

The Tenth World

Joni Mitchell

Baila mi rumba
Batela, goza why mira mama
Baila, mira mama
Batela, goza, mira eh
Rumbando bello es que yo voy
Bailala bailala bailala
Bailala baila baila
Eh eh mama
[??????]
Baila baila my rumbo[?]
Ele eh ele eh
Bailala bailala baila
Din din baragadin dan dan [this is onomatopoeia]
Baila baila baila baila
Venezolano en Nueva York
En California why en todos lados
Te la traigo
Para que vos...para que gozes gozes cosa buena
Gozes con todo el mundo
El africano why todo el mundo
Bailala
Bailala
Bailala
Bailala
Bailala
Gringos!

Izquierdo! Izquierdo! Vamos, oye!

[onomatopoeic sounds, interjections, sighs, whistling, bits of dialogue among the musicians that sound like instructions or encouragement to keep on playing and dancing]

Me voy
Me voy
Me voy
Me voy
Me voy
Me voy
Me voy
Me voy

[More chanting and onomatopoeia]

[Translation:]

Dance to my rumba
Beat it [maybe a drum?], enjoy, look mama [maybe meaning "look at me and learn the steps."]
Dance, look mama
Beat it, enjoy, look
Dancing the rumba beautifully. That's how I go.
Hey hey mama
Dance to it, dance
Dance

Dance this way [This a tentative translation, the expression I hear is actually unidiomatic]

Dance to it, dance
A Venezuelan in New York [maybe referring to himself]
In California and everywhere
I bring it to you [the rumba]
So that you will enjoy a good thing
Enjoy it with the rest of the world
With the African and the rest of the world

Dance to it
Gringos! [This is funny. "Gringo" is a pejorative way that some South Americans have to refer to Anglo-Saxons. It's clear that some Americans are actually dancing to the music in the studio and receiving instructions from the singer, including this veiled semi-insult. Was Joni there too?]
Left! Left! [maybe meaning use your left foot now]
I say, Come on!
I'm going now! [Or it could also be I'm "coming"!]

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