The Young Man Named Arrancanes
A child named Arrancanes had just been born when his mother died. His father could find no one to wet nurse the baby. Finally the father’s mule became the baby’s wet nurse. Arrancanes grew to be a super strong youth. His father bought him a machete, a hoe, and an axe. Each of these tools weighed 300 pounds. Arrancanes went in search of work. He was so strong that he was able to clear cut a whole mountain in a single day. Later he joined up with two other strong youths and they went to look for work. They arrived at a large plantation and asked the owner for work. They also asked the owner to provide them with a cow to eat for each meal. When they went to work one of them would remain behind to prepare the food. Each time that Arrancanes’ companions remained behind a giant would arrive and steal their meat. Finally Arrancanes stayed behind to make the food. When the giant arrived to rob the food Arrancanes wounded him badly with his machete. Gravely wounded, the giant went home. The three youths went to look for the giant in his home. There Arrancanes killed him. The giant was very rich and had a girl servant. The three youths took possession of the giant’s treasures, and freed the girl. Later the two youths deceived Arrancanes, stole the treasure and took the girl with them. Arrancanes became angry and when he caught up with his two companions he killed them for having robbed him. So Arrancanes was left with all the treasure, and he married the girl.

El muchacho llamado Arrancanes
Acababa de nacer el niño llamado Arrancanes cuando murió su mama. Su papá no encontraba quien le daría pecho al bebé. Por fin la mula del papá amamantó a Arrancanes, y él llegó a ser un muchacho con súper fuerza. Su papá le compró un machete, un bacha, y un azadón. Cada una de estas herramientas pesaba trescientos libras. Arrancanes se fue a buscar trabajo. El era tan fuerte que podía limpiar una montaña entera en un sólo día. Después él se juntó con otros dos muchachos fuertes y se fueron a buscar trabajo. Llegaron a una finca grande, y el patrón les dio trabajo limpiando el terreno. También ellos le pidieron al patrón una vaca entera para comer en cada comida. Cuando iban a la tarea, uno de ellos siempre se quedaba atrás para preparar la comida. Cada vez que los dos compañeros de Arrancanes estaban preparando la comida, llegaba un gigante a robarles la carne. Por fin Arrancanes se quedó atrás. Cuando llegó el gigante a robar la carne, Arrancanes lo hirió con su machete. El gigante se fue gravemente herido a su casa. Los tres muchachos fueron a buscar al gigante en su casa. De una vez Arrancanes lo mató. El gigante era muy rico, y tenía una sirvienta. Los muchachos quedaron con sus riquezas, y dieron libertad a la sirvienta. Después los dos muchachos engañaron a Arrancanes. Le robaron el tesoro del gigante y llevaron a la sirvienta. Arrancanes se enojó, y cuando encontró a sus dos compañeros los mató por haberle robado. Entonces Arrancanes quedó con todas las riquezas del gigante, y se casó con la sirvienta.
Project Background
The stories and rituals included in this collection were collected between 1968 and 1973. All of them are narrated in the K’iche’ Maya language of Guatemala with almost all of the narrators speaking the Nahualá-Santa Catarina Ixahuacán dialect of that language.

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