

12/4/77 This has been a week I didn't think I would be able to survive. Not for many months have I been so depressed. Since I received word that you had, if only tentatively, placed me in the adversary camp, so many other things around me have crumbled.

6/07/95 I don't know why they say that México has changed, that now nothing is the same, that a new democratic era has begun for the country. I don't know about there, but here everything is the same.

1/28/97 The Zapatistas hike up the price of the Indigenous Mexican blood. Yesterday it was worth less than the backyard bird. Today its death is the condition of the loan of greatest infamy in the world's history. The price of the Zapatista heads is the only one that maintains a high value in the ups and downs of financial speculation.

My dear hermanas, the dangers we face as women writers of color are not the same as those of white women though we have many in common. We don't have as much to lose - we never had any privileges. I wanted to call the dangers "quiet obstacles" but that would be a kind of lying. We can't transcend the dangers, can't rise above them. We must go through them and hope we won't have to repeat the performance.

04/09/79 For the master's tools will never dismantle the master's house. They may allow us to temporarily beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change. Racism and homophobia are real conditions of all our lives in this place and time. I urge each one of us here to reach down into that deep place of knowledge inside herself and touch that terror and loathing of any difference that lives here. See whose face it wears. Then the personal as the political can begin to illuminate all our choices.

3/24/00 If, if a white man puts his arm around me voluntarily, that's brotherhood. But if you - if you hold a gun on him and make him embrace or kiss me and pretend to be friendly or brotherly toward me, then that's not brotherhood, that's hypocrisy. You can't separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.

07/25 For years, I declined to fill in the form for my Senate press credential that asked me to state my 'race,' unless I was permitted to put 'human.' The form had to be completed under penalty of perjury, so I could not in conscience put 'white,' which is not even a color let alone a 'race,' (v) and I

sternly declined to put 'Caucasian,' which is an exploded term from a discredited ethnology. Surely the essential and unarguable core of King's campaign was the insistence that pigmentation was a false measure: a false measure of mankind (yes, mankind) and an inheritance from a time of great ignorance and stupidity and cruelty, when one drop of blood could make you 'black.'"

02/03/06 We don't go for segregation. We go for separation. Separation is when you have your own. You control your own economy; you control your own politics; you control your own society; you control your own everything. You have yours and you control yours; we have ours and we control ours."

06/00 As a southerner born after the epic events of the civil rights movement, I've always wondered how on earth people of good will could have conceivably lived with Jim Crow – with the daily degradations, the lynchings in plain sight, and, as the movement gathered force, with the fire hoses and the police dogs and the billy clubs (t).

I am - somebody. I may be poor, but I am - somebody! I may be on welfare, but I am - somebody! I may be uneducated, but I am (c) - somebody! I must be, I'm God's child. I must be respected and protected. I am black and I am beautiful! I am – somebody! Soul power! (t).

When we let freedom ring, when we let it ring from every tenement and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old spiritual, "Free at last, free at last. Thank God Almighty, we are free at last." (club).