

TEXT	THINK ALONG – MY THOUGHTS
<p>Sure You Can Ask Me A Personal Question Diane Burns</p> <p>How do you do? No, I am not Chinese. No, not Spanish. No, I am American Indi—uh, Native American.</p> <p>No, not from India. No, not Apache No, not Navajo. No, not Sioux. No, we are not extinct. Yes, Indian.</p> <p>Oh? So that's where you got those high cheekbones. Your great grandmother, huh? An Indian Princess, huh? Hair down to there? Let me guess. Cherokee? Oh, so you've had an Indian friend? That close? Oh, so you've had an Indian lover? That tight? Oh, so you've had an Indian servant? That much?</p> <p>Yeah, it was awful what you guys did to us. It's real decent of you to apologize. No, I don't know where you can get peyote. No, I don't know where you can get Navajo rugs real cheap. No, I didn't make this. I bought it at Bloomingdales. Thank you. I like your hair too. I don't know if anyone knows whether or not Cher is really Indian. No, I didn't make it rain tonight.</p> <p>Yeah. Uh-huh. Spirituality. Uh-huh. Yeah. Spirituality. Uh-huh. Mother Earth. Yeah. Uh-huh. Uh-huh. Spirituality. No, I didn't major in archery. Yeah, a lot of us drink too much. Some of us can't drink enough.</p> <p>This ain't no stoic look. This is my face.</p>	<p><i>Sounds a bit sarcastic. I wonder if the rest of the text will be like this.</i></p> <p><i>Yes, it is a bit sarcastic. These must be the comments she gets from people all of the time. The stereotypes others hold of Native Americans.</i></p> <p><i>I wonder why she changes American Indian to Native American. Does she think of herself as American Indian, but she does not want others to because that term holds so many misconceptions? Or does she just not want to take the time to explain why other people's political correctness has nothing to do with how she thinks of herself?</i></p> <p><i>All of the most well known tribes that we think all Native Americans come from. How well she knows what the world thinks.</i></p> <p><i>But she comes back to referring to herself as Indian. Looks like because that is what this person (who is just the world at large maybe) knows and understands.</i></p> <p><i>Is this her speaking or is it the person she is talking to here?</i></p> <p><i>I see. The person must be saying they have Native American blood in them.</i></p> <p><i>She's making fun of the fact that this person thinks they know and understand all Native Americans because they've had an Indian friend, lover, servant. Typical of most people. Funny that she throws in servant...</i></p> <p><i>Must be a white person who is speaking to her. Why does this person apologize? And then why this mockery of the apology?</i></p> <p><i>It is like she is using the stereotypes that have been said about Native Americans to stereotype the speaker, using her sarcasm to make her point.</i></p> <p><i>This part about spirituality. Wow! Must be like the straw that broke the camels back. Spirituality is so personal, but here she makes it so impersonal, almost trivial, even though it is something important. To throw it back in this person's face, to reclaim it for herself and her tribe?</i></p> <p><i>I love this line. Taking the drinking too much and making it not enough. It is the sum of all of her fed up-ness.</i></p> <p><i>And this is such a great ending. Reclaiming her face, her looks as individual, beyond the stereotype, the label. I love this poem!</i></p>