

THE LEGEND OF THE TWIN MANIFESTATIONS

The Great Spirit had bestowed upon man the priceless gift of free will of which each individual makes his own choice between "good" and "evil" - this is a fundamental teaching of the Alabama-Coushatta.

This symbol of the twin water-fowls represents the Alabama-Coushatta Tribes. The Creator is symbolized by what has come to be called the egg, the seed, or the cell. In a sense, each has come to be understood as the "womb of creation."

The four diamond-shaped symbols issuing from the mouth indicate the four elements: air, fire, water, and earth - all which make life possible. Yet, from the last one, a sprout emerges signifying a new beginning. The design symbolizes the four directions, the four seasons, the four phases of man, and all things appearing in multiples of four.

This symbol also represents the Twin Manifestations, or the two wise ones to come, as foretold in the many legends of North, South, and Central American Indian cultures that will unite the people as one.

The Twin Manifestations are also viewed as the positive and negative elements of polarities: day and night, sky and earth, life and death, man and woman, yin and yang, alpha and omega, the beginning and the end, etc. Each is seen as apart of the necessary rhythm of the Circle of Life as it is known throughout creation.

The seven feathers and black points on either side are a representation of the seven sacred fires and the seven ceremonial pipes. Seven times seven is forty-nine, at which time a man or woman is recognized, after having survived all tests and difficulties and proven through deed the wisdom of his or her spiritual power.