

Logs 145-150

Attn: Cpt. Heba Sourour

Re: Cultural Appropriation

From: Mission Specialist, Stephanie C. Watterson

Logs 145-150

Current Log Entry: 145

Gregorian Date: September 22, 2022

A green and blue orb entered our view finders late in the evening by our overnight flight crew. While mesmerized by this beautiful planet, we were warned by other space travelers that this new planet has countless lifeforms, and are often having inner conflict amongst their own people. Fools! Our species mastered conflict years ago! Thankfully, we connected with another aerobic space travelling species to coordinate and discuss their findings. Currently, we know of four examples of cultural appropriation on this location. We will report back with solutions and reflections on these examples. Perhaps, with their consent, we can meet with their figure heads to discuss our findings and cease all future conflict amongst their warring people. For the sake of consistency, we located the orb's current free online dictionary definition of cultural appropriation. It stated "is the inappropriate or unacknowledged adoption of an element or elements of one culture or identity by members of another culture or identity..."¹ which means our observation team will be very busy with reporting back on their findings from what they have researched on this new found planet. We will report soon with our first example.

Current Log Entry: 146

Gregorian Date: September 23, 2022

After countless hours of research, we have noticed a common thread in this society's way of showing diversity on film. Some earlier so-called popular films demonstrate inappropriate or inaccurate representation of peoples. In two specific incidents, these species seem to find no harm in making fun of each other's cultures. These specific examples (such as in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*² and *Gone with the Wind*³) are troubling to our flight crew. We encounter other species who differ drastically, but we often are met with asking more about their cultures, instead of assuming that it is culturally appropriate to leer or judge, plus simply not adding to the stereotypes in place. In our next log we will discuss how a very important person made a very poor choice.

Current Log Entry: 147

Gregorian Date: September 24, 2022

While researching, we noticed that there were a lot of individual nations on this planet. Due to this wide range of need for 'one to lead the charge', we saw examples of weak and strong leaderships. This brought on a bigger discussion than imagined in our crew yet one example was more poignant than the others. We found that a national politician, commonly known as Justin Trudeau, had decided to paint his face brown while participating in an educational event⁴. It was not in formal respect or culture, but simply in a way to gain personally over another culture. Odd behavior. More importantly, I also feel, in my role as mission specialist, we document through writing and educating our species about the other species we encounter. We simply cannot agree with this individual's behavior, but with education, we hope to inspire change in this nation. More importantly, an apology, is simply not

enough to acknowledge the hardship of these first people have had to endure.

Current Log Entry: 148

Gregorian Date: September 25, 2022

Cpt. Sebasour, we have seen one (of many) specific example in our research that all of us are finding more troubling to the Indigenous perspective on this issue. These logs have become troubling to me to write, but they are vital for our mission. We have noticed that the same figure head's nations have used the word 'visible minority' to describe the following different species as "persons, other than Aboriginal peoples, who are non-Caucasian in race or non-white in color"⁵. While during our mission we have encountered many different thriving nations and some with different physical or mental abilities, there is never the word "minority" used to describe or identify them. I wonder why the nation has not considered asking the population what they want to be called. Or what culture(s) they resonate with (as we have seen on the crew) that some creatures are raised with a culture that is does not relate with their birth culture. Plus, I feel that we need to challenge the stereotypes that precede these beautiful individuals, and hopefully it will break down the misconceptions occurring in society.

Current Log Entry: 149

Gregorian Date: September 26, 2022

After documenting and reviewing the last three logs entered, it seems that a lot of hatred and assimilation has been done towards a particularly vibrant community on the orb. Most communities, call them the Indigenous, Inuit, Aboriginal or Métis people. In our research, we see how much appropriation has made things difficult and uncomfortable. In one article they gave a specific example of how the

nation had “forcibly assimilate(d) aboriginal youngsters by removing them from their homes and placing them in federally funded boarding schools that prohibited the expression of native traditions or languages.”⁶ Our people strive for education and see the purpose (as well as integrity) of keeping a language alive. This promotes acceptance of other nations simply as they are, and expecting no more, no less. I feel this nation has done a disservice to the above-mentioned communities by removing them from what they know best. Our crew is curious to see how this community is thriving. But that will be for another research or even another mission, I am sure.

Current Log Entry: 150

Gregorian Date: September 27, 2022

With all of these log entries, there begins a dialogue on our aircraft. Some of us feel compelled to shout and sort things out for these nations. Others want to participate in current initiatives; whether they will be better or worse for the orb we do not know. And others, like myself, have to honor the feelings I have reflected in these logs. I feel embarrassed that many nations will overlook how personal permission feels and by taking another culture and mispresenting it, is simply wrong and frustrating. But there must be something that can be done, as I have said, maybe we will pass on this orb for this mission. Once the situation gets critical, we can see what our creatures can teach this known-it-all species. In the meantime, we are simply content to be circling around the sun one last time before the dark comes.

Sources/Bibliography:

1: Wikipedia, Cultural appropriation, Unknown author, Unknown Date, Published 16, 2022, Accessed on September 24, 2022.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cultural_appropriation

2: Medium, *Racism and Anti-Japanese Imperialist Propaganda in Breakfast at Tiffany's*, Val Rey, Published November 11, 2017, Accessed on September 24, 2022.

<https://medium.com/@valerie.reynoso/racism-and-anti-japanese-imperialist-propaganda-in-breakfast-at-tiffanys-84735f426fb5>

3: The New York Times, *HBO Max Pulls 'Gone With the Wind,' Citing Racist Depictions*, Daniel Victor, Published June 10, 2022, Accessed on September 24, 2022.

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/06/10/business/media/gone-with-the-wind-hbo-max.html>

4: Time Magazine, *Justin Trudeau Brownface Photo*, Anna Purna Kambhampaty, Madeline Carlisle & Melissa Chan, Published September 18, 2022, Accessed on September 24, 2022.

<https://time.com/5680759/justin-trudeau-brownface-photo/>

5: Statistics Canada, Visible minority of person, Unknown author, Date Modified November 1, 2011, Accessed on September 24, 2022.

<https://www23.statcan.gc.ca/imdb/p3Var.pl?Function=DEC&Id=45152>

6: The New Yorker Magazine, *The Bitter Legacy of Canada's Forced Assimilation Boarding Schools*, Laurence Butet-Roch, Published September 20, 2015, Accessed on September 24, 2022.

<https://www.newyorker.com/culture/photo-booth/the-bitter-legacy-of-canadas-forced-assimilation-boarding-schools>