



Half-Chicken and Half-Pig (A Puerto Rican Tale)

The sky shifted to a warm hue
as Pedrito and his sisters ate yuca
that mama pounded with her hands
just a few hours ago.

Mama sat in the hamaca and released
her hair from its binding
As the island grew silent
and they sat beside her feet.

“There was once a woman and her son
in the mountains who were very poor
and they owned one thing;
un huevo de un pollo.

They took care of this egg
hoping that it would hatch
and grow to be
un pollo grande.

One day la mama rested the egg
beside the fire to stay warm.
But her son grew very hungry
and ate half of the egg.

A month passed while
the uneaten half
rested near the fire;
then the egg started to hatch.

It hatched and it was
a half-chicken and a half-pig.
It had one leg, one wing,
half a snout, and a tail.

So they raised the chicken
and the chicken grew up
and the boy got older
and the two played together.





One day the boy told his mother
'Mama I'm leaving. Yo quiero ver
el mundo y encontrar trabajo.'
So he took off and the half-chicken followed.

...
The two kept going and going
until they ran into a bull and
the bull said 'where are you going?'
The boy said, 'I'm going to see if I can get rich.'

The bull said, 'will you take me with you?'
The boy said, 'if you could make yourself
very small and get into the chicken's butt
then you can go.'

So the bull started squeezing and squeezing
and made himself very small
and got into the
chicken's butt.

They kept going and going
until they ran into a horse and
the horse said 'where are you going?'
The boy said, 'I'm going to see if I can get rich.'

The horse said, 'will you take me with you?'
The boy said, 'if you could make yourself
very small and get into the chicken's butt
then you can go.'

So the horse started squeezing and squeezing
and made himself very small
and got into the
chicken's butt.

They kept going and going
until they ran into a river and
the river said 'where are you going?'
The boy said, 'I'm going to see if I can get rich.'

The river said, 'will you take me with you?'
The boy said, 'if you could make yourself
very small and get into the chicken's butt
then you can go.'





The river said, 'will you take me with you?'
The boy said, 'if you could make yourself
very small and get into the chicken's butt
then you can go.'

Soon they passed the other side of the mountain
and the boy knocked on a farmer's door.
The boy said, 'can we stay here?'
The farmer said, 'no, you can't stay here.'

The boy was very hungry and he saw
a pie in the window
then he went ahead
and grabbed it.

The farmer saw him eating the pie
and got very mad
so he grabbed the boy and half-chicken.
'Ouh! Les gusta tomar las cosas que no le pertenecen!'

The farmer said, 'I'm going to teach you
a lesson. I'm putting you in the growl with the horses
and they will step
all over ustedes y van a matar a todos.'

The farmer tied up the boy and half-chicken,
then night came and the horses started kicking;
the bull, the horse, and the river
came out of the chicken's butt.

The farmer checked in the morning
and they found the horses dead
and the boy and half-chicken sleeping.
'This half-chicken and this boy — they are the devil!

What is it you want?'
'Well, we want all we can carry,' the boy said.
So the horse and the bull got out of
the half-chicken's butt.

And they took all that they could carry
to la casa de la mama'."

