

1 | Prompt

Orange theorizes the concept of the "Urban Indian" in his Prologue (11). Define this concept and explain how one of the novel's characters navigates this modern identity alongside his/her ancestral roots.

2 | Outline

- What is an Urban Indian?
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- Talk about Tony Loneman and the Drome
 - Face is a consequence of urban Indian life and its many hardships
 - Disconnect from culture and socioeconomic pressure leads many Urban Indians to alcohol addiction
 - Tony literally says that "the Drome" (i.e. Alcohol Poisoning) is "my mom and why she drank, it's the way history lands on a face, and all the ways I made it so far despite how it has fucked with me since the day I found it there on the TV, staring back at me like a fucking villain."
 - In essence, the Drome is a metaphor (in Tony's, and in our, minds,) of the burden that is being an Urban Indian.
 - Drome causing Tony to be stupid => Stereotypes about Indians being stupid???
 - However, Tony claims that he has overcome the Drome
 - "all the ways I made it so far despite how it has fucked with me since the day I found it there on the TV"
- MF DOOM passage
 - "And it helped because the Drome's what gives me my soul, and the Drome is a face worn through."
 - Tony has internalized the Drome as part of his identity (i.e. came to terms with it)
 - MF DOOM background
 - MF DOOM had many hardships (brother died, got dropped by his record label, was homeless for a while)
- Tony's disconnect from Indian culture
 - Evident in robbing the Powwow
 - Tony doesn't hesitate when Octavio tells him they will rob the Powwow
 - Tony still feels the Indian culture deep down
 - "I tightened my chin strap. I looked at my face. The Drome. I didn't see it there. I saw an Indian. I saw a dancer."
 - To Tony (and other Urban Indians), embracing Indian culture (i.e. regalia) helps with overcoming the Drome (i.e. Urban Indian burden).