

Vaquerias

Vaquerias are traditional festivals widespread all over Yucatan. Their origins go back to Colonial times, when the cattle were branded in local fairs.

As every traditional festival in Yucatan, vaquerias were a mix of religious rites brought by the Spaniards and Mayan beliefs.

Vaquerias consist of three main events: holy mass, bullfight corrida, and ball. Along the ball, the Yucatecan people show their joy and humor accompanied by the music of jaranas.

During the breaks taken by the orchestra, the jarana singers recite playful rhymes called "bombas", where truly spoken battles between man and woman take place. The following is a good example:

Puruxon:

You are like a watermelon,
Big, round and tasty.
You look like my auntie,
Who moves like a pumpkin.

X'Pet:

Bomba!
A pumpkin is your belly
Which nearly runs over and bounces.
I, my dear, I'm *tintinki*,
As everyone clearly notices.

Puruxon:

Bomba!
If your bottom wraps the seat
Where you are sitting,
Then I must admit
That you are truly *tintinki*.

X'Pet:

Bomba!

You'd rather have
This plate in your menu,
But for such a delicacy,
You'll have to wait for a miracle.

Puruxon:

Bomba!

I don't care, my lovely girl,
If your mouth says nae,
For your mind thinks otherwise
And you'll soon be my wife.

X'Pet:

Bomba!

Surely you are boasting
In front of all these people.
But when we are apart,
You even cry for compassion.

Puruxon:

Bomba!

From all my beloved,
You are the one I mostly adore.
Now let's dance this piece
Despite my mother-in-law's annoy.

X'Pet:

Bomba!

Just because it's a *jarana*
From my lovely Yucatan,
I gladly accept your proposition
And step out with you to dance.

Puruxon:

Bomba!

You have the eyes of a *xoch*,
The neck of a heron,
The waist of a wasp,
The tail of a siren.

X'Pet:

Bomba!

Are you calling me names
With your hake-looking mouth,
The hunch of an ox
And the paunch of a whale?

Puruxon:

Bomba!

You dance the *jarana* so well,
That I accept whatever you want...
And our most beloved feast,
The *vaqueria*, must go on.