

Iára¹

Mário de Andrade

Neste rio tem uma iara . . .
De primeiro o velho que tinha visto a iara
Ah á! Ah á! Ah!

Contava que ela era feiosa, muito!
Prêta gorda manquitola ver peixe boi
Felizmente o velho já morreu faz tempo!
Ah! Ah! Ah!
Duma feita madrugada de neblina,
Um moço que sofria de paixão
Por causa duma índia que não queria ceder pra ele

Se levantou e desapareceu na água do rio.
Se levantou e desapareceu na água do rio.
Ah! Ah! Ah!
Então principiaram a falar que a iara cantava, era
moça,
Cabelos de limo esverdeados do rio.
Ah! Ah! Ah!

Ah! Ontem o piá brinca brincando
Subiu na igara do pai abiscada no porto

Botou a mãozinha na água funda
E vai, a piranha abocanhôu a mãozinha do piá.

Neste rio tem uma iara . . .
Neste rio tem uma iara . . .

In this river there is an iara . . .
At first the old man who had seen the iara
Ah á! Ah á! Ah!

They said that she was ugly, very!
Fat, black, crippled manatee
Fortunately the old man died a long time ago!
Ah! Ah! Ah!
Finally one foggy early morning,
A young man who suffered from passion
Because of an Indian woman who didn't want to yield
to him

[He] Rose and disappeared into the water of the river.
[He] Rose and disappeared into the water of the river.
Ah! Ah! Ah!
Then they began to say that the iara sang, that she was
a young woman,
With hair of the greenish river slime.
Ah! Ah! Ah!

Ah! Yesterday the young man playing playfully²
Climbed into the canoe of his Abisca³ father at the
port
Put his little hand in the deep water
And well, the piranha bit the little hand of the boy.

In this river there is an iara . . .
In this river there is an iara . . .

¹ Villa-Lobos gives this song the title "Iára," but Mário de Andrade's original appears to have been printed without a title. Sometimes it is given the title "Poêma" ("Poem"), and sometimes, the first line is printed above the text as the title.

² Literally, "Yesterday, the young man play playing"—Andrade doubles the word in a way that provides its own kind of bouncing, playful sound.

³ This term refers to a people who live in the eastern part of Peru.