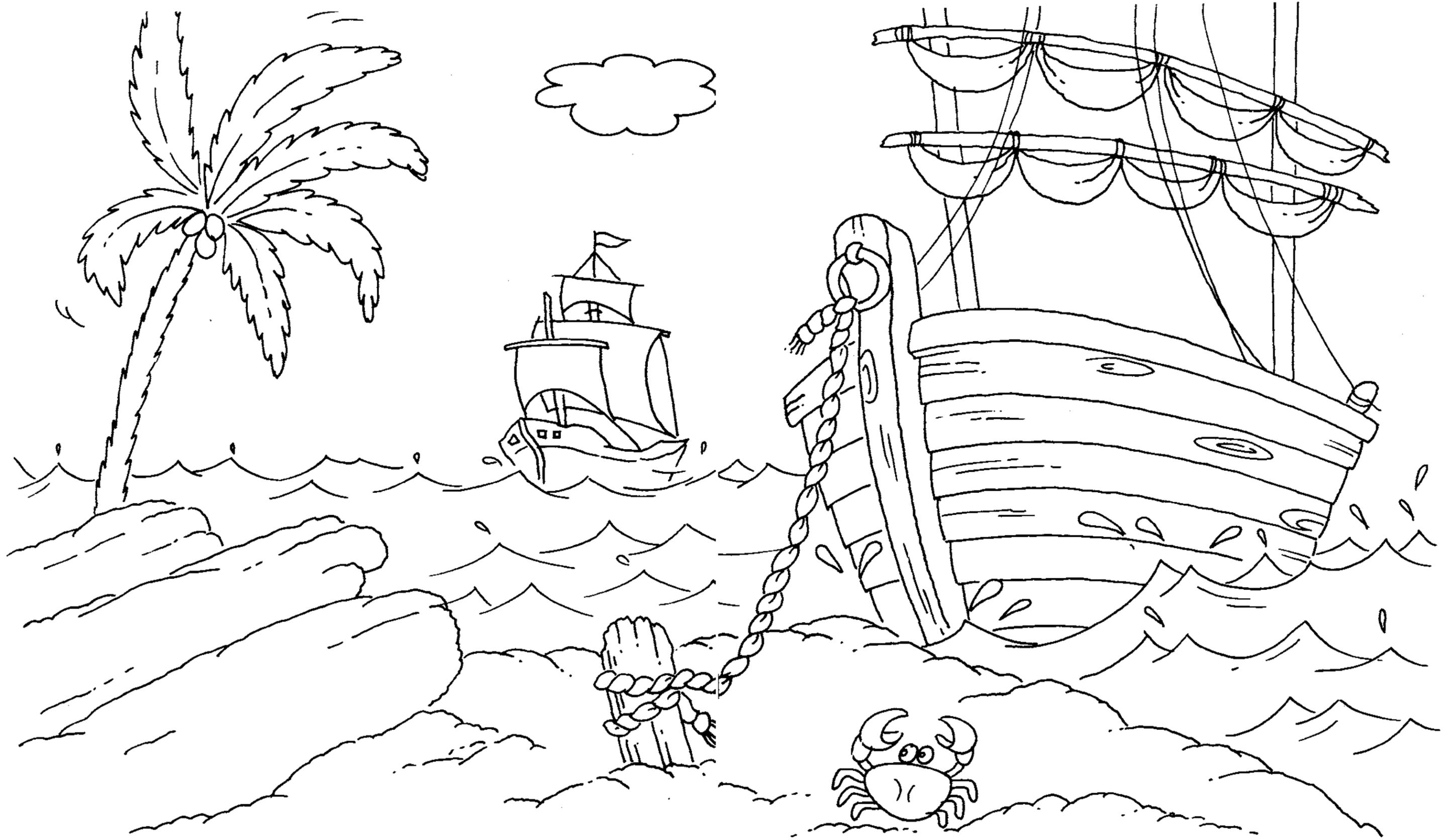


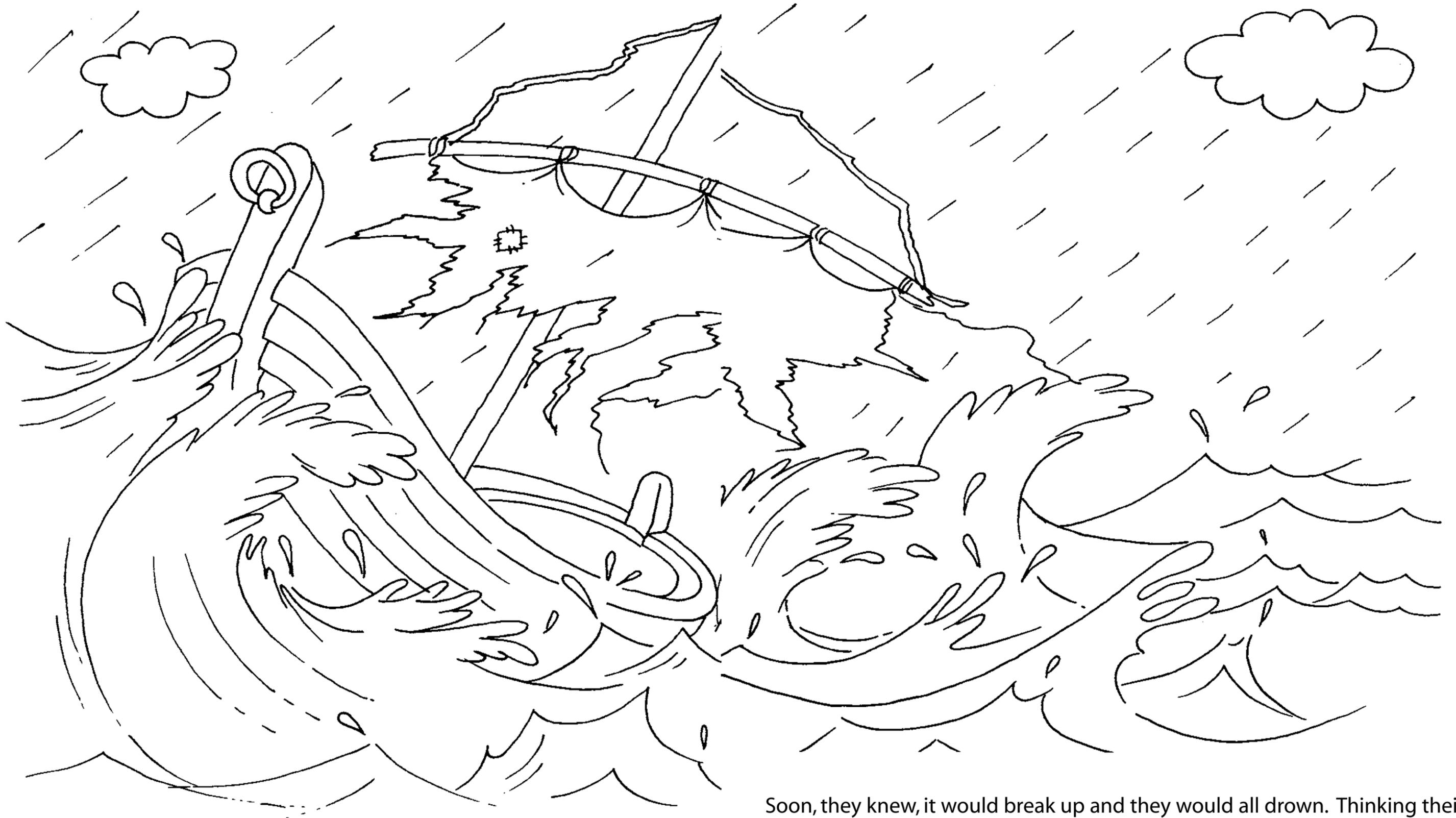
When he realized that they intended to continue on the wrong path, he warned them about how bad their actions were and that in the end they might be made to suffer. Angry and despairing, Yunus عليه السلام left these people.

Yunus عليه السلام moved out of the city and headed towards the seaport where there were ships tied up, waiting to sail. One, Yunus عليه السلام found, was due to sail to a far off land. He boarded the ship.



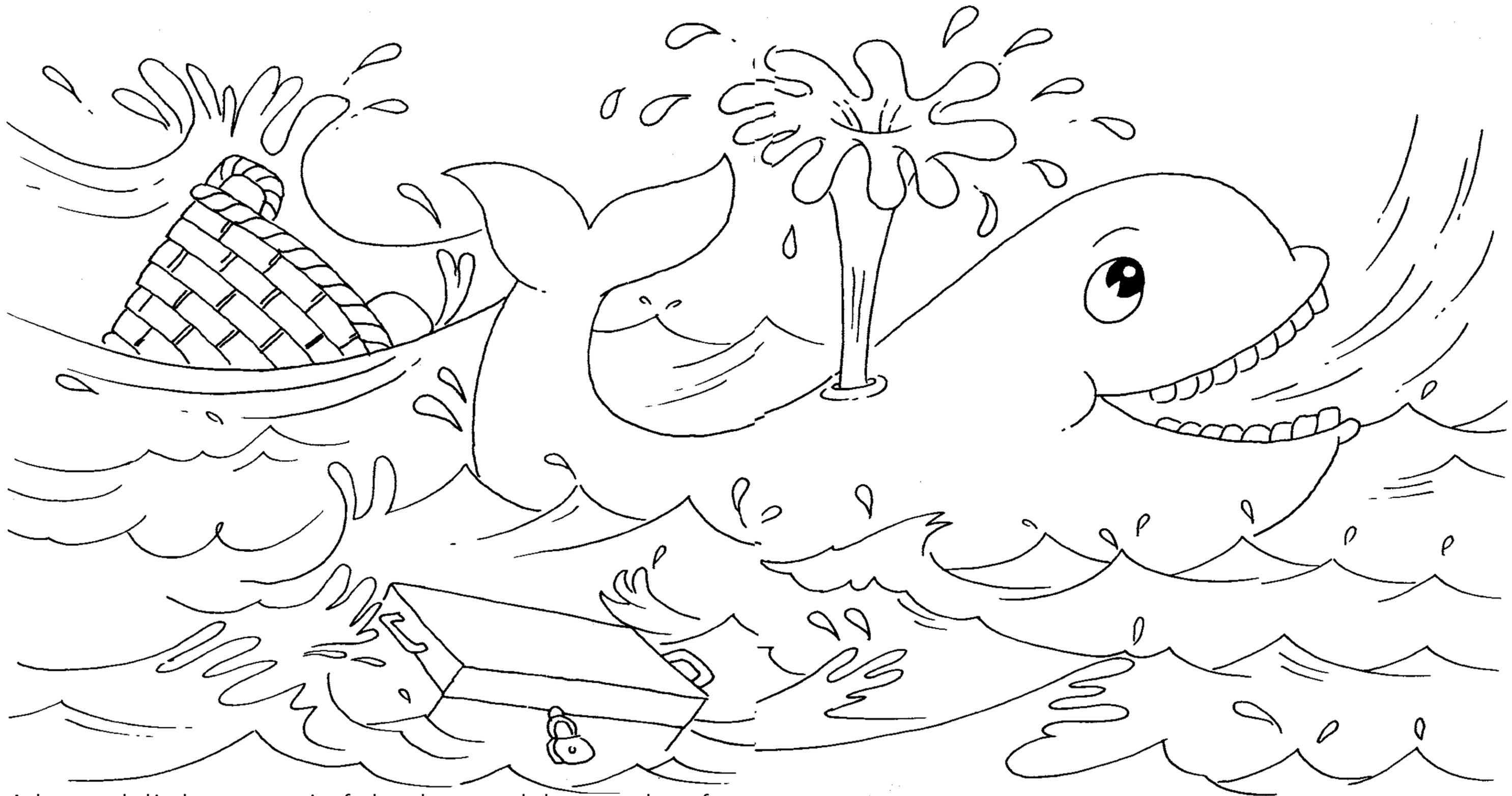
As soon as it was out at sea, the sky grew dark, and there was a terrible storm. The fierce wind began to whip the water up into huge waves which crashed against the hull of the ship.

As the storm grew worse, the waves became like towering walls of water which came crashing down on the ship's deck. The sailors worked with all their strength to try to keep the ship on course.



They even threw some of the cargo overboard, to make the ship easier to control. But the ship's strong timber seemed as thin as matchwood in the teeth of the storm.

Soon, they knew, it would break up and they would all drown. Thinking their ill-luck was due to some slave having run away from his master, they drew lots to find the run-away and hurl him overboard. The name of Yunus عليه السلام was picked out in the draw. So he was forced to jump from the ship.



As he struggled in the water, gasping for breath, a great whale appeared out of the depths of the sea and swallowed him up. (The fish that swallowed Yunus عليه السلام may have been a sperm whale. Such whales are known to visit the eastern Mediterranean sea. With their large throats, they can swallow the body of a man whole).

Suddenly Yunus عليه السلام found himself in the dark, damp insides of the huge fish. He had not drowned. He was still alive! Now Yunus عليه السلام realized that he had left the people of Nineveh too early without completing the task assigned by Allah.