

Indian Humour

It has always been a great disappointment to Indian people that the humorous side of Indian life has not been mentioned by professed experts on Indian Affairs. Rather the image of the granite-faced grunting¹ redskin has been perpetuated by American mythology. [...]

The Indian people are exactly opposite of the popular stereotype. [...] Indians have found a
5 humorous side of nearly every problem and the experiences of life have generally been so well defined through jokes and stories that they have become a thing in themselves.

For centuries before the white invasion, teasing² was a method of control of social situations by Indian people. Rather than embarrass members of the tribe publicly, people used to tease individuals they considered out of step³ with the consensus of tribal opinion. In this way egos were
10 preserved and disputes within the tribe of a personal nature were held to a minimum.

Vine Deloria Jr, *Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto*, 1969.

¹ Making a low sound instead of speaking

² Mocking

³ In disagreement