



· H A H - N U - N A H ·

Hah-nu-nah is a giant tortoise whose shell forms the entire orography of the earth. Its legs are thick and strong, capable of carrying the weight of the world. The Haudenosaunee believe that her body is so vast that mountains and rivers rest upon her, and that her slow but inexorable movements are responsible for the profound changes in the cosmos.



Hah-nu-nah is not only a physical being, but also a spiritual one that carries the world on its back. Her origin goes back to the beginning of creation, when the Sky Woman descended to the earth before it had a surface. The animals then dived into the ocean to get some land, which, when deposited on the turtle's shell, expanded to create the world we know. The story goes that his endurance and patience allowed life to flourish on his back, becoming a symbol of perseverance.

For the Iroquois culture, the turtle represents the earth itself and the interconnectedness of all living beings. It is a symbol of stability, support and origin, reminding the Iroquois of the importance of caring for the world in which they live. The image of the turtle holding the world on its back reflects a belief in the interdependence of nature and humanity, and the need for balance to maintain universal harmony.



Hah-nu-nah is a
HAUDENOSAUNEE creature
Current population: 125.000



The ancestors of the Haudenosaunee, known as the Iroquois, settled in North America about 4,000 years ago, occupying what is now the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada. In a region of intense alliances and rivalries, the Iroquois formed the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, or “People of the Long House,” in the 15th and 16th centuries. This alliance, initially made up of five nations (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca), aimed to promote peace among these tribes.

The Iroquois were a sedentary people with an economy based on agriculture, hunting and gathering. Women were fundamental, taking care of the cultivation of corn, beans, and squash, and leading the matrilineal family clans. Decisions were made by consensus of the Council of Five Nations, emphasizing cooperation among the members of the confederacy.

The Iroquois religion combined belief in a creator “Great Spirit” with the worship of nature spirits, reflecting a worldview based on harmony and balance.

With the arrival of Europeans, the Iroquois participated in alliances and conflicts that weakened the Confederacy over time. Today, the Iroquois Confederacy still exists, and the Six Nations maintain their cultural and political traditions. Despite challenges such as loss of land and the effects of colonization, the Iroquois are active advocates for indigenous rights and environmental protection in North America.

