KNOTS FOR JOINING
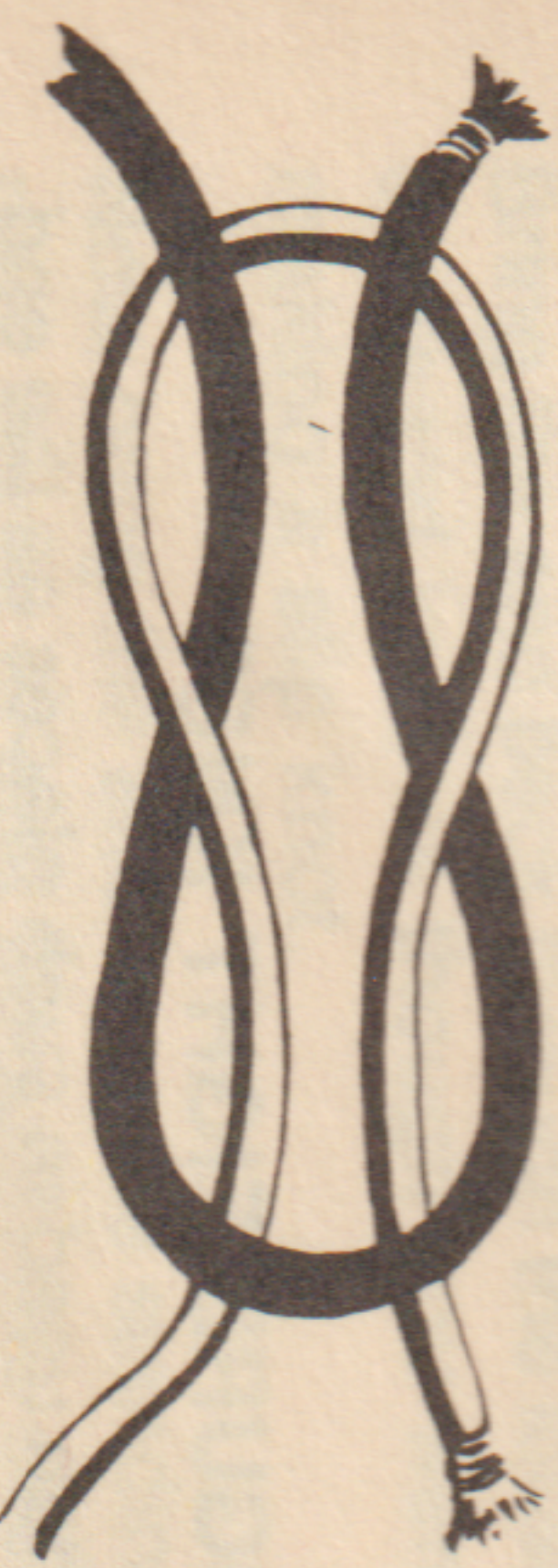
These knots are used for tying two rope ends together; sometimes the ends of the same rope; sometimes the ends of different ropes.

SQUARE KNOT

You can loosen the square knot easily by either pushing the ends toward the knot or by "upsetting" the knot by pulling back on one end and pulling the other through the loops.

SURGEON'S KNOT

The surgeon's knot is a square knot with an extra twist. The purpose of the extra twist is to give added friction to hold until the second crossing is made.

WEAVER'S KNOT

The weaver's knot is exactly the same knot as the sheet bend, but tied in a different manner.

FISHERMAN'S KNOT

The fisherman's knot is used for joining two fine lines such as fishing leaders. It is simply two overhand knots, one holding the right-hand line and the other the left-hand line. Pull each of the two overhand knots taut separately. Then make the whole knot taut so that the two overhand knots come together by pulling on the standing parts of each line.
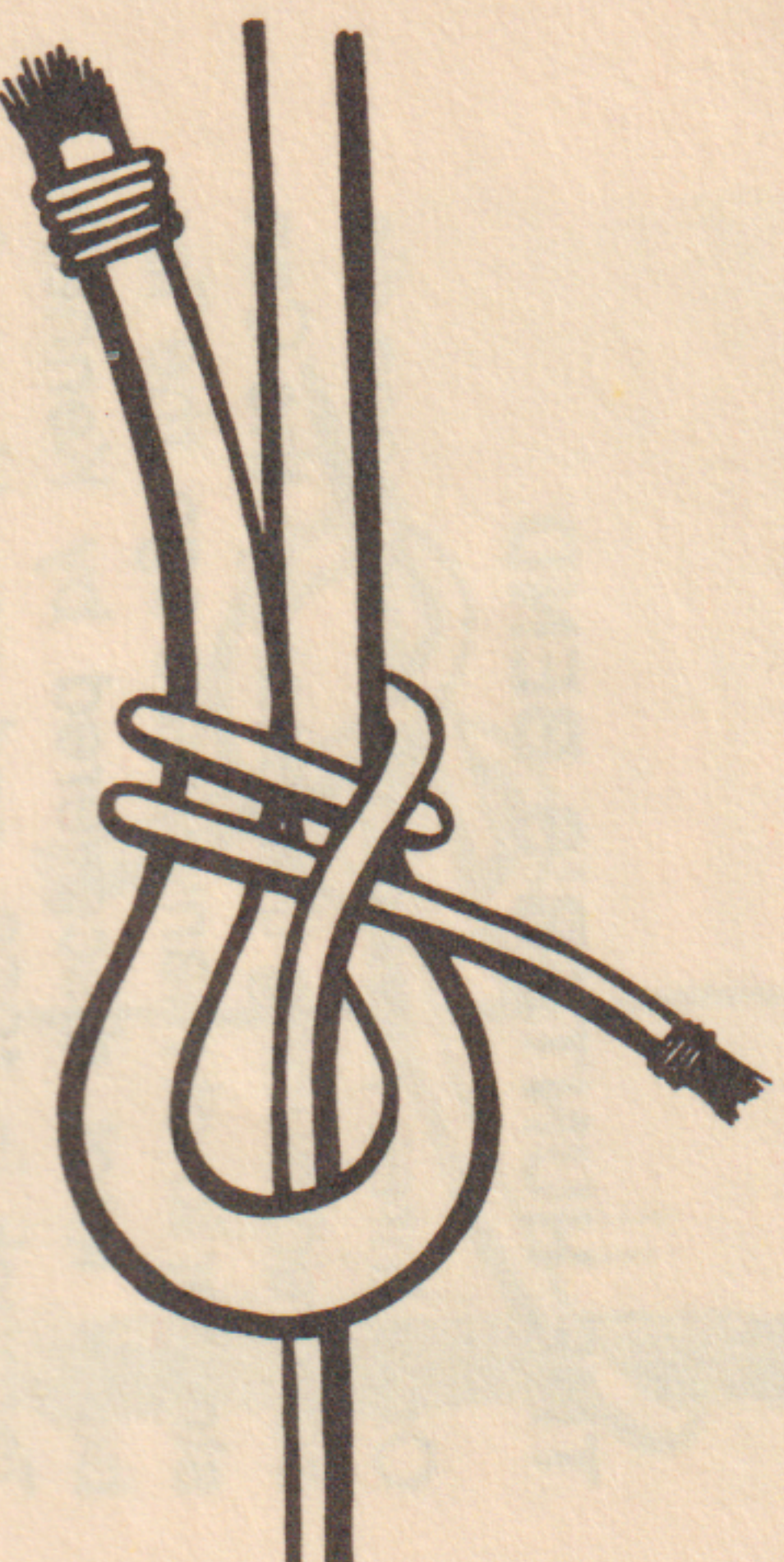
SHEET BEND

The sheet bend is an important knot for joining two rope ends, especially if the ropes are of different sizes. Sailors named it in the days of sailing ships when they would "bend" (tie) the "sheets" (ropes in the rigging of a ship).

Begin with a bight in the larger rope. Then weave the end of the smaller rope up through the eye, around the bight, and back under itself. Snug it carefully before applying any strain to the knot.

DOUBLE SHEET BEND

When the two ropes being tied together vary widely in diameter the double sheet bend should be used. The two loops help to hold the bight in the larger rope. Consider using this also when the rope is wet or when using some of the slicker synthetic fiber ropes.

SLIPPERY SHEET BEND

The slippery sheet bend is simply an ordinary sheet bend with a bight left in the smaller rope. This bight makes it "slippery" because it can be untied quickly, merely by a tug on the free end of the rope. It is a valuable knot for use when you expect to tie and untie it often.