

A HISTORY OF BREATHING

Daniel Macdonald

KAI:

The first thing we did was create panic. Panic makes them stop thinking. You make noise. You use large movements. You wave your machete around. We didn't even have to speak. We just screamed and yelled. And I tell you they panicked. Did they ever panic. When they panicked they started thinking like survival. This left them with only a few options of escape and we had thought of them before they had so we knew what they were going to do. We knew what directions they were going to go and who they were going to take. Mothers rarely leave behind children and so they go slow. The girls go faster. Unless they have a baby. We didn't kill them first. We stopped them. There were about thirty of us. Me and maybe ten more boys and then some men. We hit at the legs or ankles or shoulders, right at the neck. They fall quickly. We killed as many men as we could find and then we took the boys. We took the boys and brought them together and then we put one boy in front of another boy with a machete or a club and said, "Kill that other boy or I will kill you! Right now!

"We screamed it fast over and over so they didn't have time to think. One of us said, "Kill that boy or I will kill your sister. You see your little sister lying on the ground screaming? Kill that boy right now or I will chop your little sister in half!" So the boy killed the other boy. He cried and screamed the whole time he did it. Once he did that, he would do anything. They would go anywhere. He'd seen it all. He'd done it all. He didn't care.

Is that your story, Bobo? Is that what they did to you?