

La Bamba

Ritchie Valens

C F G7
Para bailar La Bamba
C F G197
Para bailar La Bamba
C F G7 G7
Se necessita una poca de gracia
C F G7
Una poca de gracia
C F G7 C F
Para mi, para ti, ay arriba, ay arriba
G7
Ay, arriba arriba
C F G7 C F
Por ti sere, por ti sere, por ti sere

C F G7
Yo no soy marinero
C F G7 C F G7
Yo no soy marinero, soy capitan
G7 C F
Soy capitan, soy capitan

C F G7
Bamba, bamba
C F G7
Bamba, bamba
C F G7
Bamba, bamba

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Bamba, bamba

"La Bamba," a Mexican folk song from the state of Veracruz (on the Gulf coast), is a favorite of mariachi groups everywhere (long before Richie Valens covered it). Here are the Spanish lyrics:

Para bailar La Bamba. Para bailar La Bamba se necessita una poca de gracia.
Una poca de gracia y otra cosita y arriba y arriba.
Ay! Arriba y arriba. Por ti sere por ti sere por ti sere.

Yo no soy marinero. Yo no soy marinero, soy capitan, soy capitan, soy capitan.

And now for the English translation:

To dance La Bamba. To dance La Bamba you need to be a little bit funny.

A little bit funny and another little thing -- get going, get going! (literally 'get up and get up')

Ay! Get going, get going. I'll be for you, I'll be for you, I'll be for you.

I'm not a sailor. I'm not a sailor, I'm a captain, I'm a captain, I'm a captain.

What exactly does "La Bamba" mean? Consider: "Bambolear" means swinging or swaying, and a "bambollero/bambollera" is a someone who likes to boast (e.g., "I'm not a sailor, I'm a captain!").

The song is a play on words. Spanish words. Perhaps that's why it's better left in Spanish.