

Bianca Mendonça

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p u b r



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Here to our left was São João, here where we are walking is Jacamim and to our right, Terra Rica.



On this trail, we have a place called Terra Rica.



Years ago, I used to walk, as we are now walking, to cut rubber trees there in Terra Rica.

At that time, we were a group of eight people who came to cut rubber there in Terra Rica, and every month we harvested four tons of rubber.

Nowadays, there is no company that buys this rubber, so the price is very low.

At this time, when I was in Belterra, I worked from the morning until noon.



In the after-noon,

I went to school from 7:00 in the evening until 10:00 at night.

During this period of the afternoon, I would sell the rubber tree seeds to earn money. I would more than my salary at the school.

*In my father's family,*  
we have almost 5,000  
rubber trees. We don't  
cut them anymore  
because we don't sell  
them. I started to cut  
rubber with my father  
when I was eight years  
old. As the family was  
large, I had to help with  
the raising of both my

own and my brothers  
and sisters. I was the



first child, so I started  
working early.

— *Seu Raimundo*  
*from Maguari*  
*Community*

*Are there jaguars in this region?*

*Yes.*

*But you never see them, do you?*

*No. It's just that they are jaguars. When we arrive, they try to leave.*

*It's better not to see them, right? Because if they see us, they attack.*

*No, the jaguar doesn't attack at all. It's like this: if you stand still and stare at it, it won't come at you because, in its sight, you are a very big animal. Now if you see it and run away, it will see that you are an animal that it can catch and eat.*

So, you must stand

still?

Yes, standing still she  
won't attack you at all.  
Standing looking at it,  
it'll think:

I'm not going to go  
there, this one is  
stronger than me.

*This is a tree called  
Lacre.*

*When the Indians  
were still here around,  
they used to cut the  
bark of this very big*

*tree, make a  
plow with  
its bark, and  
then go  
away.*





When they came,  
there was the ballast  
of the  
resin  
of this  
tree which is called  
Lacre.



It is an orange resin.  
They would get it and  
paint themselves all  
over for the rituals.

It is beautiful, but it is  
a little strong. If you  
apply it too strongly  
on your skin, it burns.  
It's hard to get it off  
the skin. You have to  
rub it well with soap  
and it comes off.

— Seu Iracildo from  
Jamaraguá Community