

# La Puerta Esta Quebrada

Informant/Performer:  
Govita Gonzales and group  
San Antonio, TX, 1934

Source:  
Library of Congress AFS 6 B2  
Collected by John and Alan Lomax

La puer - ta es - tá que - bra - da, ya la van - a com - pon - er,  
Con cá - ca - ra de hue - vos y pe - da - zos, de o - ro - pel.  
Que pa - se el rey que pa - se el rey, que ya pa - só, el cor - o - nel.

Transcribed by Cynthia Stuck

## 2. (Repeat Verse 1)

### English Translation

### 3. La puerta está quebrada

Ya la van a componer.

El que pase ha de pasar,

Y él que no se ha de quedar.

Que pase el rey, que pase el rey,

Que ya pasó el coronel.

### 1, 2. The door is broken,

It will now be repaired

With eggshells

And gold leaf.

The king should pass, the king should pass,

Since the colonel has already passed.

### 3. The door is broken,

It will now be repaired.

He who has to pass should pass,

And he who does not shall stay.

The king should pass, the King should pass

Since the colonel has already passed.

### Game Directions

'La Puerta Esta Quebrada' is played in a 'London Bridge' formation, with a line of children passing under an arch formed by the arms of two others. Eventually the *puerta* (door) closes, and someone is trapped.

### Background Information

We are rarely made aware of the rich American heritage of singing games in languages other than English, since they are frequently played only within the language group. The largest body of non-English games belongs, probably, to our Spanish-speaking children, because of the early Spanish settlement of the Southwest and California and the steady influx of immigrants from Latin America.

Spanish-language singing games are numerous. Many can be traced back to medieval Spain, and they show the same stability and perseverance as those of English origin. Children in Argentina and Puerto Rico are apt to dance to melodies familiar to their Spanish-speaking cousins in New Mexico and Texas.