

James: My name is James Lastarria, and I will be interviewing Mr. Juvenal Valeriano Lastarria de la Cruz. He is my father. He was born in Arequipa Peru, and we will now begin.

James: ok then, Mr. Lastarria, what are your first memories that you can remember about your childhood?

Juvenal: the first images that I remember are approximately when I was 5 years old. I remember my father, and when he passed away when I was 8 years old. I remember exactly his image, his characteristics, and his behavior.

James: was he, in your vision, a good father?

Juvenal: for me, he was a good father, but he was not a good husband because he would engage in some family violence.

James: and like, besides that, how was your childhood? How did you grow up?

Juvenal: well, I grew up fatherless. I had 7 bothers, actually 6 brothers. For a brief period of time we lived in Cabanaconde, this is where I was born, where my mother made sure that we received elementary school education. Afterwards, due to economic hardship, I could not continue with my secondary studies<sup>1</sup>. Only my brother could attend secondary school because he was able to obtain a scholarship. However, that same year, a cousin came and proposed that I became a priest. I had the aspiration to become a priest since it was also my father's wish. Well, continuing with my father's wishes, I accepted to attend seminary school. I did my secondary education with the adesiano fathers at the Seminario Consiliar de Huamanga, Ayachucho, Peru.

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<sup>1</sup> In Peru, unlike the United States, there is only primary, consisting of grades 1-6, and secondary, consisting of grades 1-5, education; which is the equivalent of grades 1-11 in the US. Primary classes would be held in the morning while secondary classes would be held in the afternoon.

James: why was your brother the only one to attend secondary school? Besides the scholarship, did you have to pay to attend secondary school? Was it not being paid by the state like it was in Lima<sup>2</sup>?

Juvenal: it was free; however, since my mother and I lived in Cabanaconde, we would need to move to Arequipa due to the lack of secondary education in Cabanaconde<sup>3</sup>. Well, like I said earlier, I went to the school Salesiano de Huamanga where I always obtained the top positions. We switched the first and second positions with another student who was also studying to become a priest<sup>4</sup>. Throughout all those years I successfully completed all the requirements that were outlined in my scholarship; as a result, I obtained the top position in my last year as a student. Since I was under a scholarship, I did not have to pay for anything as long as devoted myself to studying.

James: the requirements that you mentioned were, aside from getting good grades...<sup>5</sup>

Juvenal: No, to maintain discipline and pass every year. To pass unbeaten with no course less than 10 points<sup>6</sup>.

James: oh ok.

James: and ummm...<sup>7</sup>

Juvenal: shall I continue?

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<sup>2</sup> I came to the US when I was 12 y/o, so I was under the impression that the state paid for education even in small towns. I am formulating this question based on my own experience.

<sup>3</sup> While answering this question, I noticed a small hint of annoyance

<sup>4</sup> In Peru, each grade has 3 top students who are considered the best 3 in the whole classroom. For many families it is an honor for their children to be in the top 3 because they are the only ones that get diplomas when the school year ends.

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Lastarria did not let me finish my question since he was well aware of where I was going with is. Interrupting me in the middle of my questions will be seen throughout this interview. Also, he tends to raise his voice at times during the interview.

<sup>6</sup> Scoring system in Peru is at a range of 0-20. 0-10 meaning you failed the class while 11-13 meant you barely passed, 14-16 meant you did well, 17-20 meant you did excellent.

<sup>7</sup> Trying to think of a follow up question.

James: ummm yes.

Juvenal: well, after I was finished with secondary school, I went to the International Seminary

San Jeronimo of Arequipa where I studied philosophy for a year and a half. Afterwards, due to my family, I had to quit the path of being a priest. Finally, since I was already in Arequipa, I rejoined my family who had moved to Arequipa. After 6 months of being unemployed due to the lack of work and education in Arequipa, I went to Lima, Peru's capital, to keep on studying. Effectively, after serving the mandatory service at the Peruvian Air Force; I managed to gain admittance, in my second attempt, at the National University Federico Villarreal<sup>8</sup>. I was denied entry in my first attempt because I did not belong to the APRA political party<sup>9</sup> even though I had an average score of 15. However, I could not finish college since I was about to have a family of my own. As a principle, taught to me by the adesiano priests, we could not abandoned a child nor the mother of your child. I honored these principles and dropped out of college for a semester to get a job as a police officer where I served from May 1968 to June 1990.

James: and how did you meet your wife?

Juvenal: I met my wife at a family reunion. We fell in love, we got married, and we had 7 children.

James: from trying to become a priest to enlisting yourself in the police force. How did you make that change?

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<sup>8</sup> This school was not mentioned in the interview, I had to call Mr. Lastarria and asked him the name of the school.

<sup>9</sup> APRA (Alianza Popular Revolucionaria Americana) political party that began in Mexico in 1924, and was later established in Peru in 1930. This political party aimed to unify all of Latin America under one political party system.

Juvenal: to begin with, even in Lima, there was no opportunity for work unless you worked minimum wage. They were paying better at the police force.

James: the reason you went to work as a police officer was to gain more money?

Juvenal: yes, to earn and provide for my family.

James: what did you do as a police officer when you began?

Juvenal: when I first began as a police officer, for 3 months we were under training to perform the job because the academy demanded that every candidate had to obtain a certificate from the armed forces. Since I was already certified by the AFAP, I skipped those 3 months because I already knew everything they taught at the police academy and was admitted in June of 68. There were times, as I mentioned earlier, that the police uniform did not called to me and like it was destiny or luck; a man that I did not know saw me in the street because 2 of my partners were in uniform while I was dressed as a civilian. He wanted to reprimand us to which I objected. Then, he identified himself as captain of the investigations unit who worked for the Republican Guard of Peru. He told us that he worked with the superior director of that police department that I belonged to. He took us to the station, and he interviewed all 3 of us. Since I had higher knowledge, he chose me to work at the SIN<sup>10</sup> (Servicio de Inteligencia).

James: then, he recruited you on the street.

Juvenal: he recruited me without even knowing me.

James: without even knowing you, without even looking at your file first. He said “I’m taking this person.”

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<sup>10</sup> Whenever he talks about his job as a undercover agent, there is a tone of pride that Mr. Lastarria emits.

Juvenal: it was coincidence that I responded, and so, I worked 4 years as a collaborator for the intelligence system of the police force. Afterwards, I became interested in the school of intelligence at the army that I applied. Well, I passed the test, and I took this course intelligence operations for 11 months. Now instructed, in 1973, unit supervisor recommended me to the service of national intelligence where I worked until 1984.

James: a long history, you were there for a long time.

Juvenal: well, since I was well trained, I was chosen to work in a investigation that the SIN had formed. Once I joined, I made my cover. Since I was still a student, I was given the task to evaluate the conditions at the universities.

James: y como...<sup>11</sup>

Juvenal: it wasn't long, following the intelligence necessities of the revolutionary government of the armed forces of Velasco Alvarado, I was assigned to contain the boss of the opposing revolutionary government. In that operative, I was the main agent of that operative. the SIN diverted my reports to the Revolutionary Government, and the Consejo de Ministros<sup>12</sup>. Finally, since this operative was already coming to a conclusion, through the initiative of my own, I infiltri<sup>13</sup>, posed as a worker for a company that sold auto parts called Terrais del Peru. I was a syndicate director, general secretary of the syndicate, permanent representative of the Metallurgy Federation of Peru and of the General Confederation of the Worker of Peru. I was responsible for the syndicate coordination of the Argentine Avenue and industrial colonial zones of the republic. Lastly, as a director, I had access to a lot of information. Since I worked in a convincing manner in the eyes of

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<sup>11</sup> I was interrupted once again.

<sup>12</sup> I could not translate this to English.

<sup>13</sup> He got a little tongue tied.

the other workers, I was an infiltrated syndicate director. I was the first one to announce the subversive struggle in Peru would begin in May of 1980 because of an un-identified member, that I deducted later to be part of the Shining Path<sup>14</sup>. This individual would later invite me to their training schools where I would attend 4 times.

James: and ummmm

Juvenal: aside from being undercover in the political and syndical aspect, I was also undercover in the Pro-Esquista<sup>15</sup> party; in the revolutionary party of the workers whose president was Hugo Blanco. Blanco was a Peruvian ex-guerrilla. At this point I wanted to keep on studying; however, I was barred from continuing my studies because the school disappeared all of my records of admittance due to the fact that I was affiliated with the opposing party that dominated that school. They believed that I really was a leftist and not an aprista. With the desire to further my education, I enlisted myself in a journalist school. This school today it is known as a university<sup>16</sup>. There was this guy that for reason X had it in for me because when he found out that I was going to school, he changed my school and work schedule in a sporadic manner. However, with the desire that I had to become a professional, since I could not become a lawyer because I was expelled under the belief that I was a communist, I gain admittance in the 19<sup>th</sup> place at the Thomas Valle University; also known as “la cantuta<sup>17</sup>.” I was admitted in 82, also, during this same year the guerrilla movement began in Peru. I, as a student and as an intelligence agent saw all

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<sup>14</sup> Shining Path is English for Sendero Luminoso. Sendero Luminoso was a revolutionary communist movement whose ultimate goal was to overthrow the government and place a communist government.

<sup>15</sup> It is hard to understand this portion of the recording.

<sup>16</sup> At this point in the interview, it is hard to interrupt him to ask him questions about names of schools or to clarify parts of what he was saying. He has taken control of the interview.

<sup>17</sup> This nickname was given to this school because in 1990 there was a massacre where the military reportedly killed a professor and nine students.

the activities that the senderistas at that university had done to take over the school. They dominated the administration office and the cafeteria to which I included everything in my report to the SIN.

James: did you have any idea why the universities were infiltrated by Sendero Luminoso?

Juvenal: that was, because of doctrine, the students were more likely to be captivated by the new ideas proposed by the senderistas. The San Marcos University also saw the same type of takeover.

James: how did you, well during that time I imagined that you were young, and you were a student. Why did you not share that same ideology with the leftist?

Juvenal: apparently I did share the same views. Ever since the intelligence school, I have been instructed in the political. I knew all the branches of the political system like the left, the right, center right, extreme right, and extreme left. As an undercover agent, I knew the principal directors of the syndicate of the country. Individuals like Jorgue del Prado, Isidro Gamarra last known as Huaman, and the politicians like Ledesma Isquieta, Javier Diaz Canseco..everybody literally. I held meetings with these people where I could get information about any activity that they projected or did. Well, the guerrilla warfare in Peru had already extended to different departments by 1984<sup>18</sup>. In 84, this man that was practically an enemy, I didn't get along with because I caused him to be kicked out of the SIN, was a mayor. This man, in 1984 was promoted to general. Since this man had it in for me, he looked for any excuse without any psychological, tactical, or strategic motive, I was sent to Huancavelica. Huancavelica was a subversive zone.

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<sup>18</sup> Departments in Peru are known as States here in the US.

James: during this whole time, since you had already a family, how did your family feel about your line of work<sup>19</sup>?

Juvenal: I could not communicate anything that I was doing to my family about my activities.

For them, especially my wife, only knew that I was a police officer; they did not know that I worked in the intelligence unit. During the years that I was undercover in sendero and in the popular schools, I knew where they trained their people, where they had armaments, and where their headquarters was in Lima. All of this information I gave to the SIN.

James: did your superiors do anything with the information you gave them? Because I think that since you are giving them....<sup>20</sup>

Juvenal: they took the respective actions in regards to the information that I gave them. ya<sup>21</sup>, while I was in Huancavelica, no, I was not prepared for the surprises that await me. The subversives had taken over the city of Huancavelica through acts of violence. Almost on a weekly basis, the outpost of the republican guard were attacked. Homemade explosives and the famous “cachorros<sup>22</sup>” were always available in Huancavelica.

James: what are “cachorros”?

Juvenal: “cachorros” are 4 dynamites with their detonator.

James: oh ok.

Juvenal: they really small.

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<sup>19</sup> I begin to formulate questions based on stories that my mom had told me about my father, and that I wanted to know the answers for personal gain.

<sup>20</sup> Once again I was interrupted by him answering the first part of my question ignoring the second part. Once again, this habit during the interview is quite frustrating since it prevents me from establishing control over the interview.

<sup>21</sup> He uses “YA” and “No” the same way that people use “like” during a conversation.

<sup>22</sup> Name given to the total appearance of the bomb.



Juvenal: even though the government knew about these events, they were not tackled with accordingly because they evolved every year. Specially, in 1985 until 1990 it reached the zenith of development thanks to the corruption that existed in the government and their regions. This was partly due to the dominance of the Aprista party in Peru. I worked in Huancavelica from 1984-85; afterwards, to distance myself, I was sent to Puno<sup>23</sup> by the same man who had it out for me. In Puno, subversive activities were beginning to take root. During my travels I had witnessed members of the army died, and from the 3 police force branches. Also, subversives that posed as police officers made roadblocks stopping incoming police cars in remote areas of the country where they killed police officers with their own weapons. Due to the escalation of violence, young officers and lieutenants abandoned their posts hiding their weapons due to their unrelenting onslaught. After I returned from Puno, I still remained out of contact with my family. I was sent undercover to an irrigation project inside the syndicate movement that took root between the 3500 workers that worked in that project. That job took 1 year to which I returned to Lima. I immediately re-incorporated myself with my unit working at the department of intelligence. When given an information from a mayor, whom I worked with at the SIN, he gave me knowledge that at the prison “Canto Grande” where the government kept all their captured subversives, there existed chaos. The inmates owned the prison, this man Osman Morrote Barrionuevos, second in command after Abimael Guzman<sup>24</sup>, spoke to his people 8 hours a day through the wired fence. They were free and could do whatever they wanted. The police had lost authority, as such, the inmates dominated in the interior of

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<sup>23</sup> Puno is a town that borders Bolivia and is located by the Lake Titicaca.

<sup>24</sup> Leader of Sendero Luminoso.

the prison because the war had finally reached Lima<sup>25</sup> and were really closed to winning the war. There were explosions everywhere, robberies, killings, every known car bomb, and all of that we had to add to our report as soon as it happened.<sup>26</sup> I did all of that. Well, since that mayor had informed me of everything that was happening in that prison, he even told me that there was belief that the inmates were building a tunnel because inmates of the Castro Castro prison were going to escape. He could not tell me what group was going to escape, but it was true that the tunnel was being dug.

James: and how...

Javunal: finally, to make my report, I had to verify that information because I could do my report going on what the mayor has told me. In the 3<sup>rd</sup> day after I was given the information, I went to the prison Castro Castro posing as a journalist. I entered the Verusterio zone, which was in the interior of the prison. The mayor took me to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor and knocked, I thought that were that another officer to open the door for us; however, it was a guy who had with him a small key chain. This man opened the door, and when we entered there were 3 inmates. On that floor there lived Osman Morrote Barrionuevo, who was not there since he was being judged at the Palacio de Justicia.<sup>27</sup> There was another guy a German who was caught drug trafficking, and the guy who opened the door for us. I later found out, through the mayor, that the person who opened the door was non-other than Polai

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<sup>25</sup> Sendero Luminoso first began their war in the remote areas of the country. As their influence grew, they began to move towards the capital for a political coup.

<sup>26</sup> From my own personal experience when I was 7 in Lima. There were night where we could hear the bombs and my mother would tell us to stay inside.

<sup>27</sup> The translation of the name of this building did not sound right, so I decided to keep the Spanish name instead.

Campos. Campos was leader of the Movimiento Revolucionario Tupac Amaru (MRTA).<sup>28</sup>

James: and he was the one who opened the door?

Juvenal: he was the one that opened the door. In that aspect the governments did exist. I verify that the inmates were outside and in the courtyards. Also, thanks to the mayor, those people did not allow anyone to enter their cell blocks to inspect the situation....<sup>29</sup>physical stay of every inmate. All of this I consolidated in my report. In the 7<sup>th</sup> day, my supervisor calls me and tells me “Lastarria, the general Jares Garro is calling for you” who was supreme director of the republican guard of Peru. I introduced myself to the general and he said to me:

General: how many years of service do you have?

Juvenal: 23 years.

General: and how many as an agent?

Juvenal: 23 years.

General: you are too old to be an agent, you should not be an agent anymore.

Juvenal: well, he was holding my 3 reports that I formulated in February to which he had highlighted and said:

General: did you make this report?

Juvenal: yes

General: who told you that? Who gave you this information?

Juvenal: general, due to my doctrine, I cannot reveal the source.

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<sup>28</sup> I am thinking to myself “he must have had some real (cojones) to enter that prison” sorry for my language.

<sup>29</sup> He’s thinking of a word to say.

General: yes you are right.

Juvenal: we continue talking and then he says:

General: who gave you this information? How do you think they're building a tunnel? How do you think those inmates are free?

Juvenal: it is written in the report. I have personally verified the information.

General: you are very imaginative, you are a Julio Verne.<sup>30</sup>

Juvenal: general, if you're labeling me as such, I will not give any information about the prison.

Juvenal: at this point he had called in my supervisor and told him:

General: give Lastarria everyday duty to the prison.

Juvenal: luckily, since the mayor knew my work ethics, he did not issued me to prison duty. He passed the torch to another mayor who also did not send me to prison duty.<sup>31</sup> The general found out that I was not going to prison duty and he sanctioned the mayor for not sending me to prison duty. Lastly, in the month of June 1990, I went on my vacation, no in July of 1990, my colleague, my neighbor, and my friend came to ask me for a copy of my 3 reports that I made about the prison. I told him that I had left them on my desk and he disappeared. When I went back, my reports were missing, and in that same morning; 47 inmates from MRTA escape from prison. This was a political situation because Polai Campos, Carlos Roca, and Alan Garcia were Victor Raul Aya de la Torre's favorites. He even sent them to study in France. That escape was covered, but I presumed that the prison break was authorized by Alan Garcia, by the Ministro del

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<sup>30</sup> Julio Verne (jules Verne) was a French science fiction author in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.

<sup>31</sup> After this comment I begin to see some sort of pride because he smiles whenever he mentions that he talks back to his superiors.

Interior, and the supreme director of the republic who was Raul Jares Gago because they were Apristas. This was a compensation they were giving Polai Campos because he allowed the exchanged of Delgado Parker. Parker was owner of channel 4 who was kidnapped by the MRTA, and was kept in captivity for a total of 123 days. Since he was pals with Alan, that Delgado Parker was rumored to have had conversations with Polai to release Parker in exchanged for their prison break. That was never known, but the information existed. When Gago was put on trial by the Consejo Supremo de Justicia Militar, in the war room, he denied having agents of intelligence in his unit. However, we were 120 agents that worked for the republic, and he knew about it. However, due to those acts, non of the 3 were judged.

James: so, there was corruption even in the police department?

Juvenal: total corruption.

James: your general, did you think that maybe your general was working with the senderistas?

Juvenal: no, no was not working with the senderistas because he was aprista. The apristas created a title Lieutenant General for him because in the republic there was no such title. At the time of the APRA, he was just a general, so they created that title for him. He was...<sup>32</sup>

James: in Lima?

Juvenal: he was a Lieutenant General in the republic. However, there were other Lieutenant Generals in the civil guard. The APRA always rewards those loyal. For example, San Prieto was a general in the marines who was also a senator and spokesperson of the APRA.

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<sup>32</sup> First time I had interrupted him.

James: and the conditions at the prisons, can that be attributed to the same corruption from the police? Since they could do whatever they wanted?

Juvenal: well, because of lack of support from the government, the police had lost authority in the prisons. Any inmate to an officer could call him and say:

Inmate: hey you?

Officer: me?

Inmate: yes you.<sup>33</sup>

Juvenal: there was no respect for the authority.

James: we're talking about the early 90s, what were you doing afterwards?

Juvenal: well, I remained within the system afterwards. I continued with my work. Since I was undercover, I had access to information. Finally, I worked in the prison system since my unit was divided due to the unification of the police. My unit was reduced under the new name "apoyo a la justicia" (Spanish for help for justice). I, also, worked with R2, which was intelligence that I did where I recorded incomes from drugs, armaments, and drugs in the prisons. I could point with precision who they were, who was their provider, and who entered it. To my surprise it was the same head of security. On a weekly basis, he smuggled 2kg to the interior of the prison. Also, he had 30 women, who carried with them during visiting hours that were given 3 times a week, concealed within their own bodies ¼ kg of cocaine. I discovered all of that through my collaborators since it was impossible to work alone. I gave them money making sure that the information was credible. This information needed to be verified and then they handed me their findings. They gave me names, where they lived, and their supply location; which was located

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<sup>33</sup> During this example, I and he re-enact this incident with me being the police officer. He does the voice for both of us while I just make gestures.

right in front of the Prison. All of this was written in my report, but my supervisor did nothing because he was his “promision”<sup>34</sup> and chose to do nothing in the matter.

James: so, every time that you discovered something, something good, they sent you to another location?

Juvenal: yes..always

James and...<sup>35</sup>

Juvenal: I was given orders to record conversations between the members of the syndicate where I was undercover. Before each report, I had to be up by 5am, listen to the recording, and by 6am have all the valuable information ready to be presented in my report. As a result, I proposed that every agent be sent to a stenography to write fast. Since during those days we did not have cell phones, or portable recording devices, or small cameras. We had cameras but we couldn't turn them to see where we wanted them to see. Now a days there is a simple way, I can record with a device like this<sup>36</sup> nobody notices it. Well that was how my life in the police force ended.

James: and during the 90s, how did you communicate with your family? Since you have the majority of your life to serve as a police officer?

Juvenal: I made a mistake. I made a mistake because I did no communicate or made it home.

This was in part to my involvement with sendero. I was 3-4 blocks away from home, I worked 5 blocks away in a factory. I was a director in Palermo, what's the name of this place??<sup>37</sup> The other small town adjacent to ours? After Dueñas...

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<sup>34</sup> In Peru, we refer to Promocion to those individuals who graduated from the same class as you did.

<sup>35</sup> He just wanted to keep on with his story.

<sup>36</sup> He is pointing at my cell phone because I am using that to record this interview.

<sup>37</sup> He had forgotten the name of the district where he worked, and he begins to ask me?

James: Planeta?

Juvenal: no, further down.

James: further down??<sup>38</sup>

Juvenal: 1<sup>st</sup> of September. That's where I had my meetings in the popular schools. How could I then come home? When I did make it home, I came at midnight and left at 5am. I found you guys sleeping, and I left you guys sleeping. In other occasions, I just came home to leave your mother money. I took the job too seriously.

James: then, mmm<sup>39</sup>

Juvenal: well, I did not responded..

James: well, do you regret...

Juvenal: I am very repentant. Hurt because I was not there for my children. They did not spend time with me, nor did I spend time with them. I dedicated myself too much to my work. I took the role of an agent too seriously. In one occasion even one of the coronel called me and said:

Coronel: Lastarria, as your boss I am happy with all the information that you bring. However, as your friend I advised you to spend time with your family. You have children and a young wife. These people like to get even, they're going to explode your house, your kids, and you respectively. Don't keep meddling.<sup>40</sup>

Juvenal: well, I made myself get fired from my job as a worker.

James: how did you do that?

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<sup>38</sup> After living here in Maryland for 18 years, I had forgotten the names of the places that were located around our home.

<sup>39</sup> I am holding back some questions that are aimed at personal gain.

<sup>40</sup> After his statement, I wanted to ask if maybe this individual was telling him to back off as a threat or a genuine concern.



Juvenal: I made an error.

James: what kind of error?

Juvenal: job abandonment.

James: oh.

Juvenal: 3 days without notice and you were fired. I slowly began to distance myself from sendero. When I was....are you still recording?<sup>41</sup>

James: yes

Juvenal: when your mother came in 91, I used to escape to keep an eye on our home. I wanted to make sure that Doris had made lunch at 11:30am like it was arranged, so that your brothers would have something to eat by 12pm. I came home 2-3 times a week to discipline your brother because they did not want to take a shower,

James: (laughter)

Juvenal: you, for example, never wanted to eat soup. I made you eat soup. You came here a little chubby; your mother had left you really thin. Well, as you might see, I am sincerely hurt that I dedicated too much of my time to my work. The family must understand, and the children, that a job is a job, I just took it too seriously. As a worker, I am satisfied, but as a father I am not because I neglected my most essential part. I did not enjoy my children nor did they enjoy me. I am also not satisfied with the way that the Peruvian government is treating the retired police officers. They treat us as a second rate citizen. We do not have rights, they do not treat us at the police hospitals because of the lack of medicine since during transit everything is lost. Also, they treat us bad, reason why I do not go to the police hospital. When I took my mother, she was 98 years old, at the time they made

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<sup>41</sup> He saw my phone off so he thought that it wasn't recording.

her stay in line as a second rate citizen saying that they do not have medicine to treat patients. Modern technology for the use to control health are being rented to other institutions. One must go to a regular hospital or clinics and spend their own money without any re-inbursements.

James: then, after so many years in the service.

Juvenal: I am disappointed.

James: they give you the boot.

Juvenal: there is a law that a retired officer must be paid the minimum wage as if they were in active duty. I am losing my credit. As a superior sub-officer, I must earn the same as a superior on active duty. However, I am probably earning 800 soles less. I see as unjust because the elderly needs more attention, our health is prone to suffer from infectious diseases.

James: medical assistance was the reason you came to his country?

Juvenal: yes, I came for that very reason<sup>42</sup> since I could not obtain medical help in Peru. The money I get from my pension is not sufficient enough. Well, I hope to have better treatment here...anything else?<sup>43</sup>

James: no, that is all, maybe after I am done writing this...

Juvenal: you write it, and I will add or delete and I correct it.

James: mmm

Juvenal: you know that I am still....<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> At the bottom of my heart, this was not the answer that I was hoping to hear.

<sup>43</sup> At this point it is already 11:45pm

<sup>44</sup> That's when I turn off the recording.