

Happy Mother's Day

Mom, I was hit with a revelation yesterday. I realized that I owe you an apology. I now have the awareness that there are systems and structures intentionally designed to create struggle and pain. However, I held onto blaming you for the troubling and traumatic experiences I endured during childhood, adolescence, and young adulthood.

I realize how unfair I've been. I have also realized that I needed to heal and let go, and to do so, I had to get to the root of the problem which is NOT you. So, here is what I thought about:

- I thought about you being a married, teenaged "black girl" in the 80s and all that came with it. By the 90s, you were a woman with three children, a felony on record, and no access to resources or "gainful employment."
- I thought about the many times you were judged, treated poorly, told "no" and denied opportunities due to having a record. I think about the discrimination, your trauma, abuse, scars, fears, worries, the moments when you were alone and needed support, but were always left with having to figure it out.
- I thought about the reason for your felony charge, your mental health, and how you were left to saving yourself from the hands of someone you loved and created children with.
- I thought about how the people with decision-making power reduced you to being "a woman with a felony," and didn't care to know that you are a Divine woman of substance, strength, beauty, knowledge, and grace who was responsible to care for three daughters alone, but lacked the social safety net.
- I thought about the unconditional love you have for me, [REDACTED], and [REDACTED] even when we were underserving and treated you badly, said and did hurtful things, and often favored our father over you.
- I thought about how the Universe saw fit for me to go through similar experiences so that I can see the world through your eyes

I am beginning to see clearly than ever before, and Mom, I apologize for treating and thinking of you in the same manner that the world did. I love you Mother! You contribute to the woman I am today, and the woman I am becoming. You contribute to my motherhood. You contribute to the passion and purpose I carry with me each day as I go after my visions. I am determined because I have witnessed your strength and ability to never give up or in, despite challenges. I honor you today and everyday as I seek all of the opportunities that were never afforded to you. Thank you for loving me, being here for me, and spreading joy. You are powerful, and your story deserves to be shared for the liberation of others, and most importantly-yourself.

Happy Mother's Day Queen Cathy! Shall you always know that you are love and light. Read this whenever you get low and need a refill and reminder of your greatness.

Love,
Cadrena Heard Bey- 5/10/2020
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