Arham Siddiqui

As a tribesman of the Huron Indian community, I am captivated by the stark differences that exist between our traditional ways and the impending arrival of French priests, as documented by explorers from France. Our deeply rooted customs and beliefs tie us closely to nature, acknowledging the vitally important role it plays in our spiritual practices. We revere the spirits and conduct rituals that pay homage to the interconnectedness of all living things.

Our traditions are exemplified by our bond to nature, by using animals that we have hunted or gathered. We are known for our involvement with the fur trade. The beaver is our symbol of pride, the beaver has adapted to many habitats and lives with their family all their life.

The Frenchman discovered our rich and varied practices. Our tribe's inclination towards copper over gold and our affinity for colors like blue and red are evident through these observations. The explorer's endeavors to introduce luxurious goods such as utensils, cloth and firearms. The goods were received with open arms from our tribe as they did the same for our pelts. These discrepancies highlight the hurdles in bridging the cultural gap between our tribe and these newcomers.

The religion of the French men is completely different than ours. The explorers who encountered tribes look at us in in primitive and brutish ways. The gap of communication between languages obstructed any meaningful comprehension of the distant tribes' religious customs.

When it comes to converting to religion, it is not a decision to be taken lightly. Our spiritual practices and connection to the land run deep, making this choice a personal one. While we understand the attractiveness of unification through religion, we also fear losing our cultural identity and unique bond with nature. The arrival of settlers only adds to the complexity of the situation. Initially, our interactions with their tribe were positive, showcasing generosity and mutual respect that fostered a bond between our cultures. However, as time went on, these encounters shifted to hostility and a lack of understanding, hinting at potential challenges in coexisting peacefully.

As a Huron tribe member, I have spent time considering my experiences with the French and their perceptions of our people. This has led me to contemplate the importance of finding a middle ground between preserving our rich cultural heritage and embracing change brought in by outside influences. I believe the way we approach the French men will change the future of our tribe. It is crucial that we navigate this thorny bush while also safeguarding our distinctive culture and spiritual connection with the land.