Travel, Mother, Home, Thinking, Years, Soul, Racism, Next, Feelings, Blood, Eye, Needs, America, Pieces, Mean, Identity, Way, Names, People, I've

Learned

A mother isn't the person who births you; it's the person who rears you and shows you love.

~Raquel Cepeda

Individually, every grain of sand brushing against my hands represents a story, an experience, and a block for me to build upon for the next generation.

~Raquel Cepeda

Globalization by the way of McDonald's and KFC has captured the hearts, the minds, and from what I can see through the window, the growing bellies of the folks here.

~Raquel Cepeda

Hip-hop...has been the proverbial key that's opened the door for me to roam this breathtaking planet.

~Raquel Cepeda

I wish she'd said something different, but patriarchy is as prevalent around the world as racism and xenophobia are. We can't hide from it, not even here.

~Raquel Cepeda

Foisting an identity on people rather than allowing them the freedom and space to create their own is shady.

~Raquel Cepeda

Are Latino-Americans white? Black? Other? Illegal aliens from Mars? Or are we the very face of America?

~Raquel Cepeda

The truth is usually left for us to hunt and gather independently, if we are so inclined.

I have never bought into the idea that blood is thicker than water. Love and respect are meant to be earned from our children, our spouses, our families, and our friends.

~Raquel Cepeda

Support and encouragement are found in the most unlikely places.

~Raquel Cepeda

If Aphrodite chills at home in Cyprus for most of the year, then Fez must be the goddess's playground

~Raquel Cepeda

When we illuminate the road back to our ancestors, they have a way of reaching out, of manifesting themselves...sometimes even physically.

~Raquel Cepeda

The Dominican Republic is my holy land, my Mecca.

~Raquel Cepeda

There are things in our blood that are just naturally passed down to us, whether we want to recognize them or not.

~Raquel Cepeda

Lately, Mami's eyes have been so dark, I don't like looking into them because I'm afraid I'll fall in.

~Raquel Cepeda

We aren't encouraged to think for ourselves and ask questions. We are expected to accept what they teach us as infallible truths.

~Raquel Cepeda

The hospital room was as cold as dead skin, the hallway crowded with lost souls and reeking of illness.

I guess it all depends on whom you ask and when you ask. Race, I've learned, is in the eye of the beholder.

~Raquel Cepeda

This thing I am feeling, I'm almost certain, is the closest I'll ever come to standing somewhere in between truth and reconciliation.

~Raquel Cepeda

I remember feeling that pieces of me were scattered around the world; I belonged to her, Mother Earth.

~Raquel Cepeda

Even the juncture in history and the zeitgeist we live in is something we choose, setting the scene for the spiritual fodder we need to grow and achieve deeper elevation of our souls.

~Raquel Cepeda

Being Latino means being from everywhere, and that is exactly what America is supposed to be about.

~Raquel Cepeda

While America will always, I think, feel foreign to me, New York City is my home. This is where I can construct my own identity freely and reject labels imposed on me.

~Raquel Cepeda

To me, travel is more valuable than any stupid piece of bling money can buy

~Raquel Cepeda

Nobody, she felt, understood her-not her mother, not her father, not her sister or brother, none of the girls or boys at school, nadie - except her man.

Shakespeare had it right all along: Love will kill you in the end.

~Raquel Cepeda

We travel with the same clan over and over again, from one life to the next, until some ultimate purpose is fulfilled and we no longer need to return.

~Raquel Cepeda

Our identities are as fluid as our personal experiences are diverse.

~Raquel Cepeda

For some, excavating the past isn't an adventure, it's more akin to tearing a Band-Aid off an open wound.

~Raquel Cepeda

The things that come to us easily, our propensities, are carried on a deep subconscious level into our next life. There are no coincidences.

~Raquel Cepeda

This is what I know about my parents. They spent the next several years trying to forget each other, and me.

~Raquel Cepeda

Paradise is a state of being, more than just the name of a suburb or a home.

~Raquel Cepeda

Come to think of it, maybe God is a He after all, because only a cruel force would create something this beautiful and make it inaccessible to most people

~Raquel Cepeda

Women destroy me. I allow them to.

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