

Eclipse

Over the Continental Divide, heading homeward, these people encountered Nez Perce Christian scouts who worked for General Howard. Wottolen refused to go back to the reservation with them but told the women, some of whom hoped to be reunited with Joseph, that they could go, if they wished.

A confrontation ensued in which Wottolen got the upper hand. He told the Christian Nez Perce to go, that the women would decide what they wanted to do, later.

The five women and two children who decided to go to Kamiah were afraid. Afraid of soldiers, and afraid of the other Nez Perce on the reservation. Wottolen told them to go, that they would cross the prairie without being seen.

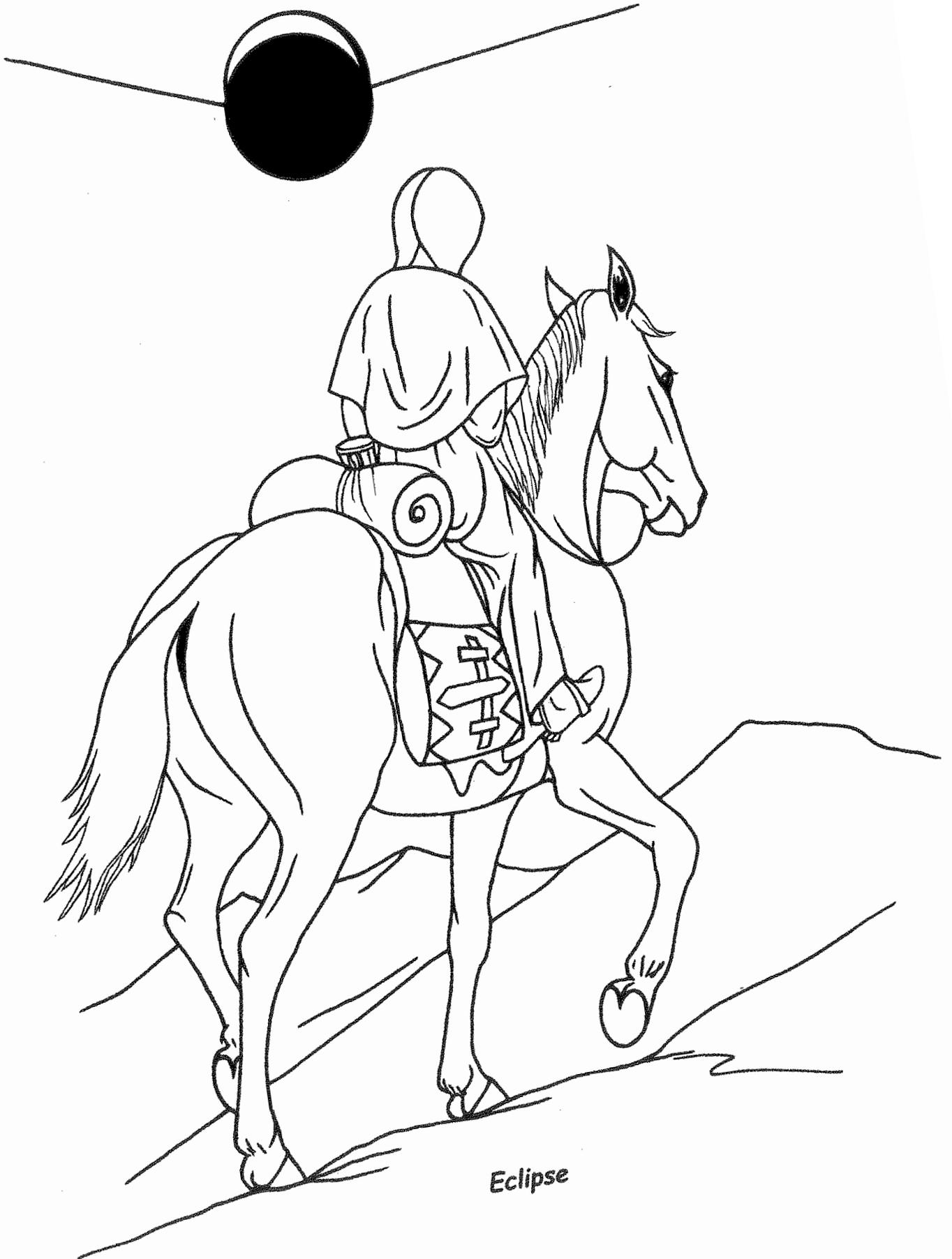
They left the rest of the people there with Wottonlen and Yellow Wolf and started toward Kamiah.

About two hours later they were frightened when it began to get dark and the sun was covered with black. Then they remembered that Wottolen had said that they would not be seen. They knew too that sometimes Waah-taah-naah-yast (Sun) hid behind Hee-tsem-toks (Moon). They continued riding and Waah-taah-naah-yast returned. It was almost dark when they surrendered at Kamiah.

Have you ever seen an eclipse or the sun? Or a picture of one? The sun is darkened, and it is like night, except there is a rim of light around the sun's edge. Then when the sun peeks out above, its edge is very bright and the sky above and beside it is also bright. The dark is really the deepest color of blue/purple/black possible.



Wottolen



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