

# The Eagle's Cry

The Iroquois Confederacy was originally composed of five nations - Mohawk, Seneca, Onondaga, Oneida and Cayuga, with the Tuscarora later joining.

Through this Confederacy of Nations was their strength in unity. The Peacemaker symbolized this unity with arrows. First, he held forth a single arrow and demonstrated how easily it was broken. Then he held forth five arrows bound tightly together. These he demonstrated could not be broken.

The Peacemaker's messages of peace, shared power, righteousness, compromise and unification in purpose, were likewise received by the Six Nations as a solution to the problems of unnecessary competition and hostility.

With that, the Peacemaker uprooted the tallest pine tree and he cast into the cavity all weapons and clubs of war. Into the depths of the earth, down into the deep undercurrents of water flowing to unknown regions, he cast all the weapons of strife. Burying them from sight, he planted again the Great Tree of Peace.

From under this tree grew four white roots. One root grew toward the east, the second root grew toward the west, the third root grew toward the south and the fourth root, grew toward where it is cold - north. These white roots of peace extend to all people of the earth offering to them a path to the Great Tree of Peace, to the law that would promote a way to respectfully settle differences.

The tree would grow. The tops reach the sun and its branches spread far abroad so it shall be seen far off. We shall all seek shelter under this tree and live in peace.

To ensure this peace would be everlasting, the Peacemaker placed the wisest bird with the keenest eye sight, the eagle, on top of the Great Tree of Peace to eternally watch for approaching danger. It is the eagle that can see the furthest and see any threat of danger and will cry out to warn if there is any trouble coming that would harm our people.