

# ASIA-AMERICA

Asia-America

Can you tell me where your location is?

There have been search parties for over a century

Yet the clues lead us all back to where we started

I've seen wanted posters all over with the

Reward of self identity

I'm so lost

Trying to follow the trails embedded

Within my skin because

It leads me to papaya based whitening soap and

When I use this I feel my map washing down the drain

I feel as if my eyes are unslanting

Every minute

I know you're not here

Asia-America

You need to come out of hiding and

Surrender yourself

So I could get a sense of

Belonging and acceptance

I've been scrutinizing every Kung Fu film

To see if you're in their kicks and flips

I've been following the scent of fish but

Alas all I find is

Racist comments

Drizzling out the mouths

Of those who believe

You exist in Asian Chicken Salads at fast food restaurants

I've smashed hundreds of fortune cookies

Trying to see if they contain a hint

To your whereabouts but

You continue to hide from my soul searching

I've cut off speeches and stories about

Who you are and

Where you are because

Asia-America

I know for a fact

You don't live in

Nail salons or

Laundry mats

You are not in finger muscles pulling the sides of eyes that mock your very existence

You're so much more than facial features and stereotypes

You're the months ticking away on Angel Island

You're the sweat that drops from farmers in the southeast

You're the festivals

The new years

The food

The clothing and

I swear I caught a glimpse of you but

You continue to dodge me

I've spent years trying to verify myself and

I believe you're the missing piece to complete this puzzling puzzle of identity

Asia- America

I hope you're listening to these words and absorbing the message and

If you receive my letters

Texts or

My emails

Could you please write back?

I know I'm sounding desperate but

I'd do anything and everything just to find you

You mean that much to me

I feel like my whole existence is just to prove yours

So I will continue to study you and

Learn more because

Perhaps you exist in the history

The culture

It may be years

Decades or

Even centuries before your biography comes out but

When it does I'll be first in line

So I can strip it bare till I find an address

I need to know history

I need to know self

I need to know you

Asia-America

You make me want to dig deep & unravel roots

That just may hold the key to you

So I'm trying and the more I search

I feel my own self being weaved in your tapestry

You're this part in me that I can't seem to escape

I try to assimilate but

I fall victim due to being the product of 2 cultures

Asia America

I've been searching for you in all works

Asian and American but I can't seem to bridge the gap

So I sit here contemplating

Where you may be

Why you exist and

How your hyphen came to be.