

Pancho Claus- A Bilingual Christmas

“Noche Buena”

‘Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the *casa*

Not a creature was stirring, *Caramba Que Pasa!*

Los Niño’s were all tucked away in their *camas*, some in long underwear

And some in pajamas!

While mama worked late in her little *cocina*, *el viejo* was down at the corner *cantina*

Living up with amigos Camacho, *muy contento y poco borracho!*

The stockings were hanging *con mucho cuidado*, in hope that St. Nicolas would feel *obligado*, to bring all the children, both *buenos y malos*

A nice batch of *dulces* and other *regalos*.

Outside in the yard there arose such *a grito*, that I jumped to my feet like a frightened *cabrito*.

I went to the window and I looked out *afuera*, and who in the world do you think that it *era?*

Saint Nick in a sleigh with a big red *sombrero*, came dashing along like a crazy *bombero*, and pulling his sleigh, instead of *venados*, were eight little *burros* approaching *volados*.

I watched as they came, and this little *hombre* was shouting and calling *by nombre*:

Ay, Pancho! Ay, Pepe! Ay Cuca! Y Beto!

Ay Chato! Ay Chopo, Maruca y Nieto!

Then standing erect, with his hand on his *pecho*, he flew to the top of our very own *techo!*

With his round little belly like a bowl of *Jalea*, he struggled to squeeze down our old *Chiminea!*

Then huffing and puffing at last in our *sala*, with soot smeared all over his red suit *de gala!*

He filled all the stockings with lovely *regalos*, for none of the children had been

Very *malos!*

Then chuckling aloud and seeming *contento*, he turned like a flash and was gone like the *viento*.

And I heard him exclaim and this is verdad,

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL, Y FELIZ NAVIDAD!

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