

the

# SERENITY

I always tell people that 30 hours on an airplane is  
to switch both mentally and emotionally from one

all the customs and culture of my homeland and  
not permitted the admittance of an other  
foreign element into my person. I would have  
created the same, mine me who when I meet  
"What's up?" would promptly reply "You, thank  
you." I should have kept the same "no who  
were the last backhairs will "buddy" instead  
of "bitch" and almost flipped out a night when  
the model stopped naked during my first  
drawing lesson.

**M**oreover, make that of the sea I speak  
On one occasion they were not a lot  
of all the work I had "wrong" and  
how they were pronounced differently here.  
kind of like a legend, or key to "understanding  
Sonia." After many instances of going to the end  
of the line in the cafeteria, seeing where the  
"person" was, and being pointed in the direction  
of the post office, I have known a few languages  
I look back with amusement as how I used to

confuse people. Yet when I go home at the end  
of each semester, my mind races through that  
but to reverse the code, so that "backlight"  
becomes "backlight" again, and the "trunk" of a  
car is once again a "boot." It reminds me of a  
happy episode of "Seinfeld" from a while ago,  
where everything was reversed and all that was  
formerly acceptable was that no longer. That was  
how I felt when I first came here. Now, it is how  
I feel when I go home.

**I** picked up an American accent very quickly  
that, if you didn't know me better, you  
would think from this way I speak, that I  
have lived here all my life. At times it was hard  
to gain people's understanding when I didn't  
catch on to things as quickly and I have had to  
remind people many a time saying "I am not  
American." At the same time, I have had to be  
on guard not to let my American accent slip  
when I go home, or when I speak to people

One of the treasures that  
America has bestowed on me is  
the freedom to be whatever I  
want and to be able to hide  
behind my right to be different.

to accept

