The Lacandón Song of the Jaguar

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The song given below is sung by the Lacandón Indians of Chiapas when a person meets a jaguar (tigre) on the trail in the jungle. The rhythm of the song is imitative of the walk of the jaguar. It is believed that when the animal hears the song it will go away.

THE SONG


LITERAL TRANSLATION


FREE TRANSLATION

I pick up each of my feet and let them fall on the trail. My tail moves. I heard your voice come from a distance. I am sleepy. I searched for a fallen tree to go to sleep. I went to sleep on the fallen tree. My hide and feet and ears are striped.

1 Dictated by Mateo García of the Petha (Pelha) region.