



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 and the people who lived there.

Interviewee: [unintelligible 00:00:46] in this case, where I was born, things like that. In Salvador, at the Pau Miúdo district. I don't remember it very well. It was a long time ago. I met some people but they already escaped my memory, my recollection. I don't remember anymore. I have very little memory of it.

Interviewer: How was it when you were a child? What are your most beautiful memories?

Interviewee: I was a very mischievous girl. I was beaten a lot for it too. I also don't have anything very good. I worked a lot, as I still do nowadays. I started early and I'm still at it. Humble family, so I really had to work.

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

Interviewee: I played a lot with making clothes for my dolls. [laughs]

Interviewer: What is that?

Interviewee: It's about sewing. I pretended to be seamstress. I also liked to draw a lot, but over time that faded away.

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

Interviewee: My parents grew up on the countryside, and my grandmother also. I only got to know my maternal grandmother, and she was very cool, I liked her-- And excellent person. My father as well. [unintelligible 00:02:39]. My mother [unintelligible 00:02:39].

Interviewer: What were their professions or jobs?

Interviewee: I was a housemaid for a long time, working at family houses, not as a baby sitter, but as a domestic worker.

Interviewer: And your parents' professions?

Interviewee: My father was a plumber at Embasa, where Embasa is today. Before that it was [unintelligible 00:03:05], and after that it changed to COMAE, and nowadays it's Embasa. He worked there for many years. And my mother was always a housemaid.



Interviewer: What do you remember from your parents and grandparents? What do you remember about what they did, ate, drank or talked about?

Interviewee: There was a lot- what a thing, because, how can I say it, my father, most of his time was consumed with work. We had quite a hard life, there was not much choice. We had to thank God when we had the little we had to eat, so there weren't much options at all.

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

Interviewee: Well, Pelourinho, I don't even remember, because I didn't visit it during my childhood. I've become acquainted with Pelourinho a few years ago, after I started working with acarajé.

Interviewer: And do you remember how was it working at your profession when you were a child?

Interviewee: My profession when I was a child?

Interviewer: Yes.

Interviewee: No, because, how do you say it, when I started working, that was what? I started working when I was 10 years old.

Interviewer: How did you learn to cook?

Interviewee: I still haven't learned. [laughs] Something I don't know how to do is to cook. I fake some things, but I don't know how to cook.

Interviewer: Do you like eating?

Interviewee: I do.

Interviewer: What are your favorite foods?

Interviewee: My favorite is actually rice, steak and fries, and lettuce salad.

Interviewer: Can you share a recipe with us?

Interviewee: What? Recipe, what do you mean, like what? For me to give you a recipe? Oh, that's hard. [laughs] Let me see now. My God. Food recipe? Food, food, food, food. Let me see. Wow, it's hard for me now, because I'm terrible in the kitchen, horrible. Let me see. What could I tell you to cook. Perhaps, I think, a feijoada, maybe. But I can't really guarantee it.

Interviewer: Do you also cook at your home?



Interviewee: I do, but I can make very few things, it's steak, chicken, fish now and then, because people there don't like it very much, and beans. I make beans quite often. Pasta also here and there.

Interviewer: Do you like music?

Interviewee: I do like music.

Interviewer: What's your favorite kind of music? This pagode business, that kind of thing I don't really like. Just romantic music.

Interviewer: Can you sing -

Interviewee: Oh, no.

Interviewer: -a romantic song?

Interviewee: [laughs] No. No way. I'm a terrible singer.

Interviewer: What's your favorite proverb?

Interviewee: What kind of proverb? What kind of proverb?

Interviewer: A phrase, an expression.

Interviewee: An expression, let me see. I think-- Oh, well- oh, my God. Like, there are so many that currently I-- I have the habit of saying, I'm not sure if that's it, but when I'm angry, sometimes I say, "Nothing like a day after another." It's what I always say. That's it.

Interviewer: What religion do you practice?

Interviewee: I'm a Catholic.

Interviewer: How important is religion for you?

Interviewee: The important thing for me about religion is your trust in God, to have faith in Him and try not give in to temptation. That's it for me.

Interviewer: Is there a connection between your work and your religion? Do you incorporate your religious beliefs into your profession?

Interviewee: No, no, no, no. How do you say? In the work environment, where you make a living that doesn't fit. It doesn't come in at all. I just leave home, call for God and ask for everything to work out fine.

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

Interviewee: In my religion, I don't usually go to churches. Rarely, when something comes up, I'll go, but it's not always, it's just now and then that I'll attend, but I don't like when the evangelicals- it's just that sometimes the person may be busy. But then those people keep- I have nothing against it, but I also don't like it. The Jehovah's Witness come to your door and want-- For them, their God is not the same as our God. And for me there's only one God. I don't like that very much.

Interviewer: What is the name of your profession or work?

Interviewee: Well, I'm a *Baiana*. The profession is called *Baiana de Acarajé*.

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

Interviewee: I guess I think it's a very hard work for which you dedicate yourself fully to be able to do, and you don't get the recognition at your workplace. Nobody values your work. Very few people value the work of a *Baiana de Acarajé* as she deserves, as she needs it.

Interviewer: How did you start working on this profession?

Interviewee: How did I start? Well, at the beginning I didn't accept it very well. I used to say that selling acarajé was not my thing, I didn't like it, it was not for me. But over time, with the day to day, I really didn't have another means of survival. So I started working with this little by little. At the beginning I didn't take it very seriously, but later on I embraced it as a profession, and I'm doing it up to this day.

Interviewer: How long have you been working in this region? The Pelourinho.

Interviewee: At Pelourinho, about 15 or 16 years, more or less. Because I started working at the end there, and now I'm here. I haven't worked inside the actual Pelourinho. Just here in this area.

Interviewer: What do you like about working here?

Interviewee: Why do I like it? I have fun with people here, I've been here for a long time, there are lots of people, people that I know, so I like working here. I have nothing against it.

Interviewer: What are the things you don't like in your work here?

Interviewee: Why I don't like it? The boys who don't respect other people. Recently it has been a little easier. Someone from another place, or even a local, arrive here to buy something, and what happens? There come the boys, approaching people and asking for things. When they don't get anything, they keep insisting, and even complain sometimes. I can't complain too much also because I'm here in the day to day. The person arrive, then goes away, and I stay here daily.

Then they don't like it, they call them names. Sometimes they wait for the person to leave and attack them on the street. Those are the things I don't like about here. And you look for some authority person, you look for some police officer, to report the incident or even request them to help the person in need, and you don't find any. That's my complain about this place.

Interviewer: Did you work somewhere else?

Interviewee: I did. I have worked at Porto, at Barra. I've already worked at Porto, I worked at the Farol. I worked at Porto da Barra, I worked at Iguatemi. I worked at Rio Vermelho, at Pituba, and now I'm here. This is the place I stayed longer. At the other places I spent less time. This is my workplace.

Interviewer: What are the things you like about your profession?

Interviewee: What I like is this, it's the thing itself. I don't like the clothing very much. I wear it because I actually have to, but I don't like it. My tray being very tidy and cute, that's what I like.

Interviewer: Don't like [inaudible 00:03:53]

Interviewee: No. A well dressed and tidy *Baiana* is beautiful. But I don't particularly like it very much. But we have to wear it, so I do. Not that thing of putting those necklaces, those things, with all the bling, I don't really like it.

Interviewer: But why?

Interviewee: I don't know, I think it's weird. I don't like it. Not now, but in the old days, when I first started here and started growing my customer base, most people would approach me and say, "Oh, *Baiana*, I like buying from you, first, because your product is good, and second, because you don't wear all those things, all that bling, and those garnishing ornaments." Because there are people that use that fig, a thing this big, a lot of messy stuff over the tray, and I don't use those things. So people appreciated and liked that, then one thing lead to another. I didn't like the necklaces, all those things, and needing approval from people, so I kept everything as it was.

Interviewer: And what are the things you don't like about your job?

Interviewee: What I don't like about my job? It's this we're seeing here now, no movement at all, you arrive here and there's no one. It's horrible. Then you keep waiting, calling for God, asking for the customers to come back. Sometimes the customer passes by and don't even stop, or they come, and they know that my price is not expensive, but some people ask, "How much for it, *Baiana*?" "This much." "Holly mother, is cheaper on that other place." "Well, why didn't you go buy from the cheaper place then?"

Up there, at the Pelourinho, I think the acarajé sells for R\$3, R\$4. I sell it here for R\$2, R\$3. And many people think it's expensive. I can sell it cheaper because I also need to value my product, my money. If I start selling it cheaper to make them happy, later on they will come and be the first to say, "She's selling it cheap because it's not good." You know? I can't do it, no way.

Interviewer: Did you have other jobs before?

Interviewee: No, just those I told you, working at family houses, but then I stopped, I became a housewife, and after that I started as a *Baiana de Acarajé*.

Interviewer: How do you think the tourists hear you?

Interviewee: How do I think they what?

Interviewer: Hear you.

Interviewee: I believe that happens through gesticulation, because, as the majority of them speak other languages, and I can speak it, I try, in my own way, to explain some things to them. I believe many of them understand me. [laughs] Not all of them, but some do understand me. Put it there.

Participant: R\$2, fresh shrimp.

Interviewer: How is your relation with people from Bahia?

Interviewee: Well--

Participant: It keeps good for a good while, the only thing that doesn't last very long is the vinaigrette.

Interviewee: Yes, if it's a takeout, my advise is not to take the salad, nor the caruru, which is the okra.

Participant: It goes bad fast.

Interviewee: Is it far away?

Participant: It goes bad fast.

Interviewee: Airplane or bus?

Participant: Airplane. [laughs]

Participant: Ah, by plane the trip is quick.

Interviewee: Ah, by plane it's fast, now --



Participant: Rio de Janeiro.

Participant: Ah, it's fast by plane.

Interviewee: For what day is it? For today?

Participant: Yes, but I'll only arrive tomorrow morning. I'm going now.

Interviewee: Then my advice is-- because I don't have a recipient, otherwise you could put the ingredients separately. I advise you to take it, either with the vatapá and the shrimp, with pepper if you want it, or else without anything.

Participant: But why? Because it gets cold?

Interviewee: No, because it doesn't last, the tomato goes bad quickly, and the caruru also.

Participant: Approximately five hours?

Interviewee: Look, if it's going to be left over to the next day, or something like that, I don't advise you to put that.

Participant: Because it goes until the morning.

Interviewee: My boy, a little salad you can do it yourself at home, you slice a little tomato, [laughs] much fresher.

Participant: I know, but the nice thing about it would be to take it already prepared. [laughs]

Interviewee: Yes, it's up to you, you know?

Participant: Unless you had a thermal bowl. It would confuse it until the time you arrive in Rio.

Participant: I know.

Interviewee: I'll tell you, if it's going to take too long, and other people tell you, "Don't worry. You can take it and it will still be good." That is just a sales tactic.

Participant: I see.

Interviewee: [laughs]

Participant: The thing is to mix, it'll get all mixed up--

Interviewee: Yes, I we had at least- it there was some sort of thermal recipient with separate compartments for you to put it, right?

Participant: The thing is not even the mixing up, it's the time, the time.

Participant: What if it's wrapped tidily?

Interviewee: No. Not that.

Participant: Yes, my friend, if it goes bad, throw it away.

Interviewee: [laughs] Yes, that's true, since you want to take it all, if it goes bad, take away the tomato, because it doesn't mix with the dough. You take away the tomato if you think it's not good, and there you go.

Interviewer: You were talking about your relation with the people in Bahia.

Interviewee: My relations with people a very few because I don't go out too much, so not-- There are very few.

Interviewer: Tell me about your family. Are you married?

Interviewee: Divorced.

Interviewer: Do you live alone?

Interviewee: No, I live with my daughter.

Interviewer: Tell me about your daughter. Do you have only a single daughter or do you have more daughters?

Interviewee: I have seven children. Five girls and two boys.

Interviewer: And how are their lives, their work?

Interviewee: My work is really the daily routine, get up at six in the morning, and it's only finished after I get home, then, arrive at home, have a bath, sleep, watch something and sleep, so I can start everything again the next day.

Interviewer: And your sons and daughters? How are their lives?

Interviewee: My daughters work. Only two of them, and a granddaughter, stay at home. She, the other- the older one and the 15 year-old boy.

[background talk]

Interviewer: What are your hopes and expectations for your sons and daughters?

Interviewee: A better life, that they are able to get a good job, like this --

[background talk]



Interviewee: I hope for a better live, a better future for them, that they can get a good job and [unintelligible 00:22:28] struggle all the time for something better to do, is helping me here to care for a child during the morning, and in the afternoon she's here with me until something better to do comes up.

Interviewer: Are you teaching your daughters to do what you do?

Interviewee: No. I don't encourage it, because it's a very exhausting work that we only do because we really need to, so I'd prefer they follow another path. Some of them, if they want to, that's okay, it's their choice, but I don't encourage them to do it. One of them even sell these also, she does the same thing.

Interviewer: Have you lived at another state?

Interviewee: Have I lived where?

Interviewer: At some other state?

Interviewee: No, just here really.

Interviewer: Do you participate of some group or organization?

Interviewee: No.

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

Interviewee: I have [unintelligible 00:23:51] I'm not very close to them.

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

Interviewee: I'd talk about this crazy person there. [laughs] Just kidding. No, daughter, I wouldn't like it to talk about you. Be quiet, Fernanda.

[background talk]

Interviewer: Any other issue that you consider important about your life?

Interviewee: No, no. I just wish for the current situation to improve a little bit, but with some patience, who knows, maybe we'll get there some day.

Interviewer: All right. 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 very much.

Interviewee: You're welcome.