TAPIILRAIAUARA

As recorded by Baden Powell, 1971 (From the 1971 Album ESTUDOS)





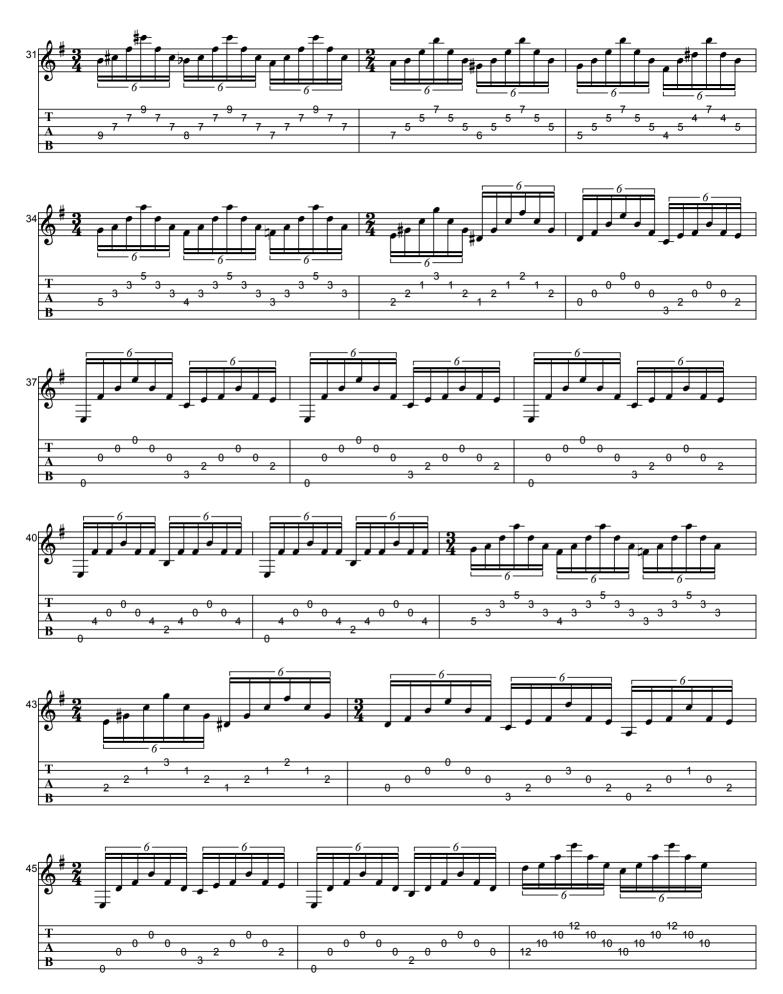




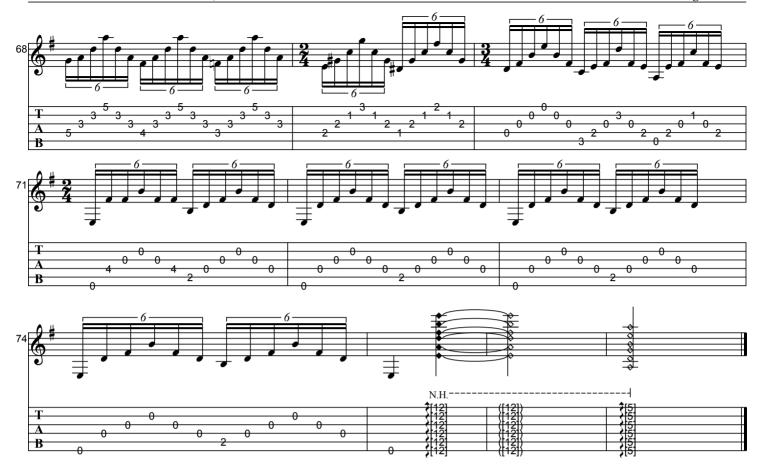












The meaning of the word "Tapiraiauara"

Is probably from Guarani (Ñheengatu variant of the Brazilian Amazon), I think the roots are from 'tapir' ("tapii" in Guarani-Paraguayo) and

'aguara'(fox) or yagua (tigre), there are lots of tiger-like animals with the 'yagua' in them.

The 'L' in the tapilrauara spelling may be a mistake, although old Guarani had consonant final -r (hence tapir), and this might assimilate to 'l' in local speech today.

As I found below in an article by Antonio Carlos Deigues, it refers to a mythical animal in caboclo riverine culture (head and feet of

leopard, body of painted buffalo, back feet of a horse). There are many Guarani traces in Caboclo language and culture from Nheengatu.

"The mythical world of `icaboclo fishermenî of the Amazonian rivers and estuaries is filled with spiritual beings or encantaria of the

forest or water, that can favour or harm him. The worlds of forest and water are two separated domains: two extensions of the fishermen/caboclo's lives. There are supernatural entities (caruanas, bichos do fundo [animals of the depth], mãe d'áqua

[water's mother]) capable of casting spells or haunting and and bewitching those who abuse or disrespect the rights and rules

pertaining to the use of these environments. In this case, a belief that one should not harvest more than one needs is reinforced. Like the

forest, aquatic areas along with their human inhabitants also have their protective spirits, with the power to harass those who engage in destructive resource use.

There also exists the cobra grande (great snake), the Tapiraiauara, and the onça d'água (water leopard), which inhabit, respectively, the depths of lakes and the rivers (igapós)."

Diegues, Antonio Carlos (2002).

Sea Tenure, Traditional Knowledge and Management among Brazilian Artisanal Fishermen. University of Sao Paolo.

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Letter to BrazilOnGuitar, 2003