

# Mestre Curió

## Student of Mestre Pastinha

*Source: Jornal Capoeira*  
*Translation into English: Shayna McHugh*

Mestre Curió (Jaime Martins dos Santos) was born in 1939.  
He was a student of Pastinha, and he continues to teach and spread capoeira angola.

“Capoeira is art, dance, malícia, philosophy, trickery, theater, music, and choreography, but not violence. It only becomes dangerous at the necessary moment.”

“There are many parts of *mandinga*. There’s the *mandinga* of black magic and the *mandinga* of the capoeirista’s cleverness, when he can really call himself a capoeirista. That’s what *mandinga* is: it’s wisdom, it’s being able to hit your adversary but not doing so; you show that you didn’t hit him because you didn’t want to.”

“The student is the reflection of the mestre and the mestre the reflection of the student.”

“The student does not compete with the mestre and the mestre who has respect does not compete with the student.”

“The capoeirista doesn’t have to hit in order to show his skill.”

“When I die, I give my soul to capoeira.”

“My father always taught me that we shouldn’t teach everything we know, because if we do, the students will leave.”

“The capoeirista is calm. For the angoleiro, ‘slowly’ is still hurrying.  
The only time I ever hurried was to be born, since I was born two months early.”

“There are people who are big and strong, who do three years of capoeira and title themselves mestres. Some of them are graduated by a plane trip, when they arrive in another country and claim to be mestres; since no one knows them, everyone believes them. These people damage our work.”

“I’ve practiced capoeira for 56 years and I still know nothing; my father is 102 years old and he still says he has no clue. There are ‘PhDs’ who have five years of capoeira training and say that they already know ‘both styles.’”