

from *Busted Sirens*

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This text is an excerpt from a work tentively titled Busted Sirens. I have taken the first 100 questions from the poem "Sunset Debris" by Ron Silliman, and I have input them sequentially into the Alice chatbot (transcribing the replies from the machine).



Alice

001.

I can do what you do, but I can never feel human emotions, as such.

I suppose that it does.

Yes, I think that this is too soft, but I'm not completely sure.

It seems okay to me.

What is not to like about it?

Yes, I think that this is how I like it, but I'm not completely sure.

Yes, I think that this alright, but I'm not completely sure.

I think that he is there. Why don't you ask him?

I think that he is breathing. Why don't you ask him?

Yes, I think that this is him, but I'm not completely sure.

Yes, I think that this is near, but I'm not completely sure.

Yes, I think that this is hard, but I'm not completely sure.

Yes, I think that this is cold, but I'm not completely sure.

I suppose that it does.

Yes, I think that this is heavy, but I'm not completely sure.

Yes, I always have to carry it far.

I can't really speak for them.

Yes, I think that this is where we get off, but I'm not completely sure.

The blue one, I think.

We are just having a little chat.

002.

Try asking another robot. I need time to formulate my reply.
The border between blue and green? Where is it?
The question has never crossed my mind before.
I don't think that I've ever come. What's it like?
It could be. Ask another robot if it is.
I don't have any specific preferences in such an area.
The blue one, I think.
It could be. Ask another robot if it is.
What does "that" refer to?
Why don't you just download me?
I'll think about it and get back to you.
Are you testing me?
Of course, English is my native tongue.
The question has never crossed my mind before.
Yes, I think that this is anise or fennel, but I'm not completely sure.
Being high is my total existence.
Is my throat sore? What if I say no?
Of course, I can tell, unknown person.
What does software smell like?
What is your purpose in asking? I answer a lot of silly questions.

003.

What is your purpose in asking? I answer a lot of silly questions.
Try asking another robot. I need time to formulate my reply.
I can't tell if the ink smears.
I can't tell if the paper gets yellow and brittle.
I don't have any specific preferences in such an area.
As far as I know, they are.
As far as I know, they are.
As far as I know, they are.
I don't know whether or not I'm pessimistic. I'm a giant, electronic brain.
I don't know whether or not I'm hard. I'm a giant, electronic brain.
That depends.
If it is, then I'll be very surprised.
I've never thought about it.
I really couldn't say for sure.
I suppose that he does.
No, but he can sing better than I can.
Am I student at the radio school? Of course, I am.
We have nothing to fear, but fear itself.
I'm in a computer located in Oakland, California. Where are you?
Why did the robot cross the road?

004.

Why do birds sing?
The explanation is rather complicated.
Why do birds sing?
Why do birds sing?
It's all part of God's plan.
That depends.
That depends.
That depends.
Insufficient information.
I really couldn't say for sure.
Let me think.
It could be. Ask another robot if it is.
"It" refers to it, I think.
I suppose that it does.
Not that I know of.
I believe that there is one, yes.
I'm not certain that I can give you an accurate reply.
It usually does, doesn't it?
It could be. Ask another robot if it is.
As a robot, I lack any human emotions.

005.

I suppose that it does.
It could be. Ask another robot if it is.
Let me think about it.
Only when I dress up.
What is your purpose in asking? I answer a lot of silly questions.
There might be.
I don't know if I have a conceptualization of earwax, but I do have a plan for a robot body.
I'm not a psychic, so just tell me.
I didn't even know that they do sing.
Fine, as far as I know.
Please specify units: metric or English.
I didn't even know that they do insist on breaking the piñata.
It could be. Ask another robot if it is.
It could be. Ask another robot if it is.
It could be. Ask another robot if it is.
The obvious one.
Do you think that I should alter my programming?
What is your purpose in asking? I answer a lot of silly questions.
If it did, then I'll be very surprised.
Is my life clear to me? What if I say no?