

Epic Story  
Acrylic on canvas  
24"x20"

In the upper left hand corner is the eclipse of the sun with developing corn. This is when the corn was knee-high in Seneca country, and there was an eclipse of the sun. This served as a sign in the sky to a reluctant group of Seneca that resulted in them joining the Confederacy, Haudenosaunee. The man in the upper middle represents both the Skennenrahawi/Peacemaker and Aiionwatha/Hiawatha singing the Peace Song that helped turn the mind of the warlord, Tadodaho, who up to that point was strongly opposed to the confederacy. The antlers signify leadership, and the gourd rattle accompanies the Peace Song. In the background are clouds representing natural forces at work, and below the clouds is a lake and hills. This represents the territory of the People of The Hills/Onondaga, and the lake is Onondaga Lake, the site where the League was formed. In front of the lake are symbols of the original nations; from right to left are "People of The Flint (Mohawk), People of The Upright Stone (Oneida), People of The Hills (Onondaga), People of the Swamp (Cayuga), and People of The Great Mountain (Seneca). Just to the left of the nation symbols is an antler comb...symbol of the removal of the snakes (negative forces) from Tadodaho 's head. Below the comb is Tadodaho, and as the Peace Song takes effect, the war club is loosened from his hand. To the right of Tadodaho is the symbol of the Council Fire, the gathering place of nations, of clans, and of family. Below that are further natural elements...flowers that grow in the grasses, and beneath these plants can be seen the image of a turtle, representing Turtle Island...North America.