



Interviewer: Thank you very much for your participation in this project. The objective of this survey is to produce a coherent and detailed narrative of your story. So I recommend you feel free to say whatever you want to say, without worrying about speaking in depth. That's what we want. Tell me about the place you were born and how was this place an the people who lived there.

Interviewee: Where I lived?

Interviewer: Yes, your birthplace, where you were born.

Interviewee: I was born in Bahia, right? In this case. I was born in Bahia. Where? How this place was in the past? It was, what? It was normal, right? People were more amiable. Nowadays everyone is violent, a horrible thing. But I was born here, and I'm still here today. And it wasn't here at Pelourinho. It was there where I live, which is the district of Lobato. What else?

Interviewer: How was your childhood? What are you most beautiful memories?

Interviewee: I remember I had three big dolls, and I would play with them. I would fly kites, play with my little friends. My mother would ask me to do stuff and I would left half unfinished just so I could go out an play. It was a good childhood. I still have childhood friends today. My childhood was good.

Interviewer: Do you remember any particular game, pastime, or fun things you used to engage with?

Interviewee: I played card games. Cards. Like, deck of cards. And I would play with the girls of- not games. I would play more song games, hide and seek. Not games, it was- we would play doll house, we would play-- Let me see, what else-- "*Pimentinha pimentão*", we played with hula hoops, and things like that, because I was a child. That's it.

Interviewer: Tell me about your parents and grandparents. Where were they from?

Interviewee: My father was from Pojuca. My mother is from Salvador. My grandmother is also from Salvador. My grandfather is from Pojuca.

Interviewer: What were the professions for your parents and grandparents?

Interviewee: My mother was *Baiana de Acarajé*. My grandmother I don't remember. My father worked for the oil industry, he worked for Petrobras. My grandfather I also don't know. That's about it. And she was also a bus ticket collector before working as a *Baiana*, good cook, she cooked a lot to sell and things like that. And she ended up as a *Baiana*.

Interviewer: How was the Pelourinho when you were a child?



Interviewee: It was all destroyed around here, it was all ugly, painting coming off the walls, deteriorated, you know? But there was a lot of different people, right? But it was ugly. Now it's a beautiful place, compared to what it was.

Interviewer: How what the work in your profession when you were a child? Do you remember?

Interviewee: I started to work with my mother, when I was 10 years old. It's not different, because it's the same thing as today, because I used to do everything I do here now. The only thing I didn't do was to sell, because I didn't know how. But I washed the dishes, washed the beans, washed the clothes. And it's the same thing these days, it wasn't different from now.

Interviewer: How was it to work with your mother in your profession?

Interviewee: How was it to work with her? Well, she would go to the street fair, and I would stay home. And I would do the home things, tidying it up, cleaning, advancing some work for her before she arrived.

Interviewer: How did you learn to cook? Do you have some story about that?

Interviewee: With my mother, everything was with my mother. She would do it and teach me along the way. "Come and watch how it's done so you can learn." Then I would do it, it was a disaster, because I didn't know anything, you know? At the time it's horrible. But then she would say, "It's not like that. It's like this." And with time I learned how to do it. I make all sorts of food, for my home as well the local recipes to sell, which is the acarajé. And that's it.

Interviewer: Do you enjoy eating?

Interviewee: No. [laughs] I'm more of a snacks person, because when my mother would do her snacks, everybody would come to our house, everybody likes a good snack. We have real food because we need it, right? Because it's not good to go without it, but I don't like regular meals very much. When you say eating, you mean anything? Real food, right? I'm eating here now because I bought it fresh, at the last minute, and because I'm already hungry here. So I'm eating right here in the middle of the street. But if it was at home, I would have a snack in my hand. It's good.

Interviewer: And what are your favorite foods or snacks?

Interviewee: Cakes, juices, pizza, biscuits, hamburgers. What foods do I like? It's chicken and pasta, it's what I like more.

Interviewer: And can you share a recipe with us?

Interviewee: A recipe? Of what? [inaudible 00:05:53]. Wait. [inaudible 00:06:00]. Oh, we can't do nothing here today. Say it, love? Nothing?



Interviewer: Recipe.

Interviewee: A recipe of what? What could I share? A fish stew. Would that work? An easier one. Fish stew is a little hard. Let me see. Let me remember something here. Of what? Now I don't even know. A student's scone? Can I share that scone? Well, you take the coconut, grate it. Peel it completely, cut it, and peel it. After it's peeled, grate the coconut in a blender. When it's all shredded, put it in a bowl with the coconut milk. Then you add sugar and salt to your taste. When it's all in the bowl, add half a kilo of tapioca to that mixture.

When it's swelled up, then you knead, knead, knead it until it forms a paste. Then with this paste, you open some dry tapioca, put it in another bowl, and make the little scones. You take a little bit and make a scone. Wet your hand with some water you have on the side. And do it again. Then you roll the scone on the dry tapioca. We use dry tapioca to have that texture over it, which is quite crunchy. After you've done all the scones, fry them with a good amount of oil in a deep pan.

With the oil very, very hot, you start adding the scones in it, and leave until it's quite fried. When it's brown, you can remove it from the cooker, from the oil. Dry it with paper towel, to remove the excess oil. And then you just eat it with sugar and cinnamon, like here, look, sugar and cinnamon. You take the scones and roll them in sugar and cinnamon. It's a very easy recipe to make, and everybody eats it. It's like a dessert. It's very good.

Interviewer: Do you also cook at home?

Interviewee: I do. Everyday. Beans, rice, steak, liver, chicken, pasta, moqueca, shellfish, shrimp stew, which I like a lot, stews, mocotó, feijoada. Bahian food, you know? Vatapá, caruru, all that I cook at home.

Interviewer: Do you like cooking?

Interviewee: I like cooking. In fact, I like to do everything at home, to clean, to cook, to wash clothes. I like doing all of that. I feel good when I'm doing my own things.

Interviewer: Do you like music?

Interviewee: Like what? You asked me something there that is [unintelligible 00:09:18] in my sense, because I love music. Music, my darling, I don't live without music, because for me it is something that removes stress. It leaves you unstressed. You know? I love it. Now, international music I like even more. Right? National music also, and I like all kinds of music, mas I like international music more. Music is my life.

Interviewer: And do you like singing?



Interviewee: I do also. I love singing. I sang a lot at home today before I left. If I stayed at home I'd be singing until now, just singing.

Interviewer: Can you sing something?

Interviewee: Oh, my God, that's a problem. What could I sing here? What music would I sing? By the love of God. Now you put me in a situation. Now I will [unintelligible 00:10:06] everything at the last minute here, what would I remember? Tell me. What type of music? From whom? Roberto Carlos? From-- Bruno & Marrone.

Child: Auntie.

Interviewee: Hi?

Child: Give me an acarajé?

Interviewee: Boy, I only have this here.

Interviewer: A song that you enjoy.

Interviewee: I want-- From improvisation we never remember, right? Can't we skip that part? Skip the music part, can we? You're recording already? [unintelligible 00:10:50] she's spending. I want to remember a song. Hold on. I can't remember.

Man: Sing it, love.

[background noise]

Interviewee: My God in heaven. You'll have a long segment without anyone saying anything. [laughs] I'll sing a song by Fernando Mendes. It's this one, listen, "There's no use for that rabbit's foot in your back pocket, not even the horseshoe hanging behind the door, with a much better mood than last night, because luck belong to those who believe in it. There's no use in saying you'll give a reward. Don't do that, there are many who like to criticize. They sit an way for luck, stuck in one place. But all luck has its believers. There's no use for going to church and doing all wrong. You want the things in front of you, but you keep looking to the side. The sky over you doesn't charge you for the morning light. Wake up for life, and believe, luck is a sister." That's it.

Interviewer: Beautiful. Thank you very much. Very beautiful.

Interviewee: You're welcome.

Interviewer: And which religion do you practice?

Interviewee: Evangelical. Evangelical.



Interviewer: Is there a connection between your work and your religion?

Interviewee: I don't know, because, in my case, I like the evangelical church very much, you know? It's not Catholic, nor Candomblé, it's evangelical. There's no relation at all, no. There's no relation. Because this here is my work, it's how I pay for my daily bread. And the church, I like to go to reflect. It's good to search for God. But there's no relation at all, no.

Interviewer: Can you describe your favorite part of your religious service?

Interviewee: Of my service here?

Interviewer: At the church.

Interviewee: Oh, my favorite part is to hear the praises, to listen to the songs, the music, and the prayer time, I like that. My favorite part, what I like most, it's that. And to listen to the prayers and the praises. That's it.

Interviewer: What's the name of your profession or work?

Interviewee: I'm a *Baiana de Acarajé*. I'm *Baiana de Acarajé*. A small company, an acarajé scones small company is what I have. If I have more people selling for me I would be a great entrepreneur. But I'm just a small acarajé businesswoman, a mini-entrepreneur with these things.

Interviewer: And what do you think about your profession or your work?

Interviewee: I think that I like doing what I do. I need to come here to earn my living everyday. And I like coming here because my customers, my clients, they like me. And they like it when I'm here selling my little acarajé scones, when I'm interacting with them during the sale, the buying, I laugh, they laugh, they buy and they leave satisfied. That's the good part that I like.

Interviewer: How long have you been working in this region, the Pelourinho?

Interviewee: It's been 33 years, because I'm 43 now. So, I started when I was 10 years old, with my mother, right? But, she passed away and I stayed here. By myself, I'm here for about five years, without her. And adding all up, 34 years.

Interviewer: What do you like about working here?

Interviewee: Hm?

Interviewer: What do you like about working here?

Interviewee: What do I like about working here?

Interviewer: That you like about working here at the Pelourinho.

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Interviewee: About working here, that's about it really. There's nothing else that I'd say I like. Just working with my acarajé really. Is that what you want to know?

Interviewer: What are the things you don't like about working at the Pelourinho?

Interviewee: What I don't like about working here, I don't like seeing it, actually, are these boys that keep asking for stuff, this agonizing situation they impose over the people here, that's something I don't like to see. I don't like working with it either, you know, to see these things around here, because nobody ever fix it. You're buying your acarajé here, and a dirty dude comes to you asking for stuff, and the person even gives up on buying just to get rid of him. And we even lose the sale because of these boys. It's terrible, it's something I don't like about here.

Interviewer: Have you worked somewhere else?

Interviewee: Yes, at *Largo do Tanque, Ribeira, Rio Vermelho*. I did work there. *Tororó*. A lot of places [**unintelligible 00:16:41**]. But then I setup a fixed spot here. I worked at *Castro Alves*. But afterwards I just stayed here really. And from here, I'll keep staying here, I won't leave, unless it's to organize an event for somebody somewhere, then I'll go. But other than that I'm here everyday.

Interviewer: What don't you like about your work?

Interviewee: What I don't like about my work? Oh, my God, I like everything. There's nothing I don't like. There's nothing. I don't like when it rains. [laughs] But I like everything else about my work. There's nothing I don't like. Because if you don't like something, there's no use in keep doing it, right? So you have to like it, to love what you do to feel good about it. So, there's nothing I don't like here, I like everything.

Interviewer: And what are the things you like about your profession?

Interviewee: Oh, I like making acarajé, kneading the dough, prepare my ingredients at home, bring it here, to brush my pans, my own things. I like doing everything here, scones, abará, and making acarajé, for me it's the best thing, to make the scones, fry them there, I like doing it.

Interviewer: How do imagine the tourists see you?

Interviewee: Like what?

Interviewer: How do imagine the tourists see you or listen to you?

Interviewee: How do I imagine they see me? Like-- Oh, how they see me? I think they see us more or less like an idol, because we are the *Baianas de Acarajé*. You're talking about us, *Baianas*, right? Not just residents from Bahia, but us? Well, they see us, they think we're like-- even Michael Jackson out there-- There's a young boy who even have a picture of me at his house, from more than four, five years ago, I



think he lives in São Paulo, or Rio. So, he came here the other day, about 20 days ago, on Tuesday, he arrived here tell me that I am there all pretty at his office in photo with him by my side. And I didn't know. That was about five years ago.

I mean, for him, it's a myth or something like that, you know? So what are we? We fans of him. When they arrive here, they want to take photos, lots of photos. So they see us like that, like a singer, an actor, something from another world, because where they live these things don't exist. When they arrive here they are delighted with us. They have a good impression of us. And I also like the tourists, when they come here, because we get along well, we have a good impression of them also, right?

Interviewer: How is your relation with the people from Bahia?

Interviewee: It's great. Great. Everybody likes me, and I like everybody, my neighbors and the people from Bahia, it's great. We're a kind of family, you know? Each one has their own way, in each place you go, you know? Or in my case, where you live. I mean, here in Bahia, everybody is the same. Where you live as well, right? So I get along well with everybody. If for some reason that changes, we grow some distance, but still keep the "hi", but I get along well with everyone in Bahia.

Interviewer: Are you married?

Interviewee: I am. That one there is my son, that one.

Interviewer: And how did you meet your husband?

Interviewee: Hm?

Interviewer: How did you meet your husband?

Interviewee: I met him at work, at work. We worked together. We were work colleagues, and we met.

Interviewer: And does he work?

Interviewee: He works in construction.

Interviewer: And who makes more money in your family?

Interviewee: Me. My payment is daily. I make more than him per day. You know?

Interviewer: Do you have children?

Interviewee: Over there, that one. I have two sons and two grandsons.

Interviewer: Tell me about them, their lives, their jobs.



Interviewee: My sons are great for me. They both work. They're both good people. About their work? He's a tourist guide, that one. And the other one works at a company. Married also. They are also married. That one too. And they live a regular life. A normal life. Nobody lives-- You know? He lives at his house, the other one at another house, I live at my own. So, we all have normal lives. Leave to work in the morning, come back at night. [unintelligible 00:21:26] drink a little coffee, take a little bath, and go to sleep. That's it. And the same thing for me.

Interviewer: And what are you hopes and expectations for them?

Interviewee: That before I die, I can see my sons, everything, better than it is now, you know? They living a good life, keeping on the right track, because we the mothers, our sons are already grown up, but we're never confident enough to go away, to leave this world and leave them here. So, the more I see them getting their lives on track, the better I feel, I'll feel more at ease, more calm, if I'm an old woman or leave this world. That's my expectation.

Interviewer: Do you have daughters?

Interviewee: No, just the two boys.

Interviewer: And are you teaching them your work?

Interviewee: They already know everything. Both know how to make everything. That one, I taught him how to cook. He also knows how to make acarajé, everybody knows how to make it. None of them will end up on the street without a profession.

Interviewer: Have you lived at another state?

Interviewee: No, I only lived here in the state of Bahia, in Salvador.

Interviewer: Do you participate of some group or organization?

Interviewee: I'm a member of the *Baianas Association*, the ABAM, which is down here. But only the *Baianas Association*. Nothing else.

Interviewer: And what role, or what do you do within this group or organization?

Interviewee: No, there it's like-- When there are meetings, they summon us to speak about something, and we attend. That's it. Sometimes they have courses, of English, of food handling, good manners, how to deal with customers, what not to do. Then we go, we take these courses at Senac, down there, here at the Barroquinha neighborhood, at Aquidabã, when there are courses. When there's no courses, we stay at home trying to do other things related to our personal life, you know? Other than that-- Like now, they'll have a new English course. And I love it. I like it a lot. I like it because [unintelligible 00:23:32] I can go. I want to take a computation



course, but I'm not finding one. So that's it, I'm only part of that one group. What else?

Interviewer: What kind of relation do you have with the other women that work in this area?

Interviewee: Great relation. Everybody, we're always talking, we're always getting along well. If we need one another, they help. And so forth.

Interviewer: Would you like to talk about something we haven't talked about so far?

Interviewee: I said so much already that I don't even know what else to say. Oh, my God. Talk about what, my Father? I would like you know, that-- I don't know, I would like for the Pelourinho to be improved, like it was in the past, because here now there's no way of- it's not how it used to be. Because when the government, I mean, ACM-- As I told you before, it was ugly in here, you know? He came and set things straight, in this case, those beautiful house that you're seeing there, it was ACM who made them that pretty, a lot happened during his mandate, with the people he had by his side. And they turn the place pretty. So, the tourists came here, a lot of people came here. And the place started to get filled with people.

Then when he couldn't keep his job anymore, and he left- the position was low for him, he couldn't do anything anymore. So the place became too still, the movement stopped. In the past here there was a blessing that we could enjoy, work, make money. There was a very large stage over there, they took the stage away without anybody knowing how it was done. It was removed all of a sudden. So I would like for some governors to return this place to what it was before, that they bring back the attractions on the plazas down there. There are a lot of good places to go here, but they're all closed because there are no customers, or people to work there.

Because in here, about 60 places that had concerts were shut down, concert halls, restaurants, because there is no more audience. Not even in the Pelourinho. So there's a lack of workers, customers, and we lack our money. So I would like for it to return to what it was. There's no use in removing the crack heads and thieves. They won't leave. One goes away, another comes in. If they restore the place it would be great for us.

Interviewer: One question, what's your year of birth? In what year were you born?

Interviewee: I was born in '67. 30 of May, 1967.

Interviewer: What the highest school grade you've reached?

Interviewee: First year. Last year, oh, darling, and now I'm here. The last year I spent in school was '89. It was. I was supposed to graduate in pathology, but I gave up. I was working to pay for my course, to graduate, but I stopped. **[unintelligible 00:26:48]** to do an internship. But then I stopped going. Then I developed a trauma



about what I wanted to do, and stopped attending. I stayed here. I was saleswoman at stores, clothing stores. After that I decided to become a *Baiana*, and today I'm here.

Interviewer: Where do you live? What's the name of your neighborhood?

Interviewee: I live in Lobato. Lobato is the railway suburb. Downtown. You go down here, take the bus and go straight down.

Interviewer: Thank you for your participation. You can talk to me if you have more questions or if you want to add something else to your contribution. Thank you.

Interviewee: Okay. You're welcome.