



1. WHEN I WAS A KID I WANTED TO BE... What I am now: an international recording artist. Albeit with a bigger following, LOL.

2. MY FIRST JOB WAS... Leading my own musical group when I was 12 years old. We made \$40.00 each. I paid everyone, and I've been paying people ever since! My first straight job, when I quit music the first time, was in a cosmetics factory by the docks in Brooklyn.

3. I DESCRIBE MY MUSIC AS... Race Music. I've played and written in every genre but what I seek to perfect is simply Black Music.

4. THE LAST TIME I CRIED... Can't recall because I cry all the time, watching emotional scenes in movies. Besides that? Last year I lost my Dad and a best friend passed as well.

5. MY DREAM PLAYERS TO JAM WITH... So many. Alive today? Verdine White on bass, I played with him once at least. The late Roland Bautista my fave rhythm guitar player ever. Drums? QuestLove and my bestie Buddy Williams playing together like James Brown style. Can I have two basses? Pino Paladino! Wow! Jimmy Johnson: Mussel Shoals Legendary guitarist, Steve Cropper: Booker T & MGs guitar legend, Horns? Steve 'Doc' Kupka: Tower of Power on baritone. Pee Wee Ellis, Maceo Parker and Fred Wesley of course. With any of those cats 1968 band would be wicked but I have a for real wicked aggregation anyway...just saying.

6. LAST MUSIC RELATED GOOSEBUMP/CHILL... Few days ago I heard Freddie's Flight by Brian Auger and I had to buy it straight away. Live? Peter Erskine took a solo at Hollywood Bowl a few weeks ago in concert and I was jumping up and screaming at every drum lick like a school girl! LOL

7. THE RECORD I'VE PLAYED THE MOST... Hands down, over time, would have to be Kinda Blue by Miles Davis. All Stars!

8. MY GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT? Easily, my two sons who are both talented, spiritual, kind souls who both completed their university degrees and both work with me professionally.

9. THE RAREST RECORD IN MY COLLECTION... Milton Nascimento Original Brazilian Edition LP 1972: "Clube da Esquina" Only record I keep in plastic! Collector's item.

10. WORST REJECTION... Well, that's tough, had so many! My band Natural Essence had two failed major label contracts. The second one at Atlantic Records broke my young heart for sure. Then people at Columbia Records were high on us but after demos, didn't sign us. I was crushed, didn't everyone dream of being on Columbia? After that, every A&R guy in the business turned down my solos projects over the years. When Mai Lau

rebuffed my advances in 4th grade; now that was real rejection. She said: "I'm Chinese, I can't go with you...you're Black."

11. STRANGEST THING A FAN HAS ASKED ME... Whatever it was, I'm sure it was during the dark and insipid days of My Space. I had all of these truly airheaded girls who liked my profile, publicity photos and thought I was cute. Unfortunately, though my music was front and center, more than a few of them asked me: "do you like music?"

12. JAMES BROWN VS SLY STONE? That is surely not fair to ask me, if you've heard my album 1968: Soul Power! One is my right arm, the other my left! But, if you must: JB will live forever and a day, he makes me jump up and dance to this day.

13. MY MOST EMBARRASSING MOMENT... Had an outdoor concert sponsored by The Grammys. It was a big deal, my band Rain People was starting to gain a real buzz. Fans came to see me, bass player never showed up: decided he was gonna ask for a divorce that day! Guitar player had car accident, showed up midway. Grammy people made me go on without bass or guitar! I quit music the next day, literally. Wouldn't leave my house.

14. TWITTER FOLLOWER COUNT? Gee, only 124 brave souls care enough about me to follow me on Twitter. Should I be embarrassed by that as well?

15. MOST SHOCKING THING I'VE WITNESSED... A murder suicide down the street from my Mom's house in Puerto Rico. Simply horrendous sight.

16. MY MUSICAL GUILTY PLEASURE... Ha! Of course that would have to be Herman's Hermits. Wasn't it everyone's? "I'm Henry the 8th I am".

17. WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE'RE DEAD... I don't think I can come back and explain it to you.

*Yours truly,
Rasheed Ali*