



The force of nature

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The Nature

After hours of walking, the explorer saw something that would change his life forever. Tired legs weakened as he stopped to catch his breath and survey the items around him.

Items. Goods. Those were the terms that crossed his mind as soon as he realized what the colorful vastness was that he was exploring more and more. The source of desire was the Amazon forest, where, close to the border with Acre, the explorer learned that he could find not only plants, but also rare stones to sell.

He bent down and looked more carefully at a purple plant he didn't recognize. It was rare that he didn't recognize something of the country's vast flora. From the pointed purple leaves to the orange filaments, the specimen won her curiosity, as there were few like it in that clearing. I already imagined what its properties were and how much I could earn with it.

Quickly, he took a pair of scissors from his pocket and measured a good area of the stem with his eyes so that he could extract it. As soon as the scissors approached the plant, he felt a prick in his hand. He thought he saw something pass before his eyes, thin as a needle, but he dismissed the idea as he rubbed his hand.

TUM.

TUM.

TUM.

A hollow, steady thumping in the weeds behind him caught his attention. He turned and saw the vegetation part to make room for a man who came leaping towards him. Seriously, the man glared at the explorer as he entered the clearing. He was black, had a shaved head, and his chest and arms were covered in tattoos painted in white ink. A few jumps later he was fully visible and the explorer could see that he actually only had one leg. The empty space in the white shorts swayed as he jumped.

- Are you a saci?! he exclaimed, falling on his seat in the woods.

- Saci, yes... Saci-Pererê. What were you doing?

The explorer blinked several times as he studied the newcomer. He didn't know if what his eyes were watching was real or not. He had barely processed the question asked by the other and tried to imagine the weight of his discovery. What many wouldn't give for a photo? Or rather, what wouldn't you give for an interview with him? Just needed to make a few tweaks like adding a pipe and hat, red, red for sure! The infinite possibilities crossed his mind as the other skipped lightly around the space. Little did he notice that his eyes sparkled with interest as he stared at the saci.

- What was human?

- You-you. The legends, I'm still not believing you're real...

As real and as innocent as you are," he replied with a
- As real and as innocent as you are," he replied with a
discreet smile.
discreet smile.

Looking more closely at the newcomer, he saw that
around his neck hung a vine braided cord with a small
blowpipe dangling like a necklace. His eyes roamed
from the plants in the clearing to the explorer as if
examining what was really going on there.

- What were you doing?

- I was picking this plant for studies. All purely
scientific. The... the riches that we have here can
change the world.

- Riches? What your people understand as riches is
hardly used to change anything.

- Do you know our society? Our customs?

- Your people's stories are told by the wind just as
ours are. You are more divided than ever, wanting all of
Mother Nature's resources for yourselves.

- Not all are like that. The explorer got up slowly and spoke more calmly, measuring his words.
- Many of us are researching ways to end hunger, give housing to people, eradicate diseases. Mother Nature can help us secure a better future for everyone.

The saci's expression was serious, he seemed to analyze not only the words spoken, but the whole environment around him.

- You don't have a very good record with the Mother. The expansion of your people never ends. Much history was lost along the way. You now say that you are thinking about the future...

- Yes! Think of how many lives we can save if we all help each other...

- Tell me, noble sir, how do people get medicine where you come from?"

The saci approached the purple plant and lightly caressed the petals. The explorer stared at the ground before the other's gaze and thought for a while as he walked around the clearing calculating the best answer there. Something in the saci's eyes told him that it wouldn't do any good to embellish reality too much.

- They buy whatever medicine they need. — One of the saci's eyebrows arched — But many are given free by the government.

- In the end, someone will still profit from nature.

- Yes, someone always profits, that's how society works. People need something, someone manufactures and sells it. Where there is demand, there is opportunity.

- Search and opportunity? Interesting. The big problem with this account is that there are always people earning more than others. — The saci looked around — and some earning nothing.

- We have many things that might be useful, even for you. — The explorer thought he saw an opportunity there — jewelry, necklaces, pipes or even gold. There's always a way to tip the scales more.

The explorer's voice had become that of a salesman facing a display case.

- Think how much nature has to gain. He spread his arms out as if exposing something natural and pointed around as he walked. “Our technology can be used to create new plants, reproduce Mother Nature, and make all of us...

Her voice broke when she saw a different glow in one of the corners. He bent down slowly and opened space between the tall leaves to see another spectacle of nature: precious stones were scattered through the bush and by the brightness he saw in the trees and formations around him, that forest still had a lot to be explored.

“And in the end it all comes down to who gets richer.
You never change.

— The explorer barely paid attention to the frustrated voice that accompanied the tum tum tum of the saci approaching the object of his attention.

The image was to hypnotize anyone. Trees of all possible sizes, with plants and flowers of the most diverse colors, many rare species already endangered. They often exhibit a characteristic glow that no laboratory could reproduce.

For a moment he even forgot about the world around him while facing nature; the focus was still the same, as saci had predicted, but the beauty of the place was something so unique that it deserved to be eternalized in the memory. That was the thought that passed through the explorer's mind, who barely heard the saci approach or the new sting, this time on his neck. The landscape was his only object of attention and it stayed in his memory, forever, after losing consciousness and fainting there in the middle of that natural spectacle.

