

WORLD MUSIC

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

WD-DO1 United States 1973

VIRGEN DE LA CUEVA

Latin – Merengue – Political – Vocal & Instrumental

Comp: Cuco VALOY (LY-WD42)

Perf: **DUO LOS AHIJADOS**

Cuco VALOY (vocal)

Martin VALOY (vocal)

(With guitar, piano, timbales, congas, & cymbals)

Prod. Co: South Eastern Records; Opa-Locka, FL

Time: 3:00 & (CD) 3:14

A. American Releases:

1. Original Single **45**:

Mate M-523

Flip Sd: Mala Maña

7" 45rpm

2. **LP:** VIRGEN DE LA CUEVA

Mate M-025

12" 33rpm (Sd 1 – Bd 1)

B. Reissue on Dominican Compilation **CD:** LOS AHIJADOS – 20 EXITOS (1990)

Virtuoso (No Cat. No.) (Tk 18)



Cuco VALOY



Notes: The Los Ahijados, Cuco Valoy's first group, was formed in the 1950s.

This classic merengue might appear to be a comic song where the singer sings two verses in duet, which are answered by comical singing voices. In reality it is a powerful social and political comment on the situation in Santo Domingo in the early 1970s. The record salesman on Calle El Conde (the principal street in the old colonial town), who sold me the CD, played this song for me and simply commented that it was "profundo" (profound) in content.

The lyrics tell of problems with lack of water and electrical blackouts. About the town authorities that do a lot of talking and make promises, but solve nothing. The chorus was probably taken from an old Spanish prayer –

Que llueva que llueva

Let it rain, let it rain

Virgen de la cueva manda un aguita

Virgin of the cave, send a little water

quita nuestra pena

to remove our pain

But this is not a religious song, it clearly speaks of social problems in the city and asks the Virgin of the cave for help, much in the way that practicing Catholics might talk of daily problems and pray for help. The Virgin of the cave could be referring to either of two caves in Spain where the Virgin is honored: the Virgin of Covadonga in Asturias in northern Spain (see Cave Picture Covers – Natural Caves – Spain) which, for Spanish Catholics, is a pilgrimage site almost the equivalent in importance to the Lourdes Cave in France and also the Santa Cueva de la Virgen at the famous Montserrat Monastery in Catalonia.

The song closes with spoken lines where Cuco tells about going to see his grandmother and is told she couldn't take a bath for three days because there was no water. His friend tells him that he had to leave a movie theater much upset because in the middle of the film the projector conked out.

For the complete lyrics in Spanish and English see [LY-WD42](#).

Ref: Cuco Valoy, Biography (in English), [iasorecords](#)

Cuco Valoy, Biography (in Spanish), [Wikipedia](#)

Edouard, Julio 2009, Transcription of Lyrics, Santo Domingo, Feb. 2009

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