

# Hacia Belén va un borrico

(Towards Bethlehem Goes a Donkey)

Hacia Belén va un borrico  
Yo me remendaba, yo me remendé  
cargado de chocolate  
Lleva su chocolatera  
Yo me remendaba, yo me remendé  
yo me eche un remiendo yo me lo quité  
su molinillo y su anafre  
María ven acá, ven acá corriendo  
que el chocolatillo se lo están comiendo

Towards Bethlehem goes a donkey  
I remember, I remember\*  
Laden with chocolate.  
It carries its chocolate pot,  
I remember, I remember  
I remember, yet I forget,\*  
Its chocolate mill and its stove.  
Mary come here, come running  
Because they are eating up the chocolate.

En el portal de Belén  
Yo me remendaba, yo me remendé  
gitanillos han entrado;  
Yo me remendaba, yo me remendé  
y al Niño que está en la cuna  
Yo me remendaba, yo me remendé  
yo me eche un remiendo yo me lo quité  
los pañales le han quitado.  
María ven acá, ven acá corriendo  
que los pañalillos los están cogiendo  
María ven acá, ven acá volando  
que los pañalillos los están llevando

At the gate of Bethlehem  
I remember, I remember,  
Gypsies have entered;  
I remember, I remember  
And from the child who is in the cradle  
I remember, I remember  
I remember, I remember,  
They have taken the swaddling clothes.  
Mary come here, come running  
They are seizing the swaddling clothes,  
Mary come here, come flying  
They are carrying off the swaddling clothes.

Con un sombrero de paja  
al portal llega un gallego;  
Yo me remendaba, yo me remendé  
Mientras adoraba al Niño  
el buey se comió el sombrero  
María , María , ven acá corriendo  
María , María , ven acá volando  
consuelo al gallego  
que está aquí llorando.

With a hat of straw  
A Galician arrives at the gate;  
I remember, I remember  
While he worshipped the Child  
The ox ate his hat.  
Mary, Mary come running  
Mary, Mary, come here flying  
And comfort the Galician .  
Who is crying here .

\*The translation of these lines is poetic, not exact.

*Hacia Belén va un borrico* is a Spanish villancico known throughout Spain and the Americas.

## Pronunciation Guide

- a like *a* in English *father*, e.g., **hacia, va, remendaba, anafre**.  
e when stressed, like *a* in English *pay*, e.g., **Belén, gallego**.  
when unstressed, like *e* in English *bet*, e.g., **corriendo**.  
i like *i* in English *machine* or *ee* in *feet*, e.g., **mientras, aquí**.  
o like *o* in English *obey*, e.g., **Niño, volando**.  
u like *u* in English *rule*, e.g., **un, su, consuelo**.  
y like *ee* in English *feet*, e.g., **y, yo, buey**.  
b like the English *b* in *boot*, but slightly softer at the beginning of a word, or when preceded by *m* or *n* e.g., **borrico, buey, sombrero**; between two vowels or followed by *l*, or *r*, almost an English *v* but with both lips nearly closed, e.g., **remendaba, adoraba**.  
ch like *ch* in the English *church*, e.g., **chocolate, eche**.  
d generally like *d* in English *dog*, but softer e.g., **corriendo**, or like *th* in *this*, between vowels, e.g., **quitado**.  
g like the *g* in English *gain*, before *a*, *o*, *u*, *ue*, *ui*, or consonant e.g., **gallego**; strongly aspirated like in English *h*, in *hat*, before *e* or *i*, e.g., **gitanillos**.  
h silent e.g., **Hacia**.

- ll The ll consonant in Spanish sounds like the y in English *yet*, e.g., **gallego**, **gitanillos** (in Spanish America, the American Southwest).
- q like the English *cat* used only in the combinations *ue* and *ui* in which the *u* is silent e.g., **que**, **aquí**.
- r at the beginning of a word -- strongly trilled e.g., **rojas**.  
a single tap of the tongue in the rest of the words -- e.g, **flores**, **lloren**, **flores**.
- rr strongly trilled, e.g., **borrico**, **corriendo**.
- v in many parts of Spain and the Americas like the Spanish b, e.g., **va**, **ven**.

The acute accent denotes word stress only e.g., **acá**, **aquí**.

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